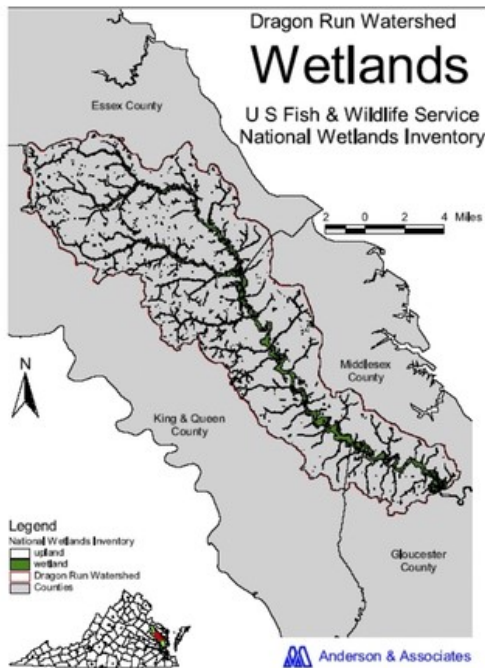


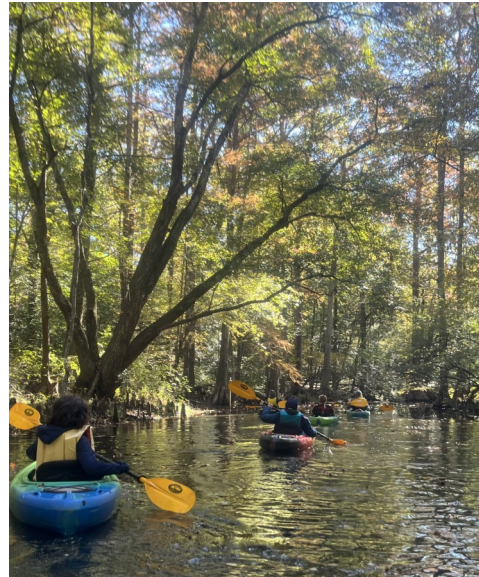
What is the DREAM?

The Dragon Run watershed is a unique ecosystem located on the Middle Peninsula. It is one of the northern most bald cypress swamps. With headwaters in Essex County, the swamp consists of approximately 90,000 acres and travels 39 miles through King and Queen, Middlesex, Middlesex, and Gloucester counties before emptying into the Piankatank River. In a study conducted by the Smithsonian institution in 1974, Dragon Run was ranked second, and first in Virginia, in ecological significance among 232 areas investigated in the Chesapeake Watershed. More information can be found at dragonrun.org.



Map 1: US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory

The DREAM is a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) for life science teacher leaders to immerse them in a field experience where they will engage in activities to learn about the unique Dragon Run ecosystem. Teachers will be trained in stream side investigations that will enable them to develop a MWEE on the Dragon for their own students.



Teachers will be compensated for their time at the academy and receive materials to use at their home schools.

Teachers will also be asked to complete the online MWEE 101—Chesapeake Exploration course before the Academy or document their experience with MWEE. Again, teachers will be compensated for their time taking the MWEE 101 course..

Email MollyBrodersonEdS@gmail.com for additional information and applications.



Draft of Activities for Dragon Run Teacher Academy

Day 1

Introduction to the Dragon paddle

Watershed concept

Keystone species

Exploration and hiking

Sample activities that can be completed with students at school

Water quality – physical testing

Water quality – macroinvertebrates

Group and individual reflection



Day 2

Paddle

Exploration and hiking – Connections. What do you see, what does it mean? How does this (choose one) organism affect the Dragon? What is the organism's role?

Scavenger hunt

Introduction to Citizen Science: iNaturalist, SEEK, *WildlifeMapping*

Roles of biotic and abiotic parameters

History and indigenous peoples

Group and individual reflection



Day 3

Paddle

Examples of watershed related curricula

Vernal pools

Beaver cams and Go Pro cameras

Collaboratively work with teacher team to develop classroom activities

Bring your class to Dragon Run

Group and individual reflection

