



Piedmont  
Environmental  
Council

2013

ANNUAL REPORT





BARRED OWL AT MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.  
Photo by Alison Sloop

## Dear Friends,

This past year, more than 11,500 acres were conserved in the Piedmont region—a number that represents more than 60 families making the decision to provide a substantial gift to the Commonwealth, each with an important story.

Telling the bigger story of the successful partnership between landowners, their communities and the Commonwealth around land conservation has never been more important. Last year, PEC and partners around the state, led by our Vice President for Conservation and Rural Programs Heather Richards, assembled 100 stories of land conservation from across Virginia, published as *For the Love of the Land*. We hope that you will help us continue to communicate those stories and bring us additional ones that could be included in the online version, [www.pecva.org/loveoftheland](http://www.pecva.org/loveoftheland).

As a holder of conservation easements, PEC makes a substantial commitment to steward the conservation values of the properties we protect in perpetuity. This role will become more and more important as we have transfers to next-generation landowners, who bring different experiences and new ideas to the community. Because our stewardship is integrated into our overall conservation program, with PEC staff in every county, we are prepared to fulfill this role now and in the future. As part of the community in Albemarle, we were confronted by the possibility of a golf course being constructed on land under a conservation easement donated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We also commented on proposals to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for conservation easements that would allow for oil and gas drilling, including horizontal wells using hydraulic fracturing.

We take these stewardship questions seriously and have prepared the organization for this role. This past year provided opportunities to participate in a national insurance pool known as Terra Firma as well as to secure funding for stewardship and our legal defense funds.

The year also brought into focus the threat to conservation resources from big infrastructure decisions, particularly proposed highways. In the debate over the Route 29 Charlottesville Bypass, PEC helped draw attention to the impacts on important African-American cultural and historic resources. Our insistence and focus on the need to pursue alternatives appear to have paid off. In early 2014, the Federal Highway Administration directed VDOT to reevaluate the need for the project and reopen the examination of alternatives. The Board of Supervisors of Albemarle has also withdrawn their support for the project, sending a strong signal to Richmond that the project is not wanted.

The push to build an Outer Beltway through Loudoun and Prince William has also slowed. In 2013, working with partner organizations and consultants, we put together a report that shows the Bi-County Parkway (an important piece of the Outer Beltway) would do little to ease congestion. The report listed the many alternative transportation projects that would actually improve transportation options for Northern Virginia residents and commuters.

On the local land use side, the Piedmont continues to face major threats to the vision of a rural landscape with growth

"Telling the bigger story of the successful partnership between landowners, their communities and the Commonwealth around land conservation has never been more important."

in designated service districts—a vision that is expressed in our counties' comprehensive plans. With a relatively strong economy and increasing diversity of population, more and more landowners are experimenting with new land uses and activities that hope to bring visitors and business to the area. PEC continues to argue for a balance between a legitimate interest in encouraging innovative investment with the conservation of the culture, history, nature, and beauty of the Piedmont region.

Despite the challenges, the region as a whole has retained the beauty and charm that long-time residents treasure. **We hope you value the role PEC plays in our communities and view your financial support as a meaningful contribution.** Please read more about current PEC programs in this Annual Report and our quarterly newsletter, the *Piedmont View*. Our website, [www.pecva.org](http://www.pecva.org), is another great source for current information about all our programs.

We thank you for your past support and wish you and your family a wonderful year.

*Sincerely,*



**Chris Miller**  
President



**Jean Perin**  
Co-Chair of the Board



**George L. Ohrstrom II**  
Co-Chair of the Board



CHAMAELIRIUM LUTEUM  
Photo by Bruce Jones

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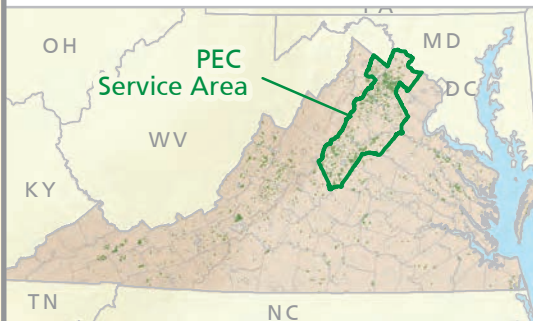


