



www.pwsacd.org

October 2017

Watershed Newsletter

'Do Water Good' With Clean Waterways/Water Quality

How can you give back to Mother Nature?

Fall and spring are the best times of the year for trash cleanup in/around ponds and waterways. These periods are appropriate because; vegetation gives way for easy accessibility, trash becomes more visible, eye sores developed by the sight of trash intensifies. It is worth noting that trash do not only affect water quality but also affects the quality value of a neighborhood.

Stormwater transports more than 80% of all the trash and litter seen around us. This trash eventually ends up in our local streams, rivers and the Bay thereby impacting water quality.

Water is the Earth's livewire and therefore worth protecting for the next generation.

How can you show your appreciation for Mother Earth this fall or spring?

Join the District to promote a "Trash Free Community" in Prince William County.

Free cleanup supplies and trash haul support will be provided for any cleanup event in the community. For more information, contact:



Take leadership in this community challenge - Bring that change in your neighborhood

For any one time stream cleanup event for an impact in your Neighborhood this fall, contact: waterquality@pwsacd.org

Join the District for Clean Streams and Waterways in Prince William County



Diarrhea



Vomiting



Typhoid



Diphtheria



Hepatitis



Kidney Damage



Nerve Disorders



Skin Lesions

Adopt-A- Stream Program Notice

The District will continue to work with other partners to make sure that streams cleanup volunteers have all the support they need for trash removal. The District looks forward to having a stronger working relationship with its volunteers in keeping County streams clean for good water quality. To adopt a stream or get a proposed site, please visit [this Map](#) or email: waterquality@pwsxcd.org.

Impacts of Plastics in the Aquatic Environment

An EPA's Trash Free Waters program [webinar](#) by Dr. Chelsea Rochman, a leading expert on the effect of human litter.



Thank You



For Water Quality Monitoring

Larry Heath and the Livingston Family- Quantico Creek, Prince William Forest Park
Prince William Masters Gardeners and NVCC Environmental students - Little Bull Run

Jess Cushman and Burk Arvin- Bull Run, Ben Lomond Park

Sonnie Coffey and team of volunteers- Broad Run

Adopt-A-Stream Cleanup

Prince William Habitat for Humanity

George Mason Sustainability and Advocacy Students /Water Health Educators

Video on water quality/cleanup event visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef4JLlhFcbU>

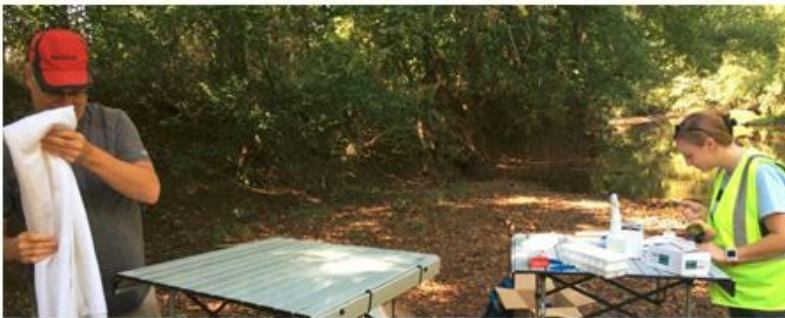
Water Quality Monitoring Events



Broad Run Site



Nancy Berlin, Blithe Merritt, and PWC Master Gardeners joined the District in a water Quality event with NVCC Env'tal. Students



Ben Lomond Park Site



Quantico Creek



Prince William Forest Park Site

Stream Cleanup Events



Prince William County Habitat for Humanity Volunteers



GMU Advocacy and Sustainability students - Water Health Educators at the Lake Jackson Dam area

Some Dates

All year round- Horticulture and Environmental Education-VCE-(See details below)

Through Oct.:Clean Virginia Waterways-(Longwood University Campaign) [Signup Now](#)

October 7- Water Quality Monitoring at Airport Creek- Occoquan @ 10 am

October 10,11&12- Farm Field Days- Prince William County Fairground [Volunteers needed](#)

October 10-12, Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference- Front Royal

October 14 -PW Recycling Day Celebration- PWC Landfill Complex @ 10am.

October-25/26 (Nov.1,2,8,9) -District's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience

October 28 -The Occoquan Greenway Trail - Ten Year Anniversary Hike!

