

CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND

Grant Advisory Committee Recommendations for 2025 Funding

Project Number and Organization	Project Summary	Contact and Address	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
25-002 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	\$2,025	\$2,025
25-003 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 MWEE, provide field trips to the CBF's Brock Environmental Center, and attend the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exploration and James River Headwaters Exploration Camps.	Charlotte Mabie	\$15,000	\$7,400
25-004 Buckingham County Middle School	Buckingham County Middle School will partner with the James River Association (JRA) to provide sixth-grade students with a meaningful watershed experience. Students will be transported by school bus to the James River State Park, where they will interact with natural resource professionals from the James River Association and Soil & Water Conservation District.	Dr. Emily Harris	\$6,082.27	\$6,082.27
25-005 Friends of the Occoquan	Continuing with their previous grant applications, The Friends of the Occoquan seeks funds to increase the involvement of students and the public in Chesapeake Bay conservation and restoration activities. Funds will be used for supplies and equipment and a project manager.	German A. Vanegas	\$8,000	\$5,500
25-006 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	\$8,412	\$8,412
25-008 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; (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 will be used at 40+ annual TOGA outreach oyster educational events.	Carlton McFaden	\$9,900	\$9,900
25-009 Watermen's Museum	The Watermen's Museum is seeking funds to support their Chesapeake Bay Resiliency project, an interactive outdoors exhibit that highlights the past, present, and future of Chesapeake Bay fisheries to promote resiliency planning and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay.	Michael Steen	\$14,900	\$14,300
25-011 Potowmack Elementary School	Potowmack Elementary School seek funds to continue their "Nature Nights" program. It is designed to build parent involvement by engaging families in learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The school's library will host three evening programs related to an aspect of the Chesapeake Bay, hosted by the Glen Echo Aquarium, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, and Bobby G Reptiles.	Michele Rzewski Copeland	\$1,400	\$1,400
25-013 Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District	The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District seeks funds to supplement 25 science teachers at 7 middles schools with activities to help students understand biological diversity and dichotomous keys.	Stephanie DeNicola	\$2,905	\$2,905

25-014 Keep Henrico Beautiful	Keep Henrico Beautiful seeks funding to support the creation of environmental activity books for each elementary grade level that covers their core initiatives of recycling, litter control, and watershed protection.	Lindy Durham	\$5,342	\$5,342
25-015 Urbanna Oyster Festival (Marine Science Legacy Program)	Continuing with previous grant applications, the Urbanna Oyster Festival seeks funds to support its Marine Science Legacy Program (MSLP). CBRF funding will go toward educational boat trips with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, kayak exploration field trips focused on local waterways and water quality with Friends of the Rappahannock, field trips to Wicomico State Park, and a field trip on a working water boat to study oyster culture and help restore oyster reefs in the Rappahannock river.	C. Clark Laster, IV	\$15,000	\$8,000
25-016 Virginia Institute of Marine Science	The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is seeking funding to create a professional display highlighting local career paths in commercial fishing and sustainable aquaculture, shipbuilding and the marine trades, and ocean science research. A suitable booth will be one that attracts student attention through the use of pull-up banners, brochure racks, a digital image frame to display rotating photos, and a simple giveaway in the form of a sticker with their workforce development URL. These materials will draw students in to have one-on-one conversations with them about Bay-focused career paths.	Celia Cackowski	\$1,465	\$1,465
25-017 Izaak Walton League of America	IWLA is requesting funds for the continuation and expansion of the IWLA's Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch programs throughout Virginia. IWLA will recruit and engage new volunteers through social media, partnership building, outreach events, websites, webinars, and more. Once engaged, IWLA will provide resources and 800 FREE monitoring test kits to individual volunteers, conservation groups, and community groups around the state (examples include Master Naturalists, Riverkeepers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, other watershed/monitoring groups, and schools, scouts, and youth organizations).	Samantha Puckett	\$15,000	\$12,500
25-018 Chesapeake Bay Academy	Chesapeake Bay Academy (CBA) seeks funds to provide CBA students with firsthand experiences and field trips to become good environmental stewards.	Judy Jankowski, Ed. D.	\$6,056	\$6,056
25-019 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, including providing resources to purchase resource trunk training materials for students along with funds to support the organization regional Envirothon events.	Byron Minson	\$12,000	\$12,000
25-020 Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust seeks funding for three 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	\$4,996	\$1,555
25-022 Friends of Richmond Community Highschool	The Friends of Richmond Community Highschool requests funding to support the expansion of their mini-mester Deep Ecology - Environmental Science camping experience for 75 freshman and sophomore high school students in Richmond Public Schools. Students are taken on paddling and river clean up experiences locally to prepare for the research and ecology activities that will take place during a week-long rustic camping trip in and along the Chesapeake Bay in April.	Alison Owens	\$12,000	\$10,800
25-023 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
25-024 Newport News Public Schools	Newport News Public Schools seek funding 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

