



Shenandoah National Park has been a destination for generations. For two decades, generous donors have made it possible for the Shenandoah National Park Trust (SNPT) to help the park preserve and restore the historical and natural resources that make Shenandoah the stunning, peaceful place it is. For the next two decades and beyond, we hope to continue growing and adapting alongside our park, funding critical research and implementing meaningful projects, programs, and initiatives. We are grateful to our supporters, and we hope you will join us in this important work.

PILLAR I: EXPERIENCE SHENANDOAH

SNPT funds education and enrichment opportunities that encourage public engagement as well as initiatives that keep trails and other public spaces safe and accessible. This work allows visitors to build meaningful, personal connections with the park while preserving the landscape.

Goals

- Use technology and data to anticipate the current and future needs of visitors, and identify the resources needed to address these challenges.
- Maintain and improve the park's physical amenities, including trails, overlooks, and campgrounds.
- Help the park ensure visitors' safety and wellbeing.

Engaging Volunteers

🌲 Funding needed: \$75,000

Shenandoah's volunteer program is a powerful force that provides vital support and creates enthusiastic advocates for the park's mission. Each year, 700+ volunteers donate more than 42,000 hours of their time to the park – an effort worth an astonishing \$1.2 million in services and a priceless investment in building community connections. Volunteers perform a variety of critical services for the park. SNPT funding will help cover the cost of supplies, housing, uniforms, and vehicles, and the staff integral to coordinating this key program and volunteer events.

PROJECTS

Improving Trail Access

🌲 Funding needed: \$55,000

Trails are at the heart of Shenandoah's recreational visitor experience, but many were not built with today's weather and visitation in mind. Dark Hollow Falls, Cedar Run, and Limberlost trails represent the wide range of hiking opportunities in the park, and all have been worn down by erosion and heavy use. This project aims to repair sections of all three trails with long-lasting design and construction in addition to regular maintenance. Protecting these trails is vital to not only conserving the park's natural resources, but creating a safer, more accessible environment for both visitors and Search and Rescue squads.

Healing Experiences for Veterans

🌲 Funding needed: \$16,000

Rivers and streams in the park offer a unique opportunity for therapeutic outdoor recreation. This project will welcome veteran members of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to Shenandoah to heal through camaraderie, connectedness, and fly-fishing. These anglers will become advocates for park conservation efforts and host outreach events to help visitors engage with Shenandoah in a new and meaningful way.

Wilderness Patient Monitoring

🌲 Funding Needed: \$15,000

The park's Search and Rescue crews have a duty to provide for the health and safety of all visitors, park employees, partners, and volunteers. This project will fund the purchase of two small, lightweight vital signs monitors, which will allow a paramedic to continuously monitor a patient's vital signs in the backcountry where crews find critically ill and injured patients. The park does not have portable equipment, so this funding will fill that critical gap in visitor safety, potentially saving lives.

Artists-in-Residence

🌲 Funding Needed: \$25,000

The Artist-in-Residence program invites professional artists to interpret the park's iconic landscape through traditional and contemporary media. Artists have a long history with our national parks, contributing to the establishment of national parks by revealing these landscapes to the American public. This year, SNPT will fund five Artists-in-Residence and one Youth Artist-in-Residence, each of whom will spend three weeks immersed in the park. During their residency, artists will lead public programs and help park visitors reflect on their time in Shenandoah.

Views Forever

🌲 Funding Needed: \$150,000

Skyline Drive is an astounding hallmark of the National Park Service, boasting 75 overlooks with stunning views of the Shenandoah Valley to the west and the rolling Piedmont to the east. More than 70% of park visitors only experience Shenandoah from overlooks, but many vistas are overrun by years of vegetative growth, blocking the landscape from view. With \$10,000 of funding per overlook from SNPT, saw crews will maintain 15 overlooks, effectively reducing the maintenance cycle from 9 years to 5 years and ensuring everyone has access to the beauty of the region.

PILLAR 2: WILD SHENANDOAH

40% of Shenandoah is designated as wilderness, and tens of thousands of living creatures make their homes in the park, from black bears resting beneath rock overhangs to tiny aquatic insects darting through mountain streams cooled by towering hemlocks. To protect these flora and fauna, SNPT invests in proactive, research-based strategies that preserve and restore the park's natural resources, preserving ecological integrity and promoting climate resilience.

Goals

- Support park staff in adopting a culture of comprehensive, adaptive management.
- Explore and develop a conservation-based approach to boundary protection.
- Effect significant improvements in ecological integrity, connectivity, resilience, and sustainability.
- Educate park staff, partners, residents, and visitors about the changes taking place in Shenandoah so they can participate in stewardship efforts.

