



## **Time to Keep Our Waterways Clean to Enhance Water Quality**

**Governor Terry McAuliffe's Stewardship Virginia Program has as one of its primary goals - the enhancement of Water Quality in the Commonwealth of Virginia.**



The Stewardship Virginia Program that runs from September 1 to October 31, 2016, heralds the arrival of the fall season by promoting the conservation of Virginia's rich natural and cultural resources. The program also ensures that Virginians gain more knowledge about recreational, historical, cultural, wildlife, forest and water resources.

Get Governor's Terry McAuliffe's signed certificate when you participate in this ongoing Stewardship Virginia program. Get this special certificate from the District anytime you take part or organize any stream cleanup event in the community.

For more information about the Stewardship Virginia Program visit:  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship/](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship/)



**October 12- 13 (8a.m- 2p.m)**

**Farm Field Day (See details below)**

**Saturday, October 15 (10 a.m. - 2p.m)**

**Prince William Recycles Day (See details below)**

**Saturday, October 22 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)**

**Certification and Training of Water Quality Monitors in Northern Virginia ( see details below)**



*Come support and promote citizen science for data to help shape our changing environment!*

## **Volunteer Needed!**

**Saturday, October 22 (10 a.m-4p.m)**

**Help man the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District booth at the National Park Service (NPS) " Saturday at the Park" event. Lunch will be provided. For more information Contact: [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org) (Please see details of the event below).**

**Thank you for supporting the September  
Farm to Table Dinner.**

**Floatable monitoring races the sources of pollution  
in PWC waterways**



**The Adopt-A-Stream program enhances water quality, promotes  
clean waterways and environmental awareness in communities**



Habitat for Humanity Prince William County



Girls Scout Troop 18002 Dale City

**Water Quality Monitoring sends data to the Department of  
Environmental Quality (DEQ)**



Monitoring at Hooes Run- Occoquan Watershed

## 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 waterways within the District. The District will help provide cleanup supplies to residents who would like to make an impact in the communities at no cost. Participating groups will receive an Adopt-A-Stream sign from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in recognition of their stewardship. For more information write to [waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org).

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



## Water Quality Programs

### Stream Cleanup Programs



The District promotes 4 options for cleaning streams:



***Fall is the perfect time to help keep our waterways clean.  
Contact the District to volunteer now!***

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 have any questions about which of the 4 options is best for you, please contact: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto: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.

## 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.** Contact: [waterquality@pwsxcd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsxcd.org)



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

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

*Recycling in Prince William County: Please Click [Here](#)*



## WHATS COMING UP

**Thursday, October 6:** Floatable monitoring- Dawkin's Branch at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, October 8 :** Water Quality Monitoring - Dewey Creek at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, October 8:** Creek Critters App Stream monitoring in Clifton at 1.30pm.

**October 12 & 13:** Farm Field Days -8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, October 15:** Prince William Recycles Day -10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**Saturday, October 15:** Occoquan River Cleanup Day - 9 a.m to Noon.

**Sunday, October 16:** Stream Monitoring workshop - James Long Park.

**Thursday, October 20:** Developmental Workshop for K-5 teachers- Windy Knoll Farm at 4.30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 22:** Water Quality Monitoring Certification training -9 a.m.-3p.m

**Saturday, October 22:** National Park Service "Saturday at the Park"- 10 a.m-4p.m

**Thursday, October 27:** Floatable Monitoring at Flat Branch 10 a.m.

**Save the Dates!-**

**November 5:** Big stream cleanup of Neabsco Creek - at Neabsco Eagles Park.

**November 12:** Stream Cleanup at Leesylvania State Park.



## Water Quality Monitoring Events

**Thursday, September 6**

**Floatable Monitoring: Dawkin's Branch**

**Time: 10.am - 12.30pm**

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

Come learn more about the Dawkins Branch as its enters the Broad Run in the Bristow area.

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

**Saturday, October 8**

**Water Quality Monitoring - Dewey's Creek in Dumfries**

**Time: 10 a.m.**

**Parking location:** Near 17119 Wayside Drive in Dumfries

Come learn more about the quality of this stream and collect the water quality data

before its restoration this fall.

