



Looking to the Future

As Virginia continues to grow, it's more critical than ever to balance economic development and environmental protection. Over the next decade, SWMP will:



Expand efforts to restore more wetlands and streams



Strengthen climate resilience in Virginia's watersheds



Reconnect fragmented habitats to improve biodiversity



Expand partnerships and community engagement with stream and wetland restoration projects in Virginia



Improve and restore habitat for species at risk

Get Involved

SWMP's work is making a difference, and you can be part of it.



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The Nature Conservancy in Virginia
nature_va
The Nature Conservancy Virginia
Scan the QR code for more information

JULY 2025



VIRGINIA
STREAM AND WETLAND
MITIGATION PROGRAM

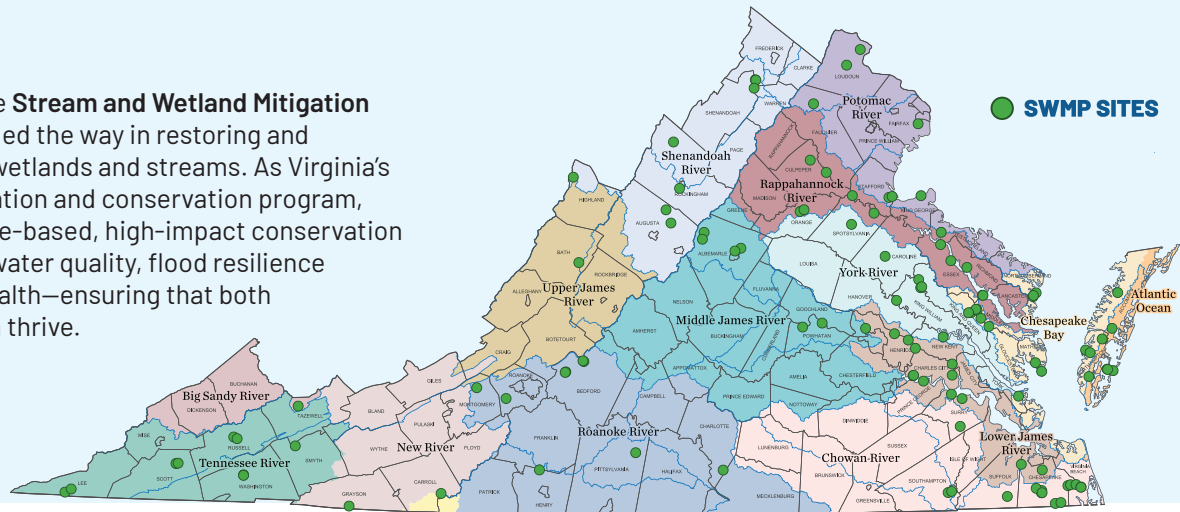
30 YEARS OF WETLAND & STREAM RESTORATION AND IMPACT

Protecting Nature. Restoring Vital Habitats. Ensuring a Thriving Future.

VIRGINIA
STREAM AND WETLAND
MITIGATION PROGRAM



For three decades, the **Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program (SWMP)** has led the way in restoring and conserving Virginia's wetlands and streams. As Virginia's only statewide restoration and conservation program, SWMP delivers science-based, high-impact conservation efforts that enhance water quality, flood resilience and natural habitat health—ensuring that both people and nature can thrive.



What is SWMP?

SWMP is a statewide wetland and stream mitigation in-lieu fee program, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and managed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The program helps offset unavoidable environmental impacts from infrastructure and development by investing in and implementing high-quality restoration and conservation projects that benefit Virginia's communities and ecosystems.



How Does It Work?

When wetlands and streams are affected by development, federal and state regulations require compensation for these environmental impacts. SWMP provides a streamlined, science-driven solution that ensures compliance for permitted impacts while maximizing ecological benefits.

1

Regulatory Approval

Applicants impacting wetlands and streams must avoid, minimize and then compensate for those impacts through the permitting process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Permits must be obtained to move forward with the projects causing those impacts.

2

Purchasing Mitigation Credits

In lieu of attempting to create their own small-scale mitigation projects, applicants purchase "replacement credits" from SWMP for each resource affected. The amount of mitigation credit required is determined through the permitting process with the regulatory agencies.

3

Strategic Conservation Investments

SWMP pools funds from multiple applicants to implement science-driven restoration within the same watershed of wetland and stream loss to provide significant ecological benefits in priority conservation areas.

4

Implementation & Oversight

Restoration projects are carefully planned, executed and monitored to ensure that they are permanently protected and deliver long-lasting and sustainable environmental benefits.

Why Does This Matter?

SWMP-sponsored projects deliver tangible, lasting benefits for Virginia's ecosystems, landowners, policymakers, conservation groups and the public:



Healthier Watersheds – Restored streams and wetlands filter pollutants, improve water quality and replenish groundwater supplies.



Wildlife Habitats – Wetlands and streams provide essential nesting, breeding and foraging areas for birds, fish, amphibians, insects, plants and countless other native species.



Stronger Communities – Healthy wetlands and restored streams reduce flooding risks, protect drinking water sources and support recreation-based activities and economies.

Our Impact Over 30 Years

- Protected over 21,000 acres of wetlands, streams and riparian buffers.
- Over 10,000 acres added to publicly accessible or managed lands within Virginia.
- Restored more than 20 miles of streams and waterways.
- Enhanced flood resilience in at-risk communities by restoring natural floodplains.
- Invested millions of dollars into conservation projects that support local economies and outdoor recreation.

What Makes SWMP Unique?

SWMP stands apart by prioritizing conservation-driven, science-based solutions over cost-driven mitigation.

Statewide Program – From the Appalachian Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, SWMP is helping to restore Virginia's diverse landscapes.

Science-Driven Restoration – Our projects use cutting-edge ecological data to ensure long-term environmental success.

Beyond Compliance – SWMP focuses on ecological uplift and added benefits, not just regulatory minimums.

Strong Partnerships – SWMP collaborates with state and federal agencies, conservation groups, local governments, educational communities and local landowners to achieve shared conservation goals.