PROJECTS

Protecting Shenandoah's Forests

Forests cover 97% of Shenandoah National Park. They are the foundation of the park's ecosystem, and changes in the forest have far-reaching implications for the health and sustainability of plant species, the animals that depend on them, and our local communities. This multi-pronged initiative approaches forest health in three ways:

Preserving Diminished Trees

🌲 Funding Needed: \$50,000

Over the last 25 years, hemlock and ash populations have been devastated by invasive pests. This project, rooted in the latest research, focuses on protecting the remaining hemlock and ash trees through early interventions, biologic controls (predators that target the invasive pests), and insecticide treatments.

Free the Forest

🌲 Funding Needed: \$60,000

Invasive plants are one of the most significant threats the park faces today. An estimated 5,000 acres of Shenandoah's parkland is heavily infested with the invasive bittersweet vine. This pilot project will restore 100 acres of infested forest, removing bittersweet and planting native seedlings in "climate smart" reforestation efforts that will inform future large-scale efforts.

Discovering the Data

🌲 Funding Needed: \$10,000

Shenandoah has more than two decades of forest monitoring data but hasn't had the capacity to condense that information into a comprehensive report that would allow them to conduct a large-scale conservation effort. This project evaluates long-term trends in tree mortality and regeneration, helping park leadership make decisions to ensure the forest's survival.

Restoring Watersheds

🌲 Funding Needed: \$25,000

Preserving the park's natural resources depends on local solutions that counteract the effects of regional and global issues, such as acid deposition and climate change. The park is working to restore pH levels in Meadow Run through liming treatments with the goal of making the stream suitable for native species, including brook trout. SNPT is funding an assessment of the stream before and after re-liming to determine the effectiveness of the treatment and inform future watershed management decisions throughout Shenandoah.

Monitoring Streamflow

🌲 Funding Needed: \$40,000

The park has decades of streamflow statistics that are essential for interpreting water quality, understanding fish data, and making management decisions across four watersheds. This project will allow citizen scientists to use novel methods that leverage artificial intelligence to turn photographs from trail cameras into estimates and help determine whether these more cost-effective methods could be used as the primary way to monitor streamflow in the park.

Keeping Bears Wild

🌲 Funding Needed: \$280,000

Black bears are an icon of Shenandoah's wilderness. They also learn quickly where they can easily access food, and if that food comes from humans, they can become dangerous to visitors. The best way to keep bears wild is to protect them from human food sources via bear-proof food storage lockers. Right now, only 68% of campsites in the park are equipped with a locker. Through funding from SNPT, the park will install a locker at 100% of Shenandoah's campsites, keeping both bears and visitors safe.

PILLAR 3: STEWARDS OF SHENANDOAH

Shenandoah National Park is a living classroom with endless opportunities to learn about history, geology, ecology, and more. It's also a thriving workplace with opportunities to start careers in conservation. SNPT is proud to fund initiatives that educate and engage youth, ensuring that a younger, more diverse generation will become champions of this vast public resource. The future of Shenandoah depends on the next generation of stewards who will preserve and protect the park for years to come.

Goals

- Support life-long learning opportunities as the foundation for building stewardship of Shenandoah.
- Provide opportunities for youths from diverse backgrounds to experience the outdoors and be inspired by nature.
- Engage, educate, and employ the next generation of park stewards via media, volunteer and job opportunities, events, and community partnerships.

PROJECTS

The Power of Nature: Outdoor Engagement for Learning

Today's youths are tomorrow's stewards. This program provides educational, recreational, and service-learning experiences for over 10,000 youths and adults every year, both in-person and across the globe through virtual learning opportunities. There are three overlapping components to this program:

Engaging Youth

🌲 Funding Needed: \$40,000

SNPT funds summer and after-school engagement programs designed to introduce young people to the outdoors through educational and recreational experiences. Participating organizations, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, allow us to reach audiences who would not otherwise have the means to visit the park.

Educating Youth

🌲 Funding Needed: \$70,000

Curriculum-based programs that meet local, state, and national learning standards can support classroom instruction for kindergarten to adult learners. Trust-funded initiatives include in-park field trips, ranger-led programs in local classrooms, online learning programs, and professional development opportunities for educators.

Working with Youth

🌲 Funding Needed: \$40,000

SNPT funds extended, in-depth programs held over multiple days that provide recreational and educational experiences coupled with work projects that grow the park's capacity. Last year, groups cleaned picnic grounds, collected trash and debris, removed invasive species, and completed other similar service projects with the park's volunteer office.