	Funding through the Chesapeake Restoration Fund will help provide teachers with PD and 7th grade students with common learning experiences.			
25-025 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
25-028 United Charitable Clean Virginia Waterways	United Charitable, on behalf of Clean Virginia Waterways, is requesting funding to support 1) the 2025 Virginia Waterways Cleanup and 2) Year-round litter prevention educational programs/cleanup events. CBRF funds would be spent on: 1) SUPPLIES: safety vests, litter pickup tools, gloves, buckets & small hand-held scales for weighing trash bags. 2) SUPPLY PICKUP SHED: This shed will be placed outside of CVW's VA Beach office to allow volunteer groups to pick up supplies 24-7 even if CVW staff are not there. (\$750)	Christina Trapani	\$7,950	\$7,200
25-029 Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is requesting funding to support their Kindergarten Green Learning Guide, Environmental Education Mini Grants, Rain Barrel Workshops, and Outreach Materials. These projects engage youth in environmental stewardship and increase public awareness about sources/prevention of stormwater pollution.	Katie Cullipher	\$13,700	\$4,700
25-031 James River Association	The James River Association seeks funding to support the acquiring of new program materials for JRA's three education teams located across the watershed and based out of Amherst County, Richmond, and Williamsburg. Necessary materials include stencils, spray paint, gloves, masks, tape, and chalk. These are needed to facilitate POP experiences across the James River watershed.	Shawn Ralston	\$8,623.50	\$8,623.50
25-032 Chesterfield County Public Schools	Chesterfield seeks funding to partner with the James River Association to coordinate paddle trips with the seventh grade students in life science courses. There are six classes of about 25 students, equaling about 150 students. Students will paddle in canoes at Deep Bottom Park and visit a wetland to learn more about the ecosystem first-hand and how to protect it.	Janine D'Elia	\$10,200	\$7,200
25-033 Keep Virginia Beautiful	Continuing with their previous grant application, 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 the state as a whole.	Cristi Lawton	\$8,000	\$6,000
25-034 St. Margaret's School	St. Margaret's School is requesting funding to support 20 on water STREAM watershed experiences including 3 hands-on restoration projects at several notable viewsheds and tributaries including the Fredericksburg Fall Line, Fones Cliffs, Occupacia Creek, Morattico Bar and Urbanna Creek. SMS also requests funding support for their capstone field trips to Camp Horizons Outdoor Learning Retreat in the bay's headwaters and their annual trips to Tangier Island.	Richard Moncure	\$13,570	\$13,270
25-038 Booker T. Washington Middle School	Booker T. Washington Middle School (BTW) requests funding in support of a 3-tiered project: providing students with hands-on experiences on the Bay and watershed; help students understand their connection to the waterways; and finally, help students become citizen-scientists advocating for good stewardship. This includes funding for 7 kayak experiences on the James, York, and Warwick rivers and a 3-day experience on Port Isobel Island.	Karen Bazemore-Person	\$7,150	\$7,150
25-040 Nansemond River Preservation Alliance	The Nansemond River Preservation Alliance (NRPA) is requesting support from CBRF to enhance environmental educational opportunities through the use of the NRPA Watershed Initiative Program to enhance existing educational resources in school classrooms and provide hands on experience through participation in a salt marsh field study. This learning experience provides environmental education and community programs for students, teachers, and adults with activities and goals that increase the stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Knowledge gained and projects accomplished through this program teach practices that protect water quality from nonpoint sources of water pollution and strategies to prevent toxic substances entering the Bay and its tributaries.	Beth Cross	\$15,000	\$15,000
25-041 Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District	Three Rivers SWCD is seeking funding for the summer camp: "Splash into Science: Watershed Discovery" to provide a sense of place through watershed education to underserved students in Essex County. This summer camp will last for a week (Monday through Thursday) and will be offered to rising 5th and 6th graders. The main focus of the camp will be watersheds, including	Grace Daughtrey	\$2,105	\$2,105

