



U.S. NAVY :

# NSF DAHLGREN : VIRGINIA



## Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren supports the research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division for large-caliber weapons—including the Electromagnetic Rail Gun—and explosive detonations. NSF Dahlgren is located on the Potomac River 50 miles south of Washington D.C. in Virginia, allowing for use of the Potomac River Test Range, the nation’s largest fully instrumented over-water gun-firing range. Here the Navy fires every type of gun in use and being developed

for Navy ships. The sound and shock waves travel up and down the river and impacts residents of Maryland and Virginia alike.



To prevent incompatible development and protect NSF Dahlgren’s RDT&E mission, the Navy is working with a number of partners to preserve land on both banks of the Potomac River and up to several miles inland. In some

cases the partner may acquire the land in fee, but in all cases the Navy will acquire restrictive easements. These easements will remove the development rights on agricultural and forested lands.

Much of the land targeted for protection is already adjacent to public lands that cannot be developed. Protecting these private lands helps secure the isolation of NSF Dahlgren’s mission activities, reducing potential complaints related to noise and shock waves. Additionally, this project advances stream protection initiatives and supports goals for preserving habitat and species throughout the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, while also protecting the viewshed from the adjacent George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects working farm lands
- Preserves habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species
- Preserves water quality and protects water supply
- Protects cultural resources

#### MILITARY

- Protects live-fire testing that produces significant amounts of noise and vibration
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce test and training capacity
- Allows for future mission growth



Research, development, test, and evaluation activities include the testing of unmanned aerial vehicles (top), as well as electromagnetic railgun, a long-range weapon that fires projectiles using electricity (bottom).

### KEY PARTNERS

- Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land

### FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **0**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Partner cost share: **0%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

### CONTACT

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