

Mattaponi River—Gwathmey

King William County, Virginia



Gwathmey 3 years after restoration efforts in 2009.

Quick Facts

- Restored 70 acres of wetlands and preserved 67 acres of wetlands and upland buffer.
- Planted over 54,000 trees.
- Filled field ditches and constructed berm system.
- Created several seasonal ponds.

From Abandoned Field to Functioning Ecosystem

Gwathmey is a 200-acre tract of land which lies on the Middle Peninsula between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers in King William County, VA. This area is known as Virginia's "River Country" and the Middle Peninsula's economy, tourism, and recreational opportunities depend on this natural landscape.

Gwathmey was an abandoned agricultural field whose wetlands had been drained through the construction of field ditches. These ditches caused increased levels of erosion, which moves excess nutrients and sediment into the Chesapeake Bay. The Nature Conservancy purchased a conservation easement on this privately-owned property in 2004, and VARTF began restoration efforts in 2006.



Gwathmey before (left) and after (right) restoration efforts.





Gwathmey Service Area

The Gwathmey project is located within the York River watershed. The project generated nearly 80 non-tidal wetland credits, which are available to mitigate for impacts in all of the York River basin, as shown in the above map.



Project Status

Year 10 monitoring on the project took place in 2016. This project has improved wildlife habitat, water quality, and flood storage. These newly restored lands can once more contribute to the natural beauty and functioning of Virginia’s Middle Peninsula and will be protected by the conservation easement in perpetuity.

Trees were planted in 2007.