

A New Era for Indian Country in Virginia

*A Report on the Recent Achievements of
Six Federally Recognized Sovereign Tribal Nations*



Our six Tribal Nations headquartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia are pleased to publish this first report introducing ourselves to the general public, legislators and governmental leaders, the philanthropic community, and business, environmental, and cultural partners. It is our hope that this report will serve as an educational resource as well as inspire future partnership opportunities with state and local governments and for-profit and non-profit organizations on aligned priorities.

We have lived in what is now Virginia for 13,000 years. We have persevered through colonization and we have continued to foster vibrant tribal communities. Though we were some of the first peoples that colonists encountered and are some of the best documented Tribes by the early Europeans, our Tribal Nations are among the last to be recognized by the U.S. federal government. (As of January 2024, there are a total of 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States; our six Tribes are among the seven recognized since 2018.)

Since federal recognition, we have faced challenges and opportunities flowing from recognition as well as from the global pandemic. These two events accelerated both the needs and capacity for our tribal governments to serve our citizens and neighboring non-Native communities. Our Tribal Nations strategically deployed the unprecedented levels of federal funding made available to Indian Country during the pandemic to rapidly expand our governmental and programmatic capacities. Leveraging these resources, we have developed and expanded services, invested in long-term sustainability efforts, and strengthened our governmental and cultural sovereignty.

We are proud of and energized by the volume and quality of work that we have individually and collectively completed in just these few short years. This report provides a snapshot of our key accomplishments and demonstrates how both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States benefit from the presence and engagement of Tribal Nations.

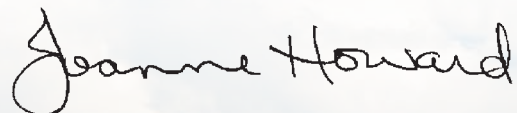
We thank you for your interest in our tribal communities, and we hope that this report will improve your understanding of our Nations. We welcome opportunities to collaborate on our shared priorities.



Stephen R. Adkins, Chief
Chickahominy Indian Tribe



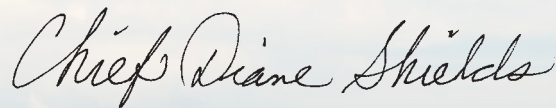
Keith F. Anderson, Chief
Nansemond Indian Nation



Joanne Howard, Chief
Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division



G. Anne Richardson, Chief
Rappahannock Tribe

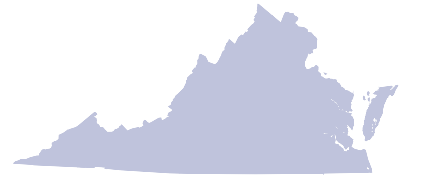


Diane Shields, Chief
Monacan Indian Nation



W. Frank Adams, Chief
Upper Mattaponi Tribe

Federally Recognized Tribal Nations Headquartered in Virginia:



A Brief Introduction

Native Americans have long played a central role in developing the United States' political landscape, agriculture, cuisine, geographic boundaries, military defense, and culture. Across the Commonwealth, rivers, highways, and towns called by Indian names bear witness to the presence of Virginia's tribes and their stewardship. Until recently, textbooks have mistakenly relegated Indigenous tribes to Virginia's colonial past when in fact Native peoples remain essential to the Commonwealth's present and future.

Today seven federally recognized tribes call Virginia home. They include the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, the Monacan Indian Nation, the Nansemond Indian Nation, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, and the Upper Mattaponi Tribe (collectively, the “Tribes”).

The Tribes in Virginia maintain distinct cultural identities and share their history and culture through cultural events, powwows, and church membership. Each Tribal Nation is also a sovereign government, acting on a variety of governance, business development, equity, and cultural and historic preservation issues. Elements from their original languages persist, and the Tribes maintain songs and dances. While the Tribal Nations maintain close relationships, they are individual communities that may have different perspectives on contemporary and historical issues.

Striving for Federal Recognition

Federal recognition acknowledges the inherent sovereignty of tribal governments. Tribal sovereignty means that tribal governments govern themselves according to their own traditions, laws, and leadership structures.

The Tribal Nations in Virginia were some of the first Native Americans to engage with English colonists when they first arrived in what is now the United States. Since then, the Tribes have fought to maintain their identities in the face of genocidal, racist, and assimilationist policies. The Racial Integrity Act, for example, erased the existence of Virginia Indians from the official state vital statistics records, limited their educational opportunities, tore families apart, suffocated cultural awareness of the tribes, and delayed federal acknowledgment.

The U.S. Constitution and federal law establish a trust relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations. Recognition provides tribes access to federal funding when a Tribal Nation seeks to serve its citizens directly. Tribes often choose to invest in development efforts that benefit both the tribe and nearby communities, like expanding internet service and establishing public health centers.

After decades of advocacy, the seven Tribal Nations headquartered in the Commonwealth secured federal recognition in 2016 (one tribe) and 2018 (six tribes).

The COVID-19 Pandemic

The challenges and opportunities flowing from federal recognition and from the global pandemic have accelerated both the needs and capacity for Tribal Nations in Virginia to serve their citizens and their broader non-Native communities.

The Tribes leveraged the unprecedented investment of funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act to rapidly expand their capacity to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID vaccinations, food supplies, emergency housing, and other services. They also invested in increasing their resilience against the threat of future pandemics by extending broadband services, expanding their offices, establishing health clinics, and improving clean water access. Most of these efforts also greatly benefit their neighbors in the regions where the Tribes are headquartered.

The Future of Tribal Nations in Virginia

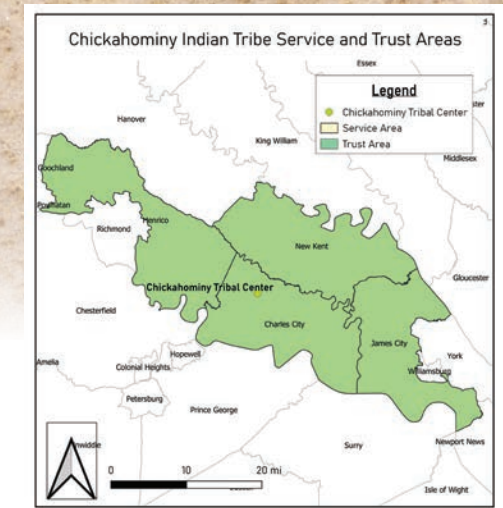
The Tribes remain in a critical period of realizing their right to self-determination. After 400 years of systematic cultural erasure, the Tribes are busy strengthening their governments, revitalizing their economies, and creating unprecedented opportunities for their citizens and neighbors.

Since federal recognition, the Tribes have worked to address gaps in their infrastructure, create child welfare programs, and adopt new legal codes. The Tribes have expanded citizenship rolls and hired employees to run new government departments.

As the Tribes look seven generations into the future, they are poised for great impact—politically, culturally, and economically. Their efforts will involve hiring and training staff, establishing judicial systems, liaising with state and local officials through diplomacy, conserving cultural heritage and land, and launching tribal businesses.

The programmatic goals of the Tribal Nations in Virginia are manifold, including creating affordable housing, developing sustainable tribal business ventures, providing childcare, educating tribal youth, and protecting and preserving cultural and natural resources, among many others. While the Tribes are distinct communities enjoying separate governments, cultural identities, programs, and economic goals, they often collaborate on shared initiatives, including those aimed at reacquiring land for conservation and heritage tourism. Exercising their increasing sovereignty, the Tribes are committed to combating climate change and focused on developing tribal businesses that employ Native as well as non-Native community members.

Chickahominy Indian Tribe



The **Chickahominy Indian Tribe** (CIT) is based in Providence Forge, just east of Richmond, Virginia.

The name Chickahominy refers to the “people of the coarse-pounded corn,” and the Tribe was well-known in the historical record for providing corn to the English and other Algonquian tribes. The Tribe was a signatory to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia Tribes and the King of England. Since European contact, the Chickahominy have only moved around 25-30 miles from their original ancestral lands. In 1920, the Chickahominy split into the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and the Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division (now known as the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division). The CIT established Samaria Indian Baptist Church in Charles City County in 1901, which remains an important tribal focal point. They continue to work on the historic and ecological preservation of the Chickahominy River.

