



Keeping NOVA Waterways Clean to Improve Water Quality " Trash Free with NOVA Streams"

Northern Virginia is striving in development. Trash in its local streams is becoming a huge problem. This trash is impacting aquatic lives and their habitat. More so, it is affecting the water quality in the local streams and rivers such as the Occoquan River; one of NOVA's drinking water source.

NOVA residents do care about the health of their local streams. Some residents have adopted portions of streams under the "Adopt-A-Stream" program under the District offered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Other residents once in a while step up to flex their muscles by organizing impromptu community stream cleanup events under the District's Earth Volunteer Program. Others lead or join in some of the Districts' annual cleanup programs such the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup (Alice Ferguson Foundation) - Occoquan River Cleanup and the International Coastal Cleanup (Clean VA Waterways) . All these efforts show how much residents are working hard to help ensure NOVA streams are trash free.

Emmm...

But where do these trash in NOVA streams come from?

Do we litter around or use nearby trash cans?

As NOVA residents, how do we dispose our household waste?

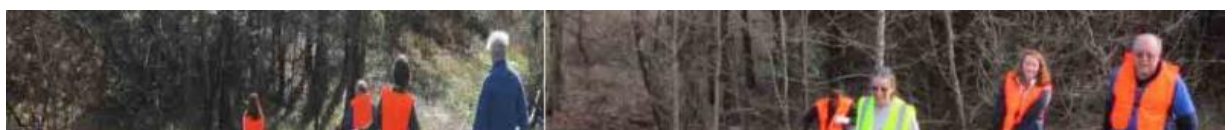
Do we sort our trash and make good use of the County's recycling facilities ?



How can NOVA streams be trash free?

Most litter on the watersheds ends up in the local streams.

Every little effort from NOVA residents directed towards trash awareness will definitely help see "NOVA streams trash free".





Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers at Catharpin Creek_ James Long Park- Gainesville

On January 10th, some Water Quality Monitoring volunteers joined in an impromptu stream cleanup event along the Catharpin Creek at the James Long Park in Gainesville. Under the leadership of Elaine Wilson, these test drive efforts by these volunteers collected over 900 tons of trash along a half mile stretch of the Catharpin Creek. It is always amazing to see what types of trash come out from our local waterways. These awesome volunteers collected a huge amount of Asphalt roof shingles.

How much trash do you have in your backyard stream or local community stream?

The Soil and Water Conservation District is here to help give residents the needed support in any organized stream cleanup event. Be it cleanup events organized in the different communities by Home Owners Associations, local organizations, schools, church groups, youth leadership groups or any set of individuals willing to see "NOVA streams Trash Free".

Thanks to residents who have been supporting the District's Stream Cleanup Programs.

To check what cleanup program is in your neighborhood click [here](#).
To help you get started with a new cleanup site: [visit](#).

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](#)



Water Quality Monitoring Events

Sunday, February 7

Stream Monitoring: Young's Branch

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

Location: Manassas Battlefield Park

Join this team of dedicated volunteers under the Audubon Naturalist Society in monitoring this historic site of the Young's Branch in the Bull Run Watershed. For more information and directions to the site, contact: [Stephanie Martin](#); stephmartin60@aol.com.

Prince William Drinking Water Clinic

Kick-off: [March 28 from 7pm-8.30pm](#) (Venue: Old Courthouse Manassas)

Sample drop off: [Wednesday, March 30 from 6.30am-10am ONLY](#) (Venue: Virginia Cooperative Extension office, 8033 Ashton, Suite 105, Manassas, 20109)

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension PWC office is inviting well owners to come test their drinking supplies for bacteria, nitrates and other contaminants. The Virginia Household Water Quality Program(VHWQP) will **charge only \$55** instead of over \$250 to help improve water quality of private water supplies (Only checks and Money Orders will be accepted- No cash, please).

At the Kick-off meeting, water quality issues in NOVA will be discussed and kits will be given out. During the interpretation meeting, feedback from test results will be discussed. 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.

Free Water Quality Chemical Test Kits

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is distributing water monitoring kits to test for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. These kits are free for schools and

organizations with interest in water quality monitoring. This is DEQ's effort for residents to learn more about water quality in local streams and participate in the World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC): <http://www.monitorwater.org/>. The time frame for monitoring is **March 22 (World Water Day)- December 31**. For your free kit, please contact [Mr. Stuart Torbeck](mailto:Mr.Stuart.Torbeck@deq.virginia.gov) at charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov. Mailing address information, number of monitoring sites, number of participants, and the total number of participants from your organization or school that will take part in the WWMC will be required.

