



Fostering a Community of Stewards

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

5 EASEMENTS
DONATED

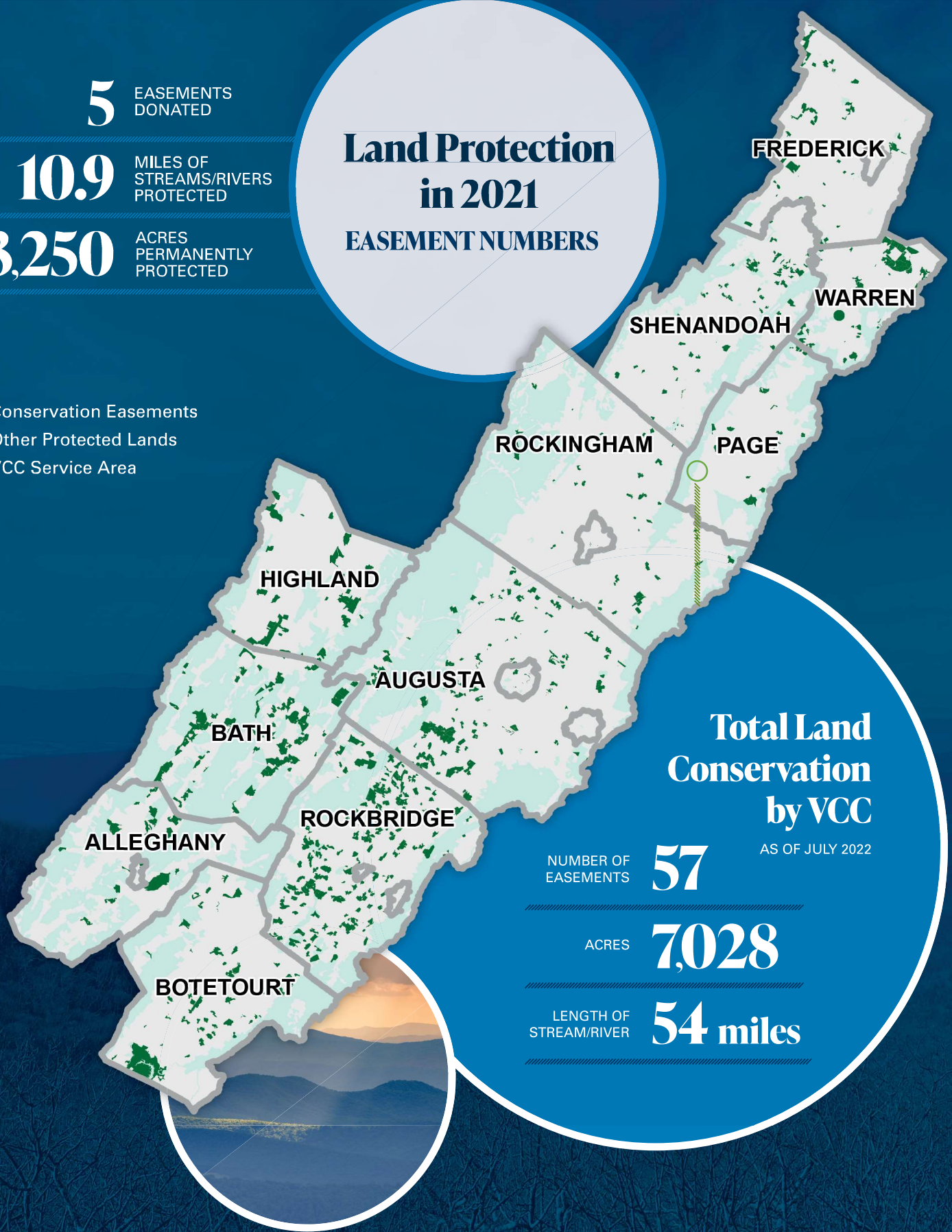
10.9 MILES OF
STREAMS/RIVERS
PROTECTED

3,250 ACRES
PERMANENTLY
PROTECTED

Land Protection in 2021

EASEMENT NUMBERS

- Conservation Easements
- Other Protected Lands
- VCC Service Area



Total Land Conservation by VCC

AS OF JULY 2022

NUMBER OF
EASEMENTS

57

ACRES

7,028

LENGTH OF
STREAM/RIVER

54 miles

Achievements in Conservation

One of the Largest Additions to Shenandoah National Park

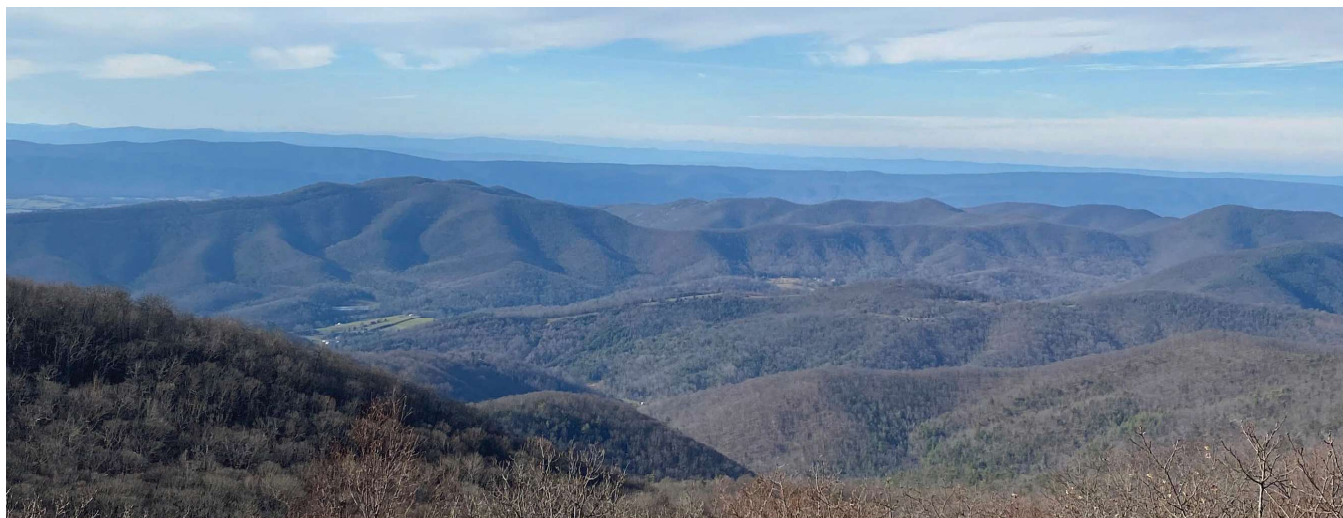
A project years in the making was finally completed. VCC, in partnership with the Shenandoah National Park Trust, facilitated the transfer of nearly 1,000 acres in Page County to Shenandoah National Park. Land transfers to Shenandoah are rare, particularly ones of this size. As of early 2022 this land is now fully owned and managed by the National Park Service.

Tanner's Ridge is now a permanent addition to Shenandoah National Park for people all over the world to enjoy. VCC was honored to play a role in this historic land transfer and to add on to one of the nation's most popular and most iconic national parks.

Improving Water Quality Across the Valley

The Shenandoah watershed has had a rough few decades when it comes to water quality. Conservationists have been implementing best practices to try and improve water quality. While there is still a long way to go, both 2021 and the first half of 2022 had lower bacteria levels than 2015-2020. Land protection and especially riparian protection zones are some of the best tools for improving water quality.

VCC holds 22 riparian protection easements, and collaborates with state officials to continue to improve water quality.



Valley Conservation Council is a nonprofit organization that preserves and protects the beloved natural resources of the greater Shenandoah Valley region so the land can continue to enrich the lives of its residents and visitors for generations, whether it be for hiking in its abundant forests, fishing in its picturesque rivers, farming in its productive soil or simply basking in the majesty of its spectacular open spaces.

Above: View from Tanner's Ridge, the Land Transfer to Shenandoah National Park

Easements Protect Unique



Large Scale Protection in Bath County

This Bath county easement is VCC's largest to date. It protects nearly 2000 acres of farmland and forest that connects two pieces of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest to the Gathright State Wildlife Management Area. That key position makes this easement important for wildlife habitat and movement. It also protects nearly 3 miles of the Jackson River, which will soon have a riparian buffer, meaning that it protects both land and aquatic wildlife. VCC is proud to protect such a beautiful and important property!

Preserving Family Farms in Page County

The Page Valley is nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Massanutten Mountain. This 180 acre Page County easement features productive farmland and has been in the family for generations of dedicated farmers. With such a strong history of family farming, it was important to protect the property to preserve the history for the family and the community. The easement protects the property for future generations of farmers.

