



MAKING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO ADDRESS VIRGINIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

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Virginia
Environmental
Endowment

UNIQUE BEGINNING

- Kepone contamination
- 1977 Allied Chemical settlement; \$8 M to start VEE
- First foundation to focus exclusively on environment
- Add'l settlement & mitigation funds expanded grant-making
- 3 Grant Programs: Virginia Program, James River WQ, Community Conservation



VEE'S ROLE

- Independent Foundation
- Prominent Board
- "Good Housekeeping Seal"
- First Dollars/Early Funding
- Leverage Funds
- Focus On Tangible Results & Making A Difference
- Strengthened And Catalyzed Conservation Groups
- Support Networks & Collaborations
- Sponsored Polls & Research To Advance Public Policy



ARTICLE XI, CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA (1971)

"...Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands and waters from pollution, impairment or destruction for the benefit, enjoyment and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth."

ENVIRONMENT AFFECTS OUR HOME (VIRGINIA)

"There is a growing body of evidence that shows natural environments directly impact our economy, quality of life, health, cost of living Citizens expect clean air and water, natural beauty, and dry basements without understanding where they come from and what they are worth. ... Natural systems are productive assets that account for millions of dollars each year in savings, earnings, avoided costs, as well as attraction for economic development. ... Once natural systems are lost they are costly and difficult to replace with human engineered systems that are less reliable."

John Rogers of Keystone Conservation Trust, Chesapeake Bay Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, May 2015

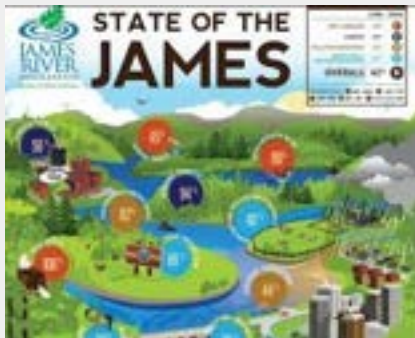
STRATEGIC GRANT-MAKING PRIORITIES

- Improve Local Water Quality
- Restoration of Chesapeake Bay
- Land Conservation
- Environmental Literacy/Public Awareness
- Climate Resilience
- Emerging Issues



WATER QUALITY

- Virginians Rely On Local Creeks & Rivers For Healthy, Vibrant Communities And Strong Economies
- 3 Out Of 4 Depend Upon Healthy Streams For Drinking Water
- Outdoor Recreation Industry, Tourism Booming
- Agriculture Is VA's Largest Industry; Largest Source Of Nutrient & Sediment Pollution
- Stormwater Runoff Fastest Growing Source Of Pollution
- Many Local Rivers & Streams Lack Buffers And River Access



RESTORING CHESAPEAKE BAY

- Home to 17 M People, 6 States
- Over \$1 Billion To MD, VA Economies
- Model For The USA & The World
- VA's Plan To Meet Bay 2025 TMDL
- 90% Remaining Pollution Ag
- Latest State Of Bay Report: D+
- Progress But Long Road Ahead



INVESTING IN CLEAN WATER

Establish Stream Buffers

- James River Association: Establish Buffers In Priority Areas With Greatest Pollution Reductions In Middle James; Led To Creation Of JR Buffer Collaborative Effort
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Expand Program To Upper James
- Piedmont Environmental Council: Accelerate Buffers In Upper Rappahannock And Potomac Watersheds

Accelerate Water Quality Conservation on Farms

- Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Additional Funding For Landowner And Farmer Technical Assistance In SW VA
- Sustainable Chesapeake: Establish Innovative Practice Of Manure Disposal, Currently Used By Farmers In Pa And Md

Address Stormwater Runoff

- James City County: Reducing Sediment Pollution In Local Park
- City Of Hopewell: Restore Stream Next To High School & Park
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: Restore Stream, Reduce Pollution, Provide Educational Opportunities
- Va Assoc Of Soil And Water Districts: Kick-start Landowner Assistance For Residential Conservation Landscaping, Rain Gardens, Other Practices In SWVA



River Health, Access, Monitoring

- Rivanna Conservation Alliance: Citizen WQ Monitoring
- Nature Conservancy: Oyster Restoration In Piankatank River
- Various: State Of River Reports, Toxic Pollution Initiatives
- Various: Outreach To Local Officials; Defense Of State And Federal Laws
- City Of Hopewell: River Walk