More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian Tribes, including the Chickahominy, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

Currently, there are more than 1,000 enrolled tribal citizens, most of whom live near the Chickahominy Tribal Office and the CIT's historic Samaria Indian Baptist Church.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): Henrico, Charles City, New Kent, and James City Counties

Headquarters: 8200 Lott Cary Road, Providence Forge, VA 23140

Office Number: (804) 829-2027

CIT Elected Officials:

Stephen R. Adkins	Chief
Wayne B. Adkins	First Assistant Chief
Reginald C. Stewart	Second Assistant Chief
Vanessa Y. Adkins	Secretary, Tribal Council
Rhonda G. Canaday	Treasurer, Tribal Council
Adam L. Adkins	Tribal Councilor
Camille D. Adkins	Tribal Councilor
E. Preston Adkins	Tribal Councilor
Heath W. Adkins	Tribal Councilor
Troy L. Adkins	Tribal Councilor
Ross A. Stewart	Tribal Councilor
Donovan L. Wynn	Tribal Councilor

Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

1. Initiated planning for a Language Revitalization Program to strengthen the Chickahominy community and the greater Powhatan Algonquin community's connection to and through language by leveraging a Commonwealth History Fund grant from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.
2. Engaged Chickahominy citizens by providing GIS training and water quality and shoreline risk assessments to identify areas along the James and Chickahominy rivers most impacted by sea-level rise with the assistance of a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The project will facilitate development of a strategic plan to address coastal resilience adaptation goals and monitoring systems based on impacts identified.
3. Engaged in the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration established to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for

purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to federally recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

4. Strengthened partnerships with George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University, enabling college students to visit Chickahominy properties during the summer to perform environmental studies and related activities.

5. Hosted the Chickahominy Dancers for the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival in November 2023.

Land Back and Other Property Acquisitions

6. Acquired the Chickahominy on the Powhatan, a 105-acre property in Charles City, VA. This will be protected from development and will be a location for the Tribe to showcase its history, culture, and traditions.

7. Re-acquired the historic 800-acre Mamanahunt peninsula in 2022. Mamanahunt is believed to be one of the ancestral village sites of the Tribe.

8. Acquired property on Roxbury Road for administrative offices, an IHS clinic, and a future training facility.

9. Acquired a former dental clinic to provide services to citizens.

10. Acquired land from Samaria Baptist Church across from the Tribal Center to serve as the future center of the administrative complex.

Healthcare and Food Programs

11. Earned the ImmunizeVA award for Community Outreach and Education for achieving a 98% COVID-19 vaccination rate within a 4-county service area.

12. Distributed personal protective equipment

(PPE)/Protein to tribal citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Partnered with the Chickahominy Health District, Indian Health Service, and Walgreens to host COVID testing and vaccination events, as well as flu vaccination events.

13. Incorporated cultural practices into health and wellness activities by offering arts, traditional dance, and Indigenous food workshops to citizens. This was achieved by leveraging a Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country (TPWIC) grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

14. Received a grant from the First Nations Development Institute to support breastfeeding and first foods. Provided information on breastfeeding and maternal nutrition and assembled and distributed breastfeeding kits. Integrated Maternal and Childhood Nutritional Information into Food Garden development. Held food canning and distribution events to educate tribal citizens on baby food preparation and preservation.

15. Implemented diabetes-related education, prevention, and support using a Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) grant from Indian Health Services (IHS).

16. Entered into an agreement with IHS to construct a health clinic on tribal property that will serve all federally recognized tribal citizens in the Commonwealth.

17. Expanded capacity within the Tribe to use data to advance health equity by leveraging grants from the Jeffress Memorial Trust and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Tribe will test the water sources of homes in a four-mile radius of the Tribal Center for contamination by substances linked to cancers. The Tribe also partnered with VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center to study the well water of homes with a known cancer diagnosis within a four-mile radius

of the Tribal Center. The Tribe will develop culturally appropriate materials for the community related to cancer education and access to resources. Reports will also be provided to owners of properties included in the study.

18. Developed a community plan to address mental health and suicide within the tribal community after participating in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Intensive Cohort

19. Established a community garden with assistance from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) GAP grant.

Childcare and Education

20. Provided subsidies to eligible citizens to assist with childcare expenses with assistance from a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant.

21. Initiated the design phase for a childcare center that will serve Charles City County and surrounding communities.

22. Partnered with the University of Virginia to host a summer intern who began the creation of an educational history tool.

23. Formed the Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC), along with the six other federally recognized Tribes headquartered in Virginia. The mission is to build the leadership capacity of our Tribal Nations to support academic excellence, cultural awareness, and historical accuracy.

Housing and Elder Care

24. Provided eligible citizens with home weatherization, housing replacement, handicapped accessibility upgrades, down payment assistance, and other services with grant assistance from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG).

25. Provided congregate meals for tribal elders, weekly meal delivery, transportation to medical appointments, and in-home care aide services with assistance from an Older Americans Act Title VI grant.

Federal and State Advocacy

26. Secured a groundbreaking Executive Order by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requiring state agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes before granting permits for development projects that may impact tribal cultural, historic, or environmental interests.

27. Successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience

28. During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied to create a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations, amend the Virginia code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders, designate Department of Historic Resources Liaison and the Virginia Parks Cultural Resource Manager and Tribal Liaison positions, and establish the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.

29. Cohosted the first Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which honored 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.



30. During the 2024 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied for the passage of a bill affirming the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with federally recognized Tribal Nations before granting state permits for projects that may impact tribal cultural, historical, and environmental interests.

31. Secured an opinion by the Attorney General of Virginia instructing all state agencies and courts to honor the aims of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which prioritizes adoption placements of Indian children within Tribal Nations.

32. Built stronger relationships with Virginia's U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state officials, and agencies to ensure respect for the Tribe's ancestral lands and cultural values in their decision-making.

33. Introduced a bill to the Virginia legislature to give enrolled tribal citizens students living out-of-state in-state tuition at Virginia colleges.



34. Introduced a 2022 state budget amendment seeking \$35 million to enable the seven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to re-acquire ancestral lands.

Tribal Governance, Leadership, and Administration

35. Established administrative departments, including Leadership, Finance, Enrollment, Housing, Environmental, Health Services, Childcare, Elder Care, Program Management, and Compliance.

36. Addressed tribal citizens' needs related to COVID by organizing testing events, vaccine events, and distribution of personal protective equipment.

37. Launched the Chickahominy Indian Tribe Summer Culture Camp to provide a six-week experience for Tribal Youth K-12 to learn about indigenous foods, traditional gardening practices, and the rich culture and heritage of the tribal community through Native cooking, history, art, language, and dance classes, with the assistance of a grant from the Newman's Own Foundation.

38. Developed a tribal hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with support of a grant from United South and Eastern Tribes.

39. Launched planning for the development of a tribal administrative complex near the Tribal Center.

40. Entered into a 105(l) leasing agreement with the

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

41. Implemented new technologies to manage accounting, citizen enrollment, and grant applications and performance.

42. Developed a strategic plan, policies and procedures, and working groups to focus on key areas of interest/need with assistance from an Administration for Native Americans Social and Economic Development Strategies (ANA SEDS) grant.

43. Joined United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), a nonprofit, inter-tribal organization serving thirty-three federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.

44. Grew staff from six to over thirty.

45. Building high-speed internet infrastructure with support of a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant.

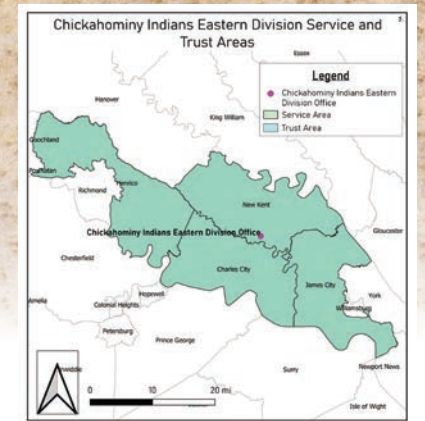
46. Covered the costs of citizens to install broadband.

