

2023 Mega-Conference Field Trip #1:

Virginia Tidewater/Lower Coastal Plain, Middle and Northern Necks

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., October 25, 2023

Field trip 2 features Virginia's western Coastal Plain within the James River watershed. The James River is Virginia's largest river, flows from the Appalachian Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, and drains a catchment of over 10,000 square miles.

This field trip focuses on single family residential (SFR) onsite sewage system repairs. The main challenge for these repairs in the Coastal Plain centers around seasonal high-water table as evidenced by redoximorphic features in the soil. Pretreatment of the wastewater with shallow dispersal is often the best solution for repairs on these sites.

While most environmental and public health issues are addressed by municipal or corporate entities, SFR onsite sewage repairs must be accomplished by individual homeowners. While some homeowners are affluent enough to undertake an onsite sewage repair without difficulty, many struggle to cover the cost of a new onsite sewage system whether it be conventional or alternative, often resulting in an environmental justice issue.

A couple of these repairs were accomplished through VDH Septic and Well Assistance Program (SWAP) grants for homeowners whose annual income falls below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This field trip will also feature soil interpretation at some sites.

Note: Sites may require walking on uneven ground. Appropriate footwear is recommended.

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration Check-in** (light continental breakfast provided)
- 8:15 a.m. **Boarding of Bus**
- 8:30 a.m. **Field Trip Bus Departure from Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA**
- 9:15 a.m. **Drive by First Residential Site – Longhill Road, Williamsburg**
Drive by Second Residential Site – Chickahominy Road, Toano
Drive by Third Residential Site -Little Creek Dam Road, Toano
Arrive and Tour Fourth Residential Site – Uncles Neck Road, Toano
Arrive and Tour Fifth Residential Site – Uncles Neck Road, Toano
- Noon **Lunch at James City-Bruton Volunteer Fires Station** (box lunch provided)
- 1:00 p.m. **Arrive and Tour Sixth Residential Site – W. Riverside Drive, Lanexa**
- 3:30 p.m. **Arrive and Tour Seventh Residential Site – Belmont Drive, Toano**
- 4:30 p.m. **Arrive back at Hampton Roads Convention Center**

Note: Itinerary and times subject to change. All attendees are expected to ride the bus transportation provided. No private vehicles are allowed on the field trip tour.