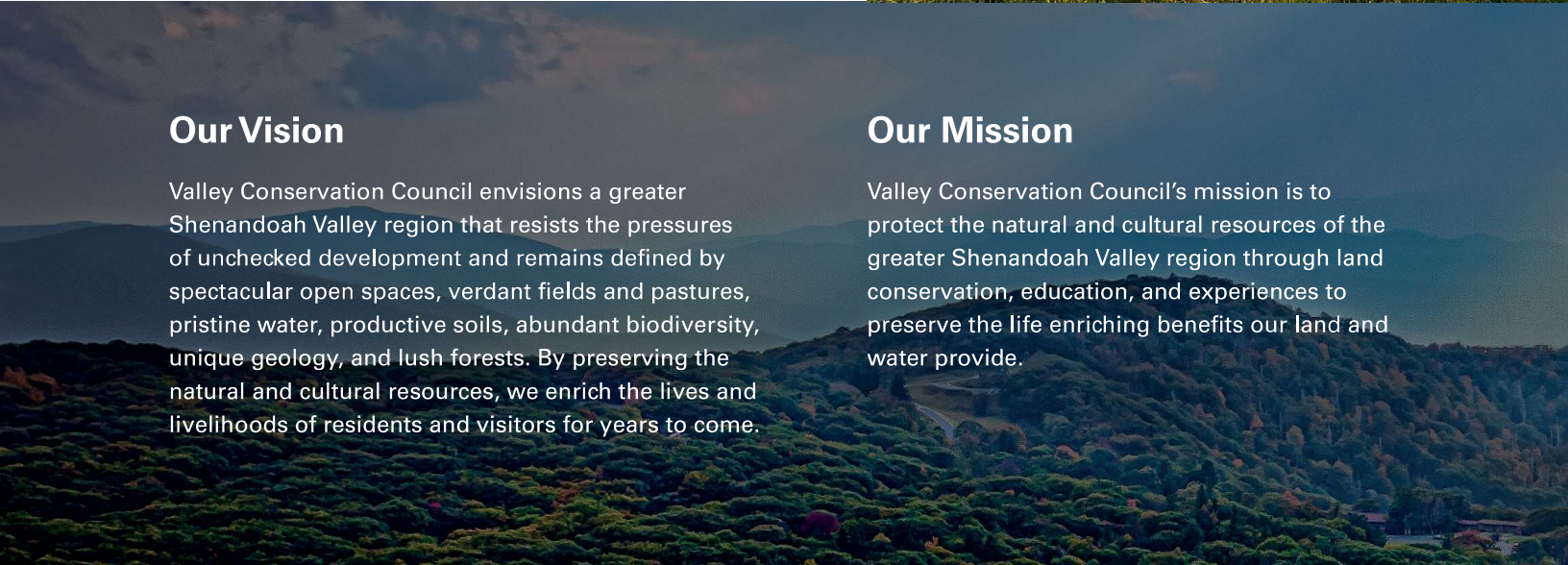


Our Vision

Valley Conservation Council envisions a greater Shenandoah Valley region that resists the pressures of unchecked development and remains defined by spectacular open spaces, verdant fields and pastures, pristine water, productive soils, abundant biodiversity, unique geology, and lush forests. By preserving the natural and cultural resources, we enrich the lives and livelihoods of residents and visitors for years to come.

Our Mission

Valley Conservation Council's mission is to protect the natural and cultural resources of the greater Shenandoah Valley region through land conservation, education, and experiences to preserve the life enriching benefits our land and water provide.



Properties Across the Valley



Wildlife Habitat in Shenandoah County

This Shenandoah County Easement closed in early 2022. These 200 acres protect headwaters for the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and keep those water sources clean and free from runoff. Almost the entire property is forested with lots of native trees surrounding the waterways. The easement protects wildlife habitat near Devil's Backbone State Forest, which creates a larger area of protected habitat for wildlife.

Reforestation Rockbridge County

This 87 acre easement in Rockbridge county is dedicated to forest restoration. Over 14,000 trees have been planted to rejuvenate the existing forests on the property. The property buffers nearly a mile on Mare's Run in the Buffalo Creek watershed. New forest habitat is good for wildlife of all kinds, and we are expecting to see them enjoying the new trees. VCC is excited to see how the reforestation efforts go and how this property will grow and change now that it is protected forever.



Our Story

For 30 years, Valley Conservation Council has worked with communities and landowners across Virginia's greater Shenandoah Valley region promoting land conservation and sensible models of growth. As a result, tens of thousands of acres of valuable farm and forestland, streams and rivers, and historical landscapes are now permanently protected in VCC's 18-locality service territory. VCC is an accredited land trust – meaning we follow the highest legal, environmental, and financial standards to hold conservation easements for landowners. We also actively promote best practices in development, support working farms and the agricultural economy, and teach future generations about the importance of conservation. Our efforts to protect the iconic region where you may live, work, or play are successful because of the generous support of hundreds of VCC members.

A Career of Advocating for the Upper James



VCC was just a five-year-old when I moved to Virginia in 1995! My introduction to the organization occurred a few weeks later at the Fincastle Festival where I met Faye Cooper and a Board member at the VCC booth. The brilliant September skies dotted with migrating monarch butterflies, the lush mountains beckoning on every horizon had me at ‘Hello’. I was a prime candidate for VCC membership at that first encounter! My desire to promote the wise use and protection of these beautiful Virginia lands easily pulled me away from my career in the classroom and into easement and program work, first as a member/volunteer, then as a VCC Board member, a contractor, a staff member and now as VCC’s Upper James Program Director where I work in the counties of the James River watershed.

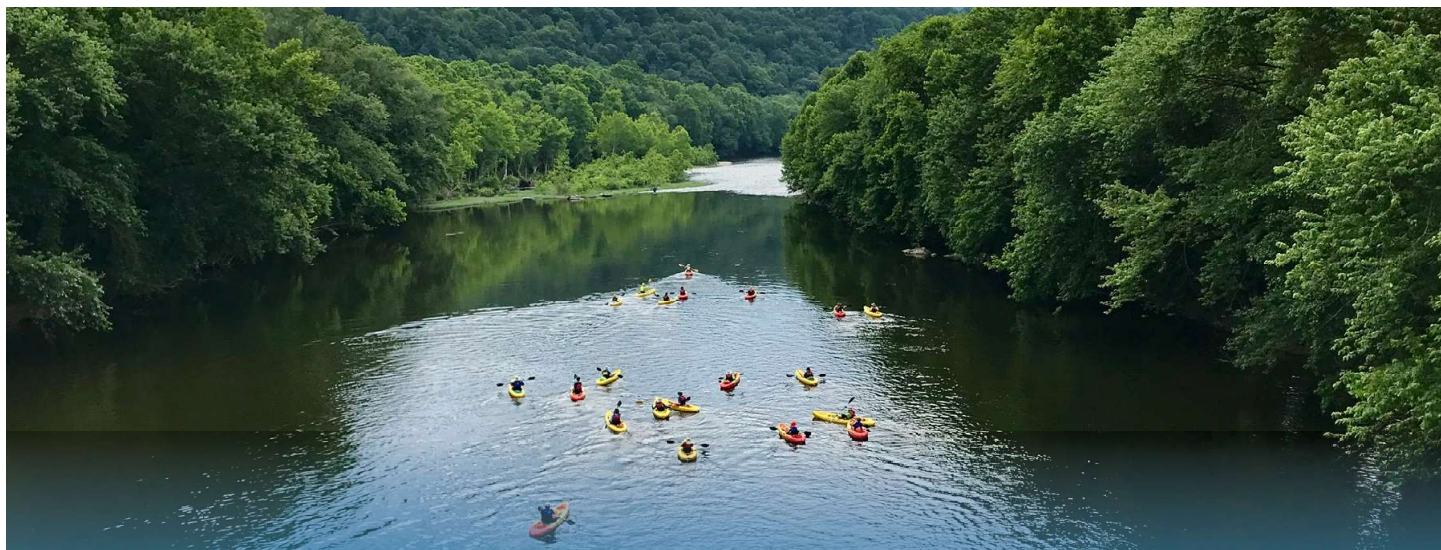
Through these decades, I’ve learned a language of acronyms representing the many agencies, funders, and organizations—all partners with whom VCC works to achieve its mission. These partners run the gamut from local to national, from public to private, and they fit together like a jigsaw puzzle to give Virginians the knowledge and assistance to assure a quality of life for themselves, their families, and for those who will follow. I learned quickly to put aside any hesitancy in approaching these members of government and the private sector. They have been helpful in providing me with the knowledge and support necessary to achieve my goals in public outreach.

