

LOUDOUN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

WATERWORKS NEWSLETTER

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Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship's Nature Play Area

Looking for something fun and free to do with your family? Check out the Nature Play Area at the Blue Ridge Center, open daily from dawn to dusk! Kids can make soup in the mud kitchens, deliver pizza to Stick Town, walk across a log, fill up the kid kart with nature's goodies, put on a play at Nature's Stage, hunt for bugs, or pull up a stump and read a book from our Little Free Nature Library. The play area is regularly remodeled and redesigned, thanks to the kids who visit us.



This collaborative project united volunteers from the Blue Ridge Center, Virginia Master Naturalists Banshee Reeks Chapter, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, and community at large. Materials were purchased with grant funds from the Virginia Association for Environmental Education. We think we've identified a real need in the community and hope this space can serve as an inspiration to other local nature centers to create similar areas. By providing a dedicated space for kids to engage with nature on their own terms, we're enabling children to develop life-long connections with nature.



Contact Volunteer Coordinator Spring Ligi at sligi@blueridgecenter.org for more information.



Educational Climate Solutions (ECS) teaches elementary students about climate change and what students can do within their community to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. At Mill Run Elementary School, ECS uses the outdoor classroom for these lessons. So far, the students have modelled earth warming and learned about carbon dioxide with mentos and coke and methane from fart noises. Needless to say, ECS focuses on fun, hands-on activities outside!

To learn about more of our activities, you can follow ECS on Facebook and Instagram.



- Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
- Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship
- Broadlands Nature Center – Staffed by Audubon Naturalist Society
- Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee
- Claude Moore Park
- Educational Climate Solutions
- Friends of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
- Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains
- Goose Creek Association
- Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee
- Keep Loudoun Beautiful
- Loudoun County Department of Building and Development
- Loudoun County Public Library
- Loudoun County Public Schools – Energy & Environment Team
- Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District
- Loudoun Water
- Loudoun Watershed Watch
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- Morven Park – Morven Park Center for Civic Impact
- Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Project Learning Tree
- The Nature Generation
- Town of Leesburg – Department of Utilities
- Town of Purcellville
- Under the Sea
- Virginia Cooperative Extension – Loudoun County
- Virginia Cooperative Extension – Loudoun County Master Gardeners
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Master Naturalists – Banshee Reeks Chapter
- Virginia Resource-Use Education Council
- Waterford Foundation, Inc
- Wildlife Ambassadors