



Our stewardship model

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF
CARE AROUND THE RIVER

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River

Protecting and conserving the Appomattox River for the enjoyment of all.

Overview

FOLAR deploys best practices in conservation, volunteer coordination, and community organizing to provide volunteer programming that builds community capacity to care for the river, and which cultivates a shared culture of stewardship that can sustain itself over the long term and create lasting change for the river.

Program elements

Conserving the river

"Volunteer" conservation work does not have to be mean "amateur" conservation work. FOLAR plans stewardship programming based on a rigorous and ongoing assessment of the conservation needs along a 25 mile stretch of the river. We monitor invasive species and track progress using systematic GIS tagging and photo-logging of our work.

Engaging communities

Volunteer coordination is a professional field with research-backed standards and best practices. FOLAR strives for programs that are accessible, adaptable, scalable, and transformative for all who get involved. We create opportunities for multiple levels of skill and commitment, and track program participant data to ensure we're engaging all of our communities.

Fostering a culture of care



Shared ownership

Working with & alongside communities instead of on their behalf, & describing the trail as a shared resource, not FOLAR's.



Shared knowledge

Ensuring communities can access the information they need to participate on their own, not just with FOLAR staff.



Shared commitment

Vocally advocating for the river *and* our communities as a whole, making sure we're civically engaged & showing up when & where it matters most.

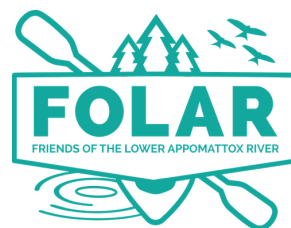
BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

In addition to FOLAR's work with volunteers, we provide training to our localities (three counties and three cities), government agencies, and nonprofit partners through our Invasive Plant Management Program. By serving as a central location for knowledge and training, we help the region align around best practices and take advantage of expertise across sectors and municipal lines.

FOLAR Volunteer Events

Schedule: January - June 2026

Scan the QR code or go to
folar-va.org/volunteer to sign up!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

When: Monday, January 19, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Appomattox River Center, 235 N Market St, Petersburg

Activities: Garden Path Project and Tool Upkeep (Indoor-Outdoor)

Stewardship Saturday

When: Saturday, February 21, 12:00 - 3:00pm

Where: University Boulevard Trailhead, 527 University Boulevard, Petersburg

Activities: Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Management (Outdoor)

Stewardship Saturday

When: Saturday, March 28, 11:00 - 1:00pm

Where: Appomattox River Regional Park, 800 Folar Trl N, North Prince George

Activities: Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Management (Outdoor)

Stewardship Saturday

When: Saturday, April 4, 12:00 - 3:00pm

Where: Appomattox River Overlook, 906 N 21st Ave, Hopewell

Activities: Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Management (Outdoor)

Spring Trail Counts, Part I

When: Thursday, May 7, 10:00am - 12:00pm & 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Where: Volunteers sign up for their preferred time/location

Activities: Trail counters track trail usage to contribute to annual data

Spring Trail Counts, Part II

When: Saturday, May 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm & 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Where: Volunteers sign up for their preferred time/location

Activities: Trail counters track trail usage to contribute to annual data

Stewardship Saturday with OCRCEG

When: Saturday, May 23, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: Rotary Park at Pocahontas Island, 149 Rolfe Street, Petersburg

Activities: Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Management (Outdoor)

Stewardship Saturday, National Trails Day

When: Saturday, June 6, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: University Boulevard Trailhead, 527 University Boulevard, Petersburg

Activities: Trash Pickup and Invasive Plant Management (Outdoor)