Visiting landowners who feel the need to preserve their properties for future generations has allowed me to see the land through

the eyes of those who know it best—many who have farmed it, planted its trees, or fished its waters. A project that particularly showed this level of commitment, and one in which I was honored to have assisted, was Oxbow Farm in northern Botetourt whose conservation easement preserves a 500+-acre working farm with over 4 miles of James River riparian protection and remnants of the historic James River & Kanawha Canal.

My efforts operate in a wide network, from providing links of communication and other necessary support to partner organizations resulting in the addition of nearly 5000 acres of land with an historic iron furnace, brook trout streams, and habitat to the national forest system to assisting in the start-up of the now wildly successful Botetourt Farmers Market. As part of VCC’s effort to reach members throughout its service area, I began the Botetourt Community Partnership in 2003 which continues today.

Essential to this network has been my natural ability to notice things and sense their importance and my willingness to interact with people at local events, libraries, and businesses. Being a trusted member of the community and a trusted partner in conservation has become a way of life for me. Although many of the earlier easements on which I worked are held by partner organizations, VCC is now holding its own easements here. I can drive throughout the watershed noticing land that I helped to protect...that’s gratifying!



Visiting landowners who feel the need to preserve their properties for future generations has allowed me to see the land through the eyes of those who know it best—many who have farmed it, planted its trees, or fished its waters.



VCC is dedicated to keeping a local, community-based, approach to land conservation while bringing in national support to our members, partners, and landowners.

Locally Focused Land Protection with National Accreditation

One of the things we love about the Shenandoah Valley is how tight knit our communities are. We think that our conservation should match our culture – locally focused.

The culture of Shenandoah Valley is defined by our relationship with the land. We come together to celebrate our farmers at county fairs, to hunt and fish, and to explore the hills and hollers that surround our beautiful valley. Protecting our land also conserves our culture by making sure that future generations will have those same connections to the land.

When an easement is donated to VCC, landowners are assured that their land is being protected and monitored by people who live in and understand the Valley as a region. We are able to custom fit easements to fit the needs of our farmers and families. We understand that land has sentimental value as well as economic value, and we want to make sure that land in the Valley will be cared for in the future with the same

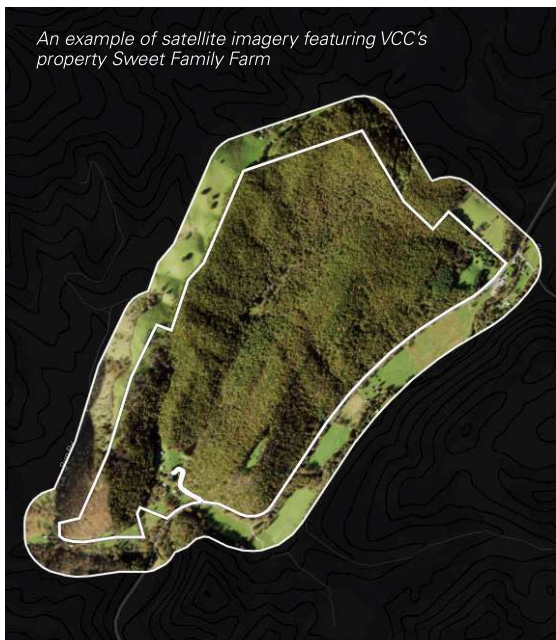
attention and affection with which it was cared for in the past.

Since 2018, VCC has been nationally accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Not only does this accreditation allow us to hold easements, it connects us with other Land Trusts across the country. We are able to bring new methods and best practices into the Valley and adapt them to fit our specific environment. Accreditation brings peace of mind to our landowners that VCC is following national standards and practices during every step of the easement process.

