

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND RECREATION**

REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
May 2017**

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Rochelle Altholz
Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance

David C. Dowling
Deputy Director of
Soil and Water Conservation
and Dam Safety

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia
Members of the Virginia General Assembly

Dear Governor McAuliffe and General Assembly Members:

We are pleased to provide you this report, which has been prepared on behalf of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) Board of Trustees by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Department of Conservation and Recreation serves as staff to VLCF. The report is presented in accordance with § 10.1-1018.1 of the Code of Virginia, instructing the Chairman of the Board of VLCF to biennially submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and report of the interim activity and work of the Board.

VLCF, in concert with its federal, state, local, and private conservation partners, has continued to make significant annual progress towards the Commonwealth's land conservation goals since it was first funded in the 1999 General Assembly Session. To date, state funding to VLCF has been leveraged to help protect more than 141,744 acres across Virginia. This includes 59,499 acres from direct VLCF matching grants and an estimated 82,245 additional acres that have or will be protected with VLCF funds that were required to be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. A small percentage of the accrued interest in the Fund has helped DCR develop the Commonwealth's most comprehensive conserved lands database and other mapping tools. The database helps to track progress towards the goals and, together with other mapping tools, offers a means for better-informed decision-making by the VLCF trustees.

Virginia should be proud of the conservation projects achieved through grants awarded from VLCF. The projects enabled by VLCF grants have had a positive impact across the Commonwealth, protecting working farms and forests; natural, cultural, and historical resources; and parks and other lands for recreational purposes. Additionally, lands that provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, fish, and wildlife, as well as natural areas and open space have been conserved. Most also protect water quality in nearby streams and rivers.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation program provides several notable features:

- The Foundation's funds often have been leveraged to achieve a match greater than the 50 percent match required by state law;
- The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is strategic in the awarding of grants. The competitive process and interagency team approach used by the Foundation to score and award grant funding helps to ensure that the best lands are conserved; and

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-786-6124

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia
Members of the Virginia General Assembly
May 22, 2017
Page 2

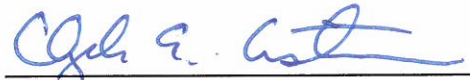
- The scoring criteria provide an emphasis on projects resulting in public access to conserved lands. This helps to address the public's growing desire for publicly available lands and is a significant difference between VLCF and conservation easements or purchase of development rights (PDR) programs, which do not generally provide for public utilization.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation has contributed to the Commonwealth's conservation efforts through its grant program responsibilities. As additional funds become available, we are confident that the Foundation will remain a responsible steward and partner through which Virginia will excel in its conservation efforts.

Respectfully submitted,



Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources and
Chair of the Virginia Land
Conservation Foundation



Clyde E. Cristman
Director, Department of
Conservation and Recreation and
Executive Secretary of the Virginia
Land Conservation Foundation

Attachment

cc: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees
Daniel S. Timberlake, Director of Planning and Budget
Jason Powell, Legislative Analyst, Senate Finance Committee
Anne E. Oman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations Committee

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017

Chair and Secretary of Natural Resources

The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

The Honorable Basil Gooden, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Gubernatorial Appointees

	Address	Term Expires	Cong. Dist.
The Honorable Albert C. Pollard, Jr.	Irvington	06/30/17	1
Jay C. Ford	Eastville	06/30/17	2
Byron M. Adkins, Jr.	Ruthville	06/30/18	3
Susan E. Donner	Suffolk	06/30/18	4
Joan Fenton	Charlottesville	02/30/18	5
Anna Lawson	Daleville	06/30/19	6
Valerie D. Hubbard	Richmond	06/30/19	7
Glenda C. Booth	Alexandria	06/30/19	8
Russell V. Presley, II	Grundy	06/30/20	9
Robert W. Lazaro, Jr. (Vice Chairman)	Purcellville	06/30/20	10
The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.	Burke	06/30/20	11

Senate Appointees

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.	Mount Solon	06/30/16
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel	Winchester	06/30/16

House Appointees

Steven L. Apicella	Fredericksburg	06/30/19
R. Brian Ball	Richmond	06/30/17
Paul V. Milde	Stafford	06/30/19
Julian T. Ottley	Richmond	06/30/20

Executive Secretary

Clyde E. Cristman Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

PREFACE

This report has been prepared in accordance with, and fulfills the requirements of, § 10.1-1018.1 of the *Code of Virginia* to “[r]eport on the status of VCLF and its Fund including, but not limited to, (i) implementation of its strategic plan; (ii) land conservation targeting tools developed for the Foundation; (iii) descriptions of projects that received funding; (iv) a description of the geographic distribution of land protected as provided in § 10.1-1021.1; (v) expenditures from, interest earned by, and financial obligations of the Fund; and (vi) progress made toward recognized state and regional land conservation goals. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly’s website.”

