



## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**Find Out How Our Streams Connect and Sustain Us at the 12th Annual Family Stream Day**

Join us for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Family Stream Day event on Saturday, October 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at [Loudoun Water's Administration Building](#) in Ashburn (44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn, VA 20147). Family Stream Day's fun and interactive outdoor environmental education activities teach students and their parents about our Loudoun County streams and the plants and animals that these streams and streamside habitats support. Co-sponsored by the Loudoun Watershed Watch (LWW) and the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA), Family Stream Day is held in October to pay local tribute to World Water Monitoring Day and the Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. It is the only event of its kind in Loudoun.

During this free event, students and families will enjoy interactive, hands-on activities that teach about our local watersheds, the plants and animals that live in these rich habitats, ways to test stream water quality, how we benefit from and impact our streams, and more. Kids will receive a reusable tote bag and a Family Stream Day "Passport" to have stamped at each station as they participate in the activities. The stations, led by several local organizations, will be located outside the rear of the Aquary Building weather permitting or inside in the lobby area in the event of inclement weather. In addition to the outside exhibits and activities, the Aquary offers informative indoor exhibits that explain the fascinating facts behind drinking water and water reclamation, water conservation, watersheds and more. Both the Aquary's indoor education exhibits and outdoor interpretive trails will be open to visit throughout the Stream Day event. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

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At 1:00 p.m. on the day of the event, winners of the annual Family Stream Day Poster, Poem, and Photography Contest will be announced and awarded prizes generously donated by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy ([www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)). The theme of this year's contest, which is open to all students in Loudoun County, is '*Stream Dreams and Aquatic Adventures*'. [Contest rules](#) may be downloaded from the Loudoun Watershed Watch website.

Family Stream Day will be held rain or shine with activities moved inside Loudoun Water's Education Center in the event of inclement weather. For more information about Family Stream Day and the annual Poster, Poem, Photography and Essay Contest, visit [www.loudounwatershedwatch.org](http://www.loudounwatershedwatch.org).

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## **Background Information**

### **About Family Stream Day**

This annual event tips our local hat to World Water Monitoring Day (September 18) and commemorates 38 years of the Clean Water Act and watershed awareness. It is being planned and organized by several County organizations including: Loudoun Watershed Watch, Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Loudoun County Department of General Services, Loudoun Water, Loudoun County Department of Building & Development, Piedmont Environmental Council, Audubon Naturalist Society, Loudoun County Master Gardeners, Claude Moore Park, the Nature Generation (formerly the Newton Marasco Foundation), and many more.

### **About Loudoun Watershed Watch**

Formed in 2000, Loudoun Watershed Watch's (LWW) primary goal is to monitor and protect water resources in Loudoun County by raising local students' and others' awareness of Loudoun's water resources and engage them in meaningful, hands-on water science activities. LWW has been working in three areas: compiling and examining existing water quality data; designing a comprehensive surface water monitoring program covering all significant streams in the county; and implementing a public outreach program to raise citizen awareness and involvement in local water quality. LWW hopes its reports and initiatives will encourage citizens and elected officials to take actions that support environmental stewardship that benefits our local waters. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with Loudoun Watershed Watch, go to [www.loudounwatershedwatch.org](http://www.loudounwatershedwatch.org).

### **About the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance**

The Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA) was formed in 2007 as a voluntary coalition of individuals from Loudoun non-profits, schools, governments and corporations who shared a desire to promote environmental awareness and learning through resource sharing, environmental education, and offering meaningful outdoor experiences and stewardship projects in Loudoun. LESA is a neutral and objective source of information related to environmental opportunities in Loudoun County and enthusiastically supports the 'No Child/No Family Left Inside' initiatives started by noted author and outdoor educator, Richard Louv. LESA members provide programs, sites, and learning resources for children and adults that encourage family exploration and appreciation of the natural wonders that lie within Loudoun County and adjacent areas. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, go to [www.loudounnature.org](http://www.loudounnature.org).

### **About Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (Contest Prize Sponsors)**

Formed in 2003, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has been working to create a Loudoun County in which people live in balance with wildlife and act with understanding of the value and importance of nature. Their programs and public education promote the preservation and proliferation of healthy wildlife habitats throughout Loudoun County by fostering an understanding of the value of nature and providing opportunities for applying that knowledge to the betterment of the natural environment.

With the exception of some very limited part-time admin help, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is a local all-volunteer non-profit organization. Hundreds of volunteers across Loudoun contribute their time each year by leading field trips, helping with habitat restoration projects, writing articles, participating in citizen science efforts, and working behind the scenes to deliver the products and programs to reach people across the region that use local parks, sanctuaries, private refuges, libraries and community centers as places to hold these programs, field trips and events. For more information on the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and their excellent programs, go to [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).