47. Provided pandemic assistance funds to eligible citizens.

48. Drafted and revised tribal government policies and procedures to accommodate sovereignty, expanded capacity, and services.

49. Supported and participated in the annual Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference.

Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division



The **Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division (CIT-ED)** is based five miles east of Providence Forge, in New Kent County.

The name Chickahominy refers to the “people of the coarse-pounded corn,” and the Tribe was well-known in the historical record for providing corn to the English and other Algonquian tribes. The Chickahominy Tribe was a signatory to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia Tribes and the King of England. The Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division split from the other Chickahominy Tribe in 1920 due to distance and in order to establish a separate school. In 1922, the Tribe established the Tsena Commocko Baptist Church as their religious center.

More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian Tribes, including the Chickahominy Eastern Division, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

The Tribe currently consists of more than 260 enrolled citizens. The CIT-ED owns the land where its Tribal Center, Tribal Office, and historic church are located. The Tribal Center contains an Indian Health Service office for healthcare services.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): Henrico, Charles City, New Kent, and James City Counties

Headquarters: 2895 Mt. Pleasant Road, Providence Forge, VA 23140

Office Number: (804) 966-7815

CIT-ED Elected Officials:

Joanne Howard	Chief
Matt Adkins	Assistant Chief
Joseph Howard	Acting Chair, Tribal Council
Michael Tupponce	Acting Vice Chair, Tribal Council
Patricia Gutierrez	Acting Secretary, Tribal Council
Norma Kingery	Judicial Tribal Councilor

Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

Childcare and Education

1. Provided virtual learning opportunities to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing students to continue to learn in a safe environment.
2. Launched a youth summer program that provided cultural education and exposure to traditional practices.
3. Established a childcare program called “Little Arrows” for children ages 0-5. Hired certified childcare staff to fundraise for the center and ensure compliance standards and partnership requirements are met.



4. Expanded childcare services by offering before and after-school care for K-5 students.
5. Partnered with the Chickahominy Indian Tribe to become a childcare subsidy.
6. Designed a new childcare, cultural, and administrative facility which opened February 2023.
7. Designed and constructed a Shop/Technical facility completed in February 2023, which will offer life skills training, support ongoing programs, and house tribal vehicles and equipment.

8. Provided Tuition Assistance to students seeking to expand their knowledge through community, four-year college, and trade programs.

9. Constructed a playground for children at the Tribal Center and established a school supply program for students.

10. Provided learning kits through Lakeshore Learning to tribal youth from newborn through sixth grade.

Food and Healthcare Programs

11. Established and funded a Food Pantry, organizing numerous pantry days and updating supplies for those who need assistance.

12. Launched a hot meal program for elders, serving 255 meals to date.

13. Developed a community garden and compost program with the assistance of a Sustainable Materials Management grant.



14. Created a transportation program to support and meet tribal citizens' medical and disability needs.

15. Initiated air quality improvements efforts by providing air purifiers for tribal citizens with the assistance of a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant.

16. Supported health and well-being initiatives for the elders through the support of a TECHPHI grant.

17. Acquired a former dental clinic with the Chickahominy Indian Tribe to provide health services to both Tribal Nations.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

18. Provided direct funding support to tribal citizens during the pandemic.

19. Distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) and organized vaccinations for citizens to combat COVID-19.

20. Applied for and received Treasury assistance through the CARES and ARP Acts. Utilized these funds to assist tribal citizens throughout the pandemic and recovery of the Tribe thereafter.

21. Provided virtual options for citizens to attend Tribal Meetings throughout the pandemic.

22. Organized socially distant movie nights to engage and support community amongst tribal citizens during the pandemic shutdown.

Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

23. Developed a consultation policy, setting the terms by which the Tribe expects to be consulted by federal and state agencies and developers.

24. Developed a citizen science water quality program and became the first Tribe in Virginia to establish a water monitoring program. Collected data will be used by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to determine the health of the Chickahominy River Watershed.

25. Established an oyster garden in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Mature oysters will be added to the Chesapeake Bay to improve water quality and reestablish the oyster population.

26. Developed a partnership with the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP) to support coordination between natural resource agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and regional organizations in planning for long-term ecologically sustainable development.

27. Coordinated shoreline cleanups, environmental education programs, healthy homes assessments, and volunteer workdays for tribal citizens.

28. Participated in regular evaluations of local water discharge points/permits, hazardous waste sites, superfund and brownfield sites, and toxic air release inventories.



29. Developed cultural programs to revitalize Native traditions for the Tribe, including daytime activities for elders and evening programs for working adults.

30. Engaged in the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration established to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to federally recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

31. Established the Tribal Environmental Department to increase the Tribe's capacity for engagement with environmental issues.

32. Engaged in cultural practices and historical documentation efforts by leveraging a SHARP grant.

33. Established a language preservation program to reinvigorate the language of the Tribe's ancestors for the benefit of future generations with the assistance of an ANA Language grant.

34. Partnered with other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to pursue a Department of Commerce grant to develop tribal heritage and eco-tourism opportunities.

35. Organized an annual inter-tribal Earth Day event for local tribal communities.

Tribal Rental and Housing Programs

36. Improved housing stability for tribal citizens by providing emergency rental and mortgage assistance to citizens within the Tribe's Service Area.

37. Expanded the tribal housing program to provide additional services and support to tribal citizens with the assistance of a Housing Improvement Program grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

38. Provided free well and septic services for citizens by leveraging resources from the Indian Health Service (IHS).

39. Acquired a residence for temporary and emergency housing for tribal citizens.

40. Acquired a camper for temporary and emergency housing for tribal citizens.

Federal and State Advocacy

41. Secured a groundbreaking Executive Order by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requiring state agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes before granting permits for development projects that may impact tribal cultural, historic, or environmental interests.

42. Successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience.

43. During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied to create a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations, amend the Virginia code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders, designate Department of Historic Resources Liaison and the Virginia Parks Cultural Resource Manager and Tribal Liaison positions, and establish the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.

44. Cohosted the first Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which honored 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.

45. During the 2024 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied for the passage of a bill affirming the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with federally recognized Tribal Nations before granting state permits for projects that may impact tribal cultural, historical, and environmental interests.

46. Secured an opinion by the Attorney General of Virginia instructing all state agencies and courts to honor the aims of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which

prioritizes adoption placements of Indian children within Tribal Nations.

47. Built stronger relationships with Virginia's U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state officials, and agencies to ensure respect for the Tribe's ancestral lands and cultural values in their decision-making.

48. Introduced a bill to the Virginia legislature to give enrolled tribal citizen students living out-of-state in-state tuition at Virginia colleges.

49. Introduced a 2022 state budget amendment seeking \$35 million to enable the seven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to re-acquire ancestral lands.

Partnerships

50. Expanded relationships with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) which resulted in additional funding opportunities and more accurate reporting from those agencies.

51. Strengthened daily working relationships with the leaders of the other six federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to improve alignment on common causes and collaboration on shared priorities for efficiency and cost-savings.

52. Expanded partnerships with the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), increasing the Tribe's capacity to serve its citizens.

53. Strengthened relationships with Dominion Energy to encourage more grant-making and donations of supplies.

54. Partnered with the other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to host the annual Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference.

Tribal Governance, Leadership, and Administration

55. Assembled a highly qualified and dedicated Tribal Administration team, who manage the vast demands



placed on newly federally recognized Tribal Nations. Their work resulted in the expansion of the Housing, Projects, Cultural, Healthcare, Information Technology, and Maintenance Departments.

56. Improved the existing Tribal Building by upgrading the roof, increasing food pantry storage, installing industrial refrigerators, freezers, and a large capacity ice machine, and soundproofing the building.

57. Purchased a new building for the Tribal Office, which now houses the administrative personnel.

58. Retained internationally respected legal counsel to help ensure the Tribe's efforts are strategic and lawful to advance our state and federal policy priorities in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

59. Retained the top accounting firm in Indian Country to ensure the Tribe's financial management practices are 100% ethical and consistent with the highest standards.

