

# CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND

## *Grant Advisory Committee Recommendations for 2026 Funding*

Project Number and Organization	Project Summary	Contact and Address	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
<b>26-001</b> Chesterfield County Public Schools	Chesterfield seeks funding to partner with the James River Association to coordinate paddle trips with the accelerated grade 6 and life sciences classes of Matoaca. This experience aims to reach 300 students, teaching them about turbidity and sediment pollution. They will then later perform water quality tests and learn about wetlands firsthand.	Janine D'Elia	\$14,400	\$7,200
<b>26-002</b> Town of Ashland, Department of Public Works	The Town of Ashland's Department of Public Works seeks funding to purchase educational materials and items that help with picking up pet waste, promoting the "Scoop the Poop" message. The goal is to educate dog owners about the importance of picking up after their pets by providing pet waste pickup bags and dispensers, along with some educational information printed on a handout that explains the importance of keeping storm drains and streams free of pet waste. This effort aims to raise awareness among pet owners aware that pet waste in runoff can impact the health of streams leading to the Bay.	Thomas Dickerson	\$1,535	\$1,535
<b>26-003</b> Virginia Science Education Leadership Association (VSELA)	VSELA plans to implement a statewide MWEE curricula and professional development for school divisions throughout Virginia that will take place over 12 months, from July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027. By training science leaders from over 50 school divisions, more students will engage in meaningful project-based learning that contributes to a greater understanding of and stewardship towards the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. VSELA will deliver MWEE professional development for science leaders to ensure students' understanding and stewardship of their local watershed.	Dat Le	\$12,500	\$12,500
<b>26-006</b> Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VA Tech) and State University	Continuing with their previous grant applications, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, 4-H, seeks funding for their watershed education in 6th-grade classrooms and for the environmental programming of the "4-H Water Wizards Day Camp," which is a Bay grass restoration service-learning project and in-school science SOL enrichment lesson. The funding will go toward school program supplies, day camp supplies, and charter boat fees.	Wendy Herdman	\$2,075	\$2,075

<b>26-008</b> Urbanna Oyster Festival (Marine Science Legacy Program)	Urbanna Oyster Festival's Marine Science Legacy Program (MSLP) provides hands-on learning experiences that bring the Chesapeake Bay to life for students. The program organizes field trips and education days that allow students to directly engage with the bay's unique environment.	C. Clark Laster, IV	\$15,000	\$8,000
<b>26-009</b> Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District	Continuing with previous grant applications, Peter Francisco SWCD offers SOL-related environmental education programs to approximately 3,500 students in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties, over 200 students in private schools, and over 50 home-schooled students and adult groups. They seek funding to purchase supplies for their watershed program, provide field trips to the CBF's Brock Environmental Center, and attend the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exploration and James River Headwaters Exploration Camps.	Charlotte Drake Brandy Maxey	\$12,200	\$12,200
<b>26-010</b> Tidewater Oyster Gardener Association (TOGA)	Continuing with its previous grant application and goal to promote the environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay through oyster cultivation, TOGA will continue to expand oyster education outreach with (1) Student Oyster Education, at Camp Kekoka , Hampton City Schools and other schools in the Tidewater area, with (2) Building and Updating Oyster Education Exhibits at Yorktown Waterman's Museum, Deltaville Maritime Museum, Belle Isle State Park, and Hampton Roads and (3) Oyster Education Publications Including the Virginia Oyster Gardening Guide, History of Oysters and the Chesapeake, Oyster Life Cycle, and more available in-print and online. Resources funded by CBRF are used at 40+ annual TOGA outreach oyster educational events.	Carl Zulick	\$9,900	\$9,900
<b>26-011</b> Goose Creek Association	Goose Creek Association requests funding for a student-led invasive plant species removal and restoration program. This program engages Loudoun and Fauquier County students in hands-on environmental education and restoration activities that meet the Environmental Literacy and Conservation/Restoration priorities of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.	Alyson Borowczyk	\$10,000	\$3,498
<b>26-012</b> Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust seeks funding for two volunteer trash cleanup events along Hunting Creek in Alexandria, VA. The cleanup events will also provide an educational opportunity to stress the importance of preventing litter from getting into waterways that eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay.	Daniel Saltzberg	\$4,280	\$310
<b>26-014</b> Newport News Public Schools	Newport News Public Schools seek funding to continue to support student understanding of the Bay's ecosystem and scientific investigations by providing students with meaningful investigations and learning experiences. The goal of their program is to provide teachers with professional development (PD) and students with experiences impacting their education and life-choices.	Rodney Culverhouse	\$15,000	\$15,000

