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## **American Water Charitable Foundation Awards \$22,500 Grant for Union Sportsmen's Alliance's 100<sup>th</sup> Conservation Project**

**Alexandria, Va. (August 25, 2017)** — The American Water Charitable Foundation (AWCF) has provided a grant of \$22,500 to support the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's (USA) 100<sup>th</sup> Work Boots on the Ground project at the historic Jones Point Park in Alexandria, Va.

The USA will support the National Park Service by replacing a fishing pier at the park originally constructed in 1950 that is in critical need of repair.

The AWCF grant helps cover expenses to rebuild the fishing pier. Virginia American Water provides drinking water service to the City of Alexandria, and the company's Alexandria District employees will help rebuild the pier by supplying some of the skilled union workers to complete a portion of the project. SEIU Local 32BJ covers Virginia American Water field operations employees in Alexandria.

"The American Water Charitable Foundation is proud to again support the Union Sportsmen's Alliance with this grant, which is vital to rebuilding the fishing pier at Alexandria's Jones Point Park," said Laura Martin, AWCF president.

Located on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Jones Point Park is just a few miles from Washington, DC, and is an important urban park with fishing and boating access to the Potomac River.

"Built with the help of Virginia American Water employees, the new pier will encourage greater interaction with, and appreciation for, the Potomac River—one of the sources of Alexandria's drinking water supply—and an important water resource for our nation," said Barry Suits, president, Virginia American Water.

This conservation project is the USA's 100<sup>th</sup> since it launched its Work Boots on the Ground program in 2010. The program brings together union members willing to volunteer their time and expertise to tackle hands-on, community-based conservation projects.

"Our public lands are a treasure for all Americans, but they're at risk of falling into disrepair with budget cuts and a \$12 billion maintenance backlog," said USA CEO & Executive Director Scott Vance. "Our 100<sup>th</sup> Work Boots on the Ground project is a shining example of public and private partners and dedicated volunteers coming together to restore, conserve and protect our

parks, their legacy and critical infrastructure for all Americans to enjoy for generations to come.”

National parks are funded through multiple sources in congressional appropriations, but in recent years have been insufficient to keep up with the deferred maintenance on park roads, bridges, trails, historic structures, campgrounds and other facilities. As recently as 2015, the National Park Service received just 58 cents of every dollar it needed just to keep the repairs backlog from growing.

The Jones Point Park project marks the seventh joint conservation project between the USA and AWCF since 2015. In total, the USA has received \$175,500 in AWCF grants for projects that improve public access to water-based recreational opportunities or enhance the environmental sustainability of existing recreational areas in Tennessee, Illinois, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

A formal pier dedication is planned for November 2017.

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**American Water Charitable Foundation:** Established in 2010 with a founding contribution from American Water, the American Water Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides a formal way to demonstrate the company’s ongoing commitment to being a good neighbor, citizen and contributor to the communities where American Water and its employees live, work and operate. The Foundation helps support American Water employee-identified nonprofit endeavors. More information can be found online at [amwater.com/corp/serving-our-customers/charitable-foundation](http://amwater.com/corp/serving-our-customers/charitable-foundation).

**Virginia American Water:** [Virginia American Water](http://VirginiaAmericanWater.com), a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 320,000 people.

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,800 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

**Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA):** The USA is a union-dedicated, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose members hunt, fish, shoot and volunteer their skills for conservation. The USA is uniting the union community through conservation to preserve North America’s outdoor heritage. For more information, visit [www.unionsportsmen.org](http://www.unionsportsmen.org) or connect on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/usaconservation), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/usaconservation) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/usaconservation).

**Work Boots on the Ground (WBG):** WBG is the USA’s flagship conservation program that brings together union members willing to volunteer their time and expertise to conservation projects that improve and enhance public access to the outdoors, conserve wildlife habitat, restore America’s parks and mentor youth in the outdoors. The USA’s Work Boots on the Ground program works closely with federal, state and local agencies and other conservation groups to provide manpower needed to complete critical projects that may otherwise go undone.