



RCS Working Towards a Cleaner Rivanna

Working with rural landowners to encourage best management practices: i.e., establishing and preserving riparian forest buffers & fencing livestock out of streams.

Encouraging local & regional water supply planning & infrastructure to minimize disruptions of natural stream flows & associated environmental impacts.

Working with localities to develop & maintain ordinances requiring minimum development setbacks from streams & design standards minimizing water quality impacts from new developments.

Using educational and outreach programs in local schools across the region to develop & promote environmental awareness.



Our Mission



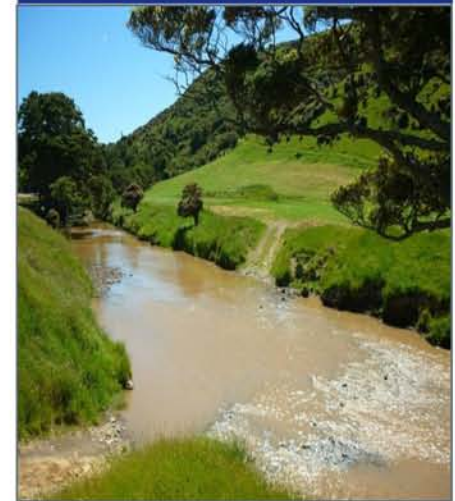
RCS works to bring communities together to create a healthier Rivanna through a variety of river-centered recreational and service work programs.

People tend to cherish the creatures, places, & things they know; we protect the things we care about.

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Threats to the Rivanna River Watershed



**RIVANNA
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**



The Rivanna River and its tributaries in Albemarle, Greene, and Fluvanna Counties and in the City of Charlottesville face a variety of threats and challenges from human activities in rural and urban areas. Protecting the public water supply delivered to local residents via the public utility networks is just one of the concerns for these counties.



Healthy streams are typically well buffered by hardy riparian forests and other vegetation that filters and absorbs pollution naturally.

Threats to the Rivanna

- Sedimentation, fertilizer runoff, and other non-point source pollution from a variety of sources degrades aquatic habitats and makes municipal water treatment more difficult and expensive.
- The increasing development in the area – i.e., construction of roads, parking lots, and other hardscapes – increases pollution and sediment runoff into the Rivanna during rains and reduces groundwater recharge.
- Certain tributary streams frequently exceed the "safe swimmable" standards for bacteria especially after rains.
- Land use impacts reduce biodiversity in many stream sections. Certain areas are defined as "impaired" based on low benthic macroinvertebrate biodiversity.
- Water quality problems in the Rivanna causes significant environmental challenges downstream through the James River to the Chesapeake Bay.

What YOU can do for YOUR Rivanna

Use water resources more wisely and efficiently, helping to minimize environmental costs on local streams.

Buy a rain barrel and build a rain garden. The barrel water is great for watering the garden, cleaning the car, or bathing your pup while the garden simply collects the excess rain water on your property.

Continue to educate yourself & others about the Rivanna River & the need for cleaner water.

Attend RCS sponsored events, like the 3rd Thursday Brown Bag or a Sojourn paddle down the Rivanna, helping to support RCS and build a stronger community that cares for the Rivanna.

Volunteer with RCS through volunteer cleanups & events, becoming a River Guardian, or even simply donating to help RCS continue working.