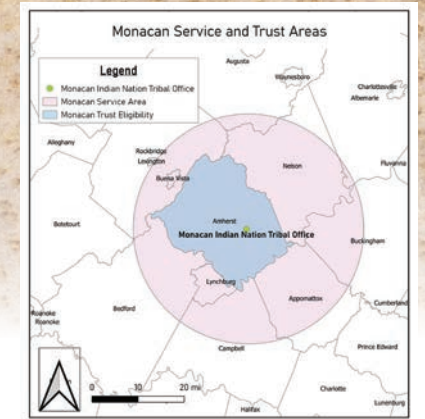
60. Earned a successful audit rating (the highest possible) for 2020-2022 even as the Tribe has been challenged to manage greater funds under highly complex regulations. The audit results support the compliance and use of funds per required narratives, further solidifying the continued efforts of the tribal government staff.

61. Established improved communications systems to ensure that tribal citizens remain informed, including through citizen email groups, social media pages, and a newsletter to keep citizens in the loop on job opportunities, events, and tribal news.

62. Expanded tribal housing programs and constructed a Technical/Shop facility with the assistance of a \$1,010,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant Program (ICDBG) American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant. The Tribe was one of two Tribes in Virginia to receive a grant during phase one of the program.

63. Provided food sovereignty to tribal citizens through expanded pantry offerings via the USDA Local Food Purchase Agreement.

Monacan Indian Nation



The **Monacan Indian Nation** (MIN) is located in western Virginia and headquartered in Amherst County. The Monacans were some of the first Native people to encounter English settlers in the 17th century. Captain John Smith recorded several Monacan towns on his maps of what became Virginia, including Rassawek (Russawmeake), the historic capital of the Monacan. The Tribe was a signatory to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia Tribes and the King of England.

The Monacans are Eastern Siouan speakers and are working to rediscover their historical language and culture. The Bear Mountain Mission School, built in 1868, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The tribal Episcopal church also tells the story of the Monacans' long relationship with that faith community.

More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian Tribes, including the Monacan, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

The Nation has approximately 3,000 enrolled tribal citizens.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): a 25-mile radius surrounding the center of Amherst, VA

Headquarters: 111 Highview Road, Madison Heights, VA 24572

Office Number: (434) 363-4864



Monacan Elected Officials:

Diane Johns Shields	Chief
Lou Branham	Assistant Chief
Amber Fink	Secretary/Treasurer
Daniel B. Branham	Tribal Councilor
Dean Branham	Tribal Councilor
Bertha Riley	Tribal Councilor
Timothy Branham	Tribal Councilor
Eric Branham	Tribal Councilor
Mark Bryan	Tribal Councilor
Rufus Elliot	Tribal Councilor

Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

1. Won a four-year battle to protect the Tribe's sacred historic capital at Rassawek. The site was designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's Most Endangered Historic Places. The Tribe and its counsel applied legal pressure and generated great national press coverage to successfully persuaded the James River Water Authority (JRWA) to halt the project at Rassawek. In March 2022 JRWA agreed to build their water pump station at an alternative site that avoids any impacts to Rassawek. This outcome is a historic triumph for the Monacan Indian Nation and serves as a flag in the group for other Tribes fighting for their ancestral lands in Virginia and beyond.

2. Stood up to developers of two energy projects that failed to properly consult the Tribe about potential impacts to tribal historic and cultural resources, resulting in winning millions in financial penalties.

3. Developed a tribal consultation policy, setting the terms by which the Tribe expects to be consulted by federal and state agencies and developers going forward.

4. Awarded a Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant which enabled the Monacan

Ancestral Museum to hire more permanent staff and provide training that will help keep the museum open, build its capacity, create a stronger online presence, increase public access, and improve sustainability. Received a University of Virginia Mellon Race, Place, and Equity grant to purchase various types of scanners, software, and other computer equipment to digitize the Monacan archives.

5. Engaged in the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration established to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to both federally recognized and state-recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

6. Developed a closer relationship with Virginia State Parks, which resulted in more tribal input into the removal of the Monacan village at Natural Bridge State Park and the inclusion of the Tribe in the planning process for all state parks.

7. Established an Environmental Protection Department.

Food and Housing Programs

8. Grew and improved the tribal housing program by increasing capacity and efficiency. It is now the largest tribal housing program in Virginia.

9. Provided emergency rental assistance to 46 families, and regular rental assistance to approximately 60 families.

10. Provided home mortgage, down payment, and housing purchase assistance to nine families.

11. Weatherized 44 homes, with plans to expand the service.

12. Provided free well and septic services to Monacan homes and installed rainwater catchment tanks, in conjunction with Indian Health Services (IHS).

13. Renovated the Tribal Cabin for use as emergency housing. Installed at the Old Tribal Center a new cement disability ramp, ADA bathrooms, and a new kitchen.

14. Participated in a program that provides accessible bathrooms for citizens with disabilities and mobility restrictions, regardless of home ownership, through the Virginia Department of Housing.

15. Purchased two residential properties now in use by Monacan families in need of housing assistance.

16. Expanded the Nation's Food Bank capacity through donations to the Monacan Indian Nation Cultural Foundation and a USDA Grant that connects the Tribe to local farmers. The food bank now serves more than 300 families monthly.

17. Developed a successful program to serve hot meals to Elders.

18. Established a Christmas gifting program in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church to assist families during the holidays.

19. Developed a Strategic HUD Business Plan.

Education and Childcare Resources

20. Provided MiFi wireless broadband services to 49 citizens to support distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

21. Established and sustained a backpack program, youth drug prevention program, and a youth mental health program that provides free school supplies and mental health education and training for Monacan children and staff. These programs were created in conjunction with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Monacan Indian Nation's Cultural Foundation, and other grants.

22. Developed several education programs, including free GED classes and free computer lab classes, for tribal citizens following federal recognition. These programs have been discontinued due to lack of funding and/or interest.

23. Created a foster care assistance program for Monacan children.

24. Developed an after-school remediation program to assist K-12 children in reading and math.

25. Expanded the impact of the Monacan Scholarship Fund by giving out more and larger scholarship awards, in part through the assistance of several large donations.

26. Built a playground for Monacan children at the Tribal Center.

27. Established a childcare development program that assists families with the cost of childcare and helps to build quality childcare programs in the Tribe's service area.

Health and Eldercare Programs

28. Opened a state-of-the-art, \$14 million Tribal Clinic that provides primary care, and specialized care for behavioral health, dental, diabetes, community care, and substance abuse. The Tribal Clinic, created in conjunction with Indian Health Services (IHS), will enable the Tribe to address the health needs of its citizens for generations.

29. Built and established the first purpose-built tribal elder congregate center in Virginia.

30. Provided direct financial support to tribal citizens during the pandemic.

31. Vaccinated 180 citizens for COVID-19 and distributed thousands of items of personal protective equipment.

32. Created a transportation program to meet tribal citizens' medical and disability needs.

33. Established programs supporting daytime activities for elders.

34. Created a senior transportation service to sustain the mobility of tribal elders.

35. Finished construction on the Elder Center in 2024. Elders enjoy daily transportation to and from their homes on a new bus, paid for with funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). At the Center, elders are provided with nutritionally approved meals. Successfully applied for additional funding to expand activities for elders. Elders also have the option to receive both home-delivered (when requested) and congregate meals at the Center through the Elder program. Finally, the Tribe's new Diabetes Program will help monitor, educate, and aid seniors with the disease.

36. Provided caregiver referral services through partner state agencies to Monacan citizens who are either disabled or elderly.



Federal and State Advocacy

37. Secured a groundbreaking Executive Order by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requiring state agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes before granting permits for development projects that may impact tribal cultural, historic, or environmental interests.

38. Successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience.

39. During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied to create a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations, amend the Virginia code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders, designate Department of Historic Resources Liaison and the Virginia Parks Cultural Resource Manager and Tribal Liaison positions, and establish the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.

40. Cohosted the first Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which honored 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.

41. During the 2024 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied for the passage of a bill affirming the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with federally recognized Tribal Nations before granting state permits for projects that may impact tribal cultural, historical, and environmental interests.

42. Secured an opinion by the Attorney General of Virginia instructing all state agencies and courts to honor the aims of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which prioritizes adoption placements of Indian children within Tribal Nations.

