



## Prince William County Adds a New Citizen Volunteer Initiative its Stream Monitoring Program - "Floatable Monitoring Program"



*The Monster in Our Local Streams*

Source: <http://images.mentalfloss.com>



***Where do these floatables come from?***

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

In a bid to provide Prince William County with the healthiest possible environment, a new "Floatable Monitoring Program" (FMP) has been created. The FMP will commence in July 2016 and will operate alongside the existing Virginia Save Our Streams Citizen monitoring program. FMP is aimed at reducing pollutants from heavily urbanized and industrialized areas that have negative impact on water quality in the County.

The transportation of point and non-point pollutants during rain events from urban and industrial areas into Municipal Separate Storm Sewer systems in the County has great potential negative impact on water quality.

on water quality in the local streams.

The Environmental protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA-DEQ) have put in place programs to reduce pollutants from urban areas that negatively impact water quality in local streams and rivers such as: the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit program (VPDS) and Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) permits. Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewers Systems (MS4s) are regulated under the Virginia Stormwater Management Act and Clean Water Act (CWA) through permits issued by DEQ and EPA. Prince William County maintains a Phase 1 VSMP MS4 permit.

This new monitoring program (FMP) starts in July 2016 with some pilot sites and will be conducted quarterly to monitor areas suspected to be contributing to the enormous level of trash and refuse in the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewers Systems (MS4s). The FMP will put in place a best management structure that will improve the standards of water quality in Prince William County.

The program is a collaborative effort of the Prince William Department of Public Works and the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District to promote good water quality in the County. For more information about the program and on how to get involved, contact: [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org).

## Spring with Clean Communities and Clean Waterways in PWC



*Prince William County Service Authority (PWCSA) Promoting Clean Waterways: PWCSA Adopt-A-Stream Cleanup Site at Neabsco Creek Dale City*





A portion of Penn Students & families: Occoquan River Cleanup at Lake Ridge marina with Friends of the Occoquan Spring 2016

## Water Quality Monitoring in Northern Virginia



Water Quality Monitoring at Airport Creek – Occoquan Watershed, Lake Ridge (PWC new monitoring Site)

## How can Prince William streams 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 Recreation (DCR) for their adopted site in recognition of their efforts. For more information write to [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org).

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

[See Video:](#)



## The Stream Cleanup Programs



"Trash Free - NOVA Streams"

The District promote 4 options for cleaning streams:

1. Adopt A Stream Program – clean at least once a year for a two year commitment (4 events)

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 of the year).

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

On how to get started with any of the Stream Cleanup programs and for any questions about the 4 options which is best for you, please contact: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org).

## The Water Quality Monitoring Program

### 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.

#### Prince William Water Quality Directory

Please Click [HERE](#)

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### Upcoming Events

- *Certification Training of Stream Monitors in NOVA - Saturday, June 11 ( 9 a.m-3.30p.m)*
- *National Trails Day -PWTSC Work Day at Locust Shade Park - Saturday, June 4 (9 a.m.)*
- *Bull Run Cleanup -Annual Clean the Bay Day -Saturday, June 4 (9 a.m.-*
- *And more...*

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### Water Quality Monitoring Events

**Saturday, June 11.**

#### **Certification Training of Volunteer Stream Monitors in NOVA**

**Time: 9 a.m.- 3.30 p.m.**

**Location: Manassas National Battlefield Park Headquarters 12521 Lee Highway Manassas, VA 20109**

Northern Virginia (NOVA) gears up for more water quality monitoring sites to help Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) close-up water quality data gaps in Virginia under its citizen science monitoring program. With the Virginia Save Our Streams water quality monitoring protocol, volunteer sites will be tested on:

#### **Part I. [Identification of Macro benthic Invertebrates](#)**

#### **Part II. [Demonstration of the field sampling protocol](#)**

Part I is open book with no rocket science involved (Please click on Part I & II for more).

NOVA residents will also have a brief talk from the Prince William County Public Works Department regarding the Virginia Citizen Science Program and how to get involved.

Department about some Virginia State run programs aimed to reduce pollutants that impacts quality in local streams and the need for citizen volunteers to support these programs by bringing awareness within NOVA communities.

To register and for more information Contact:  
Veronica Tangiri: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org) Or  
Daniel Schwartz: [Daniel.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Daniel.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Stream Cleanup Events

**Saturday, June 4th.**

**Bull Run Cleanup -Annual Clean the Bay Day :**

**Time: 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Location:** Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton VA

For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/802671463194870/>

To register visit:

<http://www.cbf.org/events/clean-the-bay-day/northern-va-hemlock-overlook-regional-park>

## World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC)

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 already collecting Data towards this challenge.*

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) distributed some free water monitoring kits to help residents learn more about the water quality in their local streams and be part of a World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC) event: <http://www.monitorwater.org/>.