The following pages will provide a status report for grants awarded by VCLF and an update on related land conservation activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017

PREFACE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	i
Table 1: Funding General Summary in Dollars	ii
Table 2: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Award Summary	iii
FOUNDATION OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES IN 2015 AND 2016	1
Board of Trustees Meetings	1
Interagency Task-Force Meetings.....	2
Competitive Grant Awards (October 27, 2015 Grant Round)	2
Table 3: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for October 27, 2015 Grant Awards.....	8
Table 4: Competitive Grant Awards (October 27, 2015 Grant Round).....	9
Competitive Grant Awards (September 14, 2016 Grant Round).....	10
Table 5: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for September 14, 2016 Grant Awards.....	20
Table 6: Competitive Grant Awards (September 14, 2016 Grant Round)	21
STATUS OF LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA	22
Land Conservation Status Summary.....	22
Table 7: Land Preservation Statistics in Virginia (through December 31, 2016).....	22
Table 8: Current Annual Protection Trends as of December 31, 2014	23
Land Preservation Tax Credit Responsibilities.....	23
Virginia Treasures	24
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	24
Table 9: VLCF Funding Allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.....	25
CONSERVATION PLAN AND TOOL DEVELOPMENT	27
Comprehensive Plan Development	27

Virginia’s Natural Heritage Plan.....	29
Strategic Plan Development	34
APPENDIX A: HISTORIC STATUS OF PAST VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION GRANTS.....	36
Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 1999 Grant Round).....	36
Table 10: Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 1999 Grant Round)	37
Civil War Battlefield Grant Awards FY 2000-2001	38
Table 11: FY2000-2001 Civil War Battlefield Grant Awards.....	38
Competitive Grant Awards (January 4, 2001 Grant Round).....	39
Table 12: Competitive Grant Awards (January 4, 2001 Grant Round).....	40
Competitive Grant Award Funding FY2001 through FY2003.....	41
Competitive Grant Awards (June 7, 2005 Grant Round)	42
Table 13: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for June 7, 2005 Grant Awards	43
Table 14: Competitive Grant Awards (June 7, 2005 Grant Round).....	44
Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 2005 Grant Round).....	45
Table 15: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for December 1, 2005 Grant Awards.....	46
Table 16: Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 2005 Grant Round)	47
Competitive Grant Awards (June 13, 2007 Grant Round).....	48
Table 17: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for June 13, 2007 Grant Awards	49
Table 18: Competitive Grant Awards (June 13, 2007 Grant Round).....	50
Competitive Grant Awards (January 7, 2009 Grant Round)	51
Table 19: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for January 7, 2009 Grant Awards.....	52
Table 20: Competitive Grant Awards (January 7, 2009 Grant Round).....	53
Competitive Grant Awards (September 13, 2011 Grant Round).....	54
Table 21: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for September 13, 2011 Grant Awards.....	55
Table 22: Competitive Grant Awards (September 13, 2011 Grant Round)	56
Competitive Grant Awards (December 6, 2012 Grant Round).....	57
Table 23: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for December 6, 2012 Grant Awards.....	58

Table 24: Competitive Grant Awards (December 6, 2012 Grant Round)	59
Competitive Grant Awards (January 6, 2015 Grant Round)	60
Table 25: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for January 6, 2015 Grant Awards.....	61
Table 26: Competitive Grant Awards (January 6, 2015 Grant Round).....	63
APPENDIX B: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	64
Table 27: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Grant Awards (By Project).....	65
Table 28: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Competitive Grant Awards (By Funding in Dollars)	66
APPENDIX C: GRANT CRITERIA.....	67
Table 29: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Grant Application Scoring Sheet and Criteria	67
Open Space & Parks Category	68
Natural Areas Category.....	69
Historic Area Preservation Category	70
Agricultural (Farmlands) Category.....	71
Forest Lands Category	72
Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Identified Need	73
Water Quality Benefit.....	74
Value Added.....	75
Public Access.....	76
Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost	77

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (Foundation or VLCF) serves an important land conservation mission in the Commonwealth. It leverages state funds through matching grants and partnerships to protect working farms and forests, historic lands, open space and parks, and natural areas. The Foundation's distinctive features include a cross-cutting grant review process to maximize conservation values of funded projects, an inter-agency staff review team that involves expertise from multiple state agencies, and a final review by a diverse Board of Trustees whose membership includes appointees from the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Senate of Virginia.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

Since its inception in 1992, VLCF has experienced a name change from the Virginia Conservation and Recreation Foundation to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, a significant expansion and improvement to its Code authority, and has sustained a successful grants program. In 2000, the Foundation's Board of Trustees grew from nine members to 18 members. In 2006, the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry was added to the Board.

Total funds appropriated to the Foundation exceed \$57.5 million since FY2000 (Table 1). To date, approximately \$43.5 million has been allocated to VLCF's matching grant program. Additionally, more than \$13.1 million has been allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund in accordance with Virginia Code § 10.1-1020(C)(1). Moneys from this Fund are used to aid localities acquiring open-space easements or landowners conveying open-space easements with the costs associated with the conveyance of the easements.

