

The Organization

Broad Water Innovations (BWI) is a land trust formed in 2013. We are a 501c3-qualified land trust serving as a conservation easement holder and long-term steward of wetland, stream, and species mitigation banks.

Broad Water acquires, holds, maintains, conserves, and protects land or land interests in perpetuity and preserves outdoor recreation, natural open spaces, and biodiversity in an effort to serve the public through recreation, charitable and educational activities.

Broad Water promotes public awareness and **education** about programs and policies for the management of environmental issues and conditions.

Staff

Tee Clarkson, Executive Director

Tee is a passionate outdoorsman and conservationist, the president of Broad Water, and the managing director of Atoka Conservation Exchange. Tee has run summer youth outdoor programs in Virginia nearly 20 years, introducing thousands of children to the wonders of Virginia's wild places. Tee is on the board of Virginia Forever and The Center for Natural Capital. A St. Christopher's School alumnae, and a 1996 graduate of the University of Georgia, he lives in Richmond, VA. with his wife and two children.

Woodie Walker, Careers In Conservation (CIC) Counselor

CIC Counselor Woodie Walker has worked with local, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and volunteer groups. He is a 2022 fellow of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI), an immersive program providing leadership for collaborative problem solving around environmental issues. BWI resource professionals include biologists, engineers, journalists, academics, financiers, and more.

The Program

Broad Water is dedicated to Careers in Conservation awareness. Many young people today are passionate about working in the environmental field, but lack a full understanding of the potential career paths and opportunities available to them.

As of 2023, Conservation Careers, an online resource for job seekers, lists more than 33,000 conservation jobs with more than 15,000 job titles. Their list of "15 Key Conservation Jobs" includes communications and marketing, ecotourism, environmental economics, fund raising, policy and advocacy, in addition to science and research. Our CIC program bridges this gap by connecting young people in advanced high school environmental programs with environmental professionals. We recruit classes in Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science and International Baccalaureate (IB) environmental coursework. BWI has a proven track record of facilitating in-class discussions and site visits.

CIC offers three options for schools to consider:

Option 1) Single-day program, including classroom visit and field trip to an active environmental restoration site. CIC coordinates with your teachers to develop a single-day immersion with conservation professionals. For example, your students can explore a project with impacts to wetlands. The in-class portion includes facilitated discussion exploring related issues, such as how impacts to wetlands are calculated and offset, project permitting, agency oversight, and the role of conservation easements and

long-term stewardship. The second half of the day includes a site visit to an ongoing wetlands restoration project. This can also be done in two separate days.

Option 2) Two-day immersive experience. CIC coordinates a layered experience for your students, exploring a scenario in which a proposed construction project impacts the natural environment. Students will adopt stakeholder roles such as project developer, environmental professional, local government, and concerned citizens. Day One begins with a project description given by a panel of professional conservationists. In the afternoon, students break into groups for facilitated discussion of their stakeholder positions.

Day Two begins with students presenting their stakeholder positions, followed by facilitated consensus-building. Students learn how development leads to environmental impact, how those impacts can be mitigated, and the roles various stakeholders have in the process. The host site will be located such that overnight accommodations are not required.

Option 3) Multi-month immersive experience. CIC customizes a program for you that lasts the entire academic year. Much like the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI), CIC coordinates monthly immersive experiences for your students taking place throughout Virginia. We explore the wide range of environmental challenges facing Virginia communities, from urban settings to heavily agricultural regions. This program reveals the ongoing pressures Virginia communities face, from land conservation needs and sea-level rise to invasive species and water quality, and the creative solutions these communities have developed in response. The core mission of this program is to underscore the many career opportunities that exist in this effort.

In addition to these options, BWI supports internships for students who desire more of a “hands-on” experience. CIC works with guidance counselors to help with selection of students for internships.