



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
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Loudoun Watershed Watch
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February 20, 2019

Mr. Stuart Torbeck, Water Quality Data Liaison
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Sent via E-mail: charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov

Subject: Citizen Nomination for Stream Monitoring

Dear Mr. Torbeck:

Loudoun Watershed Watch and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy are pleased to provide two new stream monitoring nominations for consideration in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring plan for calendar year 2020.

The nominated stream reaches for benthic monitoring are:

1. *Dry Mill Creek*
2. *Big Spring Creek*

Located in Leesburg, Virginia, both stream sites have been proposed based on historical survey data, ecological significance, and the potential for local stream mediation and education efforts resulting from DEQ survey data. We believe these are high priority sites for benthic monitoring due to the rapidly changing landscape along these streams. The stream selected represent a culmination of a joint community effort involving a diverse group of professional and citizen stakeholders including local science teachers, long-time citizen stream monitors, a freshwater ecologist, and staff from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District.

We were excited to see that the two previously nominated sites by LWW, Milltown Creek and Dog Branch, submitted in April 2018, were accepted by DEQ. Attached are the nominations for the two proposed stream sites. We look forward to your response and thank you for your continued efforts to evaluate stream health in Loudoun County.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gam
Certified Stream Monitor and Trainer(VASOS Rocky Bottom Method)
Board Member & Co-chair, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
In collaboration with Loudoun Watershed Watch

REQUEST TO INCLUDE A WATER SEGMENT IN DEQ'S ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN

Name: Ashley E. Gam (Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy)

Date: 2/20/19

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1892, Leesburg, VA 20177

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City: Leesburg

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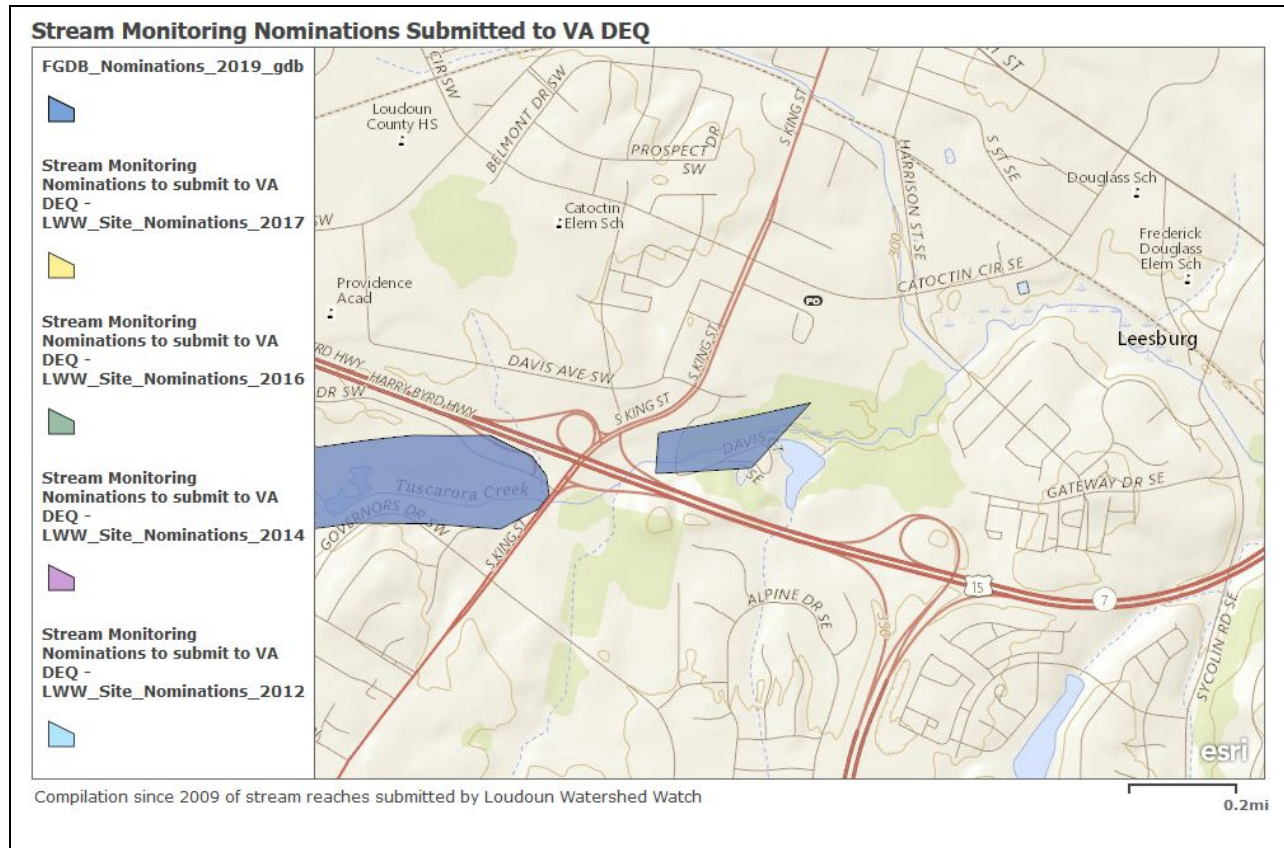
Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Dry Mill Creek at confluence with Tuscarora Creek

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

Upper boundary: Dry Mill Creek flowing eastward before merging with Tuscarora Creek- in Leesburg VA.
Lower boundary: Tuscarora Creek, east of Route 15, before it merges with Town Branch Creek. See map below.