OR

Local residents who would like to take part in this World Water Challenge event should stop by the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District office during work hours to sign up for a free test kit. Please, call 571-379-7514 to reserve your free kit. Each Chemical kit can conduct up to 50 rounds of testing. Before pickup, you will be required to fill out a form similar to this: Please click [here](#)



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, Click [here](#).

If you have any questions about these 4 options or would like help choosing the option that would be best for you, please contact: pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org.

Stream Cleanup Events



Saturday, April 9 (Rain date April 23)

The 7th Annual Occoquan River Cleanup -

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Locations: 9 Different locations. Please click [here](#)

Join the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition (PWTSC) to help keep the Occoquan River and reservoir clean. Work from multiple locations along the river and reservoir. Volunteers gather trash on shore and paddlers work from canoes and kayaks to retrieve trash from the water. This event is in partnership with the PWC Parks Dept, Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District, and several homeowner's associations.

For More information contact **Ed Dandar**: efdandar@verizon.net or call **703-791-6158**.

Saturday, April 16.

Occoquan River Cleanup in the Town of Occoquan

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125.

Join Friends of Occoquan (FOTO) in the Town of Occoquan for this annual clean-up event of the Occoquan River: one of NOVA's drinking water source.

For more information contact: [Kirstyn L. Jovanovich](mailto:Kirstyn.L.Jovanovich@pwc.gov) at 703 491 1918 Ext. 2

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](#).

Virginia Envirothon Current Competition Program: [Click here](#).

This natural resources competition for high school students is offered by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Students compete in the areas of: soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, among others. Students relate these topics to some of the present environmental issues and apply their knowledge in solving some of these real-life environmental problems. For more information contact: education@pwsxcd.org or call **571-379-7514**.

Prince William County 15th Annual Youth Ambassadors' Conference
Saturday, March 12 (Snow Day Saturday, March 19).

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Venue: Stonewall Jackson High School, 8820 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

In partnership with the Prince William County Department of Public Works and the Stonewall Jackson Ecology Club this fun-filled event is aimed at promoting environmental science education and awareness in Prince William County. The Youth Ambassadors' Conference is open to Prince William County Schools, Private Schools and the Homeschool Community. This conference offers local youth an opportunity to learn more about the environment and participate in conservation projects.

**This is an invitation-only event based. If you or your child would like to attend, for details, contact Deb Oliver; doliver@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-681.*

Watershed Educators Institute

Trainings through June 2016

Organized by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Watershed Educators Institute is a series of one and two day workshops for participants to promote effective and meaningful watershed experiences for their students and communities. Participants who complete all 5

workshops will be recognized as a Virginia Watershed Leader. Registration fees range from \$15 to \$30 per workshop. The full schedule of all workshops could be found [online](#).

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Grasses of the Masses Program

For Schedules, Dates and Locations click [Here](#).

You can help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers by participating in CBF's Grasses for the Masses program. Participants in the program grow wild celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*), a type of underwater grass, in a simple grow-out system in their homes for 10-12 weeks. After 10-12 weeks of grow-out, participants will gather to plant their grasses in select local rivers to bolster grass populations and help restore the Bay. For more information click [Here](#).

Free E-book: "Bobby's Seven Principles: Selling Riparian Forest Buffers"

The purpose of this book is to explain to farmers how they and their livestock will benefit from having riparian buffers. A downloadable version of the book and more information about the context of this issue can be found by clicking [Here](#). Robert Whitescarver wrote this book with support from the Campbell Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

High School Student Challenge: Visualize Your Water

Submissions Due: March 1, 2016

High school students are challenged to use open government data sources to create compelling, innovative, and comprehensible visualizations that inform individuals and communities about nutrient pollution and inspire them to reduce nutrient levels that cause algal blooms and hypoxia in local watersheds. This challenge is offered by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Esri, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Minnesota Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL), Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), and the National Geographic Society, with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). For more information, click [Here](#).