43. Built stronger relationships with Virginia's U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state officials, and agencies to ensure respect for the Tribe's ancestral lands and cultural values in their decision-making.

44. Introduced a bill to the Virginia legislature to give enrolled tribal citizens students living out-of-state in-state tuition at Virginia colleges.

45. Introduced a 2022 state budget amendment seeking \$35 million to enable the seven federally

recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to re-acquire ancestral lands.

Business and Economic Development

46. Applied to acquire spectrum from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enable provision of free broadband services to citizens, and to generate revenues from licensing spectrum. Though the Tribe did not receive this grant, it was able to negotiate with broadband companies to build out infrastructure that will supply services to many tribal homes.

47. Purchased Laurel Cliff Farm, which includes 1,300 acres of prime farmland, to support food security and other future economic developments. The Tribe secured funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and is currently working on a feasibility plan for the Laurel Cliff Farm.

48. Partnered with other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to pursue a Department of Commerce grant to develop tribal heritage and eco-tourism opportunities.

Tribal Governance, Leadership, and Administration

49. Established a strong tribal leadership team of the Chief, Assistant Chief, and Tribal Council who are working in closer collaboration with a focus on the needs and the future of the full tribal community.

50. Assembled a highly qualified and dedicated Tribal Administration team to staff HUD, EPA, Enrollment, Finance, Childcare, Tribal Administrator, Remediation, and Elder Care services. These professionals manage the vast demands placed on newly federally recognized Tribal Nations.

51. Expanded staff capacity at the Food Bank and Museum.

52. Completed successful audits every single year, even as the Tribe has been challenged to manage greater funds under highly complex regulations. In each of the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Tribe achieved clean audits with no negative findings.

53. Acquired, renovated, and opened a full-service Tribal Office campus in Madison Heights, Virginia, that is more centrally located to tribal citizens.

54. Established a successful EPA program that will address water quality, land and waste management, air quality, and septic needs, in conjunction with Indian Health Services (IHS). As part of the EPA program, the Tribe established a solid waste management practice, including recycling and composting, for

the tribal headquarters, and plans to expand it to the surrounding community. Additionally, the Tribe initiated a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which inventoried greenhouse gas emissions of the tribal government and obtained community feedback on climate priorities. Through the study, the Tribe identified forest management, ecosystem protection, and food management as major areas of interest for climate planning. The PCAP will be expanded into a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), to be completed in 2027.

55. Organized a Community Hall as the Tribe's first large, dedicated meeting space.

56. Grew tribal enrollment to 3,000 citizens, now served by an official Enrollment Office.

57. Educated the public about the Monacan people in dozens of positive news stories in local, state, and national news outlets including print, television, radio, and social media.

58. Retained internationally respected legal counsel to help ensure our efforts are strategic and lawful to advance our state and federal policy priorities in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

59. Retained the top accounting firm in Indian Country to ensure our financial management practices are 100% ethical and consistent with the highest standards.

60. Strengthened our daily working relationships with the leaders of the other six federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth, to give us greater strength on common causes and to collaborate on programs for efficiency and cost-savings.

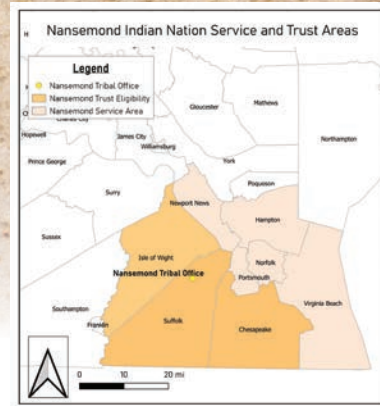
61. Expanded partnerships with the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), increasing the Tribe's capacity to serve its citizens.

62. Consulted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and various experts to construct a constitution to enhance the foundation of governance and to bring before tribal citizens.

63. Partnered with the other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to host the annual Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference.



Nansemond Indian Nation



The **Nansemond Indian Nation** (NIN) is based in Hampton Roads, VA. Nansemond means "Fishing Point" in the Coastal Algonquian language spoken by the Tribe, which lived in settlements along the Nansemond River for thousands of years. Nansemond people foraged, farmed, harvested shellfish, fished, and hunted throughout the Nansemond River watershed (Suffolk and Isle of Wight) and the Great Dismal Swamp (Suffolk, Chesapeake, and several counties in northeastern North Carolina). Nansemond people were enumerated in a 1669 Virginia Colony census of Indian bowmen, and the Tribe was a signatory to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia tribes and the King of England.

The Indiana United Methodist Church was established in the 1850s as a mission to the Nansemond families in Norfolk County (present-day Chesapeake). In the 1870s, the Norfolk Indian School #9 was established at the same site to educate Nansemond children. The Tribe continues to live in and preserve its history through southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian tribes, including the Nansemond, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

The Nation consists of approximately 550 enrolled tribal citizens, the highest concentration of whom live in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): Cities of Suffolk, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Newport News, Hampton, and Virginia Beach

Headquarters: 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, VA 23434

Office Phone: (757) 255-9317

Nansemond Elected Officials:

Keith F. Anderson	Chief
David Hennaman, III	Assistant Chief
Nikki Bass	Vice-Chair, Tribal Council
Barbara Orf	Secretary, Tribal Council
Thomas Badamo	Treasurer, Tribal Council
David Darling	Tribal Councilor



Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

1. Advocated successfully for the passage of the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Dismal Swamp and its associated sites as a National Heritage Area.
2. Engaged in the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration established to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to federally recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

3. Established an Oyster Garden on Cedar Creek with the support of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Oyster Garden Program. The Tribe then joined the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance to support the shared goal of returning 10 billion oysters to the Chesapeake Bay. To date, the Tribe has raised and returned more than 10,000 oysters to local waterways to improve water quality and coastal resilience.

4. Partnered with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Nansemond River Preservation Alliance to protect the Nansemond River by learning more about oyster habitat restoration and gaining hands-on experience with living shoreline projects.

5. Became active participant in the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee, its associated Subcommittee on Outreach and Education, the Shoreline Stakeholders Collaborative, and the Virginia Ocean Plan working group on Historic and Cultural Resources and Non-Consumptive Recreation. In these spaces, the Tribe ensures its unique perspective, history, and culture are accurately represented in key environmental plans that cover its ancestral landscape.

6. Treated 18 acres of invasive plants and replanted 450 native tree seedlings. This planting event included 45 participants spanning Tribal citizenry and leadership, state agencies, local non-profits, and members of the general community.

7. Secured \$500,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Climate Resilience Annual Awards Program for climate vulnerability assessment and emergency operations planning in the face of a

changing climate, worsening storms, and sea-level rise.

8. Hosted the Nansemond's annual powwow at Mattanock and the Chesapeake American Indian Festival, attracting thousands of visitors.

9. Created the Nansemond Firebird Festival as a unique, curated experience for family, friends, and community members to learn about the history and living culture of the Nansemond Indian Nation.

10. Developed a tribal consultation policy, setting the terms by which the Tribe expects to be consulted by federal and state agencies and developers going forward.

11. Established an Environmental Protection Department focused on water quality improvement, invasive plant removal, native place restoration, coastal resilience, shoreline restoration, and environmental education and outreach.

12. Succeeded in gaining an 'eligible' determination for the Indiana United Methodist Church for listing in National Register of Historic Places after a successful application to the Virginia State Review Board.

13. Produced the "Indigenous Life on the Nansemond River" ArcGIS StoryMap to share the Tribe's history on the Nansemond River and vision for cultural revitalization through river stewardship.

14. Invested in a floating dock to increase access to Cedar Creek for recreational activities like canoeing and kayaking and to expand the Oyster Garden.



15. Educated the public about the Nansemond people in dozens of positive news stories in local, state, and national news outlets including print, television, radio, and social media.

16. Hosted multiple 'Maritime Crafts Schools' with several focused, interactive spaces for children and adults to learn traditional life skills through hands-on participation.

17. Partnered with other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to pursue a Department of Commerce grant to develop heritage and eco-tourism opportunities.