October 31 - Floatable Monitoring at Cornice Place- Occoquan

November 4- Veteran's Park/ Marumsco Creek Cleanup

November 11- Water Quality Monitoring at Deweys Creek- Dumfries @ 10 am.

November 18- [NOVA Certified Stream Monitors Network/Team Building Workshop](#)

December 2/9 -Jingle Bell Run

April 21- PWSTC- Occoquan River Annual Cleanup (April 28- Rain date)

April 21 -Potomac Mills Mall waterways/pond cleanup

Need help with erosion and run-off control on your private property?

Contact the District for VCAP Assistance

Call 571-379-7514 or visit: <http://vaswcd/vcap>



Promote trash free waterways in Prince William

Fall is Here! Start planning cleanup events now!

For cleanup programs in your neighborhood please click [here](#).

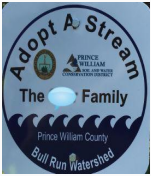
Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is working together with other organizations to reduce the amount of trash in waterways. The District provides cleanup supplies to residents who would like to make an impact at no cost. Participating groups receive an Adopt-A-Stream sign from PWC Public Works Department in recognition of

their stewardship. For more information write to waterquality@pwsacd.org.



You can also register your local events with the [Trash Free Potomac network](#)

Water Quality Programs



Stream Cleanup Programs

Signup Now for the 2017 International Coastal Cleanup!



The District promotes 4 options for cleaning streams;

1. **Adopt-A-Stream / Adopt-A- Creek Program** - clean at least once a year for a two year commitment (Any time)
2. **Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** (Alice Ferguson Foundation)- one-time cleanup
3. **International Coastal Cleanup** (Clean VA Waterways) -one-time cleanup (September- October) - **Sign up is now Open**
4. **Earth Team Volunteer Cleanup** - one time cleanup(Any time)

For some cleanup sites in your neighborhood, click [here](#)

On how to get started with any of the stream cleanup programs or have any questions about which of the 4 options is best for you, please contact: waterquality@pwsacd.org.

Water Quality Monitoring

Some Answers to your Questions

How often can a site be monitored?

Not more than 4 times in a year (quarterly).

What does it take to become certified?

1. Be able to [identify the critters](#).
2. Be able to properly [demonstrate the field protocol](#) in data collection.

Both 1 and 2 are easy and open book!

Must I be a certified stream monitor?

No, you can help the existing monitoring teams, too! But DEQ only accepts data that comes from certified stream monitors.

What is recommended before taking the certification test?

Take part in at least 2-3 stream monitoring events before sitting for the certification test.



"Prioritization Report: How volunteer and nontraditional monitoring can help fill data gaps in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed"

Floatable Monitoring Program

Assess and trace trash that load in streams to reduce non-point source pollutant from urbanized and industrialized areas in relation to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4) permit.

Cleanup supplies are provided. Contact: waterquality@pwsxcd.org



Trash Awareness Videos :- [Our Plastic Society](#)

County Directories Water Quality: Click [Here](#) Recycling : Click [Here](#)

WHATS COMING UP UNDER THE DISTRICT

October 7- Water Quality Monitoring at Airport Creek- Occoquan @ 10 am

October 10,11&12- Farm Field Days- Prince William County Fairground Volunteers needed **October 14** -PW Recycling Day Celebration- PWC Landfill Complex @ 10am.

October-25/26 (Nov.1,2,8,9) -District's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience

October 31 - Floatable Monitoring at Cornice Place- Occoquan

Water Quality Monitoring Events

Saturday, October 7

Stream Monitoring: Airport Creek in Lake Ridge, Occoquan Watershed

Time: 10 a.m. - 12.30 pm

Location: 12102 Springwoods Dr. Woodbridge Virginia 22192

Parking: Parking is along Springwoods Dr., close to the trail entrance.

Join Janis Cook at this beautiful adopted site in the Lake Ridge area for water quality monitoring experience.

For more information and RSVP, contact **Janis Cook:** Jcook3910@aol.com

Tuesday, October 31

Floatable Monitoring- Cornice Place- Occoquan Watershed

Time: 10 a.m.

Location (GPS Guide) : 3443 Cornice Pl, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Location (GPS Guide) : 3442 Cornice Pl. Woodbridge, VA 22192

Residents in and around this community are invited to the program.