Table 1: Funding General Summary in Dollars

Fiscal Year	Source of Funding	Amount Available/ Appropriation	Amount to VOF	Amount Expended on or Allocated to Grants	Grant Award Date
FY2000	Approp. Act (Chap. 935 – 1999)	1,750,000	0	1,303,399.00	12/01/1999
FY2001	Approp. Act (Chap. 1073 – 2000) Specific Civil War Battlefields	3,400,000	0	3,382,004.92	
FY2001	Approp. Act (Chap. 1073 – 2000)	6,200,000	1,550,000	3,730,783.00	01/04/2001
FY2004	Vehicle Reg. (Chap. 1042 – 2003)	1,463,275	365,819	2,629,822.67	06/07/2005
FY2005	Approp. Act (Chap. 4 – 2004)	2,500,000	625,000		
FY2005	Unallocated Interest	56,982	14,246		
FY2005	Approp. Act (Chap. 951 – 2005)	10,000,000	2,500,000	9,015,182.92	12/01/2005
FY2005	Vehicle Reg. (Chap. 951 – 2005)	381,061	95,265		
FY2006	Approp. Act (Chap. 951 – 2005)	2,500,000	625,000		
FY2006	Unallocated Interest	188,960	47,240	5,447,399.00	06/13/2007
FY2006	Vehicle Reg (Chapter 2 – 2006)	783,563	195,890		
FY2007	Approp. Act (Chap. 3 – 2006)	2,500,000	625,000		
FY2007	Approp. Act (Chap. 847 – 2007)	500,000	125,000		
FY2007	Unallocated Interest	300,000	75,000		
FY2008	Approp. Act (Chap. 847 – 2007)	3,000,000	750,000		
FY2007	Vehicle Reg. (Chap. 3 – 2006)	663,269	165,817	4,036,136.00	01/07/2009
FY2008	Vehicle Reg. (Chap. 847 – 2007)	397,880	99,468		
FY2009	Approp. Act (Chap. 879 – 2008)	2,000,000	500,000		
FY2010	Approp. Act (Chap. 872 – 2010)	2,000,000	500,000		
FY2010	Vehicle Reg. (Chap. 781 – 2009)	4,666	1,166	2,106,149.00	09/13/2011
FY2011	Approp. Act (Chap. 874 – 2010)	500,000	125,000		
FY2012	Approp. Act (Chap. 874 – 2010)	500,000	125,000		
FY2012	Approp. Act (Chap. 890 – 2011)	1,000,000	250,000		
FY2013	Approp. Act (Chap. 3 – 2012)	1,000,000	250,000	1,024,471.00	12/06/2012
FY2014	Approp. Act (Chap. 806 – 2013)	1,000,000	250,000		
FY2015	Approp. Act (Chap. 3 – 2014)	1,000,000	250,000	1,781,081.00	01/06/2015
FY2016	Approp. Act (Chap. 3 – 2014)	1,000,000	250,000		
FY2016	Approp. Act (Chap. 665 – 2015)	3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000.00	10/27/2015
FY2017	Approp. Act (Chap. 780 – 2016)	8,000,000	2,000,000	6,423,011.00	9/14/2016
TOTALS		57,589,656	13,109,911	43,129,439.51	

NOTE: *Italicized numbers are estimated, as one or more projects have not been closed out.*

NOTE: *Unexpended portions from several grant rounds were reverted to the General Fund.*

NOTE: *Unexpended portions from withdrawn projects or projects that closed at a lesser amount than authorized were reprogrammed to subsequent grant rounds unless reverted to the General Fund.*

In FY2016, \$2.25 million was available for the VLCF grant round, which was open from June 16 to August 19, 2015. The Foundation received 18 applications for land conservation projects requesting more than \$3.89 million in grants. The Board met on October 27, 2015, to consider these applications and approved

14 projects that will protect 1,998.39 acres. Additionally, \$750,000 was allocated to VOF for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund.

Most recently, \$6,423,011 was available for the FY2017 VLCF grant round, which was open from May 18 to July 28, 2016. The Foundation received 36 applications for land conservation projects requesting more than \$11 million in grants. The Board met on September 14, 2016, to consider these applications and approved 23 projects that will protect 7,037 acres. Additionally, \$2.0 million was allocated to VOF for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund.

Since first receiving funding in FY2000, the Foundation has held eleven grant rounds. During those eleven grant rounds, VLCF received 308 applications requesting more than \$115.5 million in state funding, which was almost three times the available amount (Table 2). To date, VLCF has awarded funding to 180 of the 308 grant applications, awarded more than \$46.7 million to land conservation projects, and helped protect more than 59,800 acres at an average cost of \$781 per acre.

