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Weekly Watershed Announcements April 27, 2018

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to dur24@henrico.us.

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In The News

Bay's underwater grasses surge beyond 100,000 acres for first time in ages

(Bay Journal)



The Chesapeake's underwater grasses - critical havens for everything from blue crabs to waterfowl - surged to a new record high last year, surpassing 100,000 acres for the first time in recent history.

It was the third straight year that acreage of these underwater meadows has set a new Baywide record.

To read the full article by Karl Blankenship, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Paint Out Pollution in Lynchburg

(April 28, 2018)



Join us from 10am to 1pm to Paint Out Pollution! Volunteers are needed to help paint storm drains with stencils of native plants and animals that call the James River home. No experience necessary. Meet at Percival's Island Natural Area located at 1530 Concord Turnpike, Lynchburg, VA. Click [here](#) to sign up!

Project Clean Stream (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
(April 13-June 9, 2018)



Help pick up trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, parks, and neighborhoods. To sign up for an existing cleanup, or to register a cleanup, see

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/building-stewardship/project-clean-stream/>

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay News
(June 8 and 9, 2018)



++ Cheers to the Chesapeake Reception - June 8, 2018 - Richmond, VA – For more information and to purchase tickets, see <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/news-and-events/cheerstothechesapeake/>.

++ Back to the Bay - June 9, 2018 - Richmond, VA - This event will include free family activities, games, oyster shucking lessons, wildlife education, and environmental education exhibits. For more information,

Rain Barrel Workshops

(May 10 and June 28, 2018)



Join Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District for it's Spring 2018 Rain Barrel Workshops.

May 10, 2018 at the Varina Library, 1875 New Market Road. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

June 28, 2018 at the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

For more information on our workshops, click [here](#).

Rain Barrel Workshops

(Multiple dates in May and June 2018)



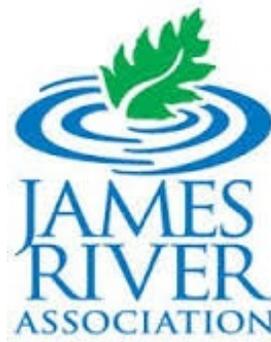
Join James River Soil and Water Conservation District and Chesterfield Environmental Engineering for our Annual Rain Barrel Workshops. Create a customizable Rain Barrel to help keep your garden green all summer long. Conservation starts in your own backyard!

Click here for more information and to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/james-river-swcd-17107705488>

James River Association Treathlon

(May 19, 2018)



The James River Association, in partnership with the Robert E Lee and Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation Districts, will be planting 3,000 trees at farms along various tributaries of the James River this spring as part of the [James River Tree-athlon](#)! If you love our River, join us to protect the James by volunteering to help plant the native tree seedlings.

The plantings are at various properties within Albemarle, Amherst, and Nelson Counties. As a thank you to our volunteers, on May 19, 2018 we will host a James River Tree-Athlon Thank You Event at [James River Adventures](#) in Lynchburg. This fun day on the river will include lunch and a 6 mile paddle trip or 3 mile tubing trip. Each volunteer that participates in a tree planting day during James River Tree-Athlon will receive one voucher for a free river trip to be used at the event or at a later date.

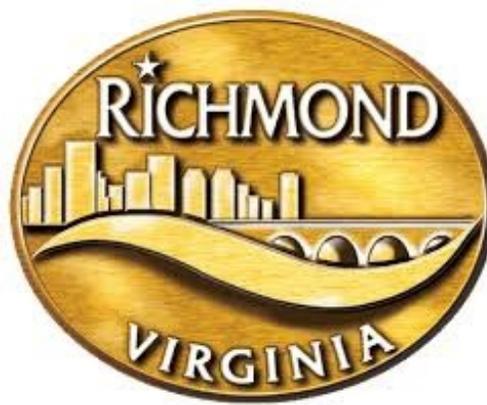
Festival of the River (June 8-10, 2018)



Brown's Island, Richmond, VA – Festival highlights will include contemporary art installations, performances under the Richmond Symphony's "Big Tent," cleanups along and around the River and family-friendly environmental education activities. For more information, see <https://www.richmondsymphony.com/who-we-are/media-press-kit/save-date-festival-river-three-days-music-art-environment-big-tent-browns-island-june-8-10-2018/>. Hosted by The City of Richmond, Venture Richmond, the Richmond Symphony, VCU Institute for Contemporary Art, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 1708 Gallery, James River Association, Capital Region Collaborative and other partners.

Job Opportunities

Public Education & Outreach Coordinator
(City of Richmond)



The City of Richmond, Stormwater Utility is looking to hire a Public Education & Outreach Coordinator for the city's MS4 program. This is a unique opportunity to take a prominent role in educating Richmond citizens on the importance of stormwater and pollution prevention. We are looking for a dynamic personality with great public speaking skills to take on take on existing award-winning outreach campaigns including Pick Up the Poop, Rain Barrel contest and our storm drain marking and drain art programs as well as the ability to present new & exciting ideas based. Must have knowledge of the environmental, stormwater, the effects of pollution on the MS4 system, LID practices, and overall water quality. Night meetings and weekend events are typical of the position and requires lifting of heavy tables, supplies and tent set-up. Besides coordinating your own schedule for outreach meetings with public schools, civic groups, NPOs, NGOs, and the general public, a small budget will be provided for advertising, outreach materials and supplies. This position closes on May 20, 2018. To apply, click [here](#).

Grant Opportunities

VEE James River Grant Program (*Virginia Environmental Endowment*)

Virginia Environmental Endowment

The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) recently launched the new James River Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

We have posted on the VEE website a host of documents that describe the details of the new grant program including a fact sheet which lists the initial funding priorities, the solicitation notice, and the application process. They can be found at:

<http://www.vee.org/grant-programs-application/james-river-water-quality-improvement-program/>

The first applications are due no later than June 15. Grant decisions will be announced in October.

Please take a look at the website and let us know if you have any questions. We would also appreciate it if you pass this along to others who you think may be interested in knowing about the program.

I think you will find that the VEE James River Program reflects a thoughtful and strategic approach that we hope will help to accelerate water quality improvements in the River.

For more information, please contact jrwqip@vee.org

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
(Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)



This program provides incentive payments for several Best Management Practices such as rain gardens, cisterns, green roofs, and conservation landscaping. This program is now available to the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

See <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact VCAP Coordinator Kevin Mclean at kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org for more information.

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