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri: waterquality@pwsxcd.org

2017 International Coastal Cleanup

Pick your own date between late August and early November .

- Pick a littered site of choice. It can be near a river, lake, stream or beach.
- Register your site here: <https://goo.gl/forms/GUa3RUHUsrtnU1Je2>
- After registering your cleanup, expect to receive supplies and event information in late summer.
- If your event is open to the public, it will be listed on CVW's Volunteer Sign Up website for recruiting volunteers.
- Questions? Contact : cleanva@longwood.edu or call (434) 395-2602.

Save the Date

Saturday, November 18

NOVA Certified Stream Monitors Network/Team Building Workshop

Are you a Certified Water Quality/Stream Monitor in Northern Virginia?

The Northern Virginia and Prince William Soil and Water Conservation Districts are organizing a cooperative network/team building workshop for all Virginia Save Our Streams certified monitor in NOVA. At this workshop, certified monitors will have the opportunity to; meet pioneers and other certified stream monitors, share monitoring experiences, gain more knowledge on how to build and maintain monitoring groups.

This workshop is free but RSVP is recommend. For more information contact:

Daniel Schwartz: Daniel.Schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov or **Veronica Tangiri:** waterquality@pwsxcd.org

DEQ's 2016 Citizen/Non-Agency Monitoring Activity Report

Each year, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) develops a report summarizing the contributions of monitoring organizations to the agency's water monitoring program. Visit [website](#).

Incorporating Citizen Science Into EPA's National Environmental Work

One of the challenges of running a citizen science program like stream monitoring is that one can never be entirely sure what the program's impact will be. To that end, an EPA advisory body recently submitted a report to agency leadership recommending that the EPA proactively and fully integrate citizen science into its work, embrace it as a core tenet of environmental protection, and use citizen science data directly. The full report can be found online. Please direct comments to Green.Eugene@epa.gov and citizenscience@epa.gov.

Water Monitoring Test Kits Available

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is distributing a limited number of water monitoring kits to test for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. These kits are available for free to schools and organizations that do not have water monitoring equipment. DEQ requests that participants use these kits as part of the EarthEcho Water Challenge (formerly known as World Water Monitoring Challenge). See <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>. Groups with their own monitoring equipment are also invited to participate in the event. If you are a teacher or work with a large number of students, you can request a free kit. Contact **Mr. Stuart Torbeck** at charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov and provide (1) your mailing address, (2) number of monitoring locations (3) number of participants, and (4) the total number of participants

from your organization or school that you expect to participate in the EarthEcho Water Challenge. This information will determine how many kits you will likely need. The Virginia Water Monitoring Council (www.VirginiaWMC.org) provided the kits for this effort.

National Water Resource Surveys

The EPA partners with the states and tribes to conduct surveys that separately assess the quality of the nations' lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams, and coastal waters. The most recent assessment reports are available on the [EPA's National Aquatic Resource Survey website](#).

Virginia Water Radio

Virginia Water Radio presents brief weekly stories that relate to Virginia's waters, from the Cumberland Gap to the Atlantic Ocean. All episodes through 2010 [can be listened to online](#). A sampling of recent story topics include hurricane storm surges, the water work of drones, and gas pipelines and their effect on water quality.

Watershed Education, Events and Opportunities

Do you know that Virginia Naturally is your gateway to statewide environmental education? Visit: [**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation**](#).

Virginia Governor's Executive Order on "Establishing the Virginia Environmental Literacy Challenge." For more information Click [here](#) or [visit](#) .

[**The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**](#) provides more on Conservation and Environmental education. For more visit: <http://vaswcd.org/#>

District Conservation Capsule To-Go season.

Our watershed capsules are ready to go. First come, first served. This is outstanding tool for kids and students to learn about the important role of the watersheds. For your reservations, please visit: <http://www.pswcd.org/educators.html> or contact: education@pswcd.org

October 10,11 & 12-

28th Annual Farm Field Days

Volunteers needed!

Time: 8 a.m. -2 p.m.

Location: Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas
Farm Field Days have helped students connect to their agricultural heritage

and sowed the seed of environmental stewardship among students. Over 150 volunteers are needed to support the activities of the event.