Table 2: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Award Summary

Grant Award Date	# of Applic. Received	Amount requested from VLCF	# of Projects Awarded Funds	Amount Awarded by VLCF	# of Projects Closed	Total Amount Expended	Total Acres Preserved	Easement Amount Expended	Acres by Easement
12/01/99	20	\$5,800,000.00	12	\$1,688,842	9	\$1,353,399.00	1,136.87	\$384,600.00	532.00
Projects Specified in Appropriations Act		\$3,400,000.00	4	\$3,400,000	4	\$3,382,004.92	1,257.00	0	0
01/04/01	41	\$11,200,000.00	19	\$3,919,695	18	\$3,730,783.00	2,764.55	\$1,164,666.00	1,218.15
06/07/05	23	\$6,011,695.00	12	\$3,027,665	11	\$2,629,822.67	6,552.80	\$1,080,729.00	3,441.00
12/01/05	52	\$30,850,220.50	22	\$9,717,411	20	\$9,015,182.92	6,931.02	\$1,401,200.00	2,271.46
06/13/07	31	\$24,847,590.00	15	\$6,217,843	13	\$5,447,399.00	10,543.31	\$2,257,114.00	2,598.80
01/07/09	22	\$5,404,839.00	16	\$4,310,945	15	\$4,036,136.00	12,040.52	\$978,518.00	2,080.00
09/13/11	27	\$5,933,991.00	17	\$2,404,408	15	\$2,106,149.00	2,283.63	\$880,708.00	1,379.57
12/06/12	15	\$2,775,121.00	12	\$1,569,250	9	\$1,024,471.00	1,400.43	\$644,250.00	1,237.21
01/06/15	23	\$3,955,725.00	14	\$1,781,081	14	<i>\$1,781,081.00</i>	<i>5,739.23</i>	<i>\$685,496.00</i>	<i>1,875.91</i>
10/27/15	18	\$3,890,884.00	14	\$2,250,000	13	<i>\$2,162,500.00</i>	<i>1,997.29</i>	<i>\$812,500.00</i>	<i>1,329.42</i>
09/14/16	36	\$11,450,556.00	23	\$6,423,011	23	<i>\$6,423,011.00</i>	<i>6,852.83</i>	<i>\$2,582,338.00</i>	<i>5,751.01</i>
TOTAL	308	\$115,520,621.50	180	\$46,710,151	164	<i>\$43,091,939.51</i>	<i>59,499.48</i>	<i>\$12,872,119.00</i>	<i>23,714.53</i>

NOTE: *Italicized numbers represent estimated totals as one or more projects have not been closed out.*

The Foundation has also met its charge to develop a strategic plan for the expenditure of moneys received from the Fund. The strategic plan governing fiscal expenditures has been incorporated into successive VLCF grant manuals beginning in 1999, and has been updated regularly. The most recent revisions to the manual were made for the September 14, 2016, grant round. The grant scoring criteria are outlined in Appendix C. The grant manual is available at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia_land_conservation_foundation/.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation serves as a coordinating mechanism for bringing together a number of state agencies' land conservation efforts and priorities. The Foundation is one of the key tools that Virginia utilizes to attain its land conservation targets. A coordinating multi-agency task force consisting of the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the State Forester, the Director of the Department of Historic Resources, the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, or their designees, provide the VLCF Board with assistance on such matters as grant criteria, grant priorities, and grant selection. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation serves as the lead staff for the Foundation.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Office of Land Conservation serves as a statewide central contact, repository, and clearinghouse for land conservation in Virginia. During VLCF grant rounds, this office serves as an important source of information for potential grant applicants and acts as the grant manager for projects funded.

The Office's website (www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation/) includes a wide variety of land conservation materials and contact information to assist landowners, conservation organizations, and managers with their conservation planning. In addition, the website provides a link to the state's comprehensive statewide conserved lands resource mapping tool, Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE), which was developed by DCR. This important land conservation-planning tool is accessible at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation/tools02a.shtml and is updated regularly.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation also developed other databases that assist in the Foundation's work. For example, the Department's "Natural Heritage Screening Layer" is based upon more than 30 years of data collection and is Virginia's most comprehensive information management system on natural communities and rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals and their natural habitats. DCR produced several statewide tools such as the Conservation Lands Database

(providing a dynamic parcel-level tracking tool for all conservation lands in the Commonwealth) and ConservationVision (providing statewide models to display lands ranked in conservation importance based on their recreational, cultural, agricultural, forest economics, and watershed integrity assets). These tools, as well as others described below, are utilized to help assess grant applications submitted to the Foundation for funding consideration. Much of this data, designed to inspire and inform land conservation, is provided on the Internet via DCR's Natural Heritage Data Explorer and the Chesapeake Bay Program's LandScope Chesapeake. Additionally, DCR has developed a Natural Heritage Plan, available at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/vph.shtml. This plan identifies key habitats for rare species and significant natural communities that merit preservation.

The 2013 edition of the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP, or Outdoors Plan) serves as the Foundation's comprehensive plan as required under § 10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia*. The VOP, published by DCR every five years, is the state's official plan for the protection and conservation of Virginia's important natural, outdoor recreational and open space resources. The 2013 edition is the 10th publication of the VOP and the first to be completely paperless. It can be accessed on-line at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/vop. Unlike earlier versions, this most recent Outdoors Plan, with its on-line content and interactive mapping tool, is a living document that provides up-to-date guidance on the latest trends in outdoor recreation and land conservation techniques and strategies.

The Outdoors Plan is based on an inventory of all publicly held park and open space land, including state-owned lands and lands held by federal agencies and localities. This inventory of existing lands and facilities serves as a basis for the Foundation's needs assessment. In addition to its analysis of existing conditions statewide, the VOP also provides recommendations for each of the State's Planning Districts in meeting outdoor recreation, conservation, and open space needs. Key areas necessary to protect the Commonwealth's natural, scenic, open space, and cultural resources are identified. Currently, work is underway to prepare the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Survey, which will serve as the basis for the next edition of the VOP in 2018.

