



7th Upper Occoquan River Cleanup Results

"Promoting Clean Waterways and Water Quality in Northern Virginia"



George Mason University Sustainability And Advocacy Students



[Watch Video: Our Plastic Society](#)

Despite the rainy weather that threatened the clean up event of Occoquan River, over 156 persons turned out and successfully pulled approximately 4000 pounds of trash from the Occoquan River - important drinking source for the Prince William and Fairfax Counties.

Among some of the debris removed were: cassettes, synthetic xmas trees, parts of TV sets, lawn & beach chairs, dumpsters, Plastic bottles and bags, gas bottles, ladders, Styrofoam, deck boxes, long plastic hoses, plastic drain pipes, , plastic shopping carts, plastic buckets ,beach balls, plastic tables and a lot more.

Some volunteers came all the way from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Thanks to all the volunteers and the supporting organizations and businesses (Dale City Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), Boy Scout Troop 1000, George Mason University Sustainability and Advocacy Students, Northern Virginia Geocaching, REI , and Girl Scouts) who made this event a resounding success.

Sincere gratitude goes to the constructive and collaborative efforts of the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, PW Trails and Streets Coalition, the PW Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairfax Water, four Home Owners Associations, rescue boats from Lake Jackson VFD and the Ridge OWL VFD, Buckhall VFD support, Bradley Forest Recreation Association, and the Citizens Association.

A Spring with Clean Communities and Waterways in Prince William County



Micron Technology, Inc. Staff



Habitat for Humanity & Strayer University Volunteers

This spring, some businesses, organizations, Home Owners Association (HOAs), students, and families geared efforts towards cleaning up some portion of local streams and waterways in Prince William County under the Adopt a Stream program. The District's cleanup programs also help to promote environmental awareness around local streams within the different communities.

Approximately 4950 pounds of trash was pulled out from local streams and waterways during the months of March and April. Among items collected were stoves, a dog's kennel, tires, shopping carts, construction materials, scaffolding, bicycles, TVs, vacuum cleaners just to name a few.

Special gratitude goes to the following:

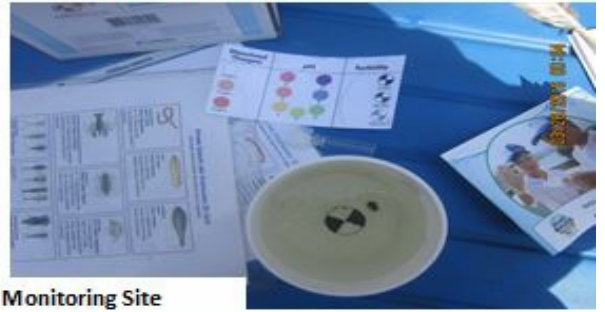
- Micron Technology, Inc. - Broad Run & Cannon Branch
- Bae systems Manassas - Bull Run
- Habitat for Humanity - Stormwater Pond- Neabsco Creek
- Super Target - Stormwater Pond - Broad Run
- PW Service Authority - Neabsco Creek
- Dunbarton HOA - Broad Run
- The Woodard Family - Flat Branch
- The Shoemaker Family - Bull Run
- Princedale Community Pride - Neabsco Creek
- Social Action Project (Parkside Middle School) - Broad Run
- Woodbridge Potomac Community Civic Association (WPCCA) - Neabsco Creek
- PW Soil and Water Conservation District staff - Rosemont Lewis Park & Creek

Water Quality Monitoring in Northern Virginia

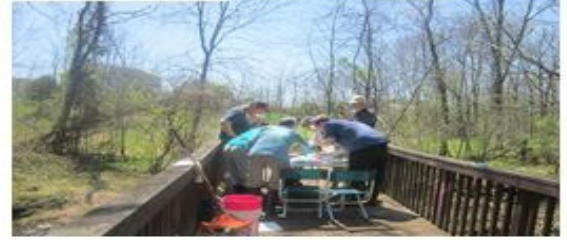




STEM Water Quality Monitoring Site- Andrew Leitch Park



Cedar Run Monitoring Site



Monitoring with an App- "Creek Critters" James Long Park



Introductory Training of Water Quality Monitors (Cooperative Training Event- Prince William and Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District.

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@pwsxcd.org.

You 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 (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.

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](#)



Upcoming Events

- *Water Quality Monitoring - Saturday, May 7 & 14*
- *Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) programs in PWC- Volunteers needed May 12, 13, 26 & 27*
- *Bioblitz: Manassas Battlefield and Prince William Forest Park- May 20-21*
- *Annual PWS Native Plant Sale - May 7*
- *Bike to Work Day- Friday, May 20*
- *National Trails Day -PWTSC - Work Day at Locust Shade Park - June 4*

Water Quality Monitoring Events

Saturday, May 7.

Stream Monitoring: Prince William Forest Park/ Quantico Creek

Time: 2.30pm - 5pm

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 residents are invited to come learn about the varieties of benthic macro invertebrates that determine the quality of water quality in PW local streams.

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.

Bring your camping foldable stools if needed.

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org.

Saturday, May 14

Stream Monitoring: Airport Creek- Occoquan Watershed, Lake Ridge

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

Location: 12102 Springwoods Dr. Woodbridge Virginia 22192

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

Join in the biological and chemical monitoring of this stretch of the Airport Creek as it enters Lake Occoquan in the Lake Ridge area.

