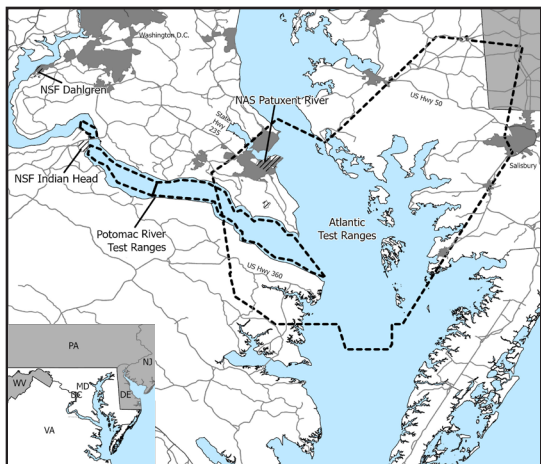




NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY DAHLGREN

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren supports the research, development, testing, 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. Its location allows 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 that is currently in use and those that are being developed for Navy ships. The sound and shock waves travel up and down the river and impact residents of Maryland and Virginia alike.



To prevent development pressures 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 the development pressures on surrounding 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 preserve 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

MILITARY

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



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

KEY PARTNERS

- Anne Arundel County
- Charles County
- Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Inc.
- Lower Shore Land Trust
- Marstel-Day
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust, Inc.
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- St. Mary's County
- State of Delaware
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- Tidewater Land Trust
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

CONTACT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:
(540) 653-8153

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	15	4,205	\$25.9 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding