

Rivanna Watershed Stream Restoration Facts



Rivanna River © Mary Porter

- The Conservancy and partners restored approximately 3,000 linear feet of a tributary to the Rivanna River at its 155-acre Forks of the Rivanna project in Albemarle County.
- The Rivanna watershed covers more than 760 square miles, including the City of Charlottesville and portions of six neighboring counties. The Conservancy identified the Rivanna watershed as one of the finest remaining freshwater river and stream systems in the Piedmont.

- The Rivanna system harbors numerous endemic and rare species, including the endangered James spiny mussel, and serves as the primary source of drinking water for Charlottesville and surrounding areas.
- The stream had been mechanically straightened for farm field drainage, creating serious erosion problems and dumping sediment into the North Fork Rivanna.
- During August, environmental contractors created a stable stream channel—complete with natural riffles, pools, and meanders.



Volunteers plant native hardwoods at Forks of the Rivanna © Mary Porter



Crew from North State Environmental restores natural stream channel © Daniel White/TNC

- The stream project expands on previous wetlands restoration work at Forks of the Rivanna. Over the past two years, The Conservancy filled drainage ditches and planted native hardwoods to restore wetlands, streamside forest, and upland buffers at the site.
- The Conservancy contracted with North State Environmental, Inc. of Winston Salem, NC to relocate and rebuild the stream. Dani Johnson of Pittsboro, NC, formerly with the North Carolina Stream Restoration Institute, designed the new stream.
- Project funding came from the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, a cooperative agreement between The Conservancy and US Army Corps of Engineers.