Land Back

18. Re-acquired 71 acres of ancestral homelands known as Mattanock. After years of negotiations with the City of Suffolk, the City Council voted to transfer the property back to the Nation in May 2024. Mattanock is considered to be the cultural heart of the Tribe and serves as home to the Nation's tribal headquarters and annual powwow. The Nansemond will focus on conservation efforts and education programs at the site, preserving tribal cultural heritage and passing it down to future generations. This re-acquisition marks a significant milestone for the Tribe as well as for the national Land Back movement.

19. Acquired 500 acres of ancestral wetlands at Cross Swamp through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited. The site will be conserved by the Tribe and used for education and outdoor recreation.



20. Received a \$3.5 million land acquisition grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in September 2023. The Nansemond Indian Nation was one of only two tribes nationally that received a grant.

Education and Technology

21. Joined the Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC) to advocate for educational opportunities for the Nansemond people.

22. Provided free Geographic Information Systems (GIS) classes to Nansemond citizens Partnered in partnership with William & Mary's Institute of Integrative Conservation.

23. Applied to acquire spectrum from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enable provision of free broadband services to citizens, and to generate revenues from licensing spectrum.

24. Completed a Broadband Feasibility Study.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

25. Provided direct financial support to tribal citizens during the pandemic.

26. Provided COVID-19 vaccinations to Nansemond citizens and distributed thousands of items of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Healthcare and Housing Programs

27. Negotiated successfully a 638 contract with Indian Health Services (IHS), affirming tribal sovereignty and self-determination by granting full ownership of tribal health matters to the Nation.

28. Established Fishing Point Healthcare in 2023, delivering world-class medical care to tribal citizens across the seven cities area and prioritizing care for the most vulnerable in the community. Fishing Point Healthcare has achieved significant milestones:

a. Expanded the home health business, providing essential skilled and unskilled care to more than 1,000 individuals throughout the seven cities.

b. Launched a mental health services clinic, providing outpatient psychotherapy, psychiatric testing, and medication management.

c. Launched the inaugural Fishing Point Healthcare clinic on London Boulevard in Portsmouth, VA, equipped with four dental suites, twenty exam rooms, a complete pharmacy, a high-complexity lab, and radiology services. The clinic is addressing critical dental, endodontic, and medical needs in the Portsmouth area.

d. Commenced construction on the second Fishing Point Healthcare clinic in Newport News, slated for completion in early 2025. The clinic



will span 15,000 square feet and will mirror the amenities offered at the Portsmouth clinic, including MRI capability.

e. Secured real estate for a Fishing Point Healthcare clinic in Norfolk, VA, which will offer the same comprehensive services as the other clinics, in addition to an outpatient surgery center.

f. Renovated and launched an in-patient addiction recovery center in Chesapeake, VA, providing thirty-four patient bedrooms to accommodate nearly seventy patients, and addressing critical addiction recovery needs in the community.

g. Developed a transportation program to effectively meet the medical and disability needs of tribal citizens.

29. Created a Tribal Housing Program, allowing for the purchase and renovation of 3 rental units in Portsmouth, Virginia.

30. Provided emergency rental assistance to Nansemond families.

Federal and State Advocacy

31. Successfully lobbied Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience.

32. Secured a groundbreaking Executive Order by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requiring state agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes before granting permits for development projects that

may impact tribal cultural, historic, or environmental interests.

33. Successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience.

34. During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied to create a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations, amend the Virginia code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders, designate Department of Historic Resources Liaison and the Virginia Parks Cultural Resource Manager and

Tribal Liaison positions, and establish the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.

35. Cohosted the first Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which honored 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.

36. During the 2024 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied for the passage of a bill affirming the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with federally recognized Tribal Nations before granting state permits for projects that may impact tribal cultural, historical, and environmental interests.

37. Secured an opinion by the Attorney General of Virginia instructing all state agencies and courts to honor the aims of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which prioritizes adoption placements of Indian children within Tribal Nations.

38. Built stronger relationships with Virginia's U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state officials, and agencies to ensure respect for the Tribe's ancestral lands and cultural values in their decision-making.

39. Introduced a bill to the Virginia legislature to give enrolled tribal citizens students living out-of-state in-state tuition at Virginia colleges.

40. Introduced a 2022 state budget amendment seeking \$35 million to enable the seven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to re-acquire ancestral lands.

Tribal Governance, Leadership, and Administration

41. Adopted a new constitution and established a strong tribal leadership team of an Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch that are working in close collaboration with a focus on the needs and the future of the full tribal community.

42. Acquired and opened a full-service Tribal Office at Mattanock in Suffolk, Virginia.

43. Strengthened daily working relationships with the leaders of the other six federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to improve alignment on common causes and collaboration on shared priorities for efficiency and cost-savings.

44. Expanded partnerships with the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the

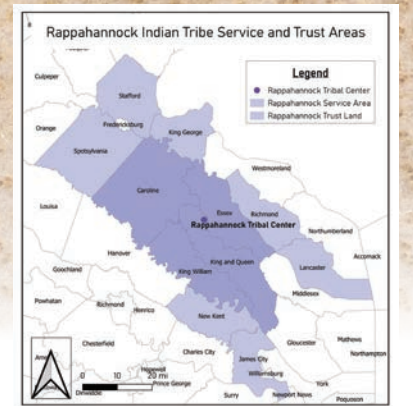
United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), increasing the Tribe's capacity to serve its citizens.

45. Retained internationally respected legal counsel to help ensure our efforts are strategic and lawful to advance our state and federal policy priorities in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

46. Expanded and enhanced the Tribal Community Center by increasing indoor capacity, upgrading kitchen facilities, and improving energy efficiency and resiliency through the support of a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block (ICDBG) grant.

47. Partnered with the other federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to host the annual Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference.

Rappahannock Tribe



The **Rappahannock Tribe** is headquartered in Indian Neck in King and Queen County, Virginia. As an Algonquian tribe, the Rappahannock were somewhat connected with the Powhatan Chiefdom but were likely more independent and had their own consolidated political power along the Northern Neck. The Nation was historically based in the Rappahannock River valley, and ambushed John Smith in 1608 at Fones Cliffs. The Tribe was a signatory to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia Tribes and the King of England. In 1682, the Tribe was granted a reservation of 4,000 acres, originally located near the head of Piscataway Creek and Indian Neck in Caroline County. This land, although reserved for the Indians, was occupied and purchased by planters over the 18th century. The Rappahannocks later held reservation land at Tappahannock, but ultimately settled at their current home along the interior ridgeline at Indian Neck.

More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian Tribes, including the Rappahannock, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

The Tribe is currently comprised of nearly 300 enrolled citizens, most of whom live near the Rappahannock Tribal Office in King and Queen County.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): Caroline, Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties

Headquarters: 5036 Indian Neck Road, Indian Neck, VA 23148

Office Number: (804) 769-0260

Rappahannock Elected Officials:

G. Anne Richardson	Chief
Mark Fortune	Assistant Chief
Barbara Williams	Tribal Councilor
John Fortune	Tribal Councilor
Kirk Richardson	Tribal Councilor
Reeva Tilley	Tribal Councilor
Teresa Custalow	Tribal Councilor
Vincent Reynolds	Tribal Councilor

Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

The Rappahannock Tribe is small in numbers but mighty in leadership. In the early twentieth century, Chief George Luther Nelson (*great uncle of current Chief Anne Richardson*) led the reconstitution of the Powhatan Confederacy to reconnect the tribes in the region and advocate for Indigenous Rights. He petitioned the governor of Virginia, testified before the U.S. Congress, and wrote many letters to elected officials to help the tribes in their efforts to gain state and federal recognition, voting, and civil rights. The Tribe also became a contributing member of the local community, with subsequent Chief Otho S. and Susie P. Nelson (grandparents of Chief Anne) delivering mail to Indian Neck residents, providing transportation, managing a farm, now known as the Chiefs House, that provided food to needy families, and offering traditional healing — to Natives and non-Natives alike.

The Tribe's working philosophy is that it takes "a village" to meet big challenges, and the Rappahannocks are well-known and respected for their collaborative spirit. It builds partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations, and other tribes to work together and make the region a better place to live and work. The Tribe's work is guided by gratitude for the blessings from the Creator and the law of reciprocity. Chief Anne has assembled a dynamic professional staff team of Rappahannock citizens and non-Natives who are accountable to each other and to the Tribe.



Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

1. Established the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration designed to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to federally recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

2. Organized and managed the first annual Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference in 2021, now in its fourth year. Each year, attendance has grown by in-person and virtual attendance to 400 plus.



3. Achieved the successful listing of the Otho S. and Susie P. Nelson House in the National Register of Historic Places. Organized a fundraising campaign to design rehabilitation plans to repurpose the structure and site into a house museum and Indigenous healing education center. They partnered with an historic architect to develop interpretation designs and construction plans. Completed stabilization and winterization work on the Chief's House in 2023.

4. Established a Youth Leadership Council to prepare tribal youth for future leadership positions in the Tribe.

5. Hosted the Rappahannock Pow Wow, an annual cultural event that is open to the public. The Tribe's Youth Leadership Council heads up the Pow Wow Committee.

6. Received the Champion of the Chesapeake Award for significant conservation achievements in the Chesapeake.

7. Received multiple preservation awards, including the Virginia Society of Archaeology Award, Preservation Virginia Award for Preservation, and Society for Historical Archaeology Community Engagement Award. All of these awards recognized the development and expansion of the Tribe's Indigenous Cultural Landscape Project and Archeology Program with Dr. Julia King and St. Mary's. College, Maryland.

8. Created the 'Return to the River' program to reconnect tribal youth to their ancestral river culture. Hosted a Return to the River Partnership Celebration and launched the Maritime Crafts School to engage tribal youth with science of the river and its inhabitants.

9. Obtained funding to develop a Master Plan for the Return to the River, which will include plans for conservation, architectural designs and construction for public education facilities, business and tourism marketing, and communication. In addition, this funding will allow the Tribe to collect data on plant and aquatic life, breeding bird populations, and cultural resources.

10. Began an archive digitization project to protect valuable records and images. The project has grown into a full-blown Archives Program to continue to digitize ongoing research as it takes place on the history and culture of the Tribe. Produced three exhibits which have been in demand in Virginia.

11. Established a film studies program in partnership with VPM, Virginia's Home for Public Media, and VCU's Media Center at the Institute for Contemporary Art with an understanding of the importance of capturing the histories and cultural oral histories from our elders before they leave us.

12. Established a regalia-making education program for tribal youth to learn from elders and each other the meaning of traditional dances and regalia, as well as teaching the construction of regalia and accessories.

13. Hosted the Tribe's 100th Anniversary celebration to honor the 1921 Incorporation of the Tribe. As part of this event, the Rappahannock developed three panel exhibits: *The Life and Work of Chief George L. Nelson*, *Honor Our Heroes*, and *Virginia's Ethnic Cleansing Legacy: The Mad Science of Eugenics* [Walter Plecker], all of which have traveled to universities and organizations. The Plecker exhibit was displayed at events during the 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

14. Developed a consultation policy, setting the terms by which the Tribe expects to be consulted by federal and state agencies and developers.

15. Acquired a 5800-square-foot Lodge building on the Cat Point Creek in Rappahannock River Valley Refuge unit and adapted it to house the new Indigenous Conservation Education Center.

16. Established relationships with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center to study river herring populations, with the Virginia Department of Forestry to plant native trees for wildlife food, and with other environmental organizations to reduce invasive species and improve wildlife habitat on all tribal lands.

17. Hired a retired civil rights attorney as environmental policy and planning coordinator to fight commercial development threats like data centers that will harm the Rappahannock's river.

18. Established the Administrative, Finance, Human Relations Department and various other departments to support tribal operations. These departments include Fund Development, Housing, Environmental and Natural Resources, Community Resilience & Emergency Management, Economic Development,

Information Technology and Communications, Citizen Services, and Archive, Library, and Museum Services.

19. Collaborated with local governments and other partners to develop a Heritage & Cultural Tourism Program.

20. Collaborated with noted archaeologists Dr. Julia A. King and Dr. Scott Strickland to produce an Indigenous Cultural Landscape Report that identified ancestral Rappahannock Towns along the river and provided archaeological evidence of the towns that were documented by Captain John Smith in 1612. That team now includes Ed Ragan, PhD, Tribal Historian to continue to expand research into tribal histories as Dr. King uncovers archeology.

21. Set up emergency operations protocols to communicate with local first responder organizations. Equipped the Tribal Center with cots, blankets, and other emergency needs to serve as an emergency shelter for the area.

22. Installed generators to ensure operational capacity during power outages and purchased mobile generators for tribal citizens.

23. Engaged with the law firm Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC on projects involving consultation and potential impacts on environmental and cultural resources.

Land Back and Other Property Acquisitions

24. Reacquired one acre of land at Fones Cliffs through a gift from Senator John Warner and his daughter, Virginia Warner – the first of the Tribe's re-acquired ancestral lands.



25. Reacquired 465 acres of Fones Cliff, the site of the Tribe's ancestral town of Pissacoack and a sacred place for the Rappahannock. It is also an important habitat for eagles, fish, and other creatures. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service holds a conservation easement on the property, which is being co-stewarded by the Tribe and the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (the "Refuge").

26. The Tribe negotiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on two other conservation easements at Fones Cliffs for 1) an additional 703 acres of forestland inland and adjacent to the 465 and 2) another 964 acres at the peak of Fones Cliff. The 964-acre property is the site of the Tribe's ancestral town of Wecuppom. The Tribe has raised almost \$8 million to purchase these two properties that will also be co-stewarded by the Tribe and the Refuge and expects to finalize the acquisitions in late 2024.

27. The Tribe's partnership with the Refuge is a national model for co-stewardship of conserved lands and the Tribe and the Refuge are presenting their partnership model across the country to conservation organizations, tribes, and other Refuges.

28. The Tribe/Refuge partnership has also developed a model program, the Knowledge Exchange Program, which is cross training the Refuge on Indigenous land management practices and the Tribe on western scientific practices.

29. Purchased the Belfield property and related farm equipment.

30. Approved Land into Trust application.

31. Acquired additional properties slated for economic development.

Food and Healthcare Programs

32. Provided personal protective equipment (PPE), food, and in-home services to tribal elders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

33. Established an Indian Health Service (IHS) Office in Rappahannock territory with support from IHS.

34. Established elder care visits, food assistance, and transportation to health providers for tribal citizens in need.

35. Established a home repair/upgrade program to provide safer, more accessible homes to tribal elders.

36. Coordinated with Life Lines Native American Health Clinic to provide services to tribal citizens.

37. Initiated a Home Health program and IHS Sanitation Program to serve tribal citizens.

38. Purchased building and property to establish a tribal dental office to serve the Rappahannock and the surrounding community.

39. Established a Community Cooperative to promote food sovereignty, equity, and security for the Tribe and other typically underserved communities in the region (Asian, Latin, etc.). The Co-op will also bring transportation, marketing, and retail assistance to farmers and producers unable to compete in the market on their own.

Business and Economic Development

40. Established an Economic Development department and retained a business development coordinator to manage new tribal business ventures.

41. Applied for 8-A status to enable the Tribe to compete in the government contracting arena.

42. Established relationships with surrounding county economic development teams and the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck Planning District Commissions.

Infrastructure & Transportation Initiatives

43. Deployed broadband for the tribal government center and nearby non-Native community leveraging federal funding. This has provided economies and a hub for the County to deploy broadband to schools and libraries.

44. Purchased an emergency vehicle, a truck and trailer to be used for events and environmental projects, and a 12-passenger van for staff and tribal citizens. Purchased a skid-steer for landscape and construction projects on tribal properties.

45. Constructed a new garage to house motorized equipment (tractor, skid-steer, etc.) and emergency shelter equipment.

46. Constructed a 5,600 square-foot Operations Center and built a second-floor crosswalk to the Tribal Center.

State and Federal Advocacy

47. Secured a groundbreaking Executive Order by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requiring state agencies to consult with federally recognized tribes before granting permits for development projects that may impact tribal cultural, historic, or environmental interests.

48. Successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow pandemic relief funds to be used by Tribal Nations to build longer-term economic resilience.

49. During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied to create a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations, amend the Virginia code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders, designate Department of Historic Resources Liaison and the Virginia Parks Cultural Resource Manager and Tribal Liaison positions, and establish the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.