Students will rotate through barns. Farm critters like bees, oxen, alpacas and more will be on exhibition. Demonstrations on wool spinning, butter churning and scientific experiments on photosynthesis, soil erosion, to name a few are some highlights featuring on the list.

This is a great opportunity for students to connect to different educational fields and to learn more on natural resources and how to protect them.

To volunteer, please contact: education@pwsxcd.org or call 571.379.7514 No previous experience is necessary.

October 25 & 26 (November 1,2,8 & 9)

Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) programs

Time: 9am - 2pm

Location: Windy Knoll Farm, 11602 Kettle Run Rd. Nokesville, VA 20181

Volunteers are needed!

Kids will gain education on the importance of watersheds, soil types and their components, the relationship between soil and water and how human impact them.

As Virginia Standards of Learning to promote stewardship in our communities, these students will in general be groomed with responsible citizenship ethics. Students love and enjoy this program! [See video](#).

To volunteer, RVSP to the MWEE Coordinator mwee@pwsxcd.org

October 10-12

Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference

Location: Front Royal, VA.

This will include Virginia Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) annual member meeting. Meet Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peter Marra, author of the book Cat Wars. For more information, see <https://vae.wildapricot.org/2017-VAEE-Conference>.

Friday, November 3 - Sunday, November 5

Chesapeake Watershed Forum

Location: National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

[Registration is now open](#) for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's 12th annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum! This year's theme--Healthy Lands, Healthy Waters, Healthy People--will focus on the connection between the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its effect on the communities that live here. New this year will be Sunday half-day workshops designed to delve deeper into specific issues surrounding Chesapeake restoration. RSVP by October 6!

Awards and Scholarships

Apprentice Ecologist Scholarship

Application Deadlines: December 31, Annually

The Apprentice Ecologist Initiative has engaged tens of thousands of young volunteers from around the world in environmental cleanup and conservation projects since 1999. Three (3) scholarships are awarded annually to the authors of the three best Apprentice Ecologist essays. For more information, Visit:

http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist

Plants and Landscape Events

2017 Horticulture Education with VCE

Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series :Ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions:

Saturday, Oct 21

Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery

Time: 10am-12noon

- **Location:** 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Taught by VCE - Prince William Master Gardener Volunteers

www.pwcgov.org/grow

- All programs are free and run from 9:00am - Noon. Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/SwmoLRJSXBrFgaJQ2>
- Registration is requested. For more information please call 703-792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org

Saturday, October 14

Prince William Recycles Day

Location : 14811 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA 20112

Time 10 am -2 pm

Join the Prince William County Solid Waste Division to celebrate America Recycles Day at the award winning Prince William County Landfill on Dumfries Road.

To participate and for more information, contact: PWCRecycles@pwcgov.org or visit www.pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling

Saturday, October 28

The Occoquan Greenway Trail - Ten Year Anniversary Hike!

Meeting Location: parking lot of Lake Ridge Park, 12373 Cotton Mill Road

Join the Prince William Conservation Alliance and Prince William Streams and Trails Coalition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Occoquan Greenway Trail. The trail is a 10-mile loop that starts at Lake Ridge Park and ends at the T

Coalition to celebrate a milestone 7 miles hike from Lake Ridge Park to the town of Occoquan and get a free transportation back to your car at Lake Ridge Park. The trail surfaces include well-established natural surfaces, cleared paths in the woods, blacktop paths, sidewalks along streets and fair-weather stream crossings, which may include some steep banks.

Dress code: long pants, sturdy hiking shoes, a hat and long socks. Bring a bag lunch, plenty of water, binoculars, and a camera to capture the beautiful scenery along the way! RSVP required to alliance@pwconserve.org or 703.499.4954

Sunday, October 29

Bird Walk

Time: 8 am

Location: Merrimac Farm

RSVP to PW Conservation Alliance at alliance@pwconserve.org or call 703-499-4954

Sneak Peaks

Tuesday and Thursdays, October 3 - 19

Landscape for Life: Sustainable Landscaping Series

Time: 9 - 11:30am

Location: Watermark Woods Nursery, Hamilton, VA

Landscape for Life is a sustainable landscaping course developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the US Botanic Garden. It teaches us how we can transform our home landscapes and public places into healthy refuges that benefit not only birds, pollinators and other wildlife, but also the community and the Chesapeake Bay. Topics covered include soil, water and plants in the sustainable landscape. \$60/person; [details and registration online.](#)

