

# Adopt-A-Stream!

By Janie Anderson



Photo: Janie Anderson (left), Eden Potter (right)

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

*-Margaret Mead*

Ever thought about taking the initiative to help your community? Looking for something that is rewarding and preserves our water ways? The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) provide a great way to contribute to the community by cleaning up our local streams!

There are a 1,000 miles of stream in the PWSWCD program, offering four different approaches to adopt:

1. [Establish a Group](#)
2. [Start Your Own Group](#)
3. [Join An Existing Group](#)
4. [A One Time Stream Clean Up](#)

Who can adopt a stream you say? Anyone! From small groups, girl/boy scout troops, school organizations and clubs, 4-H groups, local businesses, and even single individuals. Adopting a stream can also be a great way to gain some community service hours!

Once you register you will be given at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mile of a stream and be required to clean once or twice a year for a two year commitment. You will also be able to order all the gloves, trash bags and vest from PWSWCD once you are registered.

After one clean up you can have a metal “Adopt-A-Stream” sign erected from the [Department of Conservation and Recreation for Virginia](#).

Eden Potter, a proud adopter of the Occoquan River, says “It’s so easy to adopt a stream! They are always so eager to recruit new volunteers. My dad was so excited to see my “Adopt-A-Stream” sign with my name on it! He thought it was so cool that I was doing something so awesome for my community.” I had the pleasure of cleaning up with Eden and her father one Saturday morning, and I can say from personal experience that it feels extremely rewarding to participate in something that is so beneficial for the community and our environment as a whole.

For more information on how to adopt a stream:

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