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES IN 2015 AND 2016

Board of Trustees Meetings

In 2015 and 2016, the Board of Trustees met as needed to authorize grant rounds, consider applications, and address land preservation tax credit matters. Meetings of the Board during this time-period were as follows:

- **June 16, 2015** - Board of Trustees' Meeting: Presentation and approval of FY16 grant round schedule and financial plan; approval of proposed changes to VLCF Grant Manual and scoring criteria; presentation and discussion of a draft guidance document on conservation easement dispute resolution written to address the new responsibility given to the Board under House Bill 1488, [Chapter 44 of the 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly](#); presentation and legislative update of the Land Preservation Tax Credit program.
- **October 27, 2015** - Board of Trustees' Meeting: Presentation of grant applications and approval of grant awards; approval of 2015 VLCF stewardship fund distribution; presentation and approval of conservation easement dispute resolution guidance document.
- **May 18, 2016** - Board of Trustees' Meeting: Presentation and approval of FY17 grant round schedule and financial plan; approval of proposed changes to VLCF Grant Manual and scoring criteria.
- **June 21, 2016**- Subcommittee Meeting: Review of the VLCF responsibilities as laid out in Chapter 10.2 of Title 10.1 of the *Code of Virginia* (§§ 10.1-1017 through 10.1-1026).
- **September 14, 2016** - Board of Trustees' Meeting: Presentation of grant applications and approval of grant awards; approval of 2016 VLCF stewardship fund distribution.
- **November 3, 2016**- Subcommittee Meeting: Review and discuss the VLCF Grant Program Manual and scoring criteria.
- **February 22, 2017** – Subcommittee Meeting: Overview of available databases and planning tools including ConservationVision and the Lands Needs Assessment, and an update on the planning and progress of the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan. Also, discussion included the VLCF grant scoring criteria.

Interagency Task-Force Meetings

Grant applications are scored and ranked by an interagency task force comprised of representatives of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Forestry, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as required by Virginia Code § 10.1-1018(E).

In 2015, the task force met on two occasions to review and rank grant applications received during the June 16 through August 19, 2015 grant round and to develop grant-award recommendations for the Board. The VLCF Board authorized the grant awards for this round at their meeting on October 27, 2015.

In 2016, the task force met on two occasions to review and rank grant applications received during the May 18 through July 28, 2016 grant round and to develop grant-award recommendations for the Board. The VLCF Board authorized the grant awards for this round at their meeting on September 14, 2016.

Competitive Grant Awards (October 27, 2015 Grant Round)

Chapter 665 of the 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly provided an additional \$3,000,000 in FY16 to the Foundation. Originally, there was \$1 million appropriated for FY16 in the 2014-2016 Biennium. This appropriation was combined with the FY15 funding of \$1 million for the January 6, 2015 grant round. (See page 66.) After 25 percent of the available funding was transferred to Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund pursuant to § 10.1-1020(C)(1), \$2,250,000 was available for this grant round (Table 3). During the June 16 through August 19, 2015 grant cycle, the Foundation received 18 applications requesting \$3,890,884 in grants. The total project costs including applicant match were \$17,469,157 and would have protected 2,166 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on October 27, 2015, to consider these applications and approved \$2,250,000 in grant awards for 14 projects to protect 1,998 acres (Table 4). As of the date of this report, four projects have been completed and one was withdrawn. Funds from the withdrawn Gains Tract project for \$87,500 were carried forward to the September 2016 grant round to be reissued in the Historic Resources category.

Summaries of the projects awarded in the October 27, 2015 grant round are as follows:

FARMLANDS AND FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. Fauquier County Agricultural Development Department – Highwater Farm

The grant request is for the purchase of development rights and placement of a conservation easement on a 181.65-acre beef cattle farm that includes 60 acres of pine woodlands. Protection of the property, which is part of the 19,000-acre Southern Fauquier Agricultural and Forestal District, helps accomplish one of the major goals of the county’s PDR program, which is to establish a critical mass of protected farmland and open space. The project will include vegetated riparian buffers along 4,000 feet of frontage on two streams in the Rappahannock watershed.

Total Project Cost	\$183,000
Match	Fauquier County PDR Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$72,500
Recommended Amount	\$72,500

2. Stafford County – Jones Farm Easement II

The grant request is for additional funds to purchase a conservation easement on 43 acres of farmland in Stafford County that was previously funded by VLCF in 2014. The Jones Farm consists of 13 acres of active farmland (producing hay) and 24 acres of mixed timber forest land. Sixty-eight percent of the property is prime farmland and statewide important soils. The property has a minimum of 35 foot vegetative buffers along the approximately 2,600 feet of streams and wetlands and is within one quarter of a mile of conserved property. While the property is in an area that retains large parcels that continue to be used for agricultural purposes, it does have over 500 feet of public road frontage and well-drained soils, which makes it subject to significant development pressure.

Total Project Cost	\$680,000
Match	Stafford County PDR Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$290,000
Recommended Amount	\$130,000

3. James River Association – Seven Islands Easement

The grant request is to support the purchase of a conservation easement to be held by the Va. Dept. of Forestry on 360 acres of land and islands located southeast of Charlottesville in Fluvanna County. The easement will preserve riparian areas along streams flowing into the James; protect and enhance water quality; protect wildlife habitat and threatened native wildlife species; and maintain at least 75% of the land as a sustainable forest resource. The property, which is 97% forestland, is located between two DGIF Wildlife Management Areas that provide public access, and is on a stretch of the river that has been found to qualify for scenic-river status. It is also in an area that is part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Upper James River Heritage Trail.