# The Piedmont Region

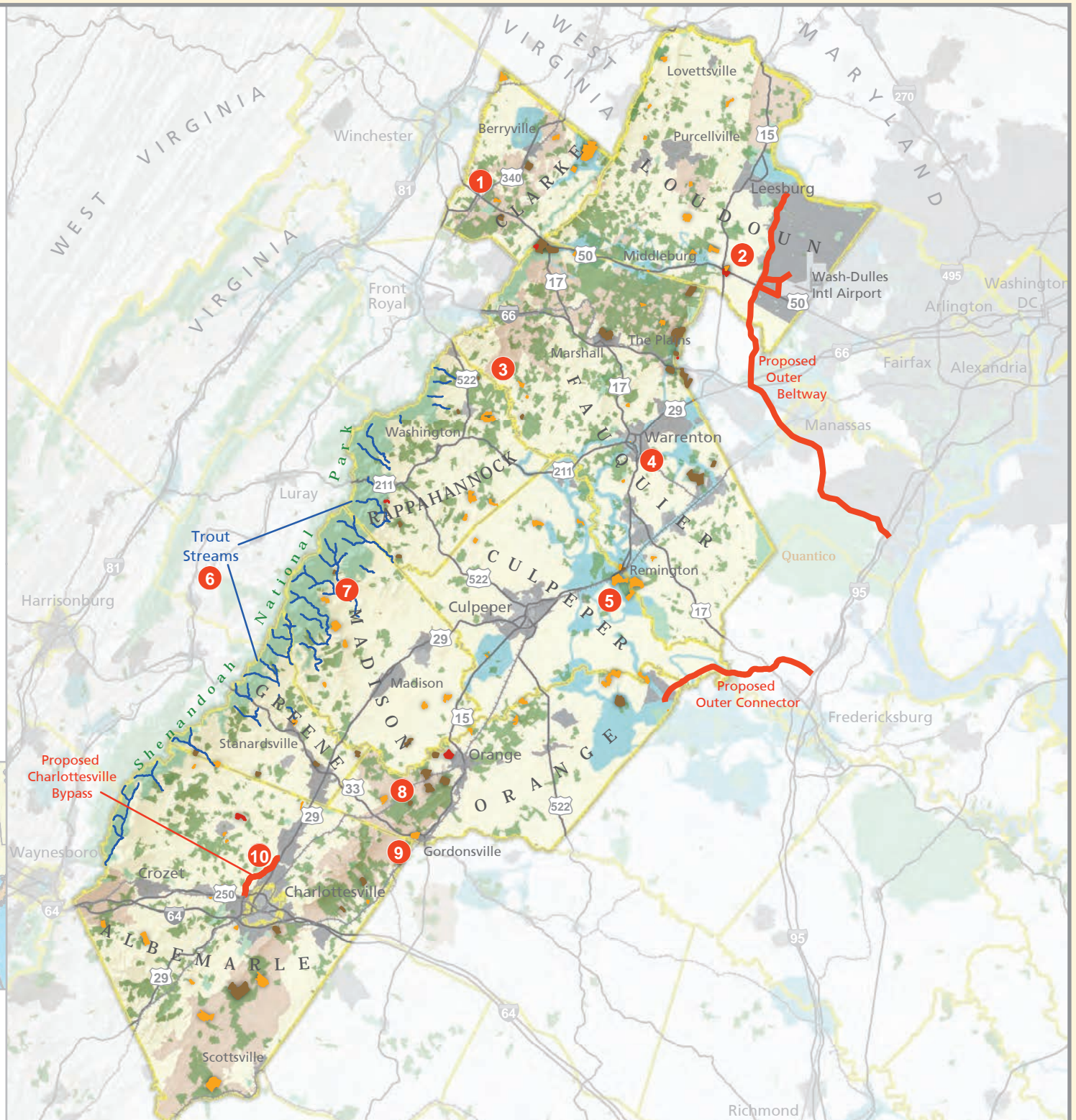
Selected Highlights  
from 2013

-  Proposed / Planned Road Projects
-  Easements Recorded in 2013
-  PEC Held Easements
-  PEC Owned Land
-  Conservation Easements
-  Publicly Owned Lands
-  Civil War Battlefields
-  Historic Districts
-  Planned for Growth

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Miles



Maps created by PEC for presentation purposes only.  
Data sources: County Governments, VDOT, VDCR,  
VDHR, VDGIF, and the American Battlefield Protection  
Program. Although efforts have been made to verify  
data, accuracy is not guaranteed.





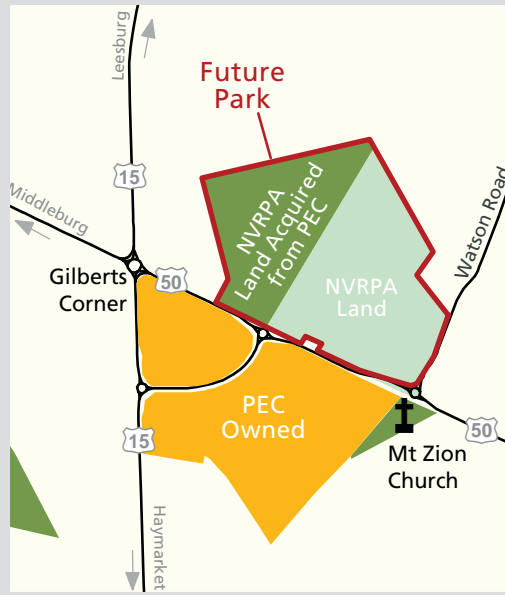
**1 Spout Run Water Quality Monitoring**

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**2 Gilbert's Corner—Preserving the Gateway to Rural Loudoun**

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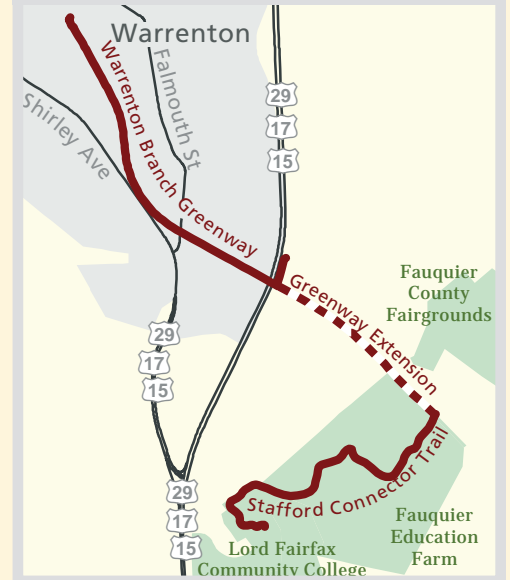
**3 Thumb Run Watershed Habitat Restoration**

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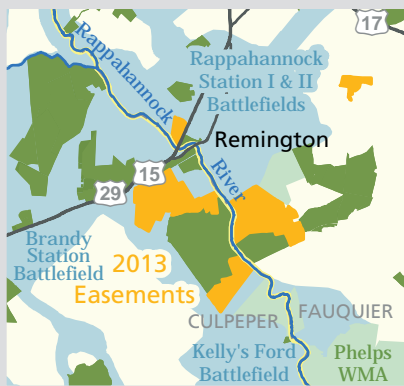
**4 Warrenton Branch Greenway Trail Extension**

