

## MERRIMAC FARM



### WHY A PRIORITY?

- › Merrimac Farm hosts native habitat, rare plant species, and 100 acres of wetlands adjacent to Cedar Run; the property is strategically located for maximum conservation benefit for wildlife and drinking water protection.
- › Conservation of the site would provide a natural area in northern Virginia for hiking, nature observation, fishing, and cultural and environmental education.
- › This initiative is the result of a broad-based collaboration of conservation groups, the landowner, and the state and federal government.



Located in Prince William County, Merrimac Farm is a 302-acre property on the National Register for Historic Places with important natural resources and a strategic location for conservation within the Occoquan watershed. Conservation of the property will protect more than 100 acres of wetlands along a one-mile stretch of Cedar Run, a major tributary to the Occoquan River. Such wetland protection and stream buffering efforts are a critical part of protecting water quality in the Occoquan watershed, the drinking water source for half of Prince William and Fairfax Counties. The project will also conserve important wildlife habitat as a strategic connection between an existing 300-acre protected wetland mitigation bank and the more than 22,000 acres at the Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Recognizing the importance of the property, the Prince William Conservation Alliance has worked with the owners of Merrimac Farm to identify funding to acquire, permanently protect, and provide public access to the property. In June 2007, the Commonwealth of Virginia—through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation—awarded a grant of \$820,000 to the conservation group, providing some of the funds needed to acquire the property. Now, the Alliance has high hopes that by the end of 2007 the remaining public partners will provide the funding needed

to permanently protect Merrimac Farm. The Washington Smart Growth Alliance endorses this project for both its regional benefits and the collaborative approach being undertaken to achieve those benefits.



*For more information:*

**PRINCE WILLIAM  
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**

<http://www.pwconserve.org>

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