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 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.