

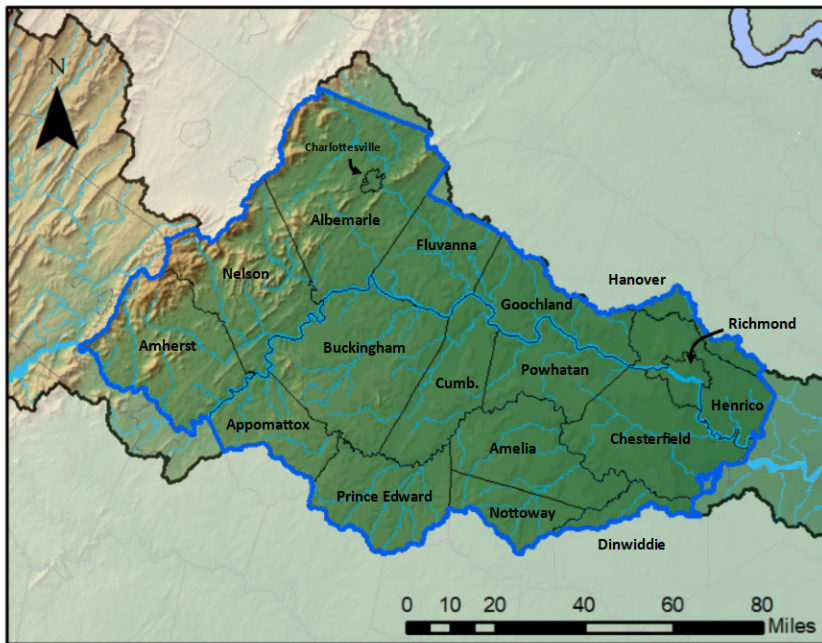
James River Buffer Program

Growing Forests for Clean Water

Through the James River Buffer Program, the James River Association and the Virginia Department of Forestry, are working with landowners across the Middle James watershed on restoring or creating forest buffers to improve the quality of our local waterways. A forest buffer is an area of trees and shrubs between a stream and open land that filters soil, nutrients, and pollution before they reach the stream.



Eligible Virginia Counties



Eligible area within James River Watershed. Please note some counties are only partially within this boundary.

What is provided to a participating landowner?

100% of the project cost including design, site preparation as needed, materials, installation

3 years of help and assistance to evaluate needs and perform buffer maintenance as needed

What is needed from the landowner?

An interest in improving water quality and habitat on their land and for downstream neighbors

An area along a creek or river on their property where a forested buffer of 35' or more can be established. This can also include supplementing an existing buffer to increase the vegetated buffer width to 35' or more

15 year agreement from landowner that they will keep the buffer as forest

5 Steps to Get Started:

1. Please locate the property on the map above to **determine eligibility**
2. **Apply** online, by phone, or by mail. Staff will review applications on a rolling basis.
3. Once application is accepted, a staff member will contact you to set up a **site visit** to see the land, analyze the site, and discuss your priorities. A **buffer design** will be created and you will have the opportunity to review before installation.
4. **Planting** is normally done during February-April and November-December. Some sites may need site preparation before planting can occur.
5. We will evaluate the buffer for the first 3 years and provide **maintenance**, as needed, to help establish a healthy streamside forest..

For more information contact 434-286-7000 or email buffers@thejamesriver.org

This project is supported by the Virginia Environmental Endowment