Tuesday, October 24th - Wednesday, October 25th

2017 Environmental Film Festival

Time: 1 - 4:30pm on the 24th; 9am - 1:30pm on the 25th

Location: NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Center Theater and Forum

NOVA Community College's 2017 Environmental Film Festival will showcase four films, with each screened on both days of the festival. Attendance is free and there is no need to RSVP. Featured films will include:

John J. Audubon and the Birds of America: The story of a man that influenced every generation of nature lover that came after him

The City Dark: The search for night on a planet that never sleeps

The Messenger: An investigation into the causes of songbird depletion

The Messenger: An investigation into the causes of songbird depletion
Shattered Sky: How America led the world to a solution to the ozone crisis

12 Steps to a Greener Lawn / Building Environmental Sustainable Turf -BEST Lawns Programs

For more information on these low cost research based program for lawn education, contact: bestlawns@pwcgov.org or call 703792-4037.

Stormwater Management Education Site Visits

For businesses and non-profits, landscaping and turf management, stormwater pond management, wildlife concerns, recommendations for maintaining landscapes, protecting water quality and pollution prevention. Call [703-792-6285](tel:703-792-6285) to schedule a free visit.

Become a Virginia Master Naturalist

The Master Naturalists are a core of volunteers that perform service to manage and protect natural areas through activities such as plant and animal surveys, stream monitoring, trail rehabilitation, and teaching in nature centers. The basic training courses trains new volunteers to become Master Naturalist. Topics covered include ecology, geology, soils, native flora and fauna, habitat management and more.

For more information visit:

Fairfax Master Naturalist Chapter at [FMN website](#).

Merrimac Farm Master Naturalist. <http://merrimacfarmvmn.weebly.com/>



Projects in your Backyard

...aimed at improving Prince William Watersheds

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)

Prince William County Government: [Visit](#)

Prince William Native Plant Society: [Visit](#)

Prince William Master Gardeners: [Visit](#)

Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition [Visit](#)

Prince William Conservation Alliance: [Visit](#)

Active Prince William: [Visit](#)

Friends of Occoquan [Visit](#)

Keep Prince William Beautiful: [Visit](#)

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)

Plant NOVA Natives: [Visit](#)

Trees Virginia: [Visit](#)

Virginia Master Naturalist: [Visit](#)

...aimed at improving the Chesapeake Bay

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: [Visit](#)

American Rivers: [Visit](#)

Audubon Naturalist Society: [Visit](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: [Visit](#)

Clean Virginia Waterways: [Visit](#)

Department of Environmental Quality: [Visit](#)

Department of Conservation and Recreation's: [Visit](#)

Environmental Protection Agency: [Visit](#)

Trashnetwok-Alice Ferguson Foundation: [Visit](#)

National Park Service: [Visit](#)

Virginia Citizen for Water Quality: [Visit](#)

Virginia Save Our Streams: [Visit](#)

Virginia Water Monitoring Council: [Visit](#)

Virginia Green Travel Alliance: [Visit](#)

Virginia Water Resources Research Center: [Visit](#)



Potomac Basin News and updates: [Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin: Visit](#)

How can you help Prince William County have good water quality?

***Volunteer** for the Save Our Streams Citizen Science program.

***Adopt a stream** of your choice or work with existing sites

*** Monitor** only 3 times a year - spring, summer and fall.

*** Get monitoring equipment** once you become certified.

*** Track your volunteer hours** working for the District.

***Volunteer** in the District's **Stream Cleanup programs**.

>>Volunteer timesheet is available. Ask your monitoring coordinators<<

<Water quality monitoring also counts towards Virginia Master Naturalists service hours >

For all Monitoring events updates/cancellation visit:

[PWSWCD Facebook page](#)



For more awareness and to "Help Do Water Good", like [PWSWCD Facebook page](#)

Call to Action!

Share this Newsletter with Friends

Join Now!

See whats happening on our social sites!



Thanks again for making a difference!

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is funded by Prince William County Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Branch, and through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or political affiliation. Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

PWSWCD, 8850 Rixlew Lane , Manassas, VA 20109, Ph.: 571-379-7514 ,Fax: 571-379-8305