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**5 Battlefield Protection Along the Rappahannock**

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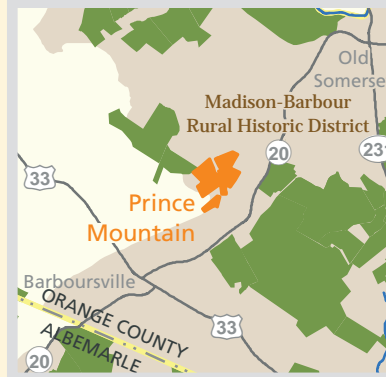


**6 Trout Streams Surveyed for Brook Trout Barriers**

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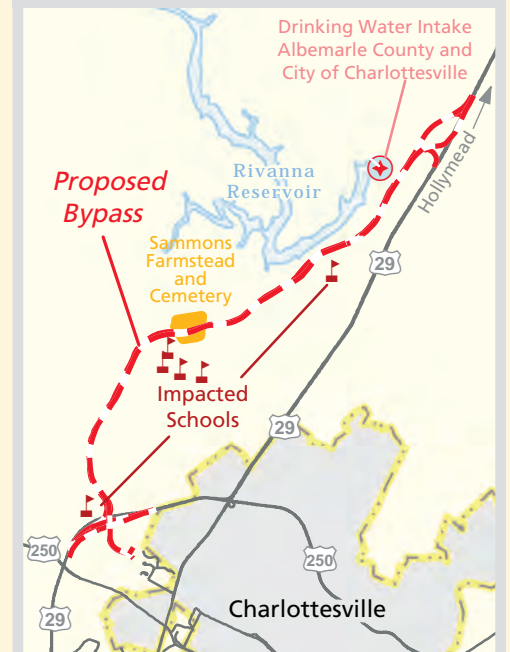


**8 Prince Mountain Conservation Easement**



**10 Proposed Route 29 Charlottesville Bypass**

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**9 Annadale Conservation Easement**

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# land conservation

VOLUNTARY ACTION • OUTSTANDING SUCCESS • SAVING PLACES PEOPLE LOVE

LOOKING WEST ALONG ROUTE 50 NEAR GILBERTS CORNER

*Photo Courtesy of Sterling Rung and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*



## The gateway to rural Loudoun

If you're driving west on Route 50 in Loudoun, you'll notice the suburban landscape change as you approach the intersection with Route 15 at Gilberts Corner. The pace slows down, and the history and beauty of the Piedmont become apparent. For two decades, PEC has been working with citizens, community groups and agencies to preserve this symbolic gateway to the rural Piedmont. Our efforts to preserve Gilberts Corner took a huge step forward during the past year.

In November, PEC completed the sale of a 68-acre property near the northeast corner of Gilberts to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

(NVRPA). This land will be incorporated into Gilbert's Corner Regional Park—creating a 155-acre conservation area along Route 50 where people will be able to explore trails that weave through the woods and open fields associated with the 1863 Battle of Aldie. NVRPA plans to open the park to the public in late 2014.

Just as PEC was completing the sale of that property to NVRPA, PEC took ownership of another 141 acre property at Gilberts Corner. This acquisition was the result of a very generous gift from Roundabout Partners, a group of local residents who purchased the property and then donated it to PEC. Containing

57 acres of the Battle of Aldie, this acquisition saves a key conservation priority identified at a community planning and visioning process spearheaded by PEC in 2012.

"What makes this area so unique is that I often hear from regular travelers along Route 50 that they breathe a sigh of relief when they see that scenic and historic landscape around Gilberts Corner open up before them," says Michael Kane, PEC's Land Conservation Officer for Loudoun County. "We want to conserve that landscape and preserve that experience."



### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ PEC published ***For the Love of the Land: 100 Conservation Stories from across Virginia*** (more on page 20).
- ▶ In 2013, **PEC accepted easements on five properties**. One of the easements will protect Red Cliff Farm, a 169-acre property in eastern Madison County owned by the Mahanes family for generations. Named after the distinctive red cliff outcropping on the property, this historic property contains an early African-American cemetery and is located along Great Run, a tributary of the Robinson River. PEC now holds a total of 51 easements, protecting 7,588 acres.
- ▶ In the spring, PEC received the **Governor's Environmental Excellence Award** for Land Conservation.
- ▶ Through the Piedmont Foundation, PEC manages **nine land conservation funds** focused on specific places within our region (see p. 22). In 2013, our Clarke County Land Conservation Fund helped to purchase an easement on the historic Chapman Farm along the Shenandoah River.
- ▶ PEC worked with The Nature Conservancy, the Civil War Trust, and Del. R. Lee Ware to write and introduce **a bill that increases funding** available for land conservation programs in Virginia.



CHRIS PARRISH, EASEMENT DONOR IN RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY.  
Photo by Don Loock

## 11,598 Acres Protected in 2013

County	Acres protected in 2013 by Conservation Easements	Total Acres protected by Conservation Easements
Albemarle	2,819	90,100
Clarke	1,733	23,250
Culpeper	1,144	16,000
Fauquier	1,143	97,748
Greene	213	10,380
Loudoun	1,096	52,075
Madison	1,169	14,362
Orange	1,454	34,075
Rappahannock	826	31,250
<b>PEC Region</b>	<b>11,598</b>	<b>369,240</b>





# clean air and water

SAFE DRINKING SOURCES • CLEAR VIEWS • GOOD HEALTH • PLACES TO SWIM AND FISH

BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY  
*Photo by David Ahhold*



## Landscaping to make a difference for the Bay and local water quality

PEC has long been active in efforts to restore the health of our rivers and streams, all of which flow into the Chesapeake Bay. In fast growing Loudoun, we've been increasingly working with Home Owners' Associations (HOAs) to help residents make the connections between everyday practices on their properties, local stream health and the water they drink. Since 2012, PEC has organized seven neighborhood workshops throughout the county that show residents how changes in the maintenance of their lawns and gardens can reduce water and fertilizer use and runoff.