BioBlitz at Manassas Battlefield Park

Dates: May 20-21

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 their 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 the Manassas Battlefield Park Biologist, Alison Sloop; alison_sloop@nps.gov or call : (703) 754-1861 ext.1111

Awards and Scholarships

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship 2016

Deadline: March 21, 2016.

The VASWCD Educational Foundation scholarship program promotes the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields with a natural resource conservation and environmental protection emphasis. The program provides financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or

environmental studies. Annually the Foundation provides four \$1000 statewide scholarships in addition to the many local SWCD scholarship opportunities. For more information, click [Here](#).

Professional Development Environmental Scholarship

Deadline: Feb. 26th, 2016

Program: [Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week](#).

Program Description: [Learn inspiring and practical environmental activities to incorporate into your teaching while exploring coastal habitats with expert naturalists.](#)

Sponsor: [Audubon of Northern Virginia](#)

Eligible candidates: administrators, specialists, subject teachers and classroom teachers, Pre-K through 12th grade.

Location: Audubon Society's Hog Island, Maine facility

Dates: July 17 to 22, 2016

Application available on-line: [audubonva.org](#)

More details about the program, staff, educators and Hog Island, click [Here](#)

U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize

State Competition: April 15, 2016;

National Competition: May 18, 2016;

International Competition: June 17-19, 2016

This competition is open to any high school student in grades 9-12, who will be at least 15 years of age by August 1, 2016. All research papers must be uploaded online no later than April 15, 2016 to compete in the state competition. All state winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the SJWP National Competition. The national winner will receive \$10,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to Stockholm, Sweden to participate in the SJWP International Competition. To learn more about the SJWP competition, click [Here](#).

Soil, Plants and Landscapes

The Young Naturalist Program-Blandy Experimental Farm

Saturday sessions in January, February, and March.

Location: Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce VA 22620

These programs get kids outdoors to explore nature in winter--a time of year when they may not have many such opportunities. Programs focus on the area's natural history, geography, weather, and related topics.

Programs include observation, hands-on activities, crafts, snack, and time outside. For more information [visit](#) or contact: Blandy@virginia.edu

Lecture by Author Thomas Rainer

Sunday, February 21

Time: 2 PM.

Location: Manassas Park Community Center 99 Adams St, Manassas, Virginia 20111

Free presentation by Thomas Rainer, co-author of *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*, based on this book, Mr. Rainer is a landscape architect, university professor, and writer. Copies of this book, published by Timber Press and co-authored with horticulturalist Claudia West, will be available for purchase and signing by Mr. Rainer. The book was reviewed by The Washington Post on December 3, 2015.

Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC Office Trainings

***Saturday in the Garden Classes**

Dates: April 16, 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

Venue: St. Benedict Monastery, 7555 Linton Hall Road, Bristow 20136.
Free training. To register contact: master_gardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

*Pruning Classes

Saturday, February 20

Time: 1.30 -3.30pm.

Venue: St. Benedict Monastery, 9424 Linton Hall Road, Bristow 20136.

Free but limited space. To register /information, contact: master_gardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

*Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series

Dates: February 6, 13, and March 5. Snow date -March 26.

Time: 10.30am to 1pm.

Venue: Chinn Library 13065 Chinn Park Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192.

Participants will learn garden planning using organic techniques and how to make good garden soil. This training is free but class size limited to 60. To register contact: master_gardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

*Basics of Gardening Classes

Dates: February 20, 27 and March 12. Snow date- March 12

Time: 9am - 1pm.

Venue: Powell's Creek- McCoart Building 1 County Complex Court, Prince William, VA 22192

Participants will learn the science behind gardening, plant culture, pest and disease solution. Cost: \$5 per class, \$10 for series.

To register contact: master_gardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

*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 summer (June 2016), and will be available for download from the [FMN website](#). Please direct any questions to the FMN Outreach Committee at vmnfairfax@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 State of Waters: [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](#)

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

[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. The interactive charts and graphs provide information on the compliance of public water systems with federal drinking water regulations, as well as enforcement actions. Explore the summary of key activities to get answers to most of your questions on public water systems regulations, inspection, violations and enforcement actions. Visit: [dashboard](#).

Potomac Basin News and updates

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

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

***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 stream monitoring updates anytime, please visit: [PWSWCD Facebook page](#)

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District

8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 | pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org |

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www.pwsxcd.org

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