<b>26-015</b> Fairfax County Park Foundation	The Fairfax County Park Foundation seeks funding to support a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for 9th grade Environmental Science students. Students will collect and analyze data on trees on their school grounds using dichotomous keys, scientific instruments, and the iTree/MyTree website.	Margaret Thaxton	\$7,236	\$4,236
<b>26-017</b> Chesapeake Bay Academy	Continuing with previous grant proposals, Chesapeake Bay Academy seeks funds to provide students with firsthand experiences and field trips to become good environmental stewards.	Judy Jankowski, Ed. D.	\$6,080	\$6,080
<b>26-020</b> Izaak Walton League of America	The Izaak Walton League (IWLA) is requesting funds for the expansion of their Virginia Save Our Streams (VA SOS), Salt Watch, and Nitrate Watch programs through their trainer network. To equip trainers, they provide them with monitoring equipment and outreach materials, including a VA SOS tote bag to carry and store equipment as well as advertise VA SOS, and clipboards with a macroinvertebrate identification key that they can distribute to new monitors.	Samantha Puckett	\$14,975	\$12,450
<b>26-021</b> Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District	Continuing with previous grants, Mountain Castles SWCD proposes to partner with Botetourt County Public Schools to provide meaningful Bay field experiences in grades 2, 6, 7, and 8. The 7th-grade program will also provide all students with a 1.5-hour paddle on the James River in Botetourt County. Their goal is to help students forge a personal connection with the river and drive home the concept of "downstream" while observing and measuring how human activities impact the river.	Tim Miller	\$8,400	\$8,400
<b>26-022</b> Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is requesting funding to support their Rain Barrel Workshops, Pet Waste Station Program, and Stormwater best practices video series.	Katie Cullipher	\$10,728	\$4,728
<b>26-023</b> Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation	The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation is asking for continued support of the Envirothon Program. The Envirothon, a recognized outreach program supported by the state legislature in code, is a natural resources competition for high school students. Funds for this program will go towards supporting and coordinating regional Soil & Water Conservation District Envirothon programming across the state.	Byron Minson	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>26-024</b> James City County Department of Parks & Recreation	Continuing with their previous applications, James City Co. Parks and Recreation proposes to continue to offer educational programs to children. They seek funds to extend outdoor and environmental education programs to every child who attends their camps and programs at no additional cost to families.	Carla Brittle	\$8,520	\$8,520