PEC partnered with local Master Gardeners, John Magee of Magee Designs, Clean Water Fund, and Loudoun County's Stormwater Management Program to provide these workshops on beneficial practices including the why and how of stream-friendly landscaping. Use of native plants and trees are a key focus to draw interest and participation in the workshops. In post-workshop surveys, respondents indicated that they plan to change one or more of their landscaping practices. Now PEC is working with schools and HOAs to develop demonstration native habitat gardens in visible community spaces.



### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ PEC and our allies helped organize a broad statewide alliance to **maintain the Commonwealth's ban on uranium mining and milling**. We achieved a resounding victory when legislators withdrew bills to overturn the ban due to overwhelming opposition. Later in the year, Governor-elect McAuliffe stated unequivocal support for keeping the ban.
- ▶ A public education campaign organized by PEC helped lead to a **reexamination of a policy that would have allowed hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas** on private conservation land in Virginia. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a public agency that is the state's largest holder of conservation easements, decided to stop approving easements that permit oil and gas drilling until they've had time to review their policy.
- ▶ More than **40 miles of streams and rivers** were protected by conservation easements in 2013, bringing the total to approximately 1,524 miles. Over **200 acres of wetlands** were protected by conservation easements, bringing the total to approximately 9,000 acres.



- ▶ PEC is organizing and training a corps of "citizen scientists" to **monitor water quality in Spout Run in Clarke County**. PEC held three training sessions attended by 45 volunteers. Four volunteers have become certified monitors who are now qualified to be team leaders for the program.
- ▶ In September, more than 50 homeowners packed the Brookside Community Center for a **backyard landscaping workshop** near Warrenton sponsored by PEC.
- ▶ PEC teamed up with Trout Unlimited to launch a **comprehensive survey of stream barriers to brook trout passage** in the Rappahannock and James River Basin. (More on page 17.)
- ▶ PEC continued to organize and facilitate the **Clarke Conservation Fair** for 4th graders. PEC staffed two booths at this event to engage students in games that inform them about the impacts of soil erosion and potential mitigation measures.
- ▶ PEC continued its family and student-oriented educational events at the **12th Annual Family Stream Day** in Loudoun.
- ▶ PEC worked with representatives from other environmental groups, the renewable industry and utilities on the Small Solar Working Group to try to reach common ground on **legislation to advance clean power in Virginia**.
- ▶ PEC continued to serve on the PJM Public Interest and Environmental Organization Users' Group, **monitoring transmission and generation projects** in PJM's 13-state region.





# history and beauty

.....  
SENSE OF PLACE • SCENIC VIEWS • BATTLEFIELDS • HISTORIC DISTRICTS

VIEW OF THE BLUE RIDGE FROM JAMES MADISON'S MONTPELIER

*Photo by Teresa Cole*



## Reconnecting with the land

Annadale Farm has long marked the gateway from the town of Gordonsville into rural Orange County. Lying within the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District, the historic house and 244-acre property adjoins a block of more than 9,000 contiguous acres of protected land. A number of streams also flow through the property and join to form the South Anna River.

In 2013, Philip and Merrill Strange placed Annadale under easement, ensuring that the area will retain its scenic rural qualities. The Strange family had long been associated with the Annadale Farm, but Strange's aunt needed to scale down, and she decided to sell the property in 1996. Only a few years ago, Annadale was slated for a 291-unit subdivision. Then the economy weakened, and bank lenders foreclosed on the property. The Stranges

stepped up, purchasing Annadale in 2013 and working with PEC and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to conserve the historic farm.

Merrill Strange is a long-time member of PEC's Board of Directors, and she and Philip have embraced the opportunity to preserve Annadale and welcome the community. In September, they worked with PEC to host a farm-to-table dinner with local barbecue, bluegrass music, kids' games and exhibits by over a dozen local farmers.

"My father has vivid memories of planting all the cedar trees that line the drive into the farm as a boy," says Philip. "Reconnecting with this land has given me, Merrill and our children a fresh sense of life. We are thrilled to return to Orange County, a place that has largely retained its unique, rural character."



SACK RACES AT OUR 2013 "MEET THE FARMER" DINNER AT ANNADALE  
Photo by Carl Zitzmann

### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ In early March, PEC and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club hosted a free, public **"Mountain Heritage Day"** at the historic Edgar Meadows' Cabin in Syria. The open house event was a great success—with over 250 people stopping by throughout the day. The event highlighted what life was like in Madison County's mountain communities in the early 1900s. Those at the event could hike around the area, or just relax and enjoy the warm fire, good food, great local music and good company.
- ▶ Our **annual Photo Contest** provided a spotlight for stunning images from photographers across the region. More than 875 people voted for their favorite photographs.
- ▶ In partnership with community groups, historic preservation advocates, schools and others, PEC helped support a range of commemorative events marking the **150th Anniversary of Civil War battles** including the 1863 Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, and the Battle of Jack's Shop.
- ▶ More than **3,700 acres of Civil War battlefields** were protected last year, including three properties along the Shenandoah River that encompass land where the 1864 Battle of Cool Spring was fought; portions of the 1863 Battle of Aldie in Gilberts Corner; and six properties along the Rappahannock River encompassing the Battles of Rappahannock Station, Brandy Station, Kelly's Ford and Norman's Ford.
- ▶ The establishment of the new Little River Rural Historic District, between The Plains and Middleburg, strengthens efforts to preserve the rural character of this swath of northern Fauquier.
- ▶ More than 25,528 acres were added to **rural historic districts**, for a total of approximately 118,128 acres in our region.
- ▶ More than 4,000 acres of **land visible from the Appalachian Trail** were protected last year for a total of approximately 110,131 acres.





