



# Faith in our Rivers

## ***Facilitating a global collaboration of Water Protectors***

***An initiative of The Pocahontas Project supporting the Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***

### **Primary Objective**

Following the environmental mindset “**think globally, act locally**”, the primary objective of **The Pocahontas Project** (TPP) **Faith in our Rivers** initiative is instill faith in the overall quality of our rivers by connecting people, especially communities of faith around the world, with established projects and programs supporting their local rivers, streams and watersheds. The initiative embraces the indigenous cultural perspective that views water and land as sacred, and aligns with the **Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan** by supporting several United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). **Matoaka** means “**flower between two streams**”.

### **Leadership from the Thames Landscape Strategy**

The TPP effort in the name of Pocahontas, first considered by Rick Tatnall in March of 2017 in England, owes its existence to Jason Debney and the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS > <http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/>) for their leadership in the planning and presentation of the Pocahontas 400 ceremonies, including HRH Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester. Over the past two decades Rick and Jason have developed a mutually beneficial relationship wrapped around their respective rivers – the James River and the River Thames. The construct of the **Faith in our Rivers** initiative is based on what has been learned in that relationship and TPP is honored to continue to collaborate with TLS leadership and supporters.

### **Organizations invited to become Founding Partners of the Rivers Initiative**

TPP invites the following water protector organizations to join TLS and become “Founding Partners” of the **Faith in our Rivers** initiative, agreeing to identify and develop projects and programs for Matoaka Covenant Participant organizations and communities to support.

### **International River and Water Associations**

- Water Protector Legal Collective > <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/>
  - International > <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/international-work/>
  - [organizer@waterprotectorlegal.org](mailto:organizer@waterprotectorlegal.org) / 701-566-9108
- International River Foundation (Australia) > <https://riverfoundation.org.au/>
  - [info@riverfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@riverfoundation.org.au)

- International Rivers > <https://www.internationalrivers.org/>
  - Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers
- Waterkeeper Alliance > <https://waterkeeper.org/>
  - New York Office – (212) 747-0622 / [info@waterkeeper.org](mailto:info@waterkeeper.org)
- Rivers Network > <https://www.riversnetwork.org/rbo/>

### **USA Oriented River and Water Associations**

- American Canoe Association > <http://www.americancanoe.org/>
- American Rivers > <https://www.americanrivers.org/>
- American Whitewater > <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/>
- National Association for Rivers > <http://www.nationalrivers.org/>
- River Network > <https://www.rivernetwork.org/>
- River Management Society > <http://www.river-management.org/>

### **Regional River and Water Associations**

#### **United States**

- Connecticut
  - Connecticut River Conservancy > <https://www.ctriver.org/>
- Maryland
  - Severn River Association > <https://severnriver.org/>
- Virginia
  - James River Association > <https://thejamesriver.org/>
  - James River Park System > <https://jamesriverpark.org/>
  - Potomac Riverkeeper Network > <https://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/>
  - Friends of the Rappahannock > <https://riverfriends.org/>
  - Rivanna Conservation Alliance > <https://www.rivannariver.org/>

#### **Canada**

- Watersheds Canada > <https://watersheds.ca/about-watersheds-canada/>
- Athabasca Watershed Council > <https://awc-wpac.ca/>
- Ontario Rivers Alliance > <http://www.ontarioriversalliance.ca/>
- The Steelhead Society of British Columbia > <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/about-us>

#### **United Kingdom**

- Canal and River Trust > <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>
- Yorkshire Dale Rivers Trust > <http://www.yorkshiredalesriverstrust.com/>

#### **Australia**

- Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations > <https://www.mldrin.org.au/>
- Yarra Riverkeepers > <https://yarrariver.org.au/>

#### **India**

- Sankat Mochan Foundation > <http://sankatmochan.tripod.com/>

#### **New Zealand**

- Waikato River Authority > <https://waikatoriver.org.nz/>

#### **Sri Lanka**

- Sri Lanka Water Partnership > <http://lankajalani.org/>

## **Inspiring and facilitating ACTION from Matoaka Covenant Participants**

As the signature TPP initiative in support of the *Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan, Faith in our Rivers* is designed to inspire and facilitate action from Matoaka Covenant Participant / Partner organizations and communities, connecting them with projects and programs supporting rivers, streams and watersheds in their local community

- TPP is curating a growing database of river/stream/watershed projects and programs specifically for Participant / Partner communities to consider and embrace based on their individual goals and objectives
  - Including projects and programs created specifically for faith groups by the Founding Partner organizations
  - Matoaka Covenant Individual Participants will be recruited to assist with curating and marketing the growing database of projects and programs
- Anticipated faith community support to their chosen project or program to include volunteer time, in-kind donations, and financial contributions as defined by the coordinating water protector organization
- TPP will write grants to support and enable the involvement of water protector organizations and cover the costs of developing and marketing the collection of advocacy projects and programs

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Presented by Rick Tatnall  
The Pocahontas Project  
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