Total Project Cost	\$375,559
Match	Bargain sale and \$250,000 from Va. Dept. of Forestry
VLCF Grant Request	\$125,559
Recommended Amount	\$110,000

4. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Ridley Farm Easement

The grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement to protect 567 acres in Southampton County containing 185 acres of swamp/bottomland hardwoods that includes old-growth Tupelo/Bald Cypress swamp with nearly 20,000 feet of frontage on the Nottoway River. The property is also a working farm, with 130 acres of largely prime farmland currently under intensive agricultural use. The swamp and bottomland hardwoods, which lie within the larger DCR Natural Heritage-designated Cypress Swamps Conservation Site, will be protected from timber harvesting and will serve as an effective buffer to the Cypress Bridge Natural Area Preserve that is directly across the Nottoway River. The easement will limit development on the upland portion of the property and will help preserve the viewshed of a state Scenic River.

Total Project Cost	\$555,000
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$272,750
Recommended Amount	\$250,000

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. Civil War Trust – Gaines Tract

Funds are requested for the fee-simple purchase of 1.1 acres within the core area of the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield in Amelia County. The Battle of Sailor’s Creek, on April 6, 1865, led to the surrender of General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse just 72 hours later. Acquisition of the tract will allow the removal of modern buildings and will protect this core battlefield land by allowing its incorporation into Sailor’s Creek State Park.

Total Project Cost	\$225,000
Match	Civil War Trust or other grants
VLCF Grant Request	\$87,500
Recommended Amount	\$87,500

2. Boxerwood Educational Association – Boxerwood Easement

The Boxerwood Education Association, which currently owns the 14.56-acre Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden near Lexington, is requesting \$50,000 for a partial purchase of a conservation easement on the property that will be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The property contains a historic house that is listed on the National and Virginia Historic Registers. The nature center is open to the public as an outdoor classroom in support of educational programs in the Rockbridge County, Lexington, and Buena Vista Public School systems. The Brushy Blue Trail System, which will link the Brushy Hills area to Lexington, Buena Vista, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, is planned to be constructed across the property.

Total Project Cost	\$100,000
Match	Bargain sale value of easement
VLCF Grant Request	\$50,000
Recommended Amount	\$50,000

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. Department of Conservation and Recreation – *The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Additions*

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee approximately 121 acres from five landowners within the Cedars region of Lee County as additions to The Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The Cedars region is one of the most biologically diverse places in North America. Within this roughly 50 square mile area, the Natural Heritage Program has documented 224 occurrences of 93 unique elements of rare plants and animals, significant terrestrial communities, biologically significant caves and freshwater communities. Throughout the region, key tracts are continuously at risk to conversion to intensive uses which diminish the rich biodiversity. Residential development is especially problematic as septic systems on karst are likely to pollute groundwater and thus impact rare cave species. Conversion also removes habitat for rare plants and opens avenues for invasive species. The properties targeted for protection here will mitigate against those threats and will lead to restoration of parts of the landscape that have been converted to incompatible uses.

Total Project Cost	\$448,950
Match	\$20,000
VLCF Grant Request	\$428,950
Recommended Amount	\$221,700

2. The Nature Conservancy – *Protection of Flatwoods at Piney Grove Preserve*

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking \$105,000 in grant funding from VLCF to acquire approximately 75 forested acres adjacent to TNC’s Piney Grove Preserve in Sussex County, Virginia. Acquisition by TNC will benefit two natural heritage resources: Coastal Plain Seasonal Ponds and Virginia’s sole population of the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Conservancy ownership will ensure protection of future Red-cockaded Woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat and will involve reintroduction of fire to restore pine savanna habitat for numerous fire-dependent species. The hydrology of the Seasonal Ponds and surrounding hydric soil areas will be preserved as well. The Conservancy will complete the acquisitions for an estimated cost of \$210,000 and will secure 1:1 matching funds to complete the purchase. The project tracts will be incorporated into Piney Grove Preserve and designated by DCR as a Natural Area Preserve system tract. TNC will secure 1:1 matching funds in 2016 through a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetland Conservation Act grant or from private sources.

Total Project Cost	\$220,000
Match	\$110,000
VLCF Grant Request	\$110,000
Recommended Amount	\$69,655

3. Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation, Inc. – Fee Simple Acquisition by Cheroenhaka Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation and Easement Addition to Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve – *Cheroenhaka Tract*

The project will protect approximately 170 acres adjacent to DCR’s Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve and land already owned by the Cheroenhaka Tribe. The property will be held under easement of natural area dedication by DCR’s Natural Heritage Program. Approximately 10 acres of the property is native bottomland forest and most of the remainder is upland planted with loblolly pine. The applicant proposes to harvest the pine forest and replant with native Virginia longleaf pine and restore the upland into an uneven-aged, open canopy longleaf pine savannah with a diverse herbaceous understory through selective thinning and prescribed fire. Protection of the property will serve as an important buffer to the natural area preserve and prevent incompatible uses, particularly industrial or commercial development. The Cheroenhaka Tribe is seeking \$280,515 in grant funding and proposes a 1:1 match through a bank loan secured in part with the timber value on the subject property.