(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

Projected development and current development of nearby areas makes it a good location for baseline testing. Local citizen science monitoring groups (Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy) intends to “pair” the data from this nomination reach with survey data conducted upstream, from the projected development and DEQ site, if selected, survey data will help local conservation groups prioritize location decisions on riparian buffer projects.

Additionally, a study completed in 2009 for Loudoun County determined a site on Dry Mill Creek to have a benthic score of “stress” and a habitat score of “suboptimal”. There is no other survey data of this creek by DEQ or local monitoring groups.

(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

[Loudoun County - Benthic Data for Dry Mill Creek \(2009\)](#)

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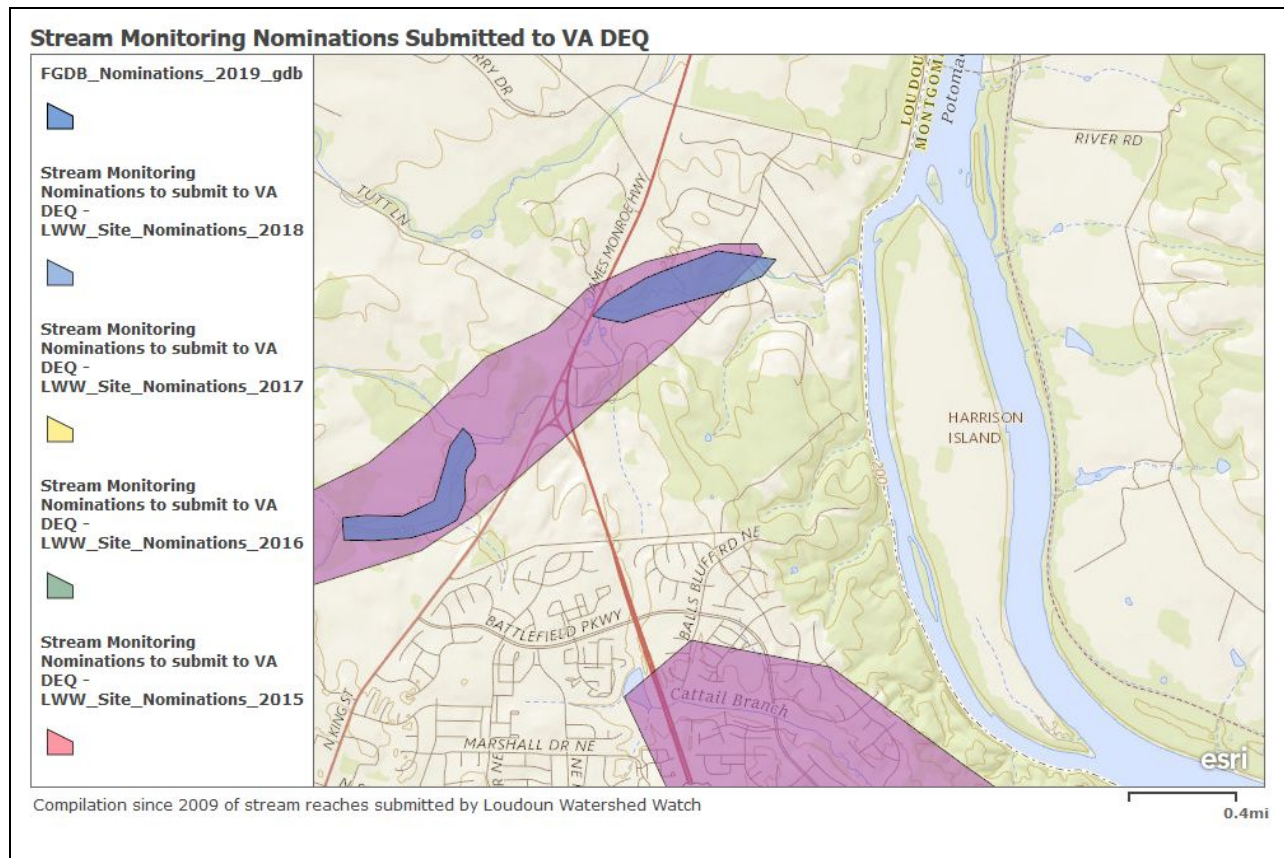
Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Big Spring Creek

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

Upstream Boundary: Route 15, Leesburg VA. See map below.



(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

Local surveys conducted in 2010 and 2011 found sections to be “unacceptable” based on the Virginia Save Our Stream protocol and metrics. Surveys back in 2004 also found the stream to be impaired.

Additionally, Big Spring has historically contained rainbow trout. Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited adopted a portion of the stream for riparian buffer efforts in 2004, for this reason. The survey data, historical presence of rainbow trout, and proposed development in the coming years, makes Big Creek an ecologically important creek to monitor and obtain baseline data for.

(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

LWC [VASOS data \(2010, 2011\)](#) - Click on Site 8 “BIGSP1”

[2004 Data and Rainbow Trout Presence - LWC Article \(2005\)](#)