



Goose Creek Association 2022 Mid-Year Report



SAVE the dates: February 11-14 for a free, online showing of “2040,” a delightful, family friendly documentary on what life can be like in 18 years, using existing technologies and ideas. This British film highlights a father’s hopes for his child in a positive, environmentally friendly world. Register here:

<https://2040goosecreekassociationltv.eventbrite.co.uk>

This is our Valentine to our wonderful supporters. ❤️

STRATEGIC VISION: In October, Goose Creek Association’s Board decided our strategic vision for the near future: to work intensely to restore the Goose Creek from its currently “impaired” status to a recreational level of quality. Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality has listed Goose Creek as impaired, i.e., not suitable for human recreation or consumption, for over twenty years.

Landowners can implement a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reverse this decline by self-regulating excess fertilizers, run-off, excluding cattle from the water and maintaining septic systems. There are numerous state and county programs to assist landowners with their BMP endeavors. GCA will increasingly educate and support landowners to plant trees, shrubs, and grasses in riparian buffers, fence cattle out of streams, add permeable rather than impermeable surfaces, reduce fertilizers, and repair septic systems throughout the watershed.

NEW INITIATIVES: To this end, GCA has launched four major initiatives by: (1) hiring as GCA’s *River Steward*, Matt Frost, to coordinate our programs and public outreach on BMPS and available resources; (2) adding a professional level of chemical stream monitoring with the assistance of the Friends of the Shenandoah River’s laboratory at Shenandoah University that will provide more precise indicators of stream health and stressors; (3) implementing a “real-time” on-line mapping program, “Goose Creek Watch,” with the assistance of The Downstream Project and other watershed partners, that will show the public the status of benthic and chemical monitoring sites throughout the Goose Creek watershed, and actively involve the public in sharing their photographs of the Goose Creek; and, (4) establishing a dedicated “*Goose Creek Watch and Restoration*” fund to support these programs and help landowners implement BMPs.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: In the fall of 2021, GCA teamed up with the Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) and the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) to expand our riparian buffer efforts in the Goose Creek. In November, we planted over 800 trees at Sky Meadows State Park, and in December, we helped organize a planting at the Smitten Farm in Marshall, VA to plant over 1,600 trees. We will continue to partner with both organizations in our joint effort to plant thousands of trees in the Goose Creek watershed in 2022.



We also enjoyed a canoe clean-up with many volunteers, including Foxcroft students, who gathered over 12 tires and several bags of litter on a float from St. Louis Road to the Goodstone Inn, welcoming us with a hearty lunch.



NEW EMPLOYEES: Welcome Goose Creek Association's two new and first employees: the marvelous Holly Geary, our *Executive Administrator*, who has demonstrated her loyalty to GCA's mission and expertise in keeping GCA organized over the past six years, and Matt Frost, GCA's first *River Steward*. Matt is a graduate of George Mason's Environmental Sustainability program with extensive experience throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the types of programs that are the focus of GCA's endeavors. Matt will organize volunteers

and work with partners to educate landowners to implement BMPs that will elevate the quality of the water in the Goose Creek watershed.



2022 BOARD: GCA has added several new board members in the past year: Sally Fletcher, Aline Day, Karl Kelley, Ted Lewis, and Ellen Oberwetter. We welcome their expertise, ideas and energy to our dynamic board!

50+ Years: Last fall, GCA celebrated its 50+ Anniversary of working to protect and preserve the environment and quality of life in the Goose Creek watershed. We gave our “Golden Goose” award to the Honorable Phyllis Randall, Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, for her vision and efforts to protect the environment.



2021 Golden Goose Award-Phyllis Randall

It is not an accident that this is a beautiful and desirable place to live. Review GCA’s timeline of activities here [GCA 50+ Year Anniversary Timeline – Goose Creek Association](#) and view our award winning documentary here <https://goosecreek.org/video/>. Your support makes it all happen so that we are continuing to move **FORWARD!** Thank you.