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

### **Saturday, October 8**

#### **Use an App in Stream monitoring "Creek Critters Smartphone App"**

**Time:** 1:30 - 3:30pm

**Location:** Webb Sanctuary, Clifton, VA

Join the Audubon Naturalist Society as they use their Creek Critters smartphone app to record the number and types of invertebrates that live in the bottom of healthy streams. Stay for all two hours or just a portion. Creek Critters is a great way to dip your toe into stream monitoring. Please [RSVP and download the app in advance.](#)

### **Saturday, October 15**

#### **Prince William Recycles Day**

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2p.m

**Location:** Prince William County Landfill, 14811 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA 20112

There will be free Landfill Tours, Recycle Art Display, Face Painting, Food, Games, Prizes, Music and \*Scarecrow making (clothing donation required) "Edutainment"- Recyclemania by Billy B. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Visit [www.pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling](http://www.pwcgov.org/trashandrecycling) for scarecrow requirements and event details.

### **Saturday, October 15**

#### **Occoquan River Cleanup by Friends of Occoquan**

**Time:** 9am - noon

**Location:** 5 Cleanup sites along the Fairfax and Prince William banks of the river. Join the Friends of the Occoquan for their annual cleanup along the river! Cleanup the banks or - if you have a canoe or kayak - head into the water to get floating trash. Refreshments will be provided to all volunteers. A list of sites can be found on the [Friends of the Occoquan's website.](#)

### **Sunday, October 16**

#### **Water Quality Monitoring: James S. Long Park - Catharpin Run**

**Time:** 12 Noon - 2.30 p.m.

**Location:** James S. Long Park, 4603 James Madison Hwy (Rt. 15) Haymarket, VA 20169

Join Elaine Wilson, one of the District's pioneer/certified monitor and her team for fall monitoring at this beautiful site in the Gainesville area. This site has some outstanding critters that are unique to this site compared to other monitoring sites in the County. Spots are limited.

Parking: Old Library parking lot (first right past the horse field).

For more information and RSVP, contact Elaine Wilson:

[Elaine.Wilson@dcwater.com](mailto:Elaine.Wilson@dcwater.com)

## **Saturday, October 22**

### **NOVA Water Quality Monitors Certification Training**

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m

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

**Cost:** Free

**Training :** Open to the public

**Certification prerequisite:** Most have attended at least 2 to 3 monitoring events. This event is jointly organized by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District and is open to anyone aspiring to become a Certified Stream Monitor. Certified monitor can adopt a stream or site of their choice site for monitoring only 3 to 4 times in a year. This certification training follows the Virginia Save Our Streams (SOS) monitoring protocol. The data collected by monitors is sent to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). To register and for more information, please contact **Dan Schwartz** ([Daniel.Schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov)) or **Veronica Tangiri** ([waterquality@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org)).

## **Thursday, October 27**

### **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@pwsacd.org](mailto:waterquality@pwsacd.org)

### **Save the Dates**

### **Big Neabsco Creek Stream Cleanup**

## **Saturday, November 5**

**Location:** Neabsco Eagles Park

Join the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition (PWTSC) for a big stream cleanup event of the Neabsco Creek at the Neabsco Eagles Park. This area is one of the trash mines of Neabsco Creek as it makes its way into the Potomac River.

This event is open to the students and the general public.

For more information visit: <http://www.pwtsc.org/> or contact

Ed Dandar at [efdandar@verizon.net](mailto:efdandar@verizon.net)



## **Leesylvania State Park Stream Cleanup.**

**Saturday, November 12**

Join in promoting more awareness on waterways trash in a stream cleanup event at this beautiful State Park in Prince William County which is closest to the Potomac River. This is a new cleanup site under the District's Adopt-A-Stream program. For more information and directions contact:

John Schaefer at [germany12js@gmail.com](mailto:germany12js@gmail.com)



## **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/>.



## **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](#) .

## **District Conservation Capsule To-Go season.**

Our capsules are ready to go, so reserve early, as they are first come, first served. You may reserve capsules now for anytime during the school year. For your reservations, please visit: <http://www.pswcd.org/educators.html> or contact: [education@pswcd.org](mailto:education@pswcd.org)

## **27th Annual Farm Field Days (2016)**

**October 12 and 13, 2016!**

**Time: 8 a.m. -2 p.m.**

**Location:** Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas

For more than a quarter of a century, Farm Field Days have helped students connect to their agricultural heritage and sowed the seed of environmental stewardship among students. This year, over 1600 students will be hosted at no cost from over 15 county schools and the City of Manassas . Over 150 volunteers are needed to support the activities of the event.