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LAND STEWARDSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

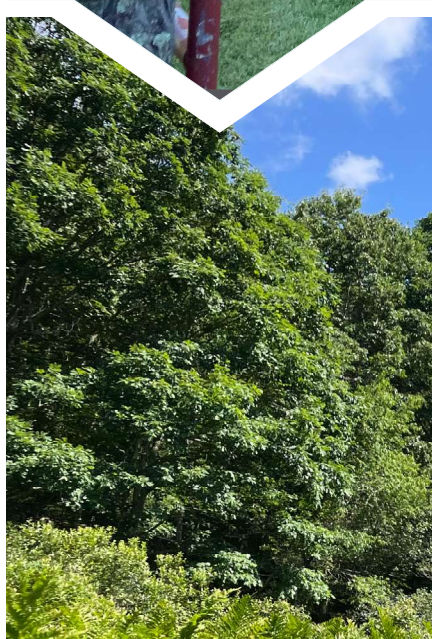


VCC uses the latest technology to provide high-quality monitoring and stewardship – critical to lasting conservation.

Land protection work doesn't end when the easement is filed. To ensure that all easement agreements are being followed, and to maintain a relationship with easement donors, staff check each easement each year. Stewarding and monitoring our easements is our primary tool in keeping our promise to protect land in and around Shenandoah Valley. Our dedication to quality stewardship is how we can say confidently that any land in a VCC easement is going to remain just as it was when the easement was placed. Our easement donors know that we know what makes their property unique, and that we are only a phone call away should any issues arise.

Due to generous grants from the Beirne Carter Foundation, the Land Trust Alliance, and Virginia United Land Trusts, VCC Land Protection Director, Taylor Evans, and Land Protection Specialist, Lily Bose, have developed a remote monitoring system. This system uses high resolution satellite imagery to monitor land use change through vegetative growth analysis and checking for new buildings on the property. This tool is particularly useful for monitoring properties that are uninhabited, isolated, or comprised mostly of forest and open space, as these properties can be difficult to monitor on foot. Properties that used to take an entire day to monitor can be monitored in a few hours from the VCC central office. Properties will still be physically monitored every few years, so new baselines for remote monitoring can be created and the staff retain an intimate understanding of each property that VCC protects.

Remote monitoring is still a new practice, and few land trusts have adopted it into their land stewardship programs. VCC is dedicated to utilizing all available technologies to ensure that our landowners and members can be confident that VCC is providing the highest quality monitoring and stewardship.



Sweet Family Farm

A future of restoration, research, and reconnection

Plans are being made for VCC's 400-acre property in Highland County. The property was gifted to VCC by Dr. John Sweet, who wants the property to serve as an example for what private land conservation can be and to serve as an educational tool for any looking to conserve their property. At the heart of VCC's plans are three goals:

Restoration of native habitat and rare species, to bring the forest and wetlands on the property to their native state and manage them to stay healthy and free of invasives to the best of our ability.

Research site for local scientists and college students studying biology and environmental science. With such a unique site comes the opportunity for long-term research that could prove useful for generations of conservationists to come.

Reconnection with nature. Through workshops and events, we intend to offer Sweet Family Farm as a place to experience nature in intimate ways and to experience the Valley in its original state.

By keeping these ideals in mind, we intend to create a space to offer unique experiences for the community and members while putting nature and wildlife first. Sweet Family Farm is already home to a variety of rare and endangered species. As we increase public access on the property over the next few years, we will always put the health of the land and the species on it first.

Like nature, progress can be gradual, so projects are slow going, however we have plans to begin opening up the property for limited use in 2023. Updates can be found on our social media @valleyconservation.

Our Dedicated Community

VCC's work would not be possible without the generous support of our members. We are immeasurably grateful for their dedication to conservation in the Shenandoah Valley and their support of VCC in 2021.

VCC MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

VALLEY GUARDIAN	\$5,000 and above
VALLEY STEWARD	\$1,000 to \$4,999
VALLEY SETTLER	\$500 to \$999
VALLEY PIONEER	\$100 to \$499
VALLEY EXPLORER	from \$30 per individual/ \$50 per family to \$99

VALLEY GUARDIAN

Fred and Christine Andreae
Bowman and Abbie Cutter
Betsy Eggleston
David and Cindy Fuller
The Ceres Foundation
Scott Kelly
Laurie Landeau Foundation LLC
George and Mancie Ohrstrom
John R. Sweet
Linda Webb

VALLEY STEWARDS

Anonymous
The William F. and Karin M. Banks Foundation
Laurie Berman
Ed Clark
Kathleen Cline
Peter and Faye Cooper
The Cedars Foundation Inc.
Larry Duncan
Phyllis and Fred Fevrier
Lisa Hamilton
Libby Hartman
Lisa Hawkins
Virginia Hot Springs Realty
Jim and Pam Huggins
Roger Kirby
Tom and Anna Lawson
Thomas Lockhart
Jim and Latane Long
Jane and Preston Manning
McDonough Toyota
Alex Moore
Bill and Lisa Moore
Alice Murphy
Dorothy Duval Nelson
Tom and Sally Parsons
Laura Revitz

The Westchester Foundation
Jim and Celia Rutt
Bob and Liz Schreiber
Thomas Shaffer and Karen Vander Linde
Phyllis Showalter
Nancy Stevenson and Gil Nova
C.J. Steuart and Marie Thomas
Shenandoah Valley Organic
Babette Thorpe and John Rice
Jim Cherney and Katie Wallace
John and Marilee Williamson
Susan Wilson and Bernard Odasz

