



STREAMSWEEPERS – RESTORING VIRGINIA'S RIVERS (KIRA LANDER, 2015 STAFF)

STREAM SWEEPERS

RIVER RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE JOB CORPS PROGRAM STAFFED BY VIRGINIA'S YOUNG ADULTS

2017

[StreamSweepers](#) has trained and employed dozens of Central Virginia's young men and women and transformed their perspective on what might be possible for them to achieve and how to impact their community.

"StreamSweepers helped me see my challenges as obstacles which can be overcome by way of innovative, cooperative man (woman) power, rather than progress-halting barriers."
- Kira Lander

Sweepers take to our rivers in canoes and complete ecological assessments using handheld GPS units. After the assessment is complete they get to the hard work of removing trash from our rivers – [25 tons](#) in four years! They've removed everything from small items like bottles and cans to larger items like tires, appliances, heating oil tanks and more.

Over the last four years we assessed and cleaned three rivers in their entirety: Rapidan, Robinson and Hughes. We began providing

maintenance cleaning last year on the Rapidan and Robinson to keep them free of harmful trash. These rivers are drinking water sources for many communities and currently there is no government program which addresses river cleaning.

In [2017](#), we will continue our work, by addressing the upper Rappahannock in three counties: Rappahannock, Fauquier and Culpeper. We will add volunteer stream cleanups to our program for the first time this year. It is our goal to broaden community awareness of the need for clean water and create partnerships to harness the power of volunteers. We will expand our service area to Southwest Virginia and the Clinch River, home to Virginia's newest designated State Park.

StreamSweepers is a program of the [Center for Natural Capital](#), a 501-c-3 charitable organization, in Orange, VA, that provides water, landscape and energy services to improve the health of people. StreamSweepers received a Commendation from Virginia's General Assembly in 2015.

FAST FACTS

- Dozens of young adults trained and employed
- Over 120 river miles cleaned and assessed
- Cleaned and assessed three rivers in Central Virginia in their entirety
- Award winning program operating in its fifth year
- Program keeps thousands of dollars in our local economy
- More than 25 tons of trash removed from Virginia's rivers
- Privately funded by landowners and river friends
- Creating a positive future through meaningful work
- 2014 American Canoe Association Program Award



StreamSweepers

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