Students will rotate through seven barns. Farm critters like bees, oxen, alpacas and more will be on exhibition. Demonstrations on wool spinning, butter churning and scientific experiments on photosynthesis, soil erosion , to name a few are some highlights featuring on the list.

This is a great opportunity for students to connect to different educational fields and to learn more on natural resources and how to protect them.

To volunteer, please contact: [education@pswcd.org](mailto:education@pswcd.org) or call [571.379.7514](tel:571.379.7514) or [click here](#). No previous experience is necessary.

*This event is Funded by generous donations to the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation, a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, an affiliate of Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District.*

## **Sprouting Success 2016 :**

### **A Professional Development Workshop for K-5 teachers**

**Thursday, October 20**

**Time: 4:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Windy Knoll Farm , 11602 Kettle Run Road, Nokesville 20108.

This workshop which is presented by Agriculture in the Classroom in partnership with Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District will be followed by a Virginia themed dinner prepared by the Fairfax/Prince William Farm Bureau Women's

Committee. The workshop consists of SOL aligned, cross-curricular lessons using proven methodology, hands-on activities, ready for instant use in the classroom. Teachers receive CEU's for attending this workshop.

Register by Monday, October 3rd. For more information about the program, please visit: <https://www.agintheClass.org/Teachers/LessonPlans.aspx>. For any questions, call [571-379-7514](tel:571-379-7514) or email [education@pwsxcd.org](mailto:education@pwsxcd.org).

## Awards and Scholarships

### *Apprentice Ecologist Scholarship*

#### *Application Deadlines: December 31, Annually*

*The Apprentice Ecologist Initiative has engaged tens of thousands of young volunteers (kids, teens, and college-age youth) from around the world in environmental cleanup and conservation projects since 1999. Three (3) scholarships will be awarded annually to the authors of the three best Apprentice Ecologist essays. Applicants should embody the spirit of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative. For more information, Visit: [http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer\\_apprentice\\_ecologist](http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist)*

## Plants and Landscape Events

### Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC Office Trainings

#### Saturday in the Garden Classes

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

### National Park Service " Saturday at the Park"

#### Saturday, October 22

Time: 10 a.m. - 4p.m.

Location: The Brownsville Picnic Area off of Groveton Road, Manassas, VA 20109

Join the National Park Service in discovering and exploring of the natural resources

within Manassas National Battlefield Park!

This event is open to the public.

### Free Prince William Community Document Shred

#### Saturday, October 29

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Two locations:

Prince William County Landfill, 14811 Dumfries Road (Route 234), Manassas, VA 20112 or

Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility, 13000 Balls Ford Road, Manassas, VA 20109

Join the Prince William Solid Waste Division for an Annual Shredding Event.

This event is open to residents only, no business or commercial shredding.

Accepting confidential documents only. Non confidential documents should be recycled curbside or left at the citizen drop-off facilities.

Visit [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org) for event limits/trash and recycling and guidelines.

## Sneak Peak

**Monday, October 31**

### **Nova Community College Environmental Film Festival**

**Time:** 1 - 4:30pm

**Location:** NOVA Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Center's CE Forum and Theater

Drought? Desertification? Flooding? Fire? Zombies??!! There are a lot of spooky things going on this Halloween, but NOVA Community College's Film Fest aims to show you a brighter environmental future. Featured films will be:

A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Healthy Planet

Chasing Water

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

John J Audubon and the Birds of America

Free and open to all! Open parking in lots B8-B17. Refreshments and popcorn will be served. For more information, [contact crobinette@nvcc.edu](mailto:crobinette@nvcc.edu).

### **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**

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](#)**



**For more Environmental 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*