

SCENIC RIVER PROGRAM

In 1976, the main channel of Catoctin Creek in Loudoun County was designated “scenic” and entered into the Virginia Scenic River Program. The program’s intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations.

BENEFITS OF SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION

- Encourages closer review of projects and proposals by state agencies and localities.
- Requires General Assembly authorization for dams.
- Provides for continued existing appropriate riparian land uses.
- Allows for project review and monitoring of designated river segments by Governor-appointed Virginia Scenic River Board.

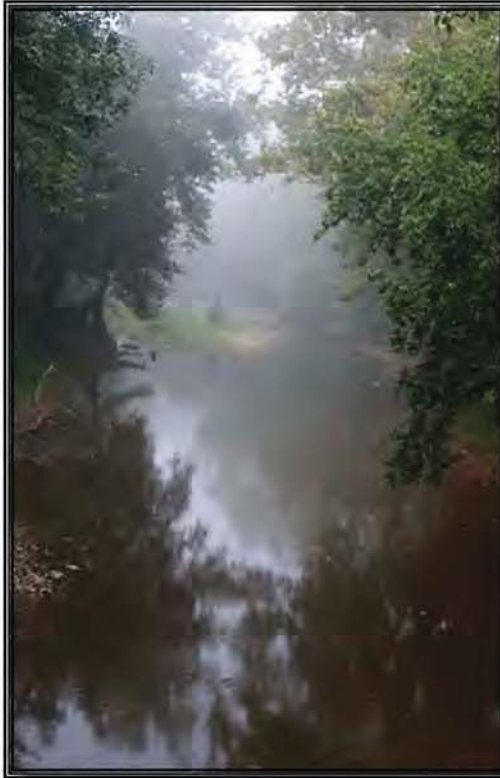
SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION DOES NOT

- Designation does not give the State control over land use.
- Designation carries with it no land use controls.
- Designation does not give the public any right to use privately owned land.
- Virginia does not commercially promote its scenic rivers.
- Recreational use of the rivers currently in the Scenic Rivers System has not increased any more than the use of high quality streams that are not in the system.

Full details about Virginia’s Scenic River Program are available at:

www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning

Help Us Preserve and Protect CATOCTIN CREEK



Anne Larson

Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee

A State-Appointed Committee,
sponsored in part by Loudoun County

For meeting schedules and minutes, visit:
www.townhall.virginia.gov
and search for “Catoctin Creek”

CatoctinScenicRiver@gmail.com

CATOCTIN CREEK SCENIC RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Carol Clay-Ward

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee meets monthly to review proposed land use changes and development activities. Applicants often incorporate suggestions and alter their development plans, which will help preserve the scenic buffer.



Carol Clay-Ward

Near the Narrows

Catoctin Creek originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains in western Loudoun County, VA. It flows northeasterly through the Piedmont, emptying into the Potomac River north of Leesburg. The section designated as “scenic” begins in the village of Waterford, stretching 16 miles to the Potomac River.



Verna McClain

Near Taylorstown

NATURAL FEATURES

Catoctin Creek is a relatively low volume stream with a flow rate adequate for canoeing usually only in winter and early spring. The shores of Catoctin Creek range from wide flood plains to gently rolling hills to large boulders to rocky outcrops on steep bluffs, some of which rise more than 100 feet above stream level. Approximately 75% of the area visible from the stream is in forest cover, with the rest in agricultural use.

The microclimate of the creek and its corridor allows for a wide variety of trees and other vegetation. The forested and open areas and absence of intrusions make the creek environs an outstanding wildlife habitat supporting large animals, including black bear and whitetail deer, and small animal species such as racoon, mink, muskrat, opossum, skunk, rabbit, bobcat, fox and groundhog.

Game birds include quail, pheasant, woodcock, grouse and dove. Migratory and wood ducks use the still pools and banks for nesting, and sightings of the American Bald Eagle indicate this national symbol uses the creek corridor for feeding and nesting.

The creek contains a wide variety of stream dwellers and fish, including large and small mouth bass, chubs, sunfish, catfish, rockbass and minnows.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Anyone who enjoys the benefits and scenic beauty of Catoctin Creek must be an active participant in its stewardship. If you are a creek-bordering landowner, you can be instrumental in preserving the creek while increasing the value of your property and receiving tax credits, as well through conservation easements.

Regularly monitoring your creekline for litter and debris will further enhance the quality of the creek and its neighboring environment.

PLANT A TREE

A “riparian buffer” of trees and bushes will not only retain the scenic views along the creek’s banks, but also provide effective flood control and protect against bank erosion. The buffer will provide food and habitat for wildlife, moderate the water temperatures and become the foundation for greenways and wildlife corridors.



Carol Clay-Ward

Bluebells Along the Narrows

STREAM MONITORING

Join a citizen volunteer stream monitoring group and test the water and aquatic habitat.