# better communities

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT · GREAT PLACES TO LIVE · MANAGING TRAFFIC AND TAXES

Photo by Katherine Vance





Photo courtesy of Fauquier County Parks & Recreation

## A trail network in Warrenton

The Warrenton Branch Greenway is a treasured community resource, and PEC has stepped up to help expand this historic rail-to-trail. Last year, after more than a decade of negotiations, Fauquier County obtained the right-of-way to add about a mile to the Greenway. This addition will connect downtown Warrenton to the Fauquier Education Farm, where it will meet the Stafford Trail to connect pedestrians and cyclists to Lord Fairfax Community College. This extension will create a single trail network over four miles long—from historic downtown Warrenton to Lord Fairfax Community College.

PEC has committed to raise \$30,000 in remaining funds needed to complete the trail over the next year. In August we kicked off a campaign to raise the funds, and we have received generous grants and donations from the Wise Foundation, Chipotle and individual donors. Fauquier's Department of Parks and Recreation and the Fauquier Trails Coalition have long been leading efforts to build this seamless trail network, and we've been happy to do our part to make it happen. We look forward to engaging our neighbors and building additional partnerships in order to raise the remaining funds needed.

### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ More than 150 people attended **PEC's fall meeting**, which featured a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hedrick Smith on the importance of civic activism and workshops on topics ranging from African-American history in Thoroughfare Gap to the use of fire as a habitat management tool.
- ▶ PEC **helped inform Orange County residents** about the update of the county's comprehensive plan. This often obscure process has enormous implications for communities, and Orange County's original update called for major development on agriculturally zoned land. PEC helped generate a strong turn-out at an October public hearing, where more than 60 residents spoke and the vast majority stressed the need to preserve the county's agricultural resources and limit growth areas. Despite this public outcry, the Orange County Board approved many of the harmful elements of the original plan. We will continue to work to ensure that the county manages growth to protect its rural and agricultural assets.
- ▶ PEC organized our second annual **School and Community Gardens** awards program, which honor gardens that celebrate the relationship between nature, food and community. \$500 awards were given to Hillside Hawks Vegetable Garden in Loudoun, Belle Meade School Garden in Rappahannock and the Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville. \$300 awards were given to the Earlysville Forest Community Garden, the Millwood Community Garden and 4H Fox's Garden.
- ▶ PEC's seventh Annual **Summer Fellowship program** hosted twelve college and graduate level students from around the country for a seven-week experiential education program. Students were immersed in the environmental issues facing the Piedmont and worked with PEC and partner staff to complete practicum projects such as trail maps and a land use curriculum.
- ▶ PEC was excited to receive a geographic information systems (**GIS**) **software and training** grant from Earth Sciences Research Institute (ESRI) this spring—valued at more than \$100,000. This grant provides a major upgrade to our current mapping system, and it will allow us to continue to innovate.
- ▶ The effort by Trump Virginia Acquisitions LLC to build a golf course on a conservation property in rural Albemarle met with vigorous opposition from numerous groups including PEC. PEC and several other organizations co-sponsored a film screening of **"You've Been Trumped"** that attracted more than 450 residents. We also helped educate policymakers and the public about the proposal's inconsistency with local land use and conservation plans.



Photo courtesy of 4H Fox's Garden



# sensible transportation

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY • LESS SPRAWL • MORE OPTIONS



DOWNTOWN TRANSIT STATION IN CHARLOTTESVILLE  
Photo by 2013 PEC Fellow Meredyth Sanders









# strong rural economies

THRIVING FARMS • LOCAL FOOD • INNOVATION • HEALTHY, WORKING LAND

*Photo by Patricia Temples*



## Buy Fresh Buy Local working groups—more than just talk

It's no secret that the local food movement has picked up momentum in Virginia's Piedmont. Yet, there are still a number of challenges that local food producers and distributors face as they try to create a sustainable local food economy. PEC decided to try something new—we hosted our first-ever work session for our *Buy Fresh Buy Local* chapters in Loudoun, the Northern Piedmont, and the Charlottesville area. The goal was to provide a space in which local food providers could bring up a topic of interest, meet others who are interested in a similar issue, and then take part in constructive conversations and strategic planning centered around a plan of action.

The nine action groups at the workshop each focused on a different topic, ranging from pasture management to social media marketing for farmers' markets. Each group then generated an action plan to guide their work together over the next twelve months. A group working on non-GMO and organic grains has developed a new bulk purchasing arrangement for non-GMO feed, while another group focused on consumer education held a seminar series hosted by Rebecca's Natural Foods in Charlottesville.



PEC'S *BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL* WORK SESSION HELPED LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO COME TOGETHER AND DISCUSS CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS.  
Photo by Katherine Vance

### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ PEC's "**Meet the Farmer**" Dinner Series celebrated and supported local farms throughout the Piedmont while increasing awareness about where and how local food is produced. The series kicked off in June with a dinner at Long Branch (Clarke), followed by a dinner at East Lynn Farm (Loudoun) featuring television chef Pati Jinich; a family-friendly BBQ at Moriah Farm (Fauquier) in August; and ended in early September with a beautiful dinner at the historic Annadale Farm (Orange). Proceeds from our event at Moriah Farm benefited the Fauquier Education Farm, which received more than \$6,500 to be used toward its efforts to grow healthy local food that it donates to Fauquier Food Bank.
- ▶ With support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PEC started a **pasture management demonstration project** on a local farm to show how livestock diversity coupled with mob grazing practices can improve pasture health.



the Charlottesville Area include nearly 600 listings where people can buy locally grown food—including markets, farms, orchards, wineries, restaurants and retailers.