LAND CONSERVATION

- VA Ranks 1st In SE, 5th In USA In Land Protected
- Tax Credit Programs Promote Voluntary Efforts
- Local "Land Trusts" Work With Landowners
- Certain Areas Have Not Experienced Same Level
- Historically Underserved Communities & Urban Areas
- Demand For Access To Parks, Trails, Open Space
- Solar Industry Estimates It Needs Equivalent To Nearly 237,000 Football Fields



INVESTING IN LAND CONSERVATION TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY, FORESTS, FARMS, TREASURED LANDSCAPES

Bolstering Land Trust Capacity Across VA

- Improve Capacity, Landowner Outreach In Central VA, Valley, NoVA, SW VA, Southern VA, Piedmont, HRDS, MP/No Neck
- Supported Hiring First Executive Director Of VAULT

Filling Gaps In Private Land Conservation

- Initiated Efforts To Address "Donut Hole" In Southern VA
- Provided First Dollars To Fill Gap In Elizabeth River

Mentoring, Circuit Rider

- Land Trust Alliance Circuit Rider To Mentor Land Trusts

Right Sizing Solar Farms Studies

ENVIRON LITERACY/AWARENESS

- Growth In Env Literacy Initiatives Including Student Learning, Teacher & Principal Training
- Meaningful Experiential Outdoor Learning
- Connecting Students To Nature
- Engaging Urban Students & Immigrant Communities
- Surveys Show Public Concerned But Question Their Role In Env Protection



INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY/PUBLIC AWARENESS

Engaging Urban Students

- Blue Sky Fund: Explorers Elementary Program Inner City Richmond Schools
- ANS: Support to Re-Establish "Green Kids" Program In NOVA
- Calleva/Fairfax NAACP: Connecting the Community to Nature

Assisting Underserved Communities

- Defensores de la Cuenca: Pescando Conocimiento Env Education Initiative
- CBF: Circuit Rider Support to Rural Localities w/o Science Supervisors
- Upper Tennessee Roundtable: Experiential Env Ed In Southwest VA Counties
- Dan River Basin Association : Environmental Matters (STEM) Project
- UVA Wise: Env-Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Plan In Coal Communities
- Appalachian Conservation Corps: Women-of-Color Youth Conservation Corps

VJAS Scholarships, VT Water Internships, Commonwealth Post Graduate Fellowships

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

- Virginians Seeing Impacts, From Sea Level Rise To Increased Rainfall & Flooding Statewide
- Recurrent Flooding Threatens The Lives, Livelihoods, And Property Of Communities
- Coastal VA Faces Highest Rate Of SLR On Atlantic Coast
- Most Localities Unprepared for Flooding And Face Climate Related Damages
- Hamper Effectiveness Of Runoff Practices
- Wetland Loss
- Cost of Flood Insurance Premiums



INVESTING IN CLIMATE AND COASTAL IMPACTS

Assisting Local Communities

- UVA Institute For Engagement & Negotiation: Locality-specific Adaptation Projects On Eastern Shore, Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, Hopewell & Petersburg (W&M, ODU partners)
- Wetlands Watch: Training Program Focused On Resilience For Local Planning Officials; Adaptation Guide For Local Governments

Addressing Legal and Policy Issues

- W&M Law School VA Coastal Policy Center: Policy Research And Legal Solutions For The Challenges Regarding Coastal Resilience

Homeowner Assistance

- Wetlands Watch: Projects Relating To National Flood Insurance And Converting Recurrently Flooded Properties Into Conservation Lands

EMERGING ISSUES

Impact of Solar Farms

- Alliance For Shenandoah Valley: "Getting It Right With Solar" Guidance For Local Governments In The Shenandoah Valley

Combating Invasive Species

- Blue Ridge PRISM: Landowner Education For Invasive Species Control In Shen Valley/Statewide

Improving Environmental Health

- Va Health Dept: Septic Tank Repair/Replacement For Lower Income HH
- Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project: Septic System Maintenance Education & Pump-out Program
- Virginia Tech: Drinking Water Testing And Remediation On Private Water Supplies In SW VA
- Western Virginia Water Authority: Community And Environmental Harm Reduction Through Proper Storage And Disposal Of Medications

TAKE AWAYS

- Supporting The Environment Supports Your Community, Economy, Health, Quality Of Life, Education, Etc.
- Often Results In Multiple Benefits
- Small And Large Grants Can And Do Make A Difference
- Willing To Partner And Share Our Expertise

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