Smith Creek Watershed Partnership: A National Showcase

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Smith Creek Watershed

- **67,335 acres** (105 square miles)
- **33% prime farmland** (pasture, hay, crop)
- **495 farmers** (dairy, beef, poultry, crop)
- **287 stream miles** (53 miles impaired)
- **Impairments** (N, P, S, and bacteria)
- **Karst** (329 sinkholes, 35 caves)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation + NRCS + FSA + Ducks Unlimited + Trout Unlimited + local SWCD + Farmers
Partners

- American Farmland Trust
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Environmental Defense
- Farm Service Agency
- Friends of the North Fork
- Friends of the Shenandoah
- Land Trust of Virginia
- Headwaters SWCD
- Lord Fairfax SWCD
- Shenandoah Valley SWCD
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Valley Conservation Council
- The Downstream Project
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Virginia Tech University
- Trout Unlimited
- Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- U.S. Forest Service
- Rural Development
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia State Dairyman’s Association
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Poultry Federation
- Watershed Stewardship, Inc.
- University of Maryland
Do More Partners = More Progress?
Activities

- Initial landowner contacts (cold calls)
- Agricultural BMP design & implementation
- Technical Assistance (TA)
- Financial Assistance (FA)
- Outreach & Education
- River Day Events for Families
- Program Informational Meetings
- Farmer Breakfasts
- Research Field Days
- Grazing Mentorships
- Cover Crop Demonstration Events
- Septic Pump-outs & Repairs
- Septic Hook-up to Public Sewer
- Soil Health Workshops
- Social Marketing & Website Development
- Rain Garden Demonstration Workshops
- 10-year Sediment Source Study
- Radio Advertisements
- Attending & Presenting at local meetings
- Streambank Restoration Projects
- Rain Barrel Workshops
- Contribution Agreements for TA & FA
- Lawn Party Outreach Events
- Newsletters & Postcards
- Tree Plantings
- Farm BMP Inventories
- Easement Incentives and TA
- Free Cover Crop Seed Promotion
- Graziers’ & Fencers’ Schools
- Poultry Litter Subsurface/Injector research
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Urban Stormwater Retrofit Projects
- Grant Writing & Management
Keys to Success

- Collaborative Partners
- Consistent Communications
- Coordinated Activities
- Planning Ahead
- Team Approach
- Filling Niches – Limiting Overlap

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Saving a National Treasure