VALLEY SETTLER

Kirk Billingsley
Bob Boisture and Mary Margaret Pipkin
Joseph Borzelleca, Jr. and Ellen Brock
Marty Bullins
Dorothy and Bob Childers
Carolyn Click
Stuart and Emily Cochran
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dalke
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
Bruce and Olimpia Dorries
Sandy Greene
Margaret Henderson
The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County
Elizabeth Kibler
Dan Layman and Pamela Fox
Matt Lohr
Everett and Nancy Martin
Margie Maust and Sandy Bahr
Lewis and Gayle Moore
Phil and Cheri Moran

Matthew Morgan
Michael and Robyn Neupauer
John Pancake and Ann Olson
Steve and Julie Plumbley
Dianne Sanford
William Snow and Melody Tennant
Camp Mont Shenandoah
Greg and Valerie Weaver

VALLEY PIONEER

Ilse Ackerman
Eleanor Adams
Peter and Betsy Agelasto
Eugenia Anderson-Ellis and Howard Ellis
Sharon Angle
Augusta Bird Club
Augusta Garden Club
Duane and Elizabeth Barron
Mark and Sugie Battin
Suzanne S. Blair
The Blue Ridge Garden Club, Inc.
Susan R. Bowen
Ken and Diana Brasfield
Stanley Bright
Robbie Brown
Madison and Katharine Brown
Mark and Dottie Bruns
Lissy Bryan
Sherry Buttrick and Forbes Rebak
Gary Lancaster and Crista Cabe
Jimmy and Debbie Callison
Brownie Carson and Dana Porter
Marsden and Bobbie Champaign
Wayne & Susie Chatfield-Taylor
Rick Chittum

Kim and Shay Clanton
Donald and Candida Clark
Phil Clayton
Ann Cline
Richard and Jan Coleman
Rick and Gloria Comstock
Eddie Bumbaugh and Jane Cox
Louis Dolive and Ruth Arnold
Ernie Echols
Bob Eggleston
Rick and Cheryl Fauerbach
Gregory Faust and Pauly Heinmiller
Walter Flora
Carolyn Ford
Fosnocht Family Fund
Christian and Julie Fox
Elizabeth Francis
Sarah Francisco
W. T. Francisco, Jr. and Susie Baker
Bill and Kathy Frazier
John and Genevieve Goss
Les and Joni Grady
Rebecca Haberman
Donna Haldane
Elliott and Terrell Harrigan
Carolyn and BJ Harvick
Matthew Hawthorn
Bill and Kathleen Heatwole
Holnback Howard Family Fund
Sara and Mark Hollberg
Donald and Diana Hopkins
Sally James
Scott Jost and Kathy Holm
Ken and Carol Kelly
Kenneth E. Redd Charitable Fund
Amanda Knestrick
Jim and Trish LaGrue
Carole Lewis Anderson

Mike and Nancy Liskey
Carolyn and Larry Long
Michael Anne Lynn
Nick and Linda MacNeil
Larry and Sally Mann
Ms. Sandra Vigilante Martis
Jerry and Lucile McCarthy
Joe and Liz McCue
Nancy McDaniel
Elizabeth McInnis
Edward T. McMahon
Gee and Mary Ellen McVey
Lucile Miller
John and Maggie Miller
Betty Mitchell
Jonathan Monroe and Andrea
Pesce
Urbie and Marilyn Nash
Angel and Beth Negron
George Neighbors
Sally Newkirk
William Noack
Paul and Marlene Otto
Donna Pangburn
David and Jordan Phemister
Jim and Carol Phemister
George and Frances Phillips
Ann Pontius and Mike Stahl
R. Gregory Porter
Bonnie and Fred Powell, Sr.
Gerald and Nancy Pyle
Dennis Quinn Jr.
Don and Judi Race
Betty Redmond
Enos Richardson
Tom and Cindy Roberts
Jeb Sanford
Bill Saxman
Russell Shay
Roller and Jerry Lynn Shipplett
Jamie and Alison Small
Alexia Smith
Jack and Susan Smith
Jeff and Beth Paradis Stern
Timothy and Ruth Stoltzfus Jost
Colin Thomas
Wayt and Mary Timberlake
Doris True
Judith R. Trumbo

E. Hawley Van Wyck
Wick and Betty Vellines
Bill Veno and Aubyn Barstrom
Ms. Marion Ward
Hugh and Connie Westfall
Bill and Lang Wilson
Kate and Jeb Wofford
Bill and Kim Woodwell

VALLEY EXPLORER

Hal and Peggy Aaslestad
John and Barbara Adamson
Judd and Dabney Bankert
John and Ginny Bauman
Nancy Bourne
Bill and Emily Branscome
Candace Brendler
Barbara Brothers
David Brotman
Greta Bucher
Erin Burch
Malcolm and Lynn Cameron
Bill and Rhonda Campbell
Matt and Linda Cauley
Louise Cissel and Betsy Eisner
Ralph and Judy Cohen
Mary Hill Cole
Brandon Collins and Judy
Mosedale
Joan Comanor
Jim and Lucinda Cooke
David and Anita Cooper
Philip Coulling and Sandra
Hayslette
George A. Coyner, II
Candace Crosby
Denis Finnegan
Starview Farms
Dana Flanders
Kate Gewehr
Thomas Gilmore
Warren D. Golightly
Rev. Barbro Hansson
Rich Harris and Karen Ford
Donald Hasfurther
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Angela Higgs
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Melinda Kendall
Tori Kennedy
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Kurt and Amparo Kunze
Bizzy Lane
Angela Lawrence
Gary and Ellen Lohr
Tim and Lynette
Douglas Marechal
Ann D. McMillan
Annabeth McNamara
Dave and Debbie Metz
Carol Morency
Ross and Muffie Newell
Bonnie J. Painter
Mike Pelton and Tamra Willis
Wayne and Ramona Pence
Dave and Sandra Peters
Bob Pingry
Brooke Plotnick
Marc Read
Amy Reichert
Grace A. Rice
Rodger and Susan Rinehart
Robert and Sharon Rohrback
Bob and Missy Ruth
Kenneth Rutherford
Marie Santiago
Al and Phyllis Saufley
Lynne Schaefer
Rik and Ruth Schwendeman
Eric and Elise Sheffield
R. Tucker Shields
Natasha Skelton
Teresa Thiele
Sheri Thorpe
Sharon-Ann Tolley
Bill Trenary
Melissa Trotta
Ms. Susannah Via
Rosemary Wallinger
Jason Williams
Chris Wise and Laura Neale
Denman and Ann Zirkle

