



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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What's in The Water? Find Out With Creek Critters

Ever wonder what creepy crawlies live in your neighborhood creek? There's an app for that.

The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) is launching a new app called "Creek Critters" that guides you through finding and identifying small aquatic organisms and the creation of a stream health report based on your findings. The Fairfax County Park Authority is hosting a trio of events to help you use the app.

The Park Authority, ANS, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fairfax chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, and Friends of Accotink Creek are partnering in this project.

The Park Authority is offering three opportunities for you to get into your streams, find and identify the living organisms (macroinvertebrates) that live there, and learn what these organisms tell us about stream health.

The three events planned for Fairfax County parks include:

- Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Lake Accotink Park in Springfield, VA. For information and to RSVP, meetup at <http://bit.ly/1FROKvv>, visit www.accotink.org and click on the calendar for information, or contact steward@accotink.org
- Saturday, June 13, 10 am until noon, South Run RECenter in Springfield, VA. For information visit <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov> or email Vera.Tangiri@gmail.com
- Sunday, June 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Scott's Run Nature Preserve in McLean, VA. For information visit <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov> or email Dan.Schwartz@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

Participants can download the free Creek Critters app before the events from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. On the day of the event, you'll need your smartphone and shoes or boots that will get wet. All of the collection and identification information will be provided. For information, contact Dan Schwartz at Dan.Schwartz@Fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-1422.