<b>26-025</b> Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District	Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking funds to implement a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience at a Loudoun County Middle School for its 400 sixth-grade students.	Jessie Freeland	\$4,295	\$4,295
<b>26-028</b> Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Continuing with their previous application, The Alliance seeks funding to support RiverTrends, a volunteer water quality-monitoring program that engages volunteers and watershed organizations in data collection throughout Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed since 1985.	Sophie Stern	\$15,000	\$12,000
<b>26-029</b> Nansemond River Preservation Alliances	The Nansemond River Preservation Alliance (NRPA) is requesting continued support from CBRF to enhance environmental educational opportunities through the use of the NRPA Watershed Initiative Program. The NRPA Watershed Initiative (NWI): K-12 Connecting the Classroom with the Environment & Community Program educates students and citizens on basic waterway and environmental principles and best practices they can do every day to protect the waterways.	Beth Cross	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>26-030</b> Maymont Foundation	Maymont is requesting the assistance of the CBRF to support a pilot project that aims to expand access to environmental education for 4th-7th grade students in Virginia. The objective is to design and trial an updated curriculum that is SOL-aligned and uses project-based learning to enhance students' understanding of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in connection with native wildlife, using real-world concepts and activities.	Krista Weatherford	\$8,300	\$5,300
<b>26-031</b> The Mariners' Museum and Park	The Mariners' requests \$9,000 to support free environmental Educational Enrichment Programs (EEPs) for 1,200 Hampton City Schools 6th-grade students and expand stewardship by launching a multi-site macroinvertebrate study in Mariners' 167-acre Lake, a publicly accessible stormwater catchment that feeds into the James River.	Josi Washington	\$9,000	\$2,731
<b>26-033</b> Friends of the Rappahannock	The Friends of the Rappahannock seeks funding to support the implementation of long-term changes within interested schools, aiming to provide Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences in the district.	Alaina Sokolski	\$10,520	\$8,000
<b>26-034</b> Elizabeth River Project	The Elizabeth River Project (ERP) requests funding to engage volunteers in land and water-based cleanups, installing living shorelines with oysters and native grasses and public outreach events. Last year, volunteers removed 6,500 pounds of trash and participated in over 35 events. Volunteers represent all cities the river runs through including Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. Funding will support the volunteer coordinators who will facilitate the recruitment, training, and coordination of all volunteer opportunities, along with supplies, statistical software, appreciation and safety.	Robin Dunbar, PhD	\$15,000	\$3,000

<b>26-035</b> Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District	Loudoun SWCD seeks funds to support their Riparian Buffer planting workshops, involving school students, local citizen groups and government agency staff in establishing 5 acres of riparian buffers. The educational components of the workshops provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the values of riparian buffers while being actively involved in planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, and legumes. Workshop participants will get hands-on experience and learn how establishment of riparian buffers contribute to sustainable improvement of water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.	Pat McIlvaine	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>26-037</b> North Branch School	North Branch School is requesting funds to take students to Port Isobel West, where they will learn about the cultural significance of the waterways and fishing villages and the ecology of the Bay as they explore wetlands, underwater grass beds, and oyster reefs.	Heather Weidner	\$4,500	\$3,500
<b>26-038</b> Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, Inc.	Continuing with their previous grants, Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, Inc. intends to continue the Chesapeake Watershed Workshops. With CBRF's support, they will offer 6 scholarships for their Chesapeake Watershed Workshop to youth 15-18. The Workshop will provide 168 impact hours of environmental education & awareness for the community.	Michael J. Kieffer	\$1,200	\$1,200
<b>26-039</b> Staunton River High School	Staunton River High School requests funds to teach students the dynamics of watersheds, aquatic biodiversity and renewable resources. These activities will help students gain an appreciation for the natural world around us and hopefully inspire some of them to devote their lives work to protecting natural resources and educating the next generation.	Robert Ashwell	\$2,287.84	\$2,287.84
<b>26-040</b> Town of Bridgewater	The Town of Bridgewater seeks funds to expand its pet waste station program by purchasing eight pet waste stations and additional supplies for each new station. They would also purchase signage encouraging the clean up after dogs.	Alexander Wilmer	\$4,080	\$4,080
<b>26-041</b> Horizons Hampton Roads	Horizons Hampton Roads seeks funds to implement a five-week environmental stewardship program serving 130 K-12 students and 15 teachers from Title I schools in Norfolk. The program is designed to address academic gaps while building environmental literacy and empowering youth to take an active role in protecting the Chesapeake Bay.	Velvet Smith	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>26-043</b> John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District	The John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Warrenton are seeking funding to expand their watershed education experiences throughout Fauquier County by purchasing Enviroscape models for two local middle schools. They would also purchase a Nonpoint Source model and a Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Your Watershed model to be used at other local schools and community outreach events.	Kelsi Steele	\$8,397	\$6,352

