



August

*Watershed Newsletter*

[www.pwsacd.org](http://www.pwsacd.org)

---

## **The District in 2nd Place Statewide in the DCR Adopt-A-Stream Program "Greener Communities with Clean Streams"**

---

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recognized the District's Adopt-A-Stream program as ranking 2nd place statewide. Thirteen counties/cities participated for the second quarter (April-June) of 2016. The District ranked first place in the mileage of waterways cleaned, which represents 35% of the total miles covered under the program in Virginia.

The program is manned by volunteers performing cleanups in their communities once or twice a year. During fiscal year 2016, 759 volunteers cleaned 77.4 miles of stream removing 20,877 pounds of trash in Prince William County. This shows that county citizens are environmentally aware and care about the health of their waterways.

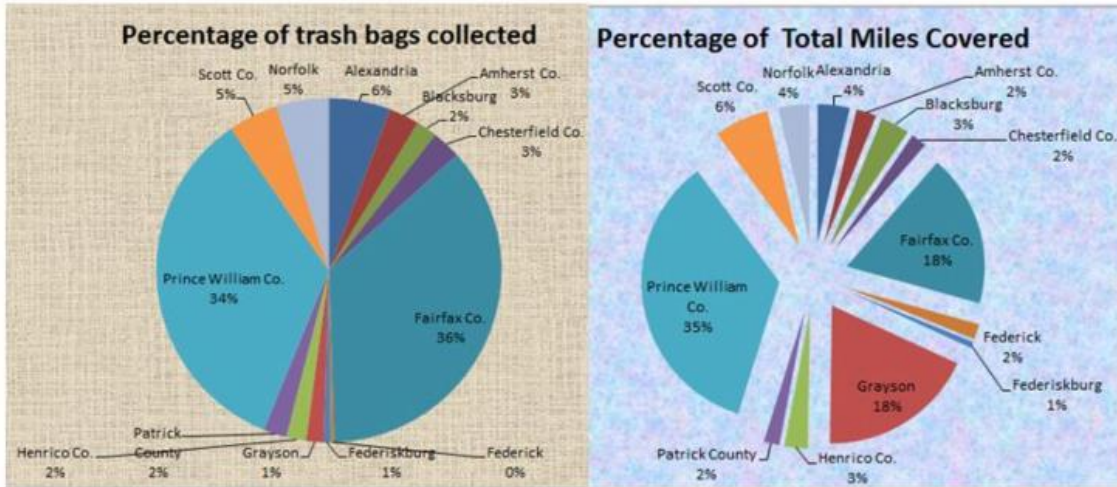
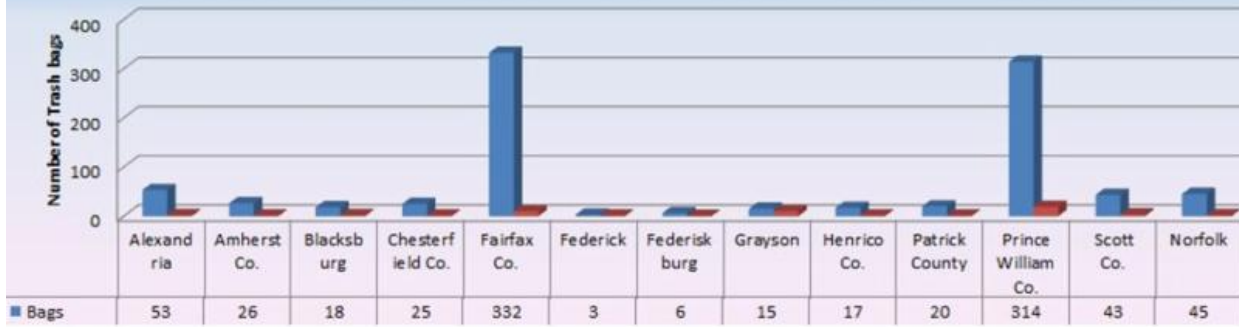
Much work still needs to be done to help bring the County to the # 1 position (and why not aim for first nationwide?).

