

FY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

During FY 2025 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025), the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) awarded over \$3 million in grants. With three active grant programs, VEE provided funds to 28 grant recipients. For each of these three programs, the FY 2025 total awards were:

- Virginia Program: \$637,325
- James River Water Quality Improvement Program: \$2,095,598
- Community Conservation Program: \$287,335

The fourth and fifth pages of this Annual Report provide detail on each of the FY 2025 awards.

VEE's awards reflect its ongoing commitment to collaborative work with many partners to catalyze and advance land conservation, water quality improvement, environmental literacy, climate resilience, and organizational development across Virginia.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The year-end reported net asset value of VEE was \$31,913,188. During FY 2025, the Board of Directors approved 28 grants totaling \$3,020,258. Since 1977, VEE has awarded over \$53 million in grants. With matching funds, VEE has accomplished over \$135 million in environmental improvements.

GRANT PROGRAMS

VEE awards grants through three programs: the Virginia Program, the James River Water Quality Improvement Program, and the Community Conservation Program.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

In FY 2025, VEE awarded \$637,325 to 24 recipients under the Virginia Program. This program provides support for:

- Improvement of local rivers and protection of water quality
- Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay
- Innovative land conservation and sustainable land use practices
- Environmental literacy and public awareness
- Climate adaptation and emerging issues of concern

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In FY 2025, VEE awarded \$2,095,598 to two recipients under the James River Water Quality Improvement Program (JRWQIP). This program focuses on producing significant water quality improvements in the James River.

The JRWQIP grants advance a host of strategic investment priorities in the James River watershed. These include initiatives to establish forested riparian buffers, accelerate pollution reductions from agricultural sources through innovative practices, restore streams and stabilize shorelines, and address failing septic systems. A link to a "story map" created for the JRWQIP can be found on the VEE website (vee.org).

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In FY 2025, VEE awarded a total of \$287,335 to two recipients under its Community Conservation Program. This program targets the Western Virginia localities of Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pittsylvania and Roanoke, and the cities of Salem and Roanoke.

The Community Conservation Program provides funding for water quality protection, restoration, and improvement; land conservation support; and environmental literacy and awareness.

Awards have included funds for septic tank pump outs, riparian buffer implementation, improved community access to trail networks, building climate resiliency, and public school student environmental education.

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND DEADLINES

Each of VEE's grant programs has its own specific set of grant application procedures. The VEE website (vee.org) contains the specific grant criteria, proposal requirements, and application form for each program.

General grant criteria include the following:

- VEE provides grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions, and governmental agencies.
- VEE encourages proposals that promise measurable results to improve the environment. Applications should include specifics on measurements for evaluating success.

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND DEADLINES *continued*

- Except in exceptional circumstances, VEE does not provide funding for general operating support. VEE does not fund overhead, indirect costs, capital projects, land purchases, building construction and renovation, endowments, and lawsuits, nor to individuals.
- Matching fund requirements vary by grant program. The Virginia Program requires matching funds in amounts equal to or in excess of the funding request.
- VEE does in certain circumstances award challenge grants to provide leverage in fundraising.
- Grants must align with the mission and priorities of VEE and the applicable grant program. VEE may decline without further review any proposal that is clearly outside the purposes and geographic limitations of a program.
- VEE requires grantees to submit periodic reports of progress, expenditures, and results. VEE provides grantees with funds in installments, typically on a reimbursement basis.
- VEE does not reimburse project costs incurred before the authorization date of any award.
- Each year VEE receives requests far in excess of available funds. In fairness to others, VEE requests that applicants do not apply to any single program more than once a year.
- VEE does not consider proposals it has previously denied absent prior express authorization for resubmittal.
- VEE does not accept unsolicited pure research proposals. VEE will consider proposals for applied research that have a direct tie to policy outcomes consistent with VEE's priorities but only upon review

of a one-page Letter of Intent received at least four weeks prior to the application deadline.

- Applicants must submit an application electronically, to the specific program email address, signed by the chief executive officer or board chair of the applicant.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

VEE must receive electronic proposals by 5 p.m. (ET) on the following dates:

Virginia Program: June 15 and December 1

James River Water Quality Improvement Program: June 15

Community Conservation Program: January 15

When the deadline for receipt of an application falls on a weekend or holiday, VEE accepts the application until the close of the following business day.

For the latest information on application deadlines and other criteria, VEE urges applicants to always review the materials and announcements located on the VEE website (vee.org).

GRANT AWARDS

The VEE Board normally makes its decisions on grant applications in April (for December and January applications) and October (for June applications).

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

GENERAL INFO AND VIRGINIA PROGRAM

info@vee.org

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

jrwwqip@vee.org

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

communityconservation@vee.org

VEE AT A GLANCE

HISTORY

VEE is a nonprofit, independent grant-making foundation originally created in 1977 by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia as part of a \$13.2 million fine to Allied Chemical Corporation for polluting the James River with the insecticide Kepone. District Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr. authorized the use of \$8 million of the fine to fund the creation of VEE. The income from this corpus continues to provide the funds for VEE's Virginia Program.

