

Contact Information:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marie Pinto
Executive Director, White House Farm Foundation
(571) 358-2098
mariepinto@whfarmfoundation.org

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CONSERVATION GROUPS TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL AT LEOPOLD'S PRESERVE ON SEPTEMBER 20

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the White House Farm Foundation are presenting this free family-friendly event to foster community connections with local nonprofits.

HAYMARKET, VIRGINIA, AUGUST 2025 – The second annual Fall Festival at Leopold's Preserve is set to take place on Saturday, September 20th, from 10 AM until 2 PM. This free event celebrates the work of local environmental groups and the beauty of fall, and it will feature outreach booths and interactive activities hosted by dozens of local nonprofits. Additionally, there will be guided hikes along the wetland trail, food trucks, plant sales, a raffle of outdoor products, and free face painting. Leopold's Preserve, located just west of Haymarket, is a 380-acre park which features more than 7 miles of publicly accessible trails. The Preserve is owned and managed by the White House Farm Foundation, and it is protected in perpetuity under a conservation easement held by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the White House Farm Foundation conceived of the Fall Festival two years ago to connect community members with nonprofit groups in the region. Last year's inaugural Fall Festival at Leopold's Preserve was a major success, drawing an estimated 300 community members and multiple local leaders.

This year, more than 20 community organizations will be represented, including nonprofits operating at both the state and local level, native plant nurseries, small businesses, and state and local government agencies. Participants will be able to learn more about each organization at a series of tables arranged along the Preserve's wheelchair-accessible wetland trail. Several organizations have plans to provide interactive educational activities

suitable for children and families, including coloring pages, model skulls, and scavenger hunts.

Participants will also be able to enjoy guided tours of the Preserve's wetland trail, which will be offered for free each hour. The quarter-mile walking tours will be led by an experienced naturalist, who will guide visitors through a portion of the Preserve's expansive wetland habitat. A fundraiser raffle will include drawings for items donated by REI Co-Op, Wild Birds Unlimited, Port City Brewing, and Smiley Face Painting.

The 2025 Fall Festival is generously sponsored by the Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, K2C Snake Consultants, Wild Birds Unlimited (Gainesville franchise), the Dominion Woman's Club, Keep Prince William Beautiful, the Prince William Parks Foundation, and Rocklands BBQ.

Entry and parking at the Fall Festival are both free. However, due to limited parking space, timed entry passes are required for all vehicles. Participants are encouraged to carpool or walk to the Festival to save on parking space and reduce emissions. Timed entry parking passes can be reserved online at <https://www.nvct.org/event-details/fall-festival-at-leopolds-preserve-2025-2>.

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Four photos, shown on subsequent pages, are available for use with this release. To request full-sized images, additional photos, or more information about this project, please contact Marie Pinto, Executive Director of the White House Farm Foundation. She can be reached by phone at (571) 358-2098 or by email at mariepinto@whfarmfoundation.org.

Photo 1 of 4: vendor and outreach booths at the 2024 Fall Festival.

(Image Credit: White House Farm Foundation)



Photo 2 of 4: participants gather on the wetlands observation deck at the 2024 Fall Festival.
(Image credit: Northern Virginia Conservation Trust)



Photo 3 of 4: participants interact with a wildlife ambassador at the 2024 Fall Festival.

(Image credit: Christopher Pinto)



Photo 4 of 4: a child works on an educational craft at the 2024 Fall Festival.

(Image credit: Northern Virginia Conservation Trust)