Feel free to carry your camping foldable stools if needed.

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org

Prince William Drinking Water Clinic

Results Interpretation Meeting: May 11, from 7pm -9pm (Venue: Old Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave Manassas, VA 20110-5073)

Virginia Cooperative Extension PWC office invited well owners to come test their drinking supplies for bacteria, nitrates and other contaminants. The Virginia Household Water Quality Program (VHWQP) discussed

issues around drinking water in NOVA and gave out water testing kits. This interpretation meeting was a feedback test results gathered from drinking supplies. For more information about this program, visit www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/clinics.

For more information & registration contact: master_gardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC)

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

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) distributed some free water monitoring kits to residents for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. This is DEQ's effort for residents to 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/>.

2 chemical monitoring kits left. Stop by District office during work hours and sign up for a free test. 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 [click here](#)

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 Litigation Challenge." For more information Click [here](#) or [visit](#).

Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) programs in Prince William County
Thursday- May 12, Friday-May 13, Thursday-May 26 & Friday- May 27

Time: 9am - 2pm

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

Volunteers are needed! (Special lunch will be provided)

Volunteers will help from four different stations: Pollination/Pollinators, Pond Aquatics, Soils, and Stream Buffers. Some basic training will be provided based on interest- No rocket science involved! Students learn more about the watersheds, soil types/components, the relationship between soil and water, and how human impact them.

As a Virginia Standards to promote stewardship in our communities, this program will groom students in responsible citizenship ethics.

Students love and enjoy this program! [See Video](#)

To volunteer, RSVP to MWEE Coordinator: mwee@pwsxcd.org or call 571.379.7514.

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 or call 571- 397 -7514.

More Events and Opportunities

Dates: May 20-21

BioBlitz at Manassas Battlefield Park & Prince William Forest Park

The Manassas National Battlefield Park will be participating in a BioBlitz on May 20-21st. This BioBlitz is an all-taxa inventory in which teams of volunteers, each led by a subject matter expert, find and identify as many species as possible within a 24-hour period. This National Parks BioBlitz - Washington, D.C. is a cornerstone event commemorating the centennial of the National Park Service. Inventories on Friday, May 20th will be largely oriented towards school and youth groups, with more general public-oriented inventories on Saturday the 21st.

Field biologists and naturalists are needed to help document the park's biodiversity and share this knowledge with students, teachers, and the general public. Any professional or trained and experienced amateur who can lead people safely in the field, find and identify species is welcome; teachers and professors who would like to bring groups of students to the park to assist scientists with inventories are also welcome.

To volunteer at this event, please contact:

- **Manassas Battlefield Park Biologist**, Alison Sloop; alison_sloop@nps.gov or call : (703) 754-1860 ext.1111
- **Prince William Forest Park Biologist**, Eric Kelley; eric_kelley@nps.gov or call: (703) 221-4700 ext. 273

Friday, May 20

Bike to Work Day

Time: All day Event

Location: Over 80 pit stops

This event will include over 80 "Bike to Work Day" pit stops in the DC metro area with several stop stations in NOVA and Prince William County.

Pre-Register by May 13 for your free T-shirt and bike raffle!

T-Shirts will be available at the pit stops for the first 15,000 people who register.

Thought about given your car a break on this day?

For more information, visit: www.BIKETOWRKMETRODC.org or call 800-745-7433.

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 the support of volunteers in the construction project of the lake shore at Locust Shade Park. Volun will help in the following:

- install sections of retaining wall along the trail, to prevent erosion
- put down stone surface on trail
- install 20 foot sections of fence to protect vegetation between the trail and the water
- leave 10 foot open sections for people who are fishing from the shoreline.

For more information and registration, please contact: secretary@pwtsc.org or visit: www.pwtsc.org

Awards and Scholarships



YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

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: May 21, 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 or call 703-792-7747.

Saturday, May 14

"Ask a Master Gardener Your Gardening Question"

Time: 10am - 1pm

Location: Lowe's Woodbridge, Lowe's Gainesville, Lowe's Manassas, Southern States Manassas, Merrifield, Gainesville.

For more information contact Virginia Cooperative Extension Plant Clinics: master_gardener@pwcgov.org

or call 703-792-7747.

Saturday, May 7

Annual Native Plant Sale

Time: 9am - Noon

Location: Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas.

Lots of variety of native plants will be on sale! Sun and shade loving native wildflowers, shrubs and trees will be available for your home garden beauty.

For more information contact: Nancy Vehrs at nvhrs1@yahoo.com or 703-368-2898.

Workshop: Creating & Tending Backyard Woods

Locations and dates.

Warrenton, VA May 6, 2016 9AM to 2PM

Winchester, VA May 13, 2016 12PM to 5PM

Charlottesville, VA May 20, 2016 9AM to 2PM

Harrisonburg, VA June 10, 2016 12PM to 5PM

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](#)

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 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 will open in the summer (June 2016), and will be available for download from the [FMN website](#). Please direct any questions to the FMN Outreach Committee at ymnfairfax@gmail.com

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](#)

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is funded by Prince William County Public Works Department, Storm 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 equal 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 violations and 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 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<<

>> 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 |

Phone: 571-379-7514 | Fax: 571- 379-8305

www.pwsxcd.org

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