The Adopt-A-Stream program is part of Stewardship Virginia which is one of the governor's initiative. The governor also ensures volunteers receive signed certificates after every cleanup as a sign of his appreciation.

A special "Thank You" goes out to all the residents who have volunteered, or are currently volunteering, for the Adopt-A-Stream program in the District. The District looks forward to doing even better with more volunteer support. With more support, there will be more awareness on water quality through out Prince William County.



## Participation in the DCR Adopt-A-Stream Program April 2016 to June 2016



*Statistical Report of the Statewide DCR Adapt-A-Stream Program*

To adopt any site of your choice under the DCR Adopt-A-Stream program, contact: [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org).



## Promoting Clean Communities and Clean Waterways in PWC

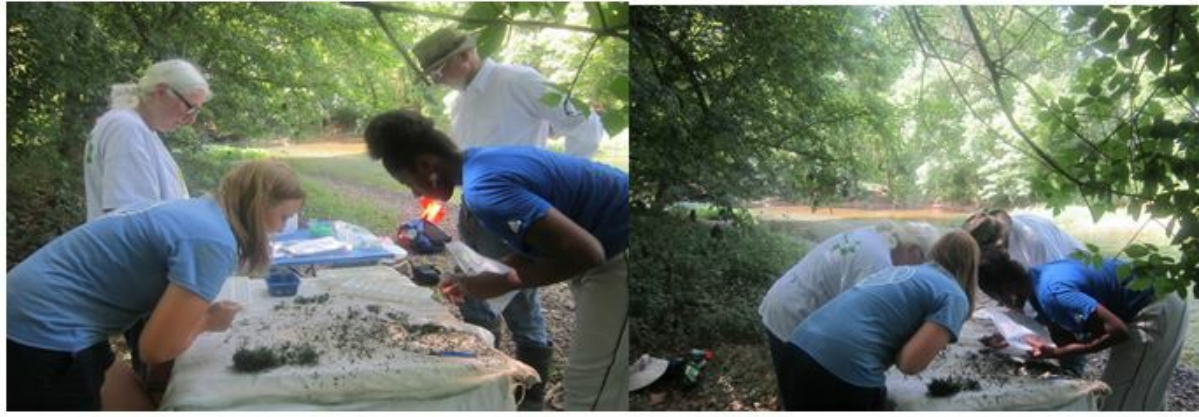
### Floatable Monitoring program



Floatable monitoring program for the County's MS4 permits



# Community Awareness



*Summer water quality monitoring at Cedar Run, Broad Run Watershed*



*Summer water quality monitoring at James Long Park- Gainesville*







Breanna Jones, new intern with the District on water quality awareness at Silver Lake Regional Park



## How can you help Prince William County Waterways to be trash free?

To check cleanup programs in your neighborhood please, click [here](#).

To help you get started with a new cleanup site: [visit](#).

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is working together with other organizations to reduce the amount of trash in local waterways in the District. The District will provide the needed support and cleanup supplies to residents who would like to help make an impact in their communities at no cost. Residents will also be given an Adopt-A-Stream sign from the Department of Conservation and Recreations (DCR) for their adopted site in recognition of their efforts. For more



information write to [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org).



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



## Water Quality Programs

### Stream Cleanup Programs



The District promote 4 options for cleaning streams:



1. **Adopt-A-Stream 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)
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 any questions about which of the 4 options is best for you, please contact:

[waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto: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.

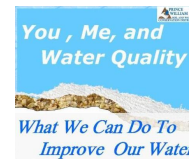
Both 1 and 2 are easy and open book!

**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.



## Floatable Monitoring Program

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

Volunteers are recommended to dress in rain boots and ready to get their feet wet. ***The District will provide cleanup supplies ( grabbers, gloves, vests and trash bags). RSVP is recommended.***



**Watch Video :** [Our Plastic Society](#)

Prince William County Water Quality Directory: Please Click [HERE](#)



### WHATS COMING UP

**Saturday, August 13 :** Water Quality Monitoring : Airport Creek at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, August 20:** Floatable Monitoring: Andrew Leitch Park at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, August 27:** Water Quality Monitoring: Prince William Forest Park -10a.m.

