



AMUR CORK TRAIL PROJECT: RESTORING THE WETLAND CORRIDOR

In late November, RVF began the next phase of the Amur Cork Trail project, using science-tested methods to manage invasive Amur Cork Tree and Tree of Heaven in the wetland “bog” section of the Rockfish Valley Trail.

With help from Davey Tree Experts, this first targeted effort removed approximately 25 adult invasive trees, reducing Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) habitat and restoring space for native growth. This first slice focused on a thicket of invasives crowding a 100+ year-old maple near the Outdoor Learning Pavilion.

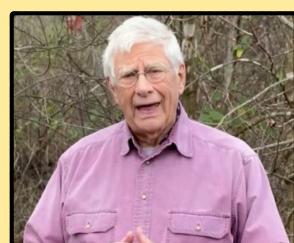
This project will continue into the spring with additional targeted treatments, informed by on-the-ground monitoring. Special thanks is owed to drone footage provided by Master Naturalist Noah Flood!

Together, these efforts support healthier ecosystems, stronger native biodiversity, and an important case study in implementing proactive reduction strategies to mitigate negative impacts of SLF and other invasives on local agriculture.

RVF SUBMITS ENLIT FOR GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

RVF has submitted an application to the Virginia Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards through the ENLIT program, recognizing outstanding environmental work statewide.

The submission reflects RVF's education and stewardship impact, with key contributions from Education Committee Manager Amber Belako and Trustee Deborah Jonas. We're grateful for their leadership in elevating RVF's work.



Learn more
about the
project from
[our videos on](#)
[Youtube!](#)

HELP US KNOW, HELP US GROW: END-OF-YEAR FEEDBACK SURVEY

As we close out the year, we invite you to complete our end-of-year feedback survey.

Share your experiences, stories, and suggestions to help guide RVF's priorities for the year ahead.

Your feedback matters.

[Click here](#), scan the QR code, visit our Facebook to find the survey.



GET INVOLVED

NATURAL HISTORY CENTER WINTER PAUSE

The Natural History Center (NHC) is closed for the winter and will reopen in spring. Special access may be available by request—please email Contact@RockfishValley.org.

This quiet period allows our team to improve internal systems and simplify the RVF experience. Your ideas and feedback are always welcome.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYONE WHO MADE 2025 - RVF'S 20TH YEAR - A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

As we close out the year, RVF wants to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who supported RVF in 2025. Your generosity, time, referrals, care, and feedback made this a truly meaningful year for our community and our landscapes.

Because of you, in 2025:

- Thousands of visitors engaged with nature and learning at the Natural History Center
- Tens of thousands of hikers enjoyed and explored RVF trails
- Volunteers contributed **over 900 hours in stewardship, education, and community support**
- **More than 350 individuals** made gifts to sustain and grow our work

Every gift—large or small—strengthens RVF's role as a gateway community for environmental literacy, access, and stewardship. Together, you make it possible for us to protect these places, welcome learners of all ages, and care for the land year-round.

Thank you for making this such a remarkable year. We wish you happy holidays and a healthy, hopeful New Year—and we look forward to continuing this work together in 2025.

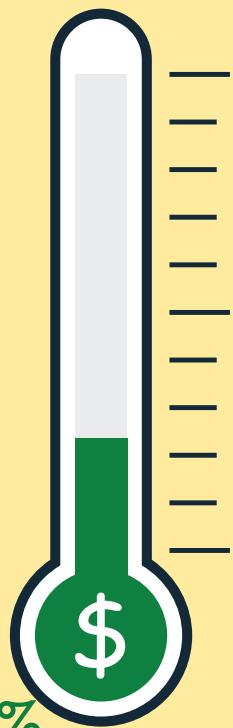


Make a Gift and **Impact Today**:
Rockfishvalley.org/donations

Your gift helps preserve RVF and the Valley as a free and fun place to learn, explore, and connect.

Checks can be mailed to:

Rockfish Valley Foundation
PO Box 235
Nellysford, VA 22958



Since September 1st, **152** gifts have helped raise:
\$23,176.95 of our \$110,000 goal