**1 chemical monitoring kits left.** Stop by District office during work hours and signup for a free test kit. You can take part in this event from PWC. Please, call 571-379-7514 for reservation. Each Chemical kit can be used for up to 50 rounds of testing. Before pickup, you will be required to fill out a form similar to this: Please see [here](#)

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## 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](http://www.virginiadepartmentofconservationandrecreation.com).

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

**PWSWCD Upcoming Workshop**

**Conservation Planning and Beyond : Financial Assistance Programs**

**Date to be announced!**

The District has financial assistance programs to help residents meet their conservation goals. Come learn the different programs available and how you can apply for financial assistance!

For more information or any questions, Please contact: [nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org](mailto:nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org) or call 571- 397 -7514.

## More Events and Opportunities

**Saturday, June 4**

**National Trails Day** *Volunteers Needed!*

**Time:** 9am.

**Location:** 4701 Locust Shade Park Dr., Triangle, VA. 22172

As activities to mark the Nation Trails Day, Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition (PWTSC) will appreciate the support of volunteers in a general work day event at the Locust Shade I. For more information and registration, please contact: [secretary@pwtsc.org](mailto:secretary@pwtsc.org) or visit: [www.pwtsc.org](http://www.pwtsc.org)

## Awards and Scholarships

**YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP**

[www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org)      JULY 10-16, 2016      804.559.0324

### **Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program**

**Deadline : September 06, 2016;**

**National Science Foundation**

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

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

#### **Saturday in the Garden Classes**

**Dates:** June 18, July 16, 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.

**Friday, June 10**

#### **Workshop: Creating & Tending Backyard Woods**

**Location:** Harrisonburg, VA

Interested in developing a management plan for your small (or large) woodlot? Then this is an excellent program that guides you through the process step by step.

This program is sponsored by: Virginia Cooperative Extension, The Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and the Forests for the Bay Program. To register, contact:

Northern District Natural Resources Extension Program at 540-948-6881. For more information [visit](#)

**Sunday, June 12,**

**Sustainable Garden Tour**

**Time :1-5pm**

**Location : Eight sites in Reston & Herndon**

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors this tour of private yards and places featuring rain gardens, green roofs, native plants, landscaping, rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitats, composting, and more. Free, no RSVP required, visit as many or as few as you like. For more information visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/gardentour.htm>

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

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

The FMN Basic Training course will be held in Fall 2016. Applications for the Fall 2016 course is now open. Forms are available for download from the [FMN website](#). Please direct any questions to the FMN Outreach Committee at [ymnfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:ymnfairfax@gmail.com)

### **Job Announcement:**

#### **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Job Announcement**

Volunteer Prince William has an immediate career opportunity for a Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Program Coordinator who will be responsible for managing all aspects of this federally funded program. For more information contact [mfoley@volunteerprincewilliam.org](mailto:mfoley@volunteerprincewilliam.org) or Visit the office located at 9248 Center Street, Manassas 20110. Closing date is June 10, 2016.

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## **Projects in your Backyard**

### **...aimed at improving Prince William Watersheds**

- Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)
- Prince William Native Plant Society: [Visit](#)
- Prince William Master Gardeners: [Visit](#)
- Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition [Visit](#)
- Prince William Conservation Alliance: [Visit](#)
- Keep Prince William Beautiful: [Visit](#)
- Virginia Master Naturalist: [Visit](#)
- Trees Virginia: [Visit](#)
- Plant NOVA Natives: [Visit](#)
- Friends of Occoquan [Visit](#)
- Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)

### **...aimed at improving the Chesapeake Bay**

- Department of Environmental Quality: [Visit](#)
- Department of Conservation and Recreation's :[Visit](#)
- Environmental Protection Agency: [Visit](#)
- National Park Service: [Visit](#)
- Virginia Save Our Streams: [Visit](#)
- Virginia Citizen for Water Quality: [Visit](#)
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: [Visit](#)
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation: [Visit](#)
- Virginia Water Monitoring Council: [Visit](#)
- Virginia Green Travel Alliance: [Visit](#)
- Audubon Naturalist Society: [Visit](#)
- Trashnetwok-Alice Ferguson Foundation: [Visit](#)
- Clean Virginia Waterways: [Visit](#)

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, age, national origin, or political affiliation. Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is an opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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

### [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 violation of the compliance status of public water systems. Visit: [dashboard](#).

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

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

>> Citizen water quality monitoring also counts towards service hours for all Virginia Master Naturalists <<

For all PWSWCD events cancellation and updates, visit: [PWSWCD Facebook page](#)

#### Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District

8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 | [pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org](mailto:pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org) |

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

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