Between 1981 and 2018, VEE received additional funds, a total of \$1.4 million from five court settlements and a total of \$18.595 million from two mitigation agreements.

MISSION AND FOCUS

VEE's mission is to improve the quality of the environment by using its capital, expertise, and resources to encourage all sectors to work together to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and promote environmental literacy. The strategic priorities for VEE include the improvement of local rivers and the protection of water quality, the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, innovative land conservation and sustainable land use practices, environmental literacy and public awareness, coastal climate adaptation, and emerging issues of concern.

DONATING TO VEE'S WORK

Anyone wishing to contribute to VEE's strategic grant-making may do so by making a tax-deductible donation to the Fund for VEE. You can find the donation instructions at www.vee.org/the-fund-for-the-virginia-environmental-endowment/.

Virginia
Environmental
Endowment

Virginia Environmental Endowment
P.O. Box 790, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0790
email: info@vee.org • www.vee.org

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Protection and Outreach for Old Growth Forests of Virginia
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

ALLIANCE FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY, NEW MARKET, VA
Augusta Next: Expanding Conservation Capacity
\$30,000 / matched by \$170,000

BAY JOURNAL MEDIA, MAYO, MD
Ag & the Bay: Sowing a Conversation
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

BLUE RIDGE PRISM, WHITE HALL, VA
Building on Landowner Education for Landscape-Scale Conservation
\$25,000 (challenge grant) / matched by \$25,000

BLUE SKY FUND, RICHMOND, VA
2024-2025 Explorers Program
\$25,000 / matched by \$405,094

CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVANCY, RICHMOND, VA
Accelerating Land Conservation in the Richmond Region
\$60,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$165,000

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, RICHMOND, VA
Engaging Virginia Students in Nature's Classroom
\$50,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$50,000

FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT, RICHMOND, VA
Improve Data Integrity
\$15,000 / matched by \$12,700

INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, ALEXANDRIA, VA
Mobilizing Indigenous Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay
\$15,000 / matched by \$80,730

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.
To Advance Land Conservation Capacity and Partnerships in Virginia
\$25,000 / matched by \$36,689

MARINERS' MUSEUM AND PARK, NEWPORT NEWS, VA
Mariners' Lake Stewards
\$17,500 / matched by \$100,743

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Beyond Boundaries: Advancing Landscape Conservation at Shenandoah National Park
\$30,000 / matched by \$100,000

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, ANNAPOLIS, MD
Choose Clean Water Coalition: Beyond 2025
\$10,000 / matched by \$50,000

NATURE FORWARD, CHEVY CHASE, MD
Cultivating Diverse Environmental Stewards for a Sustainable Future in Northern Virginia
\$70,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$70,000

NORTHERN NECK LAND CONSERVANCY, WARSAW, VA
Promoting Conservation and Inspiring a Regional Community of Land Protectors
\$20,000 / matched by \$26,511

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY, SILVER SPRING, MD
2024 Potomac Headwaters Conservation Project
\$25,000 / matched by \$166,000

RIVANNA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Water Quality Monitoring Program
\$27,500 / matched by \$115,597

SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Leadership for Advancing Sustainable Land Use and Land Conservation in Virginia, Promoting Coastal Resiliency, and Protecting Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay and Throughout the Commonwealth
\$40,000 / matched by \$1,075,000

UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER ROUNDTABLE, ABINGDON, VA
Haz-Mat Spills Training for Emergency Responders in the Biodiverse Clinch-Powell River System of Southwest Virginia
\$12,325 / matched by \$13,200

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CHESTERFIELD, VA
Virginia Environmental Education Convene, Connect, Collaborate Programs
\$15,000 / matched by \$55,250

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (VIRGINIAforever), MECHANICSVILLE, VA
Understanding Virginia's Natural Resource Funding, Now and Future
\$10,000 (challenge grant) / matched by \$10,000

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK, RICHMOND, VA
Building Shared Trust & Vision Virginia's Clean Energy & Conservation Future
\$10,000 / matched by \$90,000

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK, RICHMOND, VA
Our 2025 Common Agenda for Clean Water Project
\$30,000 / matched by \$95,000

VIRGINIA'S UNITED LAND TRUSTS, RICHMOND, VA
Advancing Land Conservation Across the Commonwealth
\$30,000 / matched by \$90,000

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$637,325

JAMES RIVER WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA
A Resilient Future for the James River Buffer Program
\$1,308,648 (3-year grant) / matched by \$1,023,041

TROUT UNLIMITED, MT. JACKSON, VA
*James River Headwaters: Expanding and Sustaining Water
Quality Improvement Through Collaborative Technical
Assistance and Implementation*
\$786,950 (3-year grant) / matched by \$1,552,892

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM TOTAL TOTAL: \$2,095,598**

COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION, COLLINSVILLE, VA
Inspire Clean Water with Green Leaves
\$55,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$8,000

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG VIRGINIA, BLACKSBURG, VA
Riparian Restoration in Heritage Park
\$232,335 (2-year grant) / matched by \$122,139

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$287,335**

FY 2025 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$3,020,258