

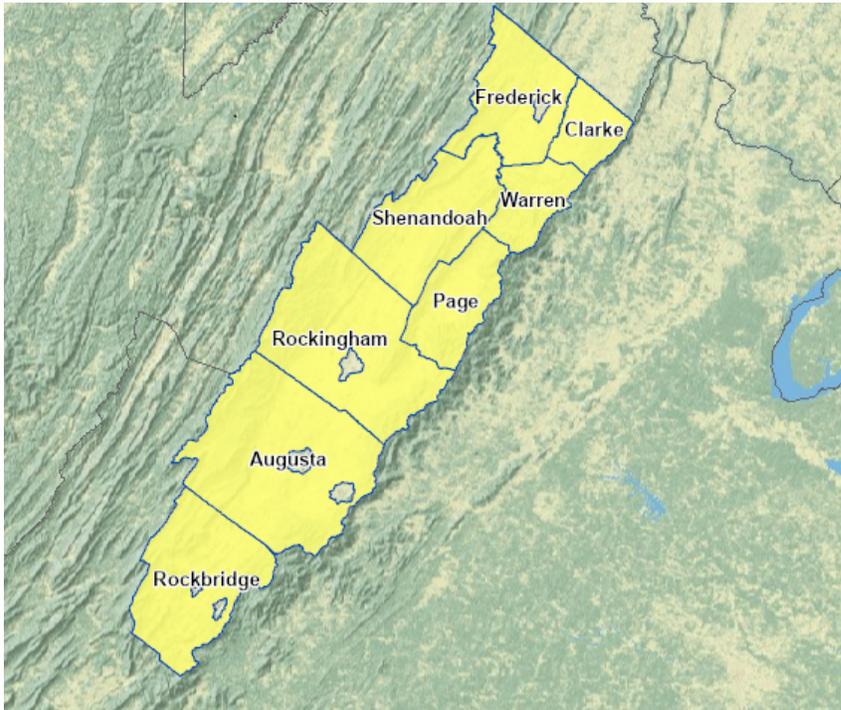
Mountains to Bay Buffer Program

Growing Forests for Clean Water

Through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Mountains to Bay Buffer Program works with landowners across the Shenandoah Valley to restore or create forest buffers to improve the quality of our local waterways. A forest buffer is an area of trees and shrubs between a stream and open land that filters soil, nutrients, and pollution before they reach the stream.

Eligible Virginia Counties

(Properties in surrounding counties may also be considered on a case by case basis)



What is provided to the participant?

Assistance in evaluating the site to determine the site preparation needs, the best method of establishing trees, and determining the buffer maintenance activities that are needed to insure a successful forested riparian buffer.

The program directly pays for all of the project costs including design, site preparation, materials, installation, and initial maintenance. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the landowner.

What is needed from the participant?

An interest in improving water quality and habitat on their land and for downstream neighbors

An area along a creek or river on their property where a forested buffer of 35' or more can be established. This can also include supplementing an existing buffer to increase the vegetated buffer width to 35' or more.

15 year agreement from landowner that they will maintain the buffer as forest

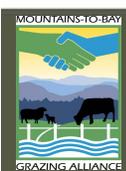
5 Steps to Get Started:

1. Please locate the property on the map above to **determine eligibility**.
2. **Contact your local VDOF forester.**
3. A staff member will contact you to set up a **site visit** to see the land, analyze the site, and discuss your priorities. A **forest buffer plan** will be developed that promotes the natural regeneration of trees combined with some supplemental planting of seedlings, if necessary. You will have the opportunity to review the plan before installation.
4. **Planting** is normally done during February-April and November-December. Some sites may need site preparation before planting can occur.
5. We will evaluate the buffer for several years and provide **maintenance recommendations**, as needed, to help establish a healthy streamside forest.

For more information contact:

North Shenandoah Valley - Matt Wolanski at 540-459-3151, matt.wolanski@dof.virginia.gov or
South Shenandoah Valley - Patti Nylander at 540-962-8172, patricia.nylander@dof.virginia.gov

To learn more about the M2B Alliance, visit the M2B Grazing Alliance website at m2Balliance.org.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

