

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

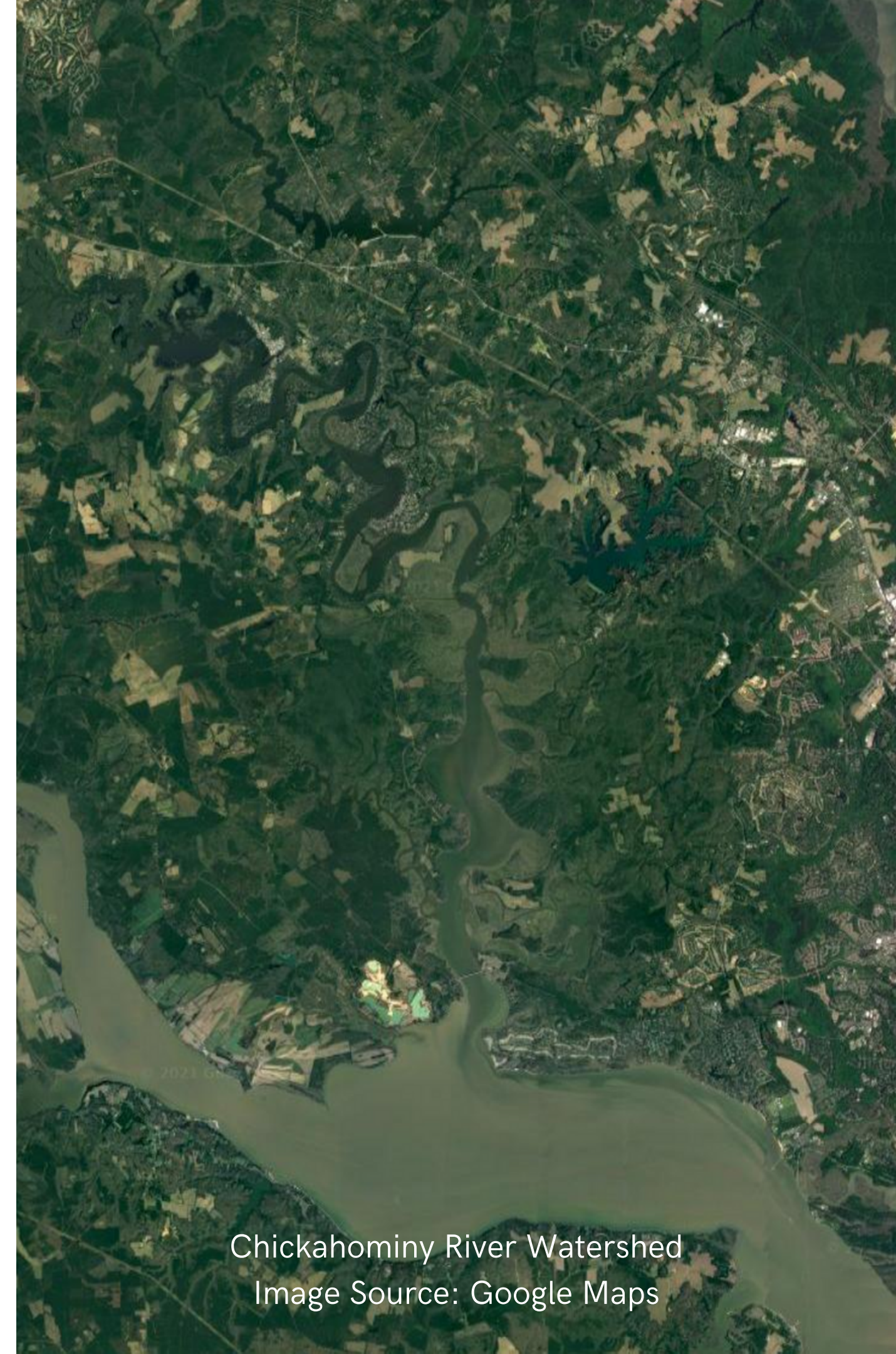
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
July 15, 2021

Benjamin McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner



This project, Task # 93.01 was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant FY19 #NA19NOS4190163 of the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic, and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Commerce, NOAA, or any of its subagencies.

Chickahominy River Watershed
Image Source: Google Maps





Lower Chickahominy Project Background

- 5-year project
- Funded by Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and managed by PlanRVA
- Focuses on Lower Chickahominy River watershed area of three counties: Charles City, James City, and New Kent
- Focused on developing new enforceable policies to promote natural resource conservation and economic development

Chickahominy Riverfront Park
Image Source: James City County

Lower Chickahominy Project Background

Year 1 Data Gathering and
Updating

Year 2 Economic Analysis

Year 3 Thought Leader Interviews
Focus Groups
Survey

Year 4 Local Government-Tribe
Workshop
Regional Summit
Ecotourism Infrastructure
Inventory

Year 5 Lower Chickahominy
Watershed Collaborative
Ecotourism Infrastructure
Plan

Partners and Stakeholders



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



DHR
Department of Historic Resources



INSTITUTE for
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together





Lower Chickahominy Ecological and Economic Value

The Lower Chickahominy River Watershed includes some of the most ecologically valuable land in Virginia's coastal zone.

Revenues from conservation easements exceed expenditures.

Organizations directly related to land conservation in the three-county study area add to the regional economy (figures are from 2018):

- 118 jobs
- \$2.5 million in salaries, wages, and benefits
- \$8.4 million in regional economic output

Coordination and Outreach

Outreach efforts included interviews with thought leaders, focus groups, a public survey, a workshop with local government and tribal staff and officials, and a regional summit.



INSTITUTE *for*
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together



Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

- Signatories are localities, tribes, and planning district commissions
- Supporting Cooperative Partners include state agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, etc.
- Collaborative will be managed by Steering Committee consisting of representatives from each signatory organization

Collaborative Principles

- Only by working together can we achieve the goals of enhanced natural resources conservation, environmental and cultural protection, and economic opportunities.
- The Lower Chickahominy Watershed is an area of critical and important natural and cultural resources.
- The signatories agree to support the conservation and protection priorities of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed and to build on the community engagement ideas and concepts.
- The local government and PDC signatories will seek to build equitable relationships with the Tribes of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed.
- The signatories and partners will work together to leverage funding from various sources to advance the Lower Chickahominy Watershed goals.

Collaborative Priorities

01 Improving physical recreational infrastructure

02 Supporting sustainable economic development

03 Enhancing river advocacy, education, and marketing

04 Promoting land conservation and landowner education

05 Ensuring protection of sites and traditions that are sacred and historic to the tribes

06 Increasing ecological restoration and stewardship

Collaborative Next Steps

- Signatory organizations are currently in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding
 - MOU will facilitate and encourage ongoing cooperation and collaboration between signatories and partners
 - James City County Board of Supervisors approved signing July 13, 2021
- In-person Steering Committee meeting and signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for September

Recommended Action

The HRPDC should take action to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding.

Brickyard Landing

Image Source: James City County