**Tuesday, August 30:** Floatable Monitoring: Flat Branch at 10 a.m.

**Save the Dates!-**

**Thursday, September 8:** "Farm to Table Dinner" with PWSWCD -6 p.m. to 9p.m.

**Saturday, September 24:** National Public Land Day with PW Trails and Streams Coalition .



## Water Quality Monitoring Events

**Saturday, August 13**

**Water Quality Monitoring : Airport Creek- Lake Ridge, Occoquan**

**Time:** 10a.m - 12.30pm

**Location:** 12102 Springwoods Dr. Woodbridge Virginia 22192

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

Join certified monitors Janis Cook and Elaine Wilson at this newly adopted site in the Lake Ridge area. Biological and chemical data will be collected at this site as the stream enters into the Lake Occoquan.

Bring your camping foldable stools if needed.

For more information and RSVP, contact Janis Cook: [Jcook3910@aol.com](mailto:Jcook3910@aol.com)



**Saturday, August 20**

**Floatable Monitoring- Andrew Leitch Park , Dale City -Neabsco**

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Parking Location :** Parking lot -Andrew Leitch Park

Residents in the Dale City area are invited to come learn more about the floatable monitoring program.

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org)

**Saturday, August 27**

**Water Quality Monitoring: Prince William Forest Park/ Quantico Creek Watershed**

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

**Location:** 18100 Park Headquarters Road, Triangle, VA 22172

**Parking:** Parking Lot A on Scenic Drive. From Main Park Entrance, turn left onto Scenic Drive and go all the way until you cross the Scenic Bridge.

Prince William Forest Park protects a large portion of the Quantico Creek; a watershed which scientists use as the water quality benchmark in Prince William County. Prince William residents are invited to come learn more about the benthic macro invertebrates that determine the water quality of a stream. Bring your camping foldable stools if needed.

RVSP to Veronica Tangiri at [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org) .

**Tuesday, August 30**

**Floatable Monitoring- Flat Branch, Manassas**

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Parking Location :** Impalla Dr. Manassas, VA 20110

Residents in and around this community are invited.

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org)



**The World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC)  
is on until December 31st**

**Thanks to all those taking part in this event under the District**

Prince William County is part of this World Challenge event. Monitoring goes all the way to December 31st.

Thanks to all the County citizens who are taking part in this event under the District.

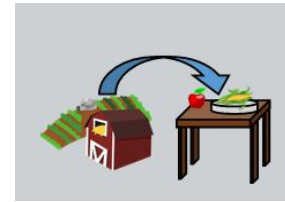
The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) gave out free water monitoring kits to test for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. Through this event residents will also learn more about the water quality in their local streams. Virginia DEQ will also extract the data collected to identify problem areas. For more information on data updates from participants taking part in this World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC), visit: <http://www.monitorwater.org/>.

## Fundraising Dinner For More Outreach Programs with the District

**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, September 8**

**Farm to Table Dinner**



**Location: Evergreen Country Club located in Haymarket, VA**

**Time: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation (Foundation), in coordination with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD), will be hosting its first farm to table fundraising dinner. This Foundation's mission of funding agricultural and environmental education beyond the walls of the classroom is achieved through many of the district's programs, such as: Farm Field Days, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE's), Water Quality Monitoring, and Adopt-A-Stream, to name a few.

The meal that will be served will highlight the rich culture and diversity of Prince William County's agricultural community. There will also be a tour of the historic Evergreen Manor House, followed by a wine tasting provided by LaGrange Winery Located in Haymarket, VA.