Total Project Cost	\$561,030
Match	\$280,515
VLCF Grant Request	\$280,515
Recommended Amount	\$271,145

PARKS & OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

1. Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – *Springdale Regional Park Acquisition.*

Grant funds are requested to acquire 149.51 acres of land with approximately 2,080 linear feet of frontage on the Potomac River. The property, which also fronts on Route 15 in northern Loudoun County, includes over 7,000 linear feet of streams and 15.8 acres of wetlands. The project is within the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Journey through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. The property will become a regional park open to the public, with passive recreational uses such as hiking, wildlife observation, fishing, and picnicking.

Total Project Cost	\$4,000,000
Match	LWCF and NOVA Parks funds
VLCF Grant Request	\$390,000
Recommended Amount	\$300,000

2. Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation – *James River Conservation Area*

Funds are requested to assist in the purchase of 109.875 acres with 4,600 linear feet of frontage on the James River, at the confluence of the river with Falling Creek southeast of Richmond. The property, which is just north of Drewry’s Bluff National Park, is planned to be developed as a public park for walking, biking, nature observation, and a boat-launch facility. The project will serve as a major segment of the James River Linear Park and Trail.

Total Project Cost	\$785,000
Match	Donated property value and County funds

VLCF Grant Request	\$355,000
Recommended Amount	\$302,000

3. Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries – Aspen Grove Farm

Grant funds will help acquire the 85-acre Aspen Grove property in New Kent County, which controls access to the Ware Creek Preserve that is being acquired with the help of VLCF funding. The project will protect significant nesting, staging, and wintering habitat for migratory birds, and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Total Project Cost	\$375,000
Match	Pittman-Robertson funds
VLCF Grant Request	\$75,000
Recommended Amount	\$62,500

4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – West Woods

Grant funds are sought to help purchase 31 acres to be added to SVBF’s Third Winchester Battlefield Park, a 572-acre block of contiguous protected land in Frederick County that is open to and interpreted for the public. The project will help protect a wildlife corridor and historic site from planned commercial development. The property, which is part of a commercial shopping center, was recently under contract to WalMart.

Total Project Cost	\$4,977,898
Match	Civil War Trust, SVBF, and land donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$500,000
Recommended Amount	\$123,000

5. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Ditchley Farm

Funding is requested for the purchase of a conservation easement on the property known as Ditchley. The 162-acre historic waterfront property near Kilmarnock has multiple conservation values, including significant agricultural, historic, and recreational features. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) easement will ensure public access to tidal shoreline areas and the Chesapeake Bay, and will permanently protect the property from intensive residential and commercial development. Project objectives include providing recreational access to Dividing Creek, directly across from the Hughlett Point State Natural Area Preserve, and two miles from the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay, in an area where public access opportunities are scarce. A second canoe/kayak access site will be developed on Prentice Creek. In addition to providing recreation, the easement will help to protect 117 acres – 72 percent of the property – that is USDA-designated prime agricultural soil. Ditchley is a productive farm that has been in continuous cultivation for 400 years.

Total Project Cost	\$3,000,000
Match	Landowner donation and cash
VLCF Grant Request	\$350,000
Recommended Amount	\$200,000

Table 3:

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for October 27, 2015 Grant Awards

FUNDING CATEGORIES	CHAPTER 665 (FY16) APPROPRIATION ACT	TOTAL
VOF	\$750,000	\$750,000
Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$562,500	\$562,500
Historic Area Preservation	\$562,500	\$562,500
Natural Area Protection	\$562,500	\$562,500
Open Space and Parks	\$562,500	\$562,500
TOTAL	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Amount available for Grant Program = \$2,250,000		

Item 358 D of Chapter 665 of the 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly

D.1. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,000,000 the first year and ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$4,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. Of these funds, after Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund statutory distribution obligations have been satisfied, no less than 50 percent of the remaining appropriations are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia.

Table 4: Competitive Grant Awards (October 27, 2015 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Project Acres
	Farmlands and Forest Preservation						
1	Highwater Farm*	1	\$72,500	181.65	05-2016	\$72,500	181.65
2	Jones Farm II Easement*	1	\$130,000	43.00	08-2016	\$130,000	43.00
3	Seven Islands Easement*	5	\$110,000	360.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$110,000</i>	<i>360.00</i>
4	Ridley Farm Easement*	4	\$250,000	567.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>567.00</i>
	Historic Area Preservation						
5	Gaines Tract	4	\$87,500	1.10	WITHDRAWN	0	0
6	Boxerwood Easement *	6	\$50,000	15.46	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>15.46</i>
	Natural Area Preservation						
7	Addition to The Cedars NAP	9	\$221,700	90.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$221,700</i>	<i>90.00</i>
8	Piney Grove Flatwoods Acquisition Project	4	\$69,655	32.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$69,655</i>	<i>32.00</i>
9	Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe Protected Land	4	\$271,145	169.80	03-2016	\$271,145	169.80
	Open Spaces and Parks						
10	Springdale Regional Park Acquisition	10	\$300,000	149.51	03-2016	\$300,000	149.51
11	James River Conservation Area	4	\$302,000	109.88	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$302,000</i>	<i>109.88</i>
12	Aspen Grove Farm	7	\$62,500	85.89	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$62,500</i>	<i>85.89</i>
13	West Woods	6	\$123,000	30.79	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$123,000</i>	<i>30.79</i>
14	Ditchley Farm*	1	\$200,000	162.31	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	<i>162.31</i>
	Totals		\$2,250,000	1,998.39		\$2,162,500.00	1,997.29