EASEMENT DONOR


Anonymous
Linda and Martin Lightsey Fund
Charles Hise and Stacy Sexton
Charlie and Donna Patterson
Howard Armistead
Pat and Jayne Kearns
Robert Hupman

GRANTS

Alliance For The Shenandoah
Valley
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Department Of Conservation
and Recreation
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
Natural Bridge Soil and Water
Roanoke Cement

ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

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SKT Works LLC
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Timberlake, Smith, Thomas &
Moses, P.C.
Conservation Partners, LLC
J.F. Brown Real Estate Services
BotkinRose PLC
Big Fish Cider

A scenic view of the Shenandoah Valley, showing rolling green hills, a winding river, and a small town. In the foreground, a hiker with a large red and blue backpack is standing on a grassy slope, looking out over the valley. The sky is clear and blue.

Legacy Giving and the “Forever Protection” of the Shenandoah Valley

The signing of the final document for property ownership or a conservation easement is only the beginning of the journey for protected lands under the diligent care of the Valley Conservation Council. After the ink is dry the “Forever” work commences. Stewardship and monitoring are what we call “Forever” responsibilities, and as an accredited land trust, VCC’s mission is to protect land and ensure that the conservation and cultural values of each acre is maintained in perpetuity.

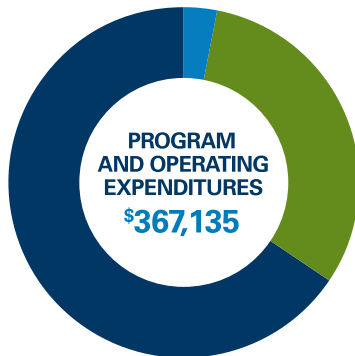
VCC raises money each year to secure easements on diverse properties from the north in Frederick County to the south in Botetourt, and everything between the Blue Ridge and the West Virginia line. We understand that with additional protected land comes increasing cumulative expenses for land protection and stewardship. The VCC staff has adopted new technologies to assist in annual monitoring and stewardship work but there will always be a need for our people to be in the field, on the land, and working hand-in-hand with our stewardship partners.

The community of stewardship in western Virginia is vibrant and strong, and for those of us that have a deep love and care for the timeless Shenandoah Valley, there is a way to help ensure “forever stewardship” of this incredible landscape. A planned gift, from your estate or your assets, provides VCC with impactful support and provides you with the knowledge and certainty that our precious and protected lands will receive enduring stewardship and care.

Please consider making a legacy gift to VCC. For more information about planned giving options, please contact us at 540.886.3541 or email Adam Schellhammer at info@valleyconservation.org.

Treasurer's Report:

Entering a New Era



Program and Operating Expenditures

- Fundraising **3%**
- Management and General **31%**
- Program **66%**



Sources of Organizational Support

- Individual Contributions **48%**
- Grants **23%**
- Events **2%**
- Stewardship Funds **17%**
- Investment **10%**



Forever Funds

- Stewardship Money Market **21%**
- Stewardship Investment Fund* **15%**
- Sweet Family Farm Endowment* **50%**

With so much growth in VCC's activities over the past few years, it can be easy to overlook the financial stability that makes this important work possible. The good news is that the growth in VCC's land conservation and community outreach work closely parallels the growth in VCC's finances!

Your support, along with the support of hundreds of other individuals, businesses, foundations, government grants, and partner nonprofits, has enabled VCC to build upon past successes and pave the path for future conservation. VCC's support has become more diversified in recent years, making our organization more resilient and able to weather the ups and downs of the economy. This increased stability allows our staff to spend less time on finances and fundraising, and more time doing the work we care about.

What does this mean for VCC? Your support enables us to provide new technologies, tools, and training to our staff. It enables us to reach out to more landowners and regional officials who share our values. Ultimately, it enables us to more effectively and efficiently work toward our vision of a region that continues to be defined by spectacular open spaces, verdant fields and pastures, pristine water, productive soils, abundant biodiversity, unique geology, and lush forests. Thank you for helping to make this vision a reality.

Scott Kelly
Treasurer

These figures are based on the end of year financial report from our contracted bookkeepers and are pending review by our tax accountants. Copies of VCC's official 2021 financial statements and IRS Form 990 will be available upon request once filed. For more information, please contact our office at 540.886.3541 or email admin@valleyconservation.org.

In 2021, VCC proudly used a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to pass \$25,000 of incentive payments to help make conservation more feasible.



