Virginia Environmental Endowment

2026 ANNUAL REPORT
(April 2025 - March 2026)

FY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

During FY 2026 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026), the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) considered a record number of applications and awarded over $1.9 million in grants. With three active grant programs, VEE made 38 awards in FY 2026. For each of these three programs, the FY 2026 total awards were:

- Virginia Program: $868,680
- James River Water Quality Improvement Program: $783,625
- Community Conservation Program: $317,592

The fourth and fifth pages of this Annual Report provide detail on each of the FY 2026 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 $32,737,298. During FY 2026, the Board of Directors approved 38 grants totaling $1,969,897. Since 1977, VEE has awarded nearly $55 million in grants and with matching funds has accomplished over $143 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 2026, VEE made 33 awards for a total of $868,680 under the Virginia Program. This represents an historic amount. 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 2026, VEE awarded $783,625 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 2026, VEE awarded a total of $317,592 to three 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 Progam 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 requests that promise measurable results to improve the environment. Applications should include specifics on measurements for evaluating success.

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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).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

OFFICERS

Dixon M. Butler, *President*
Robert B. Smith Jr., *Senior Vice President*
Nina Randolph, *Treasurer*
Joseph H. Maroon, *Secretary*

DIRECTORS

Robin D. Baliles, *Charlottesville*
Dixon M. Butler, *Washington, DC*
Celia Dallas, *Great Falls*
Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, *Richmond*
Leffall LaSalle, III, *Washington, DC*
Nina Randolph, *Alexandria, VA*
Lisa Smith, *Norfolk, VA*
Robert B. Smith Jr., *Washington DC*

STAFF

Joseph H. Maroon, *Executive Director*
Roy A. Hoagland, Esq., *Senior Program Officer*
Lauren Coble, *Office Administrator*

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

GENERAL INFO AND VIRGINIA PROGRAM

info@vee.org

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

jrwqip@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

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FY2026 GRANT AWARDS
(April 2025 - March 2026)

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

BAY JOURNAL MEDIA, MAYO, MD
Ag & the Bay: Sowing a Conversation
$25,000 / matched by $27,077

BAY JOURNAL MEDIA, MAYO, MD
Environmental Reporting in Virginia
$25,000 / matched by $110,000

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

BLUE SKY FUND, RICHMOND, VA
Explorers Program – Nature-Based Science Education for Richmond Public Schools Elementary Students
$35,000 / matched by $50,000

BLUE SKY FUND, RICHMOND, VA
Operating Support
$15,000 / matched by $25,000

ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT, NORFOLK, VA
Growing a Green Blue Generation that Protects the Elizabeth River
$35,000 / matched by $50,000

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER, PETERSBURG, VA
Increasing Sustainability & Expanding Public Awareness through Collaborative Partnership
$19,700 / matched by $29,690

FRIENDS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK, FREDERICKSBURG, VA
Developing Climate Resilience Through MWEEs in the Northern Neck
$20,000 / matched by $26,000

GROUNDWORK RVA, RICHMOND, VA
Green Infrastructure for Community Climate Resilience: Youth-Led Land & Water Stewardship in Southside Richmond
$25,000 / matched by $50,463

HORIZON HAMPTON ROADS, INC., NORFOLK, VA
We Are Changemakers: Youth-Led Advocacy for the Chesapeake Bay Health & Community
$21,475 / matched by $25,000

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA
Immersive Outdoor Education Programs with Hopewell & Petersburg Public Schools
$25,681 / matched by $30,817

LAND SAVERS UNITED, ROANOKE, VA
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVANCY
Raising the Capacity and Profile of Land Conservation in Southern Virginia
$25,000 / matched by $38,600

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.
To Advance Land Conservation Capacity & Partnerships in Virginia
$25,000 / matched by $93,369

THE MARINERS' MUSEUM AND PARK, NEWPORT NEWS, VA
Advancing Environmental Education & Stewardship for Students
$13,300 / matched by $212,555

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Beyond Boundaries: Empowering Communities to Protect the Greater Shenandoah Landscape
$25,000 / matched by $37,500

NATURE FORWARD, CHEVY CHASE, MD
Sustain Environmental and Conservation Work in Northern Virginia
$20,000 / matched by $113,768

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST, ANNADALE, VA
Expanding Conservation Capacity in Stafford and Prince William Counties
$30,000 / matched by $119,300

PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, WARRENTON, VA
Enhancing PEC's Riparian Buffer Program in the Virginia Piedmont
$29,119 / matched by $190,270

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY, SILVER SPRING, MD
Sustaining Our Clean Water Impact
$30,000 / matched by $50,000

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Protecting Virginia Communities from Toxic PFAS Pollution in Biosolids
$35,000 / matched by $35,240

RIVANNA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Working with the Community to Monitor and Improve the Rivanna River Watershed
$25,000 / matched by $122,218

SHENANDOAH VALLEY CONSERVANCY, STAUNTON, VA
Building Collaborative Conservation Capacity in the Upper James Watershed
$25,000 / matched by $71,250

SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Leadership for Advancing Sustainable Land Use and Land Conservation in Virginia, Promoting Coastal Resiliency, & Protecting Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay and Throughout the Commonwealth
$40,000 / matched by $200,000

SUSTAINABLE CHESAPEAKE, RICHMOND, VA
Connecting Socially Disadvantaged Producers to State and Federal Conservation Resources
$20,000 / matched by $1,428,368

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT AND NEGOTIATION, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Implementation of The RAFT (Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool) Resilience Action Checklists with Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Historic Triangle Localities
$29,500 / matched by $29,500

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VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CHESTERFIELD, VA
Strengthening & Leading a Sustainable Environmental Education Network
$23,905 / matched by $20,870

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK, RICHMOND, VA
Our 2026 Common Agenda for Clean Water: Coordinating Virginia's Shared Vision for Clean Water
$35,000 / matched by $95,000

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE, GLOUCHESTER POINT, VA
VIRGINIA SEA GRANT
Commonwealth Marine & Coastal Policy Fellowship
$40,000 / matched by $132,960

VIRINIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, RICHMOND, VA
Lewis and MacKenzie Scholarships
$24,000

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, LEXINGTON, VA
2025 Environment Virginia Symposium
$7,000 / matched by $27,000

VIRGINIA'S UNITED LAND TRUSTS, RICHMOND, VA
Supporting a Strong and Effective Conservation Community to Achieve Widespread Protection & Stewardship of Lands Throughout the Commonwealth
$30,000 / matched by $110,000

WETLANDS WATCH, NORFOLK, VA
Wetlands Watch Initiatives Support
$40,000 / matched by $40,000

WILD VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
Clean Water Advocates
$25,000 / matched by $40,000

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: $868,680

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, RICHMOND, VA
Mattanock Town Living Shoreline
$330,637 / matched by $3,060

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA
Demonstrating Nature-Based Shoreline Projects to Protect the James River
$452,998 / matched by $98,671

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TOTAL TOTAL: $783,625

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

NEW RIVER CONSERVANCY, WEST JEFFERSON, NC
New River Clean-up and Recovery
$98,850 / matched by $65,500

ROANOKE VALLEY-ALLEGHANY REGIONAL COMMISSION, ROANOKE, VA
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region Septic Pump-Out Program
$85,411 / matched by $51,410

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, BLACKSBURG, VA
BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
What's in Our Water? Promoting Well Water Stewardship through Youth Education
$133,331 / matched by $63,634

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM TOTAL: $317,592

FY 2026 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: $1,969,897

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P.O. Box 790, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0790
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