	field trips to local sites that emphasize themes including flora, fauna, black and indigenous history, conservation, ecosystems, and more.			
25-042 Capital Region Land Conservancy	Capital Region Land Conservancy is requesting funds in support of their National Take a Hike Day at the Varina LandLab Conservation Area. Funding is needed to cover event expenses and prepare the site for restoration work. Event goals include improving water quality in the James River, educating the public about invasive plants, introducing native species, and teaching simple land management practices.	Ashley Moulton	\$7,500	\$6,500
25-044 Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	The Alliance seeks funding to support RiverTrends, a volunteer water quality monitoring program that has been successful in engaging volunteers and watershed organizations in data collection throughout Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed since 1985. Volunteers collect data on a monthly basis for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, bacteria, salinity, and water clarity. RiverTrends currently works with 20 partner organizations, including master naturalist groups, schools, and community partners, to support ~140 certified monitors and ~100 monitoring sites.	Sophie Stern	\$15,000	\$15,000
25-049 William Wetsel Middle School	William Wetsel Middle School seeks funds in their efforts to increase the knowledge and awareness of watersheds while considering farming practices and livelihood. Students will participate in 5 days of acquiring knowledge and 3-5 days of an action project. The entire experience/project will take place outside of normal classroom instruction allowing students from varying grade levels to participate.	Kimberly Adams	\$6,000	\$3,003
25-050 Browne Academy	Browne Academy seeks funding for restoration and outdoor classroom creation efforts on land through which Pike Branch flows. The land is undeveloped but overgrown by invasive plant species. The project will restore the native plant community within the riparian zone, create a trail for outdoor learning activities, and serve as a field study for students to promote environmental stewardship to neighbors.	Laura Quezada	\$13,500	\$5,170
25-051 Rivanna Conservation Alliance	The Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA) seeks support from CBRF for the Rivanna River Forest Health and Resilience Project, a high-impact water quality and forest health restoration and education program started in early 2024. This project is an RCA-led multi-organizational (26 groups) 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 also extends RCA's capacity to provide MWEEs and environmental workforce development opportunities to underserved students.	Lisa Wittenborn	\$11,985	\$9,825
25-052 City of Chesapeake Parks, Recreation, and Tourism	Chesapeake Parks, Recreation, and Tourism's proposed funding will be utilized to acquire additional equipment to enhance environmental and educational programs. The funding will support their Nature Academy program which engages young residents in hands-on learning experiences about the local environment, instills a lifelong appreciation for nature, and empowers the next generation to become active participants in environmental protection. The funding would support acquiring oyster cages for Elizabeth River Park.	Kate Vanderpool	\$15,000	\$14,370
25-053 The Mariners' Museum and Park	Mariners' requests \$12,000 to serve an estimated 1,500 local 9th graders through the MWEE: Mariners' Lake Stewards in the 2025-26 school year. Originally created to improve 9th-grade environmental science performance, this offshoot of B-WET has expanded from serving 1 to 3 school districts, addressing the need for quality environmental programming that meets VA Dept. of Education standards. Continuing the Mariners' Environmental Co-op, they will utilize Mariners' Park & community partners to create a hands-on program, teaching awareness of how human behavior affects the long-term health of the delicate Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.	April Cull	\$12,000	\$5,000
25-054 Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District	Thomas Jefferson SWCD seeks funding to support their efforts in the creation of a program called "Expert Explorers" which will allow children in their District to earn stickers for completing outdoor-based activities. To earn stickers, participants will receive a workbook, join for an in-person program, and complete a challenge on their own. If three stickers are earned, participants will receive a water bottle, on which they can put their stickers (funded by TJSWCD).	Courtney Harlow-Humphreys	\$1,965.56	\$1,965.56
25-055 Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District	Loudoun SWCD seeks funds to support their Riparian Buffer planting workshops, which 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	Pat McIlvaine	\$3,000	\$3,000

	learn how establishment of riparian buffers contribute to sustainable improvement of water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.			
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TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED: \$275,324.33