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

A community of stewards

The Shenandoah Valley is a place of unique natural beauty and resources that underpin the strength within our communities. In an increasingly digital era where community bonds and relationships are lost or strained, the Shenandoah Valley remains tightly knit and exemplifies the importance of strong local connections. A thriving agricultural industry, a wealth of tourism opportunities, widely recognized institutions of higher education, and our fascinating history provide the backbone of these communities and the greater economy of the region. Within these communities we find the strength, will, and support needed to protect the natural and cultural resources of this very special place and advance VCC's stewardship efforts.

“The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Until we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.”

– THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Stewardship is an important concept. Some consider it mankind's responsibility as stewards to "tame" the wilderness, but true stewardship is not based on domination and subjugation, but rather is steeped in love and respect. It is the love and respect for our land, our waterways, and our communities that drives VCC to take great care in our work and helps us understand our obligation to the land. We are as intertwined and dependent on the fabric of the Valley's landscape as the black bear or the brook trout. Our communities cannot hope to survive and thrive as such without the grace and humility to accept the awesome responsibility of stewardship.

Luckily for the Valley, that love, respect, grace, and humility is present in abundance!

The Shenandoah Valley has a long and rich history of conservation and stewardship, with longstanding partnerships between non-profits, governmental organizations, and private citizens all rallying together to protect and steward lands across the region. Stewardship is a team endeavor, and we could not hope to deliver upon VCC's mission of land protection without the support and energy of the communities we serve. From the very inception of VCC in the early 90's, it was clear that community-driven stewardship was the best path forward. Residents who cared deeply for their land and the scenic beauty of their region organized to deliver on some of the earliest conservation easements in the Valley. It is because of that energy, passion, and dedication that VCC can remain a positive force for conservation across the Shenandoah.

The role of steward lies with all of us as we move ahead in protecting and shepherding our land to foster a bright and healthy future, and I know that the communities of the Valley are up for the task. Together we will continue to conserve and protect our local lands, our waters, and our biodiversity. And in so doing we will protect our communities and way of life that depend on the land.

Thank you all for your support and passion. The VCC Team is grateful, and we look forward to our collective work together as we steward and protect the Shenandoah Valley for the future enjoyment and benefit of all.

Valley Conservation Council is a nonprofit organization that preserves and protects the beloved natural resources of the greater Shenandoah Valley region so the land can continue to enrich the lives of its residents and visitors for generations, whether it be for hiking in its abundant forests, fishing in its picturesque rivers, farming in its productive soil or simply basking in the majesty of its spectacular open spaces.



PHYSICAL ADDRESS*
11 North Central Ave
Suites 19 and 20
Staunton, VA 24401

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 988
Staunton, VA 24402

540.886.3541
info@valleyconservation.org

Valley Conservation Council
 @valleyconservationcouncil
 valleyconservation.org

**Our office is located within the Staunton Innovation Hub.*

Staff

Adam Schellhammer	Executive Director
Taylor Evans	Director of Land Protection
Lily Bose	Land Protection Specialist
Genevieve Goss	Upper James Program Director
Babette Thorpe	Northern Valley Representative
Wren Frueh	Office Manager and Programming Coordinator

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Steuart Thomas, Chair
Katie Wallace, Vice Chair
Scott Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer
Eric Fitzgerald, Immediate Past Chair
Lisa Ann Hawkins
John Rice
Kirk Billingsley
Alex Moore
Sally Newkirk
Sally Parsons
Beth Leffel
Tom Lockhart
Abbie Cutter

VCC Board and Volunteer Committees

Executive Committee:

Steuart Thomas, Katie Wallace, John Rice, Scott Kelly

Finance Committee:

Scott Kelly, Steuart Thomas, Kirk Billingsley

Fundraising Committee:

Sally Newkirk, Faye Cooper, Katie Wallace, Steuart Thomas, Lisa Ann Hawkins

Outreach Committee:

Katie Wallace, Abbie Cutter, Alex Moore, Eric Fitzgerald, Beth Leffel, Sally Newkirk

Governance Committee:

John Rice, Lisa Ann Hawkins, Scott Kelly, Tom Lockhart, John Ross

Land Protection Committee:

Sally Parsons, John Rice, Mark Botkin, Kirk Billingsley, Faye Cooper, Tom Lockhart, Lisa Ann Hawkins

Education Committee:

Beth Leffel, Sally Parsons, Eric Fitzgerald, Abbie Cutter



The Shenandoah Valley is an area of great natural beauty, historical significance, and remains a region defined by a thriving agricultural community. Very few areas can still boast such characteristics. Valley Conservation Council remains dedicated to our core mission of engaging landowners and communities and conserving land throughout the Valley to ensure that this incredible landscape is protected for all future generations to enjoy. The VCC Board and Directors and Staff are working to preserve an additional 3,000 acres by the end of this calendar year, and our list of active projects continues to grow. We are only able to achieve these incredible outcomes with the abundant generosity and support from you, our amazing members. Together we will continue to build upon the past successes as we further expand our stewardship of precious open space in the Shenandoah Valley.

On behalf of the VCC Board of Directors and the Team, I want to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude!

— ADAM SCHELLHAMMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Care about conservation in the Shenandoah Valley?

**Join our membership to support us in our mission of protecting land and increasing resiliency across the Shenandoah Valley. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to make a gift to VCC today!
If you prefer to give online, visit our website.**

Want to know more?

**Email info@valleyconservation.org or
visit our website at www.valleyconservation.org**