To reserve your seat or to donate to the foundation, either contact the district office at 571.379.7514 or pay/donate online at [www.pswcd.org/prince-william-environmental-excellence-foundation.html](http://www.pswcd.org/prince-william-environmental-excellence-foundation.html). Ticket prices are as follows; \$85 a ticket, or \$160 per couple, or \$600 for a table sponsorship that includes 8 seats. Without the support of the Foundation and the community, we would not be able to provide our outreach programs. We look forward to meeting many of you at this event and thank you for the continued support of both the PWSWCD and the Foundation.





# More Events and Opportunities

## Awards and Scholarships

### **Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program -National Science Foundation**

**Deadline : September 06, 2016**

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors (STEM) and professionals to become K-12 STEM teachers.

For more information visit: [Here](#)

## Plants and Landscape Events

### **Invasive Plants Removal**

**Saturday, August 6**

**Time:** 9:30am

**Location:** K9Gunner Dog Park, 13000 Minnieville Rd Woodbridge, VA 22192

Join the Prince William Conservation Alliance to remove invasive plants that are infiltrating the native plant buffer by K9Gunner Dog Park on Minnieville Road. For questions and to RSVP, contact us at [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org) or 703.499.4954

### **Tour of the Towns - Tour Prince William County on Bike**

**Sunday, August 7**

**Time:** 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Start/finish location:** -Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant in historic Occoquan, VA

Join the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition for its 4th Annual Tour of the Towns -cycling event. Participants may choose from 25-mile, 45-mile, or 62-mile (metric century) routes to see the County. Biking across the urban, suburban, exurban, rural, forested, towns, flat, and hilly areas.

Registration includes an outdoor buffet at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant  
To register and for more information, visit: [tourofprincewilliam.org](http://tourofprincewilliam.org).

### **Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC Office Trainings**

**Saturday in the Garden Classes**

**Dates:** August 20, September 17, October 15

**Time:** 9.00am -Noon.

**Venue:** St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow 20136

Free training. To register contact: [master\\_gardener@pwcgov.org](mailto:master_gardener@pwcgov.org) or call 703-792-7747



## **Habitat workshop - Free for our volunteers! (Space is limited)**

Wednesday, September 7

Time: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Location: Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA 22003

This workshop is being offered to Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, VA Native Plant Society members and other volunteers associated with the PLANT NOVA NATIVES Campaign who agree to help plan and participate in a new habitat project that will be installed at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center (7701 Royce St., Annandale, VA 22003) on Thursday, October 13, 2016 (Rain Date Thursday, October 20).

Pre-registration is required by August 25, 2016.

To register visit: <http://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?nid=1308>

## **10 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](mailto:bestlawns@pwcgov.org) or call 703792-4037.

## **Fairfax Master Naturalist (FMN) Basic Training Course: Fall 2016**

For more information [FMN website](#).

**Merrimac Farm Master Naturalist.** visit: <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](#)

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](#)



### **[EPA Website Allows Public to Track Drinking Water Quality Nation-Wide](#)**

EPA has released the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) dashboard, a website that presents data about violations and the compliance status of public water systems.

Visit: [dashboard](#).

### **[Potomac Earns Best Score Yet in State of the Nation's River Report](#)**

For the first time, the Potomac earned an overall health score above a C in the Potomac Conservancy's 9th State of the Nation's River report. While the Potomac's score (B-) reveals that much work still needs to be done, the river's improving health is a cause for celebration. Read about the river's declining pollution, improved fisheries, and abundant recreational assets in the full report, [available online](#)

### **[2016 IWLA Clean Water Report:](#)**

Based on state reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), more than half (55%) of the streams and rivers states tested were not safe for designated uses such as swimming, fishing, and as sources of drinking water.

The Commonwealth State of Virginia stood out in its involvement in citizen volunteer water quality monitoring programs to work more closely with the Department of Environmental Quality( DEQ). For more information on the results, please [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**



**"Like" PWSWCD Facebook page for more Environmental Awareness & "Help Do Water Good"**

**Share This Newsletter with Friends**  
**Join Now!**

---

### **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*

**See whats happening on our social sites!**

