

1

**Water is life.** For the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division (CIT-ED), our ancestral waterways are the lifeblood of our culture and traditions. CIT-ED water quality monitors collect data each month to understand the Chickahominy River and its tributaries, including Diascund Creek, Jones Run, and Toe Ink Swamp. By investing in water monitoring, citizens are reconnecting with our heritage and monitoring the health of the river for generations to come.

2

**We are guardians of the land.** In 2025, the CIT-ED community planted a food forest on tribal lands with fruit trees, berries, and medicinal and cultural plants. We worked side-by-side to grow food, build wildlife habitat, and share knowledge and stories across generations. Growing this food forest creates food access and is an act of service to the next seven generations of Tribal Citizens and our ancestral lands.

3

**We care for our environment.** Healthy waterways reflect how we care for the land. Everyday actions, like picking up trash and properly disposing of oils and chemicals, protect our waterways for future generations to fish, swim, and enjoy. We all have a role in being a good steward.

4

**We rely on our waters.** CIT-ED has a long tradition of subsistence fishing. Our elders recall times of abundant fish in the Chickahominy, enough to fill a boat! While pollution has impacted fish populations, net fishing remains a living connection to our tribal traditions. Today, our community members still fish for striped bass, herring, croaker, and perch, and set pots for crab and eel. Water quality data helps us understand how waterways are healthy enough to support the fish and shellfish we rely on.

5

**We are connected to our waters.** For generations, our Tribal Citizens have fished, boated on, gathered food and clay from, and hosted ceremonies on the Chickahominy River.

6

**We are one with water.** Water sustains us, our bodies, our food, and the land around us. By monitoring and caring for the Chickahominy River, CIT-ED continues a legacy of guardianship, keeping each other connected to water, culture, and place. Our goal is to train the next generation of Earth's guardians, who understand the importance of healthy waters and make decisions each day, to leave a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy the land and waters so important to CIT-ED.



# GUARDIANS OF THE CHICKAHOMINY RIVER



*You can take actions in your everyday life to protect the environment and help keep our rivers and streams healthy. To learn more about how to get involved in our efforts, visit <https://www.cied.org/> or scan the QR Code!*

Financial and technical assistance for this project was provided by National Park Service Chesapeake Gateways.

Chesapeake Gateways inspires and helps people discover, experience, and connect with the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers, landscapes, and communities across its watershed.



**CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS**



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