



www.pswcd.org
Newsletter

September 2017

Watershed

Water Quality In Prince William County

Your Local Streams and Your Drinking Water

Prince William County residents are gaining a better understanding of the water cycle around their potable water which comes from two main sources; Lake Manassas and the Occoquan Reservoir (which also serves Fairfax County). The Occoquan River watershed which drains much of Prince William County's local streams also harbors the Occoquan Reservoir and therefore it is important for residents to pay more attention to the water quality in their local streams.

Citizens' involvement in water quality programs is increasing as more folks are getting involved with the District's Citizen Water Quality Monitoring and Adopt-A-Stream/Pond (cleanup) programs. However, the District is seeking more ways to expand on its water quality awareness efforts especially with the issue of trash and other pollutants around local streams.

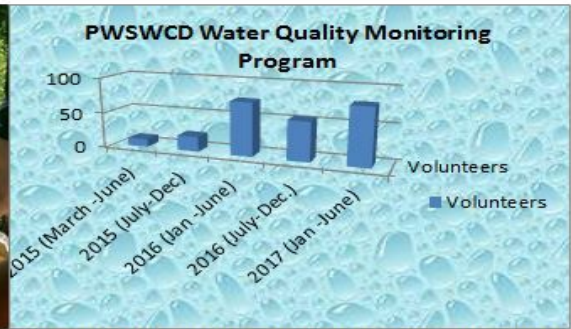
In fiscal year 2017, over 561 volunteers collected 15,760 pounds of trash from over 55 miles of local streams in Prince William County. Since starting with only 3 citizen water quality monitoring sites in 2015, the District has now registered 13 monitoring sites through mid-2017 with close to 90 volunteers' involved in water quality monitoring.



Promote a healthy County by promoting environmental friendly habits in the Communities



STEM Mentoring site- Andrew Leitch Park



Water Quality Monitoring Program Milestone 2015 - 2017

Trash in the local streams affects the County's water quality. With polluted streams which drains into Occoquan River and then into the Reservoirs, more purification efforts will be needed. This will lead to increase cost of portable water.

Prince William County is one of the populous Counties in Virginia with good potable water but more awareness on stream pollution and litter cleanup is needed for a healthy and green community, especially for the next generation.

Take Action

- Recycle and reduce your waste footprints (www.pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling)
- Promote clean waterways by adopting a stream, stormwater drain or pond (Adopt-A-Stream/Pond program)
- Contact the District for free cleanup supplies and trash haul support for any one time cleanup event in your community
- Support the District's Floatable and Water Quality Monitoring programs

For any one time stream cleanup event for an impact in your Neighborhood

The 2017 29th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Results

29th Annual

POTOMAC CLEANUP

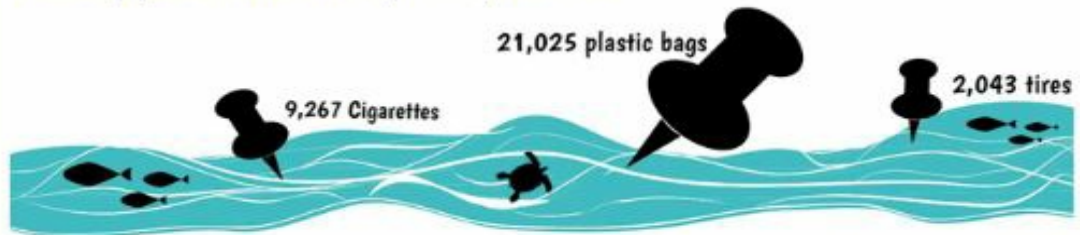


The Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup
connects people to their local watershed.

Leading the momentum for change, volunteers take control and
create clean land, safe waters, and healthy lives.

Thank You!

Piece by piece litter adds up. YOU prevented...



From entering the water we drink



270
cleanups



9,091
volunteers



404,549
pounds of trash

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



Diarrhea



Vomiting



Typhoid



Diphtheria



Hepatitis



Kidney Damage



Nerve Disorders



Skin Lesions

Lesson Plan of Effects of Pollution on Environment

© 2015 Effective and Creative Lesson Plans 1

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

America Nepalese Society- Deweys Creek-

Adopt-A-Stream Cleanup

Babcock Landscaping

Services

Video on water quality/cleanup event visit:

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

Water Quality Monitoring Events





Water Quality Monitoring with students of the America Nepalese Society - Deweys Creek.

In Loving Memory of Cynthia Tallia



Cynthia volunteered on Farm Field Days events and the Water Quality Monitoring program. She was an awesome and loving volunteer.

Cynthia will be greatly missed by the District.

Thanks for making the Farm-to-Table Dinner a huge success



If you missed the this year's event, please mark your calendar for 2018.