- ▶ PEC hosted our sixth session of our **Exploring the Small Farm Dream** course. The intensive 4-week program helps aspiring farmers work through the steps needed to establish a successful farm-based business that matches their life goals, and decide whether farming is the right vocation for them.

- ▶ PEC's *Buy Fresh Buy Local* guides were mailed to every home in our region—about 260,000 homes altogether. Together, the guides for the Northern Piedmont, Loudoun County and

- ▶ PEC is working with agriculture leaders to design a sustainable model for a **Loudoun Incubator Farm** where aspiring farmers can start their own farm-based businesses and launch successful careers. The group has created a business plan and is actively seeking a 50-100 acre site for the Incubator Farm.



Photo by Katherine Vance





# habitat restoration

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS • BIODIVERSITY • POLLINATORS • NATIVE PLANTS



## Teaming up to save the “brookie”

PEC is working with Trout Unlimited to restore habitat for eastern brook trout—Virginia’s only native trout, and a key indicator species for stream health. Thanks to support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PEC and Trout Unlimited are working with landowners along the headwaters of the Rappahannock and James Rivers near the Blue Ridge Mountains to analyze and mitigate stream barriers. Many culverts in the area are poorly designed and can prevent trout from moving upstream to cooler waters. They are also much more prone to fail in heavy storms, leading to bridge collapse, flooding, and higher costs for post-storm recovery.

During the summer and fall of 2013, PEC staff got their

hands dirty and boots wet to measure more than 110 crossings. The data was incorporated in GIS maps to help PEC and Trout Unlimited identify priority culverts for replacement. We are now working with other agencies to develop detailed engineering plans and acquire the funds needed to improve key crossings.

At the same time, PEC has been working with landowners to plan riparian restoration efforts such as removing invasive plants and planting tree buffers, which will reduce runoff, increase native biodiversity, and help restore the stream banks to health. Working in tandem, all of these initiatives are moving in the right direction for eastern brook trout—and for the health of our ecosystem.



EASTERN BROOK TROUT  
Photo by Chris Anderson

### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ PEC published our inaugural **Go Native Go Local guide**, which lists regional businesses that promote our native biodiversity—including nurseries, seed companies, landscape architects, invasive species management companies, and groups that work to manage and restore native wildlife.



- ▶ PEC worked with landowners in the **Thumb Run watershed** in western Fauquier to identify and plan land management strategies to bring back native wildlife and restore the health of this impaired waterway. PEC organized a variety of events including 18 landowner site visits, two open houses, and two tours of model properties for native habitat management, reaching more than 150 local residents.
- ▶ PEC organized four spring landowner tours of Board of Directors member Bruce Jones’s nature preserve in Rappahannock to show landowners **best examples of habitat restoration**.
- ▶ In March, we held a very well attended Thumb Run **“Nest Structure and Live Raptor”** workshop to show landowners examples of bird boxes and the birds that use them.

- ▶ PEC continues to implement our plan for restoring native habitat at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook. PEC is stewarding this **50-acre scenic property near Paris, VA** with three main goals: to act as a memorial site for this region’s conservationists; to be a showcase and demonstration site for good habitat management practices; and to provide the public access to a spectacular overlook along the Appalachian Trail. In 2013 we held numerous public outreach events at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook:

- A Winter Walk with JMU students to explore how invasive Tree of Heaven can be used as wood material.
- A Langley Middle School Summer Camp on water quality monitoring and wildlife camera trapping
- A rehabilitated barred owl release and field day with the Masters of the Orange County Hunt Youth Beagle Club Owl in partnership with Blue Ridge Wildlife Center
- A Fall Natural and Human History hike to look at everything from Mosby’s Rangers to native meadow restoration from the Overlook.







# connecting people and nature

OUTREACH • PARKS AND TRAILS • OUTDOOR EVENTS • NATURE AT HOME



## Summer Safari

Partnerships are essential to every nonprofit's work, and PEC is no different. Over the years we have collaborated with dozens of organizations on specific campaigns and issues. Starting in 2011, we initiated a new collaborative effort that has become markedly successful in building support and awareness of conservation and habitat preservation: Our annual "Summer Safari," an educational and fundraising event co-sponsored by PEC, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

Hosted by the Smithsonian at its 3,100-acre facility in Front Royal, the event allows all three organizations to showcase our common objectives—whether it's protecting imperiled species, controlling invasive plants, or monitoring how small changes in the way we manage land can encourage a diversity of birds, pollinators and plants to thrive in our region.

Our third annual Summer Safari in June 2013 featured up-close views of clouded leopards, Brazilian Maned wolves, red pandas and other charismatic species - as well as presentations by scientists and conservation professionals from all three organizations. The night was topped off by a locally sourced dinner at spectacular Race Track Hill, where we honored Jocelyn Arundel Sladen for her life-long dedication to conservation, native plant restoration and mentorship to young people.

Our organizations' bonds go deeper than just this annual event. Year-round, we work together to help landowners incorporate biodiversity and native habitat into their land management plans, and on land conservation efforts. The Summer Safari celebrates the bonds that unite our work, and helps people realize that while conservation is a global issue, it starts locally.



