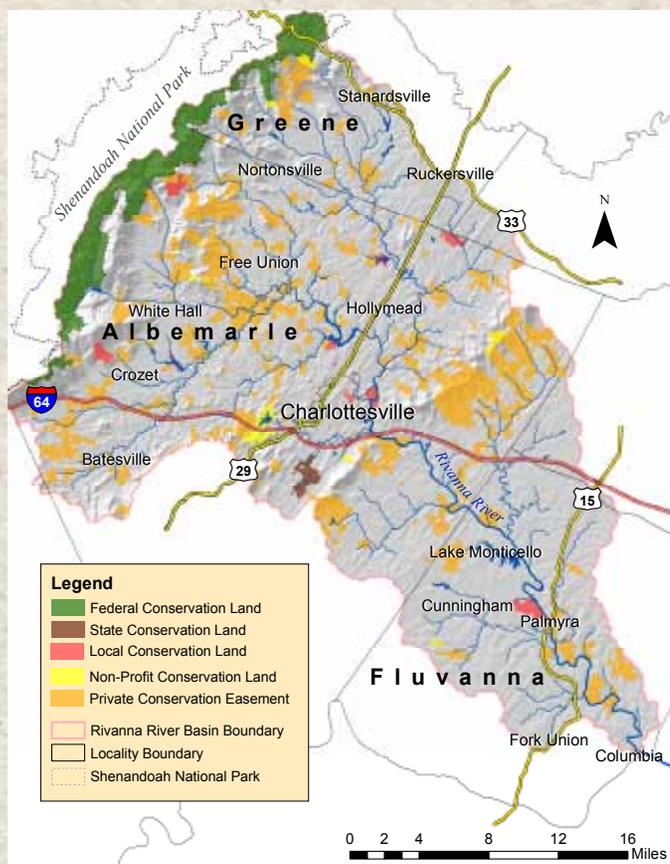
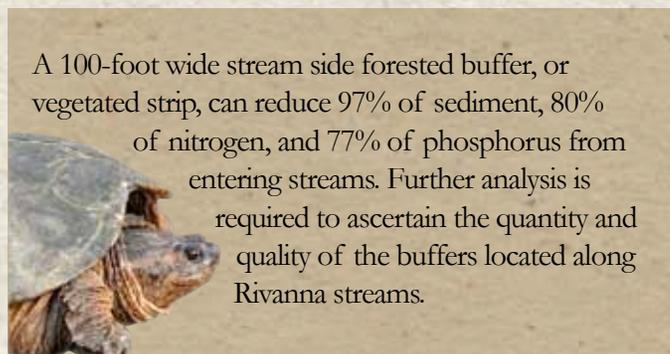


Protecting Our Watershed



Protected lands in headwaters and along the Rivanna River are especially important. Source/Protected land records (2012) from Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).



A 100-foot wide stream side forested buffer, or vegetated strip, can reduce 97% of sediment, 80% of nitrogen, and 77% of phosphorus from entering streams. Further analysis is required to ascertain the quantity and quality of the buffers located along Rivanna streams.

Water quality and natural resources can be conserved and protected in many ways.

Private landowners and a variety of agencies work to protect and conserve land in the Rivanna Watershed. Some land protection mechanisms are permanent, while others are temporary, or time-limited.

Conservation easements are a wonderful tool for protecting land. They allow a landowner to give up certain rights (such as the right to further develop the property), while retaining others (the right to engage in agriculture, harvest timber, and build a limited number of structures).

Rivanna Watershed Protection

95,000 acres (20%) of the Rivanna Watershed has some form of protection or is under a conservation easement.

A number of different entities manage or monitor these lands to assure the intended benefits are achieved.

Many individual landowners practice good forest and land stewardship that helps protect the Rivanna River and the Watershed.

From 2002 to 2012, the Thomas Jefferson and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Districts have worked with landowners in the Rivanna Watershed and

- Installed over 125 miles of stream fencing to keep livestock out of streams.
- Planted or protected an estimated 640 acres of stream side buffers on agricultural land.

Private landowners with horse and cattle operations, pastures and row crops, vineyards, and other agricultural activities have many tools for protecting soil and water. Many management practices are partially subsidized by state and federal cost-share programs.



Protecting large tracts of forests benefits water quality and helps maintain habitat for wildlife. Photo/Mary Porter



Stream exclusion fencing helps keep farm animals out of streams, thus reducing nutrient runoff, bank erosion, and excessive sedimentation. Photo/TJSWCD



Most easements include measures to protect water quality for the public benefit, such as stream buffers that keep livestock, soil, and nutrients out of the river. Photo/Mary Porter