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Weekly Watershed Announcements May 4, 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

Chesapeake Bay grass resurgence is first big conservation success tied to humans, scientists say.

(The Virginian Pilot)



Grass is back and thriving in the Chesapeake Bay, and that bodes well for not only your dinner plate but the future of human-led efforts to restore polluted ecosystems.

The bay is seeing its greatest growth of underwater grasses in almost half a century, according to a study released recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

To read the full article by Katherine Hafner, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

2018 Storm Drain Art Project

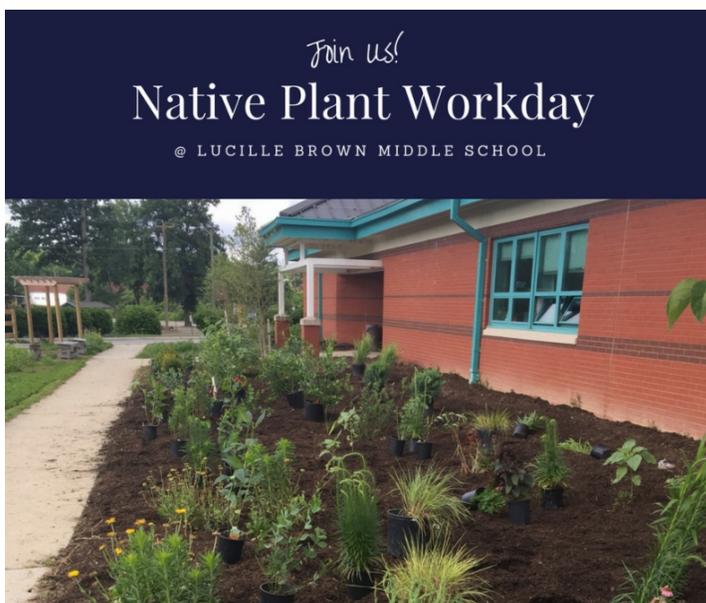
(May 6, 2018)



The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities is conducting its third annual (Award Winning!) Storm Drain Art Project in May and June 2018. Local artists 18 and older are invited to submit storm drain designs following the theme "You Are the Pollution Solution" by May 6 at 11:59 PM. City of Richmond staff will choose four finalists to paint their art on storm drains in Richmond's Carytown district. Each of the four selected artists will be compensated \$400 for installing their art. For more information, rules and regulations, visit <http://www.rvah2o.org/storm-drain-art/>

Native Plant Workday

(May 19, June 16, 2018)



Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has planted a bed of native plants along the front entrance at Lucille Brown Middle School and are hosting a workday to maintain the practice.

Saturday, May 19th and June 16th, 9am-12pm at Lucille Brown Middle School
Register here: <https://www.handsonrva.org/partner-portal/volunteer-opportunity-details/a0N1J000001s1bwUAF>

Project Clean Stream (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

(May-June, 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/>

James River Association Treathon

(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.

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, see <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/news-and-events/backtothebay/>.

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.

Rain Barrel Workshops (June 28, 2018)



Join Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District for its Spring 2018 Rain Barrel Workshops.

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)



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>

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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