



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Division of Environmental Quality

<http://alexandriava.gov/tes/DEQ/>

Would you like to learn what you and your neighbors can do to help protect local streams, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay? Did you know there are many simple actions individuals can take to reduce stormwater runoff pollution threatening the health of our local waterways?

The City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Division of Environmental Quality has three volunteer stewardship programs that provide opportunities for individuals, families, scout, and community groups to learn more about their watershed and help protect local water resources. Additionally, participation in these programs can provide students with community service hours.

### **Storm Drain Marking Program**

Did you know that the water going down the storm drain on your street flows directly into your local streams? Stormwater runoff comes from many sources, including parking lots, lawns, rooftops, driveways, and roads. Rainwater that runs off these surfaces picks up contaminants like motor oil, fertilizer, pesticides, sediment and bacteria from pet waste. This polluted runoff flows into storm drains and then into local streams and the Potomac River, ultimately contributing to the pollution affecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Volunteers are needed to help mark storm drains in their neighborhoods by applying decals that identify which stream the storm drain flows into and that no dumping is allowed.

### **Livable Neighborhood Watershed Stewardship Program**

The Watershed Stewardship Team program trains volunteer leaders to create neighborhood teams. Teams meet and learn about simple actions that can be taken to improve water quality and increase water conservation. All team members receive workbooks and other educational materials. The City of Alexandria is partnering with Arlingtonians for a Cleaner Environment (ACE), Arlington County, and the City of Falls Church on this program. Prospective volunteer team leaders attend a half-day training session, which are held three times a year. Each team leader is paired with an experienced coach who helps recruit team members and then shares the responsibility of organizing and leading team meetings. The program offers team leaders an opportunity to get to know their neighbors and improve their community's environment. The next training session will be Sunday, October 1 from 11:30 am to 5:00 p.m. at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Rd. Arlington, VA 22207. Please register for this program.

### **Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program**

Are you interested in learning more about the health of our local streams and contributing valuable data? Do you want to know what types of critters live in our streams? If so, then becoming a volunteer stream monitor could be for you. This program will help citizens learn about their streams through hands-on monitoring and habitat assessment. Volunteers will adopt a site and monitor it four times a year. The data will help the City to evaluate the health of our streams and be used to monitor the progress of stream restoration efforts as we work on improving the quality of our water resources. The first training session is scheduled for late fall.

**Please contact Diana Handy at 703.519.3400, ext. 166 or [diana.handy@alexandriava.gov](mailto:diana.handy@alexandriava.gov) if you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to register for any of the programs.**