

Mission

The SAMP project's mission is to support and promote community-based efforts to preserve the cultural, historic, and natural character of the Dragon Run, while preserving property rights and the traditional uses within the watershed.



**The Future of Your Community
Depends on You!**

**For more information or to get
involved, please contact:**

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Dragon Run Watershed Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

*A partnership of the Middle
Peninsula Planning District
Commission's Dragon Run
Steering Committee and the
Virginia Coastal Program*

Goals

The Steering Committee and its SAMP Advisory Group are currently devising action plans to achieve three guiding goals:

GOAL I

Establish a high level of cooperation and communication between the four counties within the Dragon Run Watershed to achieve consistency across county boundaries.

GOAL II

Foster educational partnerships and opportunities to establish the community's connection to and respect for the land and water of the Dragon Run.

GOAL III

Promote the concept of landowner stewardship that has served to preserve the Dragon Run Watershed as a regional treasure.



Watershed Features

The Dragon Run is a fresh and brackish water stream that flows forty miles through the Virginia Middle Peninsula counties of Essex, King and Queen, Middlesex, and Gloucester (see map). The watershed is an ecologically unique system of streams, forests, and wetlands that is a central part of the region's culture and identity. It is ranked 2nd of 232 ecologically significant areas throughout the Chesapeake Bay region by the Smithsonian Institution.

The Dragon Run Watershed's pristine nature supports a high quality of life for its residents - hunting, fishing, and paddling are popular. This can be attributed, in large part, to exemplary landowner stewardship and a sense of wilderness. Characterized by extensive tidal and nontidal cypress swamps, the watershed boasts one endangered animal species, five rare animal species, eight rare plant species, and five rare natural communities.

History and Participation

Formed in 1985 as a committee of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, the Dragon Run Steering Committee consists of landowners and county elected officials concerned about the Dragon Run's natural and economic resources. The Dragon Run Watershed Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) is a partnership of the Steering Committee and the Virginia Coastal Program.

The Dragon Run Steering Committee's SAMP Advisory Group represents a cross-section of the community: Committee members; local government elected officials and staff; landowners; state agencies; representatives from farming, forestry, and ecotourism; educators; and non-profit conservation organizations.

Location

Located in the Middle Peninsula of Virginia, the Dragon Run Watershed encompasses parts of Essex, King and Queen, Middlesex, and Gloucester counties. The map below shows the location of the watershed boundary, including recognizable features.

Funding

The Dragon Run Watershed Special SAMP is funded by a Virginia Coastal Program grant, authorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under authority of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular body of water, in this case the Dragon Run. Within the watershed, the ways in which people live and the tools that they use to manage their land affects water quality and natural resources.