50. Cohosted the first Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which honored 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.

51. During the 2024 Virginia General Assembly, successfully lobbied for the passage of a bill affirming the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with federally recognized Tribal Nations before granting state permits for projects that may impact tribal cultural, historical, and environmental interests.

52. Secured an opinion by the Attorney General of Virginia instructing all state agencies and courts to honor the aims of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which prioritizes adoption placements of Indian children within Tribal Nations.

53. Built stronger relationships with Virginia's U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state officials, and agencies to ensure respect for the Tribe's ancestral lands and cultural values in their decision-making.

54. Supported legislation to establish the Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area.

55. Began a campaign to save the Rappahannock River from development that will harm water quality, adequate drinking water, and aquatic life that is integral to Indigenous peoples.

56. Introduced a bill to the Virginia legislature to give enrolled tribal citizens students living out-of-state in-state tuition at Virginia colleges.

57. Introduced a 2022 state budget amendment seeking \$35 million to enable the seven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Virginia to re-acquire ancestral lands.

Tribal Governance, Leadership, and Administration

58. Provided direct financial support to tribal citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

59. Established and staffed administrative and operations departments (listed above). Hired key staff in administrative, financial, fundraising, procurement, and accounting offices.

60. Established Tribal Council committees to develop and approve government codes and laws, provide strategic direction, to serve in the judiciary branch, and to work with the executive branch (Chief and Assistant Chief). Organized annual training programs for Tribal Council members.

61. The Tribal nonprofit was established in 1982, but since federal recognition brought the government entity, the nonprofit has been redirected to focusing on cultural and educational programs – like the archives, library, and museum and youth programs.

62. Implemented new technologies and systems to manage budgets and accounting, reporting requirements, and citizen enrollment. Developed and launched a new tribal website.

63. Purchased key equipment for the Tribe, including a Generac System, emergency and staff vehicles, and communications equipment.

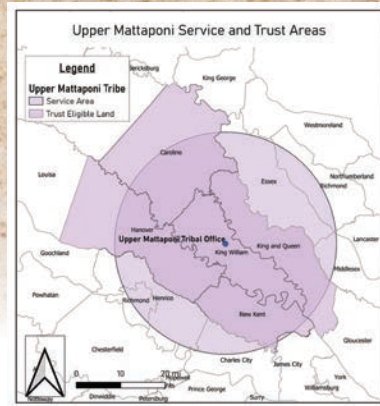
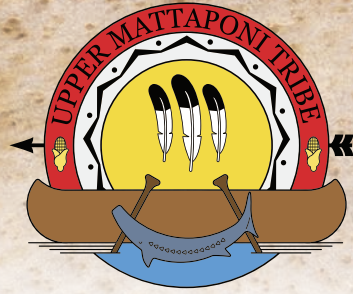
64. Finalized and adopted a Master Plan for Community & Economic Development, which prioritizes tribal goals and guides the strategies for the next five years.

65. Chief Anne is nationally renowned for her leadership and partnerships to achieve success. She was appointed to the board of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and to Secretary Deb Haaland's Tribal Advisory Committee. Chief Anne also serves on the board of the Chesapeake Conservancy and participates in the National Council of American Indians (NCAI), the White House Tribal Summit, and the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET).

66. Chief Anne is a sought-after speaker at local, national, and international conferences like the Center for American Progress, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Preservation Virginia, the University of Richmond, University of Virginia, and many others.



Upper Mattaponi Tribe



The **Upper Mattaponi Tribe (UMT)** is based in King William County, Virginia. The Algonquian Mattaponi people had their ancestral home in the Mattaponi watershed, and several of their villages were visited and recorded by English colonist John Smith. The August Hermann Map of 1676 shows several Indian houses along the Upper Mattaponi River, identifying the region as Indian land, and in 1677 the Tribe was a signatory to the Treaty of Middle Plantation between several Virginia Tribes and the King of England. By the 19th century, this group of “non-reservated” Indians (i.e., not living on the Mattaponi reservation) were living in a settlement known as Adamstown near modern-day Aylett in north King William County. This group comprised the ancestors of the modern-day Upper Mattaponi Tribe. The community is centered around the Indian View Baptist Church, built in 1942, and the Sharon Indian School, established in the early twentieth century.

The Tribe was officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1983. More than 340 years after the Treaty of Middle Plantation and more than 240 years after the formation of the United States government, six Virginia Indian Tribes, including the Upper Mattaponi, received federal recognition under the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017. The bill was signed into law in January 2018.

There are currently nearly 650 enrolled citizens of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, most of whom live in King William and the surrounding counties.

Tribal Service Area (where the tribe is eligible to provide federal services): a 25-mile radius from Sharon Indian School, which includes portions of New Kent, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, Chesterfield, King William, Hanover, Lancaster, Henrico, Charles City, Richmond, and James City Counties and the City of Richmond

Headquarters: 13476 King William Road, King William, VA 23086

Office Number: (804) 769-0041

UMT Elected Officials:

W. Frank Adams	Chief
Louise "Lou" Wratchford	Assistant Chief
Ken Adams	Tribal Councilor
Lenny Adams	Tribal Councilor
Owen Adams	Tribal Councilor
Rob Adams	Tribal Councilor
Desiree Dyer	Tribal Councilor
Wilma Hicks	Tribal Councilor
Harry Knighton	Tribal Councilor

Key Accomplishments Since Federal Recognition

Healthcare and Food Programs

1. Opened Aylett Family Wellness, the Upper Mattaponi's first tribal healthcare clinic with onsite pharmacy and lab. Purchased seven acres of land in Aylett for future medical offices.



2. Distributed COVID-19 home test kits to all tribal citizens. Hosted flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics for tribal citizens and the public.

3. Established the first clinic in King William County to provide PCR testing for COVID-19.

4. Offered Behavioral Health services to tribal citizens through telehealth.

5. Opened UMT Home Health, which provides skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and custodial care services to tribal citizens.

6. Saved UMT citizens thousands in out-of-pocket medical expenses through the medical services provided by the tribal government.

7. Districted direct financial support to all tribal citizens during the pandemic.

8. Established a tribal community garden that produced and distributed 16,000 lbs of fresh produce to tribal citizens in the first year.

9. Hosted the Healing Eagle Kitchen for more than 6 years, providing food insecurity services to both tribal citizens and non-Native community members.

10. Improved tribal citizens health with assistance from a Special Diabetes Programming for Indians Grant.

Cultural and Environmental Initiatives

11. Established an Environmental and Cultural Protection Department, employing tribal citizens.

12. Developed air quality and water quality monitoring programs to address gaps in data and inform decision making.

13. Trained tribal citizens in fisheries and hatchery management to restore culturally significant species in the Mattaponi River watershed.

14. Conducted multiple land and stream restoration projects to ensure the health and sustainability of vital natural resources.

15. Engaged in the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC), an intertribal collaboration established to support Tribes in land acquisition and management for purposes of conservation. The ICC is open to federally recognized tribes and is focused on the Chesapeake Bay region along the East Coast.

16. Developed climate change vulnerability assessment to help inform tribal resiliency efforts.

17. Provided citizens with environmental and cultural programming, including river trips, cultural garden development, fossil digs, and more.

18. Advocated for tribal rights at the local, state, and federal levels regarding environmental regulations and land and water use.

Education and Technology

19. Distributed approximately 160 laptops and supported over tribal 25 households with internet bill pay services.

20. Received a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant, awarded first in the nation, to provide laptops and bill-pay assistance that will improve tribal citizens' ability to stay informed and connected.

Housing Programs

21. Established housing programs for rental assistance, rehabilitation, and homeownership support.

22. Supported numerous households in their access to better well and septic improvement services through Indian Health Service (IHS), providing healthier living conditions for tribal citizens.

23. Supported 16 households with housing rehabilitation and improvement services.

24. Served 27 households through rental assistance, including emergency assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as ongoing rental assistance.

25. Purchased 1 unit of single-family housing to support homeownership services for tribal citizens. Currently the unit is occupied by a tribal family working towards homeownership in 3-5 years.



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Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC is honored to serve as legal counsel to these six Tribal Nations.

