

Pamunkey Indian Tribe Natural Resource Department Accomplishments & Activities

As of August 1, 2025

Grants

- EPA General Assistance Program FY25 – Received year 3 of the EPA General Assistance Program to support soil and water quality work.
- BIA Water Resources Planning Grant – To conduct a full-scale wetland delineation on the Reservation, drill shallow wells for groundwater monitoring, and sediment elevation tables to monitor subsidence and accretion.
- NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration for Underserved and Tribal Communities – In partnership with VIMS, applied for a planning grant to finalize designs and obtain permits for the suite of conceptual sills contained in VIMS' Pamunkey Reservation Shoreline Management Plan.
- EPA General Assistance Program FY26 - For year 4 of GAP, we intend to bolster field monitoring and invasive species removal efforts.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience Fund – To construct the remaining permitted living shorelines. This will include funding for tribal capacity, near-shore archaeological work, living shorelines, monitoring and training by VIMS, and community engagement events such as marsh plantings and project presentations.
- US Forest Service Region 8 Infrastructure Funding – to develop and implement an invasive species removal program.
- Pamunkey Natural Resources was included as a partner in the following proposals.
 - Terrapin habitat study with VIMS and Wiliam and Mary – CRD also included
 - Submerged aquatic vegetation study with VIMS
 - Chesapeake WILD grant to perform a mussel hatchery feasibility study in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Community Engagement & Initiatives

- In Autumn 2024, NRD worked with Virginia Tech to hold a community water testing clinic. There were about 30 samples submitted from residences and

government buildings on the Reservation. Out of those samples, 50% were contaminated with some kind of bacteriological contamination, warranting well treatment and/or replacement. USET specialists flew to Virginia to assist NRD with chlorinating and disinfecting 9 citizens' wells.

- In Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025, Friends of the Rappahannock in partnership with Virginia DoF provided the Tribe with over 200 free trees for citizens and community spaces.
- In March 2025, VIMS and Columbia University held the first of three flood preparedness workshops for the community to help inform a comprehensive management plan for the Tribe at the end of the project.
- In April 2025, NRD provided citizens with garden assistance. In Summer 2025, NRD collected soil samples from citizen allotments to be sent to Virginia Tech for analysis and amendment recommendations based on selected goals for each sample (fruit trees, vegetable garden, shrubs, etc).

Long-Term Planning

- Virginia Department of Forestry – Natural Resources Department surveyed Reservation forestlands in February 2025 to inform a comprehensive state-approved Forest Management Plan for the Tribe. This plan provides resource summaries and recommendations for long-term sustainable forest management. It also opens eligibility for additional funding sources through state and federal partners.

Representation & Advocacy

- Pamunkey Natural Resources ensured Tribal priorities were considered when developing the Virginia Ocean Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, and Flood Preparedness Master Plan. We participated in numerous working groups including but not limited to the Indigenous Conservation Council, the Living Shoreline Collaborative (of which Joe Capella sits on the steering committee), the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean's Tribal Caucus (which we also helped initiate), and the Virginia Soil Health Coalition.

Other Projects

- Pamunkey NRD worked with George Mason University on a detailed flood model for the Reservation using new methodologies developed by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Dewberry Environmental.
- VIMS and Greenstream installed a new tide gauge at the hatchery dock. This collects real-time tide stage data and will be used to inform future flood models and provide citizens with 36-hour tide predictions. This gauge is the furthest upriver in their network, which will enhance regional models significantly, especially for the Tribe.
- Pamunkey NRD worked with the Virginia Department of Consolidated Lab Services to develop and execute an MOU for testing pesticides and herbicides in tribal citizens' well water. This is part of a larger initiative to eventually better understand how the relationship between agriculture and shallow groundwater may be affecting drinking water on the Reservation.