<b>26-044</b> Boxerwood Education Association	Boxerwood requests CBRF funding to sustain 2 programs that annually teach hundreds of local elementary and middle school youth how to care for the Bay. These inter-related programs are key components of meaningful watershed education experiences (MWEEs). Schools and/or students contribute funds, but there is always unmet need.	Elise Sheffield	\$7,600	\$7,600
<b>26-045</b> Keep Virginia Beautiful	Continuing with their previous grant applications, Keep Virginia Beautiful wishes to carry on their "SAVE" initiative, educating young people about litter's harmful impact on the environment (including the Chesapeake Bay), as well as the mechanics of recycling and the benefits of beautification. Opportunities and challenges are explored, both from their respective localities and from the state as a whole.	Cristi Lawton	\$8,000	\$6,000
<b>26-046</b> Capital Region Land Conservancy	Capital Region Land Conservancy is requesting funds for continued support of their National Take a Hike Day at the Varina LandLab Conservation Area. They seek funding support for site preparation, including invasive species removal, to ensure areas are ready for volunteers. The event will be strengthened by partnerships with the local Audubon Society, Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District, and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.	Ashley Moulton	\$6,500	\$3,000
<b>26-051</b> Clean Virginia Waterways	Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) is requesting funding for continued support of their Virginia Waterways Cleanup. CVW will also host its first Paddle for Cleaner Waterways fundraiser, which will include a 1- or 4-mile paddle, educational exhibits near the launch site, and an after-party for participants. To extend its impact, they will host a pre-event program for 25 underprivileged children from the local community. This initiative is designed to provide hands-on environmental education and a unique recreational opportunity.	Christina Trapani	\$10,888	\$7,200
<b>26-052</b> Prince William Conservation Alliance	Prince William Conservation Alliance seeks funding to support its project, focused on protecting and supporting native species that have begun to re-establish as a result of previous invasive management efforts. By prioritizing the care of these emerging natives and new plantings, they aim to strengthen ecological health and ensure long-term resilience.	Ashley Studholme	\$12,000	\$2,000
<b>26-053</b> Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation	Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation proposes to introduce freshwater mussels in planted enclosures to the restoration wetland at Four Mile Run Park, with the goal to demonstrate the feasibility of mussel restoration and propagation, engage community volunteers in mussel restoration, and enhance the summer conservation internship experience for high-school and college-age students.	Kurt Moser	\$7,725	\$6,225

<b>26-054</b> Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center	The Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center proposes to launch a community and landowner focused watershed education initiative centered on Passage Creek. The goal is to engage landowners, schools, and the wider community in proactive conservation efforts and education initiatives that keep Passage Creek "perfectly pure."	Thomas Powell	\$15,000	\$5,690
<b>26-056</b> Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS)	NAPS is requesting funding to launch its collaborative ghost pot removal and loss prevention program in 2026. Their approach aims to remove ghost pots (lost crab traps) and pilot a collaborative approach with a commercial waterman to test newer sonar technology and updated methods that allow for the cost-effective retrieval of lost traps. This pilot is projected to remove an estimated 120 ghost pots and will provide a reproducible model that can be shared and scaled with other Chesapeake Bay communities, ensuring long-term sustainable improvements.	Andy Sitison	\$11,570	\$8,310
<b>26-057</b> Rivanna Conservation Alliance	The Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA) seeks continued support from CBRF for the Rivanna Forest Restoration Partnership, a high-impact water quality and riparian habitat restoration effort that began in 2024. This project is an RCA-led multi-organizational partnership working to protect and restore high-value riparian forests in three river-front parks in the urban corridor of the Rivanna River. This project engages large numbers of community volunteers and extends RCA's capacity to provide environmental workforce development opportunities to underserved students.	Lisa Wittenborn	\$8,000	\$8,000
<b>26-059</b> Aylett Country Day School	Aylett Country Day School seeks funding to help expand opportunities for students in grade 4-8 to explore the Bay, investigate issues affecting health, and participate in activities that build a lasting commitment to conservation.	Tara Garner	\$10,000	\$5,500
<b>26-060</b> James River Association	The James River Association seeks funding to support its efforts in restoring migratory fish species. An award from the CBRF will go toward video capturing stories from experts, commercial fishermen, etc., a migratory fish education activity to be used at tabling events, and English/Spanish print materials to distribute at public events.	Tom Dunlap	\$15,000	\$8,623.50

**TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED: \$282,526**