Artwork by Ruth Anna Stolk

### 2013 Highlights

- ▶ **A donation by PEC of nine acres of land** is making new nature and recreation activities possible for students at Grymes Memorial School in Orange. PEC worked with the school to transfer the land, with scenic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, so that it may be used as playing fields and an outdoor classroom. PEC received the donation of the 268-acre Andrewsia property in 2009 and placed most of the property under easement in 2013.
- ▶ Every summer, PEC sponsors **Natural History Day Camps**—opening doors for children to explore the natural world.



2013 PEC FELLOW TERRY CHEN HELPS SET UP A WILDLIFE CAMERA TRAP. Photo by Bri West

- ▶ Under the leadership of PEC's Oya Simpson, the **EarthDay@Loudoun Family Festival** has become one of the largest Earth Day events in the region, attracting thousands of residents to the Broadlands community each April. For the 2013 event, more than 4,000 people flocked to Broadlands to enjoy hands-on educational activities, live music and family-friendly exhibits—everything from live raptors to the newest electric car.
- ▶ PEC is **working with parents and teachers** at Broadlands in Loudoun to create a native habitat garden.

- ▶ PEC's wildlife habitat program helps people to cultivate vibrant natural areas on their own land, and organizes numerous public education activities to help people act on their love of the land. (See p. 17)



PEC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT THE EARTHDAY@LOUDOUN FAMILY FESTIVAL. Photo by Bri West





BROOKVIEW FARM, GOOCHLAND COUNTY.  
Photo by Rose Jenkins

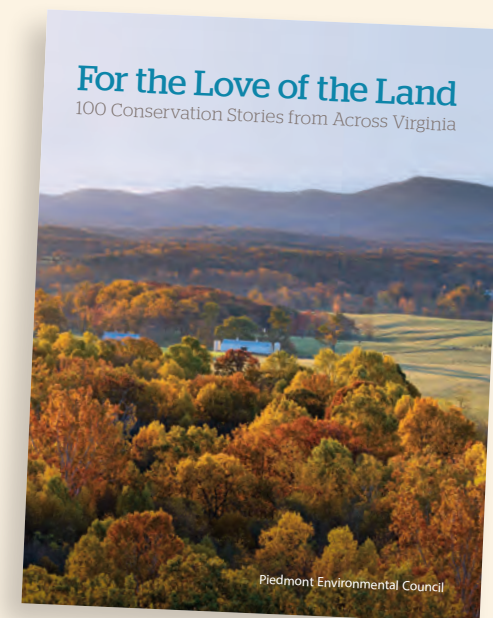
## For the Love of the Land

Land conservation is a Virginia tradition that goes back to the earliest days of the Commonwealth. Today, Virginians have protected more than 1 million acres of private land and 3.5 million acres of public land. The role of land conservation in protecting and enhancing our environment, communities and quality of life is so pervasive, we can easily take it for granted. PEC felt it was important to tell this story.

In December 2013, PEC published *For the Love of the Land: 100 Conservation Stories from Across Virginia*. *For the Love of the Land* highlights the immense scope and diversity of conserved lands throughout the Commonwealth and the value these projects provide for all Virginians—from productive farmland, to water quality, to urban green space. We also released a companion website, which indexes all of the projects by geography and topical areas.

This collaborative effort features one conservation project in each of the state's 100 legislative districts. From a 29-mile cave to a beachfront park, from the headquarters of the great chief Powhatan to Virginia's oldest plantation, from a working dairy farm to an urban bike trail, all of these lands offer significant benefits for Virginians. For every single project highlighted in the report, there is a story of leadership from landowners, farmers and community activists who worked hard to preserve and create these special places.

The places featured in the book are protected in a variety of ways, through donated easements, purchased easements, public acquisition of land and gifts of land to the public. And the projects are supported by a number of sources such as federal, state, local and private funding. Whatever the means, the stewards who conserved the land have done a service to all Virginians. They have



protected the essential resources we need for life—farmland to grow food, forests to provide wildlife habitat and wetlands to provide clean water.

Land conservation is an issue that brings Virginians together, from all political perspectives and all walks of life. At a time when many of the special places in Virginia could easily be lost, these stories remind us why land conservation is so important.



"I just thought that people didn't really appreciate a dairy farm's value to the food chain unless you put a brand name to it, so you can say, 'That's Moo Thru's milk and it came from the farm right up the road.'"

—KEN SMITH

## Cool Lawn Farm

Owned by Ken Smith • 469 protected acres  
House District 88 • Senate District 27  
Fauquier County

BEN AND KEN SMITH  
Photo by Rose Jenkins



SUSAN BAILEY  
Photo by Rose Jenkins

## Gregory's Pond

Owned by the Bailey family • 13 protected acres  
House District 27 • Senate District 11  
Chesterfield County

"My land has trees on it. They see nothing but trees, and now it can never be developed, and I'm tickled to death. Way back I was offered as much as a million dollars for this land, and I turned them down. I said I'd rather have the trees."

—SUSAN BAILEY

"You know Big Tom, he had a vision.' And you can drive anywhere and there may be a Walmart parking lot, but it won't be here."

—TOM BUCHANAN

## Valley View Farms

Owned by Tom Buchanan • 1,100 protected acres  
House District 6 • Senate District 38  
Smyth County

TOM BUCHANAN  
Photo by Rose Jenkins





# The Piedmont Foundation

Established to hold and manage special funds in support of PEC, the Piedmont Foundation assures PEC's capacity to respond to key opportunities and challenges as they arise and to fulfill our core mission over the long term. A separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization governed by a six-member board, the Foundation accepts gifts of cash, securities, property and appreciated assets. The Foundation also offers opportunities for tax advantaged planned gifts including trusts, bequests and life income plans.