Some Dates

- All year round- Horticulture and Environmental Education-VCE-(See details below)
- September 9: Water Quality Monitoring at Price William Forest Park @ 10 am.
- September 9 -10:[Trails Volunteer training by PW Parks Department/PWTSC](#)
- September 17: Water quality monitoring at Bill Run- Ben Lomond Park @ 10am
- September 30: Water quality monitoring at Broad Run - trail via Victory ES @ 10 am
- September 30:[Public Lands Day with Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition](#)
- September-Oct.: Clean Virginia Waterways-(Longwood University Campaign) [Signup Now](#)
- October 10,11 & 12 - Farm Field Days - Prince William County Fairground
- October 10-12, Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference- Front Royal
- October 14 -PW Recycling Day Celebration- PWC Landfill Complex @ 10am.
- October -4th week -District's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience-
- October 28 -The Occoquan Greenway Trail - Tn Year Anniversary Hike!
- November 4- Veteran's Park/ Marumscocreek Cleanup
- November 11- Water Quality Monitoring at Deweys Creek- Dumfries @ 10 am.
- November 18- [NOVA Certified Stream Monitors Network/Team Building Workshop](#)
- December 2/3 - Jingle Bell Run

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@pwsxcd.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@pwsxcd.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

September 9: Water Quality Monitoring at Price William Forest Park @ 10 am.

September 17: Water quality monitoring at Bill Run- Ben Lomond Park @ 10am

September 30: Water quality monitoring at Broad Run - trail via Victory ES @ 10 am

Water Quality Monitoring Events

Saturday, September 9

Stream Monitoring: Prince William Forest Park/ Quantico Creek

Time: 10 a.m - 12.30 pm

Location: 18100 Park Headquarters Road, Triangle, VA 22172 (GPS guide)

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. Residents are invited to come learn about the varieties of benthic macro invertebrates that determine the water quality of a stream.

Join Larry Heath at this beautiful outdoor science lab to learn more about water quality and for more awareness.

RVSP to Larry at lkhdoc@gmail.com

Sunday, September 17

Water Quality Monitoring - Bull Run Watershed

Time: 10 am -12.30pm

Location: 7500 Ben Lomond Park Drive, Manassas VA 20109

Join Jess Cushman at this outdoor learning site along the Bull Run trail at the Historic Ben Lomond/Splash Down Water Park in Manassas. Volunteers will be meeting at the picnic area close to the sports field.

RSVP to Jess at cushman.jess@gmail.com

Saturday, September 30

Water Quality Monitoring - Broad Run Watershed

Time: 10 am -12.30 pm

Location: Broad Run - Occoquan River Tributary

Parking: Victory Elementary School :12001 Tygart Lake Bristow, VA 20136

Join Sonnie Coffey at this beautiful site in the Broad Run watershed which forms a major portion of the Occoquan River. Come learn about the benthic macro invertebrates and how they interpret the health of streams for more water quality awareness.

RSVP to Sonnie at 1vespermax0@gmail.com

2017 International Coastal Cleanup

September 16 for all global participants

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/GUa3RUHUstnU1Je2>

- 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](mailto:charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov) 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.

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 10-12,

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>.

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, September 9, 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

Thursday, September 7

Tour of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Location: 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, Virginia 22182

Tour Meadowlark Botanical Gardens with an eye toward native plantings. Theresa DeFluri, Meadowlark staff member and PWWS member, will lead the tour which is open to the public. Hosted by Prince William Wildflower Society, a Virginia Native Plant Society Chapter. For more information visit: <http://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/>

September 9 - 10

Training for Trail Volunteers

Location: George Hellwig Memorial Park, Administrative Offices, 14420 Bristow Road Manassas, VA 20112

Join Prince William County Parks Department for a two day trail volunteers training. Volunteers will receive training on trail design, construction and maintenance. Classroom training will take place at the Parks Dept administrative offices at Hellwig Park. Field training will take place at Hellwig or at Doves Landing Park. More information and a registration link will be posted later or call 703-792-

Park: . More information and a registration link will be posted later or call 703-792-7060

Sunday, September 24

Bird Walk

Time: 8 am

Location: Merrimac Farm

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

Saturday, September 30

Trail Work on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on Public Lands Day

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: *Powells Landing (Scuppers Lane & Transom Place) Woodbridge, VA 22191 United States*

Join the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition for Public Lands Day to make improvements on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail - Powell's Creek section, from the power line cut up to Route 1. The work will include trail clearing and widening, and improving drainage. To register, click [here](#). For more information visit: <http://www.pwtsc.org/events/> or contact *Neil Nelson* at: secretary@pwtsc.org

Save the Dates!

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: PWRecycles@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 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.

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

Sneak Peak

Water and Health

Live Well with any Chronic Condition

(Free 6-Week Workshop - Once a Week- Spots are limited!)

Tuesdays, Sept 5-Oct 10,

Time: 10.30am -1pm

Chinn Park Regional Library, 13065 Chinn Park Drive Woodbridge, VA 22192

Tuesdays, Sep 5 -Oct 10

Time : 1:00pm-3:30pm

Central Community Library, 8601 Mathis Ave. Manassas, VA 20110

Thursday, Sept 14-Oct 19

Time: 9.30 am to Noon (Diabetes only)

Senior Center at Manassas, 9350 Mosby Street Manassas, VA 20110

Do you or a loved one have a chronic condition like, but not limited to: Asthma, Arthritis, Cancer, COPD, Congestive Heart Failure, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Diabetes, Depression, Emphysema, Fibromyalgia , Heart Disease, Lung Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Obesity Parkinson's, Stroke, Pain...?

Register now for a free 6 weekly session program to learn how to manage , improve and get some great tips your health condition.

To register or for more information contact: [571-264-8559](tel:571-264-8559) | marthah@pmahweb.org

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.](#)

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