The Shenandoah Youth Corps

🌲 Funding Needed: \$100,000

Getting out into the field with park staff is incredibly empowering for young people considering conservation-related career paths. The Shenandoah Youth Corps provides much-needed assistance with trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and the restoration of historic structures and park facilities. During their four weeks in the park, each crew meets with park staff for professional development workshops and educational programming, preparing them to navigate federal hiring systems and become capable stewards of our public lands.

Trailblazers

🌲 Funding Needed: \$50,000

Trailblazers: Charlottesville to Shenandoah began in 2024 as a collaboration between community partners designed to empower the next generation of outdoor leaders and champions for public lands – both in their hometown and beyond – through a summer workforce development program. Through this program, teens aged 16–18 spend five weeks working on local trails and one week in Shenandoah National Park with NPS trail crews. SNPT envisions growing *Trailblazers* by collaborating with community partners in more of the park's gateway communities.

PILLAR 4: STORIES OF SHENANDOAH

Shenandoah National Park provides a lens through which to view and understand Virginia's history and culture. The park has been home to Native Americans who came to the Blue Ridge Mountains every summer; communities of mountain folks who settled in the "hollers"; the Civilian Conservation Corps who built the original park infrastructure; and many others. SNPT strives to preserve and share the rich history of the land that encompasses Shenandoah National Park and the peoples whose voices must be heard and remembered.

Goals

- Honor and share the stories of the people of Shenandoah, including but not limited to: indigenous peoples and early settlers, both free and enslaved; the people displaced by the creation of the park; and those who worked to build, expand, and integrate the park into the landscape and community.
- Engage in interactive historic and cultural storytelling that connects visitors to park lands and the surrounding communities.
- Share the rich ecological history of Shenandoah.

PROJECTS

Native American History Fellow

🌲 **Funding Needed: \$70,000**

Long before the Blue Ridge Mountains became home to National Park Service sites, Native Americans stewarded and gathered on the land. Yet their stories are not currently told in park programming. This funding will enable the park to include their stories by establishing a fellowship for a doctoral candidate or post-doctoral historian who will study existing research, build relationships with and learn from local tribal leaders, and share the park's Native American history with the public.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Access to the Outdoors Fund

🌲 **Funding Needed: \$500,000**

National parks belong to all Americans, but not all Americans have access to them. SNPT is working to understand and remove barriers that have historically kept underrepresented communities from accessing Shenandoah while creating relevant programming to help build connections, skills, and confidence in the outdoors. This fund is championed by a \$150,000 gift from the Christopher Johnson McCandless Memorial Foundation. With your support, SNPT will work to ensure Shenandoah is truly a place of respite, learning, and recreation for all in perpetuity.

Good Neighbors Program

🌲 **Funding Needed: \$150,000**

Nature doesn't recognize borders. With a park as long and narrow as Shenandoah, bordered by hundreds of privately owned properties in eight counties, what affects one entity inevitably (and quickly) affects the rest. SNPT is using GIS mapping tools and conversations with conservation partners and neighbors to look at the region holistically from a large-landscape scale with Shenandoah at its core. The Good Neighbors Program's goal is to address the community's need for collaboration and shared knowledge concerning land stewardship and land conservation along the borders of Shenandoah National Park.

The Edge Fund

🌲 **Funding Needed: \$2,000,000**

SNPT works with private land holders to protect environmentally sensitive areas along Shenandoah's borders, preserving these lands to provide unimpaired habitats for myriad flora and fauna and promoting species resilience in the face of rising temperatures and encroachment. The Edge Fund allows SNPT to purchase land or receive land donations on behalf of the park. It also allows SNPT to reach and educate bordering landowners about land donation as an option for perpetual stewardship, cover costs of accepting donated land, and purchase property from willing sellers. To date, SNPT has donated more than 1,300 acres of land with a value of over \$3.5 million to protect the park's boundaries.

Kevin H. Adams Memorial Endowment

🌲 **Funding Needed: \$500,000**

Kevin H. Adams (1959–2023) was a beloved local landscape artist. He was an SNPT Artist-in-Residence in 2017 and continued to support the program as part of the Artist Selection Committee in following years. This endowment, created in his memory by his husband, Jay Ward Brown, will support SNPT's artistic programming, including the Artists-in-Residence as well as initiatives in and around Shenandoah that prioritize early-stage artists.

Thank you to our donors and partners for making our achievements possible!

Will you help us do even more for Shenandoah in 2025?

Scan the QR code or visit www.snptrust.org/donate to make a gift today.

