

Green Infrastructure Stewards

Justin Doyle, Director of Community Conservation



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Overview

- 2025 State of the James
- Greening Richmond Public Libraries
- Green Infrastructure Stewards
- Questions & Answers



The State of the James

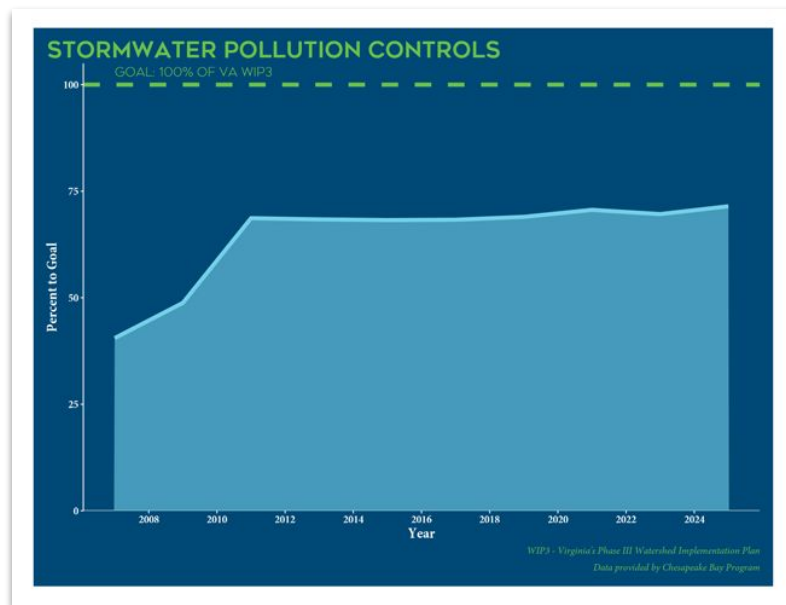
- Our State of the James is a comprehensive report card that summarizes ongoing efforts to bring the James River back to full health.
- The State of the James is issued every two years to examine the status and trends of 18 indicators that fall within two categories – River Health and River Restoration.
- The overall grade of the **State of the James** has improved to a B with a score of 68% from its failing health decades ago. Although the pace of progress has slowed, a grade-A James River is possible if we keep up our collective efforts and continue to address key issues together.
- The interactive State of the James Report is available online at TheJamesRiver.org



The 2025 State of the James

Stormwater Pollution Controls

- As of 2025, we are 71% of the way to meeting our pollution plan for stormwater, measured by the amount of pollution reaching the river from each acre of developed land.
- Development is the fastest growing source of pollution in our waterways and poses a great threat to the health of the James.
- Climate change adds to the challenge of managing stormwater, as high-intensity rainfall events are increasing in frequency.
- Investments in stormwater pollution controls are needed to improve water quality and reduce localized flooding.



2025 State of the James Report

Greening Richmond Public Libraries

Project Goal: Plan, design, and implement **green infrastructure** that manages stormwater at library branches across the City of Richmond.

Project Team:

- Richmond Public Library
- Richmond Department of Public Utilities
- James River Association
- Four Winds Design
- PlanRVA



Greening Richmond Public Libraries

Broad Rock Branch



East End Branch



North Avenue Branch



West End Branch



Westover Hills Branch



Ginter Park Branch



Greening Richmond Public Libraries

What's Next?

Hull Street Branch



Belmont Branch



Value of Maintenance

Consistent maintenance of green infrastructure projects...

- Allows green infrastructure practices to continue to **function effectively** at managing stormwater
- Protects **native plants** and their **ecological value** against non-native invasive plants that will outcompete them if not maintained
- Encourages ongoing **community trust and support** for green infrastructure projects



Green Infrastructure Stewards

Green Infrastructure Stewards are volunteers who work alongside James River Association staff members to maintain stormwater best management practices installed through the Greening Richmond Public Libraries (GRPL) initiative.



The Impact

Since launching in 2024, the Green Infrastructure Stewards program has resulted in...

- **21 volunteer events**
- **453 volunteer hours** dedicated to green infrastructure stewardship
- **12 Certified Green Infrastructure Stewards**
- **7 additional volunteers** currently working on certification requirements
- **Consistent and effective maintenance of green infrastructure** practices across all Greening Richmond Public Libraries locations that improve water quality, create habitat for wildlife, and provide valuable green spaces for the Richmond community.



The Impact



The Impact



The Impact



The Impact



The Impact



Success Story: Wild Harmony Landscapes

Andy Wessel



Green Infrastructure Stewards

Questions & Answers

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For information about the James River Association, visit **TheJamesRiver.org**

