

The South River Current



Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship



Watershed Protection: Ask a sixth grader!

What do you remember from elementary school? You may recall your teachers' names, some classmates, a special field trip, or the smell of the cafeteria, but do you remember what you learned in science about watersheds? Today's Virginia fourth graders learn the definition of a watershed and how, as water runs over and through the watershed, materials (like pollutants) add to the water flow and impact organisms that can be a natural resource for humans. Students research Virginia minerals, ores, and rocks and study ways humans use the land. In sixth grade, students dive deeper. They discuss ways to maintain water quality within a watershed and how to forecast potential water-related issues that may become important in the future. Students design and defend a land-use model that minimizes negative impact; measure, record, and analyze a variety of water quality indicators and describe what these mean to the health of an ecosystem; and plan and conduct an investigation to determine the effects of human activities on local freshwater sources. So, next time you struggle to recall the dynamics of a changing environment or question the impact of a potential new land use on the watershed, perhaps you should find a seat next to a local sixth grader and pose your questions. You may enjoy a whole new perspective. ([Link](#) to Virginia Science Standards of Learning)



Did You Know?

- Share Only Rain Down the Drain, a two-minute video about the path of stormwater to the river and how you can make a difference in local water quality. (English and Spanish versions available.)
- Have you been to the new lunch spot in town? Delly Up supports the mission of the Watershed Coalition. Check out their menu here.
- Plans for the Waynesboro Campus of the Virginia Museum of Natural History are well underway. Keep up with the latest developments here or follow them on Facebook.



Connections: What lies beneath?

Soil, dirt, earth, mud—it's all the same, right? Wrong! Dirt is only a part of the rich nutrients found in soil, and the health of our soil is of utmost importance. That's why Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District created the Underground Classroom, a handicap-accessible mobile learning unit that explores what lies beneath your feet. In the 22-foot cargo trailer, kids and adults experience a hands-on, three-dimensional virtual experience of the underground world. Through activities and investigations that correlate to the Virginia Standards of Learning, students learn the important role soil health provides to crops and water quality. Students see that soil conservation is vital for the health of our ecosystems and watersheds. Additional learning stations are also available. These stations expand on the curriculum covered in the Underground Classroom, providing hands-on investigations and demonstrations. A list of additional lesson plans are available upon request. The Underground Classroom serves local schools and communities in Augusta County, Staunton, Waynesboro, and surrounding areas. Reservations are still open for 2023, so don't wait to get your student's class involved. An application and contract are available [here](#). It's time to get your hands dirty!



Take a Walk Back: Whispers of centuries past

1997 may seem like just yesterday to some, but it was actually 27 years ago. The Waynesboro Heritage Foundation was founded in 1997. The foundation offers a glimpse of local history for residents and visitors to enjoy in the Waynesboro Heritage Museum and Plumb House Museum. The displays filled with local artifacts and detailed descriptions date back as far as 1797. What happened in

Waynesboro during the Civil War? Where was Basic City located? What family businesses started in this town way back when? Where was the first national bank building? You will find answers to these questions and more as you explore the expansive timeline of events. Displays describe how education and industry developed through the years and the Postcard Gallery provides images of days past on these very same streets. You will enjoy meandering through the detailed exhibits and stopping in the gift shop to pick out a treasure of your own. Volunteer opportunities are available. To learn more, stop by the museum on the corner of W. Main St. and S. Wayne Ave. or click [here](#). The Waynesboro Heritage Museum welcomes visitors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For upcoming events go to the [South River Watershed Coalition Events Page](#).

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