Currently, the Piedmont Foundation manages funds in the following categories:

- ▶ **Core Mission Endowment**
- ▶ **Conservation Stewardship Fund**
- ▶ **Legal Defense Fund**
- ▶ **Education and Outreach Fund**
- ▶ **Headquarters Expansion Fund**
- ▶ **Land Conservation Fund**

Within this fund, the following Regional Land Conservation Funds have been established:

*Albemarle County Land Conservation Fund*  
*Bull Run Mountains Land Conservation Fund*  
*Clarke County Land Conservation Fund*  
*Culpeper County Land Conservation Fund*  
*James M. Rowley Goose Creek Land Conservation Fund*  
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Photo by Bette Hileman



# Contributions

**With much gratitude,** PEC presents the names of individuals, families, foundations, businesses and organizations that supported The Piedmont Environmental Council during 2013. Although we do not have the space to honor everyone, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of each of our members. We offer sincere thanks for your ongoing commitment to promoting and protecting the Piedmont region.

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\$10,000 +

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JIM AND SALLY MELLO OF OAK SHADE FARM, A BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL  
PARTICIPANT. Photo by Charlotte Rodina



Virginia's land is at the heart of what makes  
the Commonwealth and our Piedmont  
such a unique and wonderful place to live.

We'd like to offer **special thanks to the following  
contributors** for their donation of a conservation  
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**Our whole community wins**  
when thoughtful landowners protect their land  
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drinking water, scenic landscapes, recreational  
spaces, and productive agricultural lands.

Photo by Patricia Temples



The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), lost a dear friend and dedicated supporter in January 2013 when Cornelia “Neil” Keller passed away. Neil’s passion for protecting the Piedmont will live on through her legacy gift to PEC.

Legacy gifts are gifts made through a will or trust and allow PEC to preserve the natural resources, history, rural economy and beauty of the Virginia Piedmont for future generations.



For information on our legacy program please contact Trish Carter, Director of Development, at P.O. Box 460 Warrenton, VA 20188 (540) 316-9980 or [tcarter@pecva.org](mailto:tcarter@pecva.org)

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THE DURRER FAMILY OF CULPEPER COUNTY PUT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT  
 ON THEIR PROPERTY IN 2013. *Photo courtesy of the Durrer family.*







PEC BOARD MEMBER PEGGY RICHARDSON AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER HAZEL LINTON TAKE IN A TALK BY PULITZER PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST HEDRICK SMITH AT OUR FALL MEETING IN WARRENTON. *Photo by Oya Simpson*

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OUR LOUDOUN FIELD OFFICER, GEM BINGOL, SHARES INFORMATION ON LOCAL WATER ISSUES AT FAMILY STREAM DAY IN ASHBURN. *Photo by David Ward*





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OUR MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, KAREN HUNSBERGER-ADAM, TABLING AT THE 2013 EARTHDAY@LOUDOUN FAMILY FESTIVAL FOR WHICH PEC IS THE FISCAL AGENT. Photo by Bri West





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*This list includes Board members who served at any time between Jan 2013 and Jan 2014*

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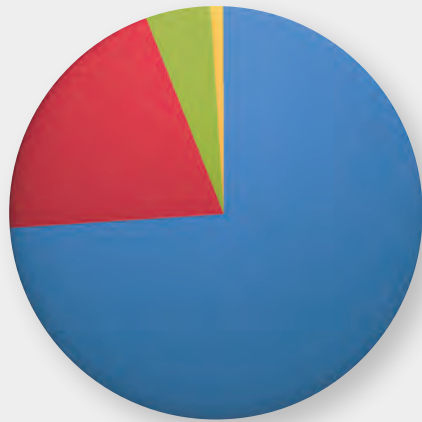


# 2013 Financial Report

2013 was a strong year for The Piedmont Environmental Council. We were able to sustain a high level of program success, as shown in this Annual Report, while also making needed investments to allow that success to continue going forward.

A brief overview of the sources of organizational support, revenue and our operating expenses is reflected in the tables and graphs below.

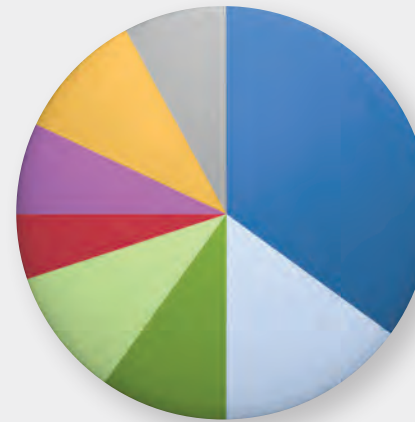
## Sources of Organizational Support



Donations and Grants	\$ 3,686,000	74%
Revenue from Sale of Assets	973,000	20%
Special Events, Net	224,000	5%
Investments, Other	67,000	1%
Total	\$ 4,950,000	100%

The figures above were derived from our audited financial statements and do not include the activities of partner organizations for whom we act as fiscal agent, including the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Shenandoah Valley Network, the EarthDay@Loudoun Family Festival and the Virginia Food System Council. Copies of our audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990, which include the activities of the aforementioned partner organizations, are available upon request. Copies of our most recent statements may also be found on PEC's website at [www.pecva.org/donate](http://www.pecva.org/donate). For more information, please contact PEC's accounting office at (540) 316-9974

## Program and Operating Expenditures



Conservation, Stewardship and Habitat	36%
County Issues and Planning	15%
Policy*	10%
Farms and Food	10%
Transportation and Growth Management	5%
Outreach and Education	8%
Development	9%
Administration	7%
Total	100%

\* Policy reflects regional and state-level work on policy related to energy, uranium, air quality, water quality, telecommunications, land conservation and land use.







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CHARLOTTESVILLE DOWNTOWN  
Photo by Patty Smith

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throughout our region at [www.pecva.org](http://www.pecva.org)



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