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement **Note:** *Italicized numbers represent expected payments and acreages based on the grant application*

Competitive Grant Awards (September 14, 2016 Grant Round)

Chapter 780 of the 2016 Virginia Acts of Assembly provided an additional \$8,000,000 in FY17 to the Foundation. Of this amount, \$6,000,000 was available for the FY17 grant round. An additional \$423,011 from previous grant awards was added to the available funding for a total of \$6,423,011 (Table 5). During the May 18 through July 28, 2016 grant cycle, the Foundation received 36 applications requesting \$11,450,556 in grants. The total project costs for all 36 applications, including applicant match, were \$36,699,931 and would have protected 8,290 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on September 14, 2016, to consider these applications and approved \$6,423,011 in grant awards for 23 projects to protect 6,853 acres (Table 6).

One of the Natural Area Protection projects, the Cowbane Prairie Natural Area Preserve (NAP) Addition, was granted an award of \$877,050. However, another potential source of funding for this project had been identified. The VLCF Board awarded full funding to this project with a contingency that if another source of funding was used by the grantee then the Board approved moving the grant funds awarded to this project to fund the following three Natural Area Protection projects: (1) an additional \$183,800 to Cedars NAP for an additional 87 acres; (2) \$118,650 for 75 acres at Antioch Pines NAP; and (3) \$574,600 for 110 acres at Deep Run Pods NAP.

As of the date of this report, three projects from the FY17 grant round have been completed.

Information regarding projects from past grant rounds and their funding amounts can be found in Appendix A of this report. Also, data reflecting the geographic distribution of these recent grant awards and all prior projects can be found in Appendix B.

Summaries of the projects awarded in the September 14, 2016, grant round are as follows:

FARMLANDS PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. *Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection Along the Rapidan River*

This grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement on Glenmary Farm, a 367.7-acre grain, turkey, and beef farm that includes 166 acres of prime or statewide important soils and 80 acres of forest located in Orange County. The project is a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) co-held by The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District. Protection of this property will: enhance water

quality with approximately 12,772 linear feet (2.4 miles) of permanent vegetated riparian buffers along the Rapidan and several tributaries; conserve the scenic rural context of the Mount Pleasant/Lessland, a historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Clark Mountain, a strategic signal post and command headquarters used during the Civil War; and provide visual access to the property from 1.4 miles of frontage along Rapidan River and River Road (State Route 636). The property is contiguous with a block of over 3,200 acres of previously conserved land along the Rapidan River as it sweeps around the base of Clark Mountain.

Total Project Cost	\$1,120,115
Match	NRCS ACEP-ALE, Partial donation of easement value, PEC
VLCF Grant Request	\$262,790
Recommended Amount	\$250,000

2. The Conservation Fund – Flintshire Farm (Phase II)

This grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement on Flintshire Farm, 353 acres of active farmland, scenic riverfront and wetlands in Caroline County. The property has been under the same family ownership since 1666 and has been identified locally by Fort A.P. Hill Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program as a priority for conservation due to its close proximity to army facility. Protection of Flintshire Farm will protect nearly 160 acres of prime farmland with an active agricultural operation that grows corn and soybeans, more than two miles of frontage on the Rappahannock River and its tributaries, 70 acres of forested wetlands and scenic views from designated scenic byways and the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. Water quality will be protected with approximately 11,000 linear feet of permanent vegetative buffer along the Rappahannock River and other tributaries.

Total Project Cost	\$2,734,500
Match	Fort AP Hill ACUB program
VLCF Grant Request	\$400,000
Recommended Amount	\$400,000

3. Valley Conservation Council – Valley Pike Farm

The grant request is for the purchase of development rights and placement of a conservation easement on a 151-acre family farm with productive agricultural soils, wildlife habitat, and scenic views from U.S. Highway 11 and Interstate 81 to be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Valley Pike Farm, Inc. is located in Rockingham County and is a Virginia Century Farm that has been in continuous ownership and operation by the same family for over 100 years. Protection of Valley Pike Farm will protect nearly 100 acres of prime and statewide important soils that is currently producing soybeans, barley, corn, sweet corn and hay along with grazing beef cattle on pasture lands.

Total Project Cost	\$542,300
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$271,150
Recommended Amount	\$200,000

FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Pleasant Grove Easement

The grant request is to fund the partial purchase of an open-space easement on 1,005 acres of land, 1,000 of which is in working forest and farmland, located west of South Boston in Halifax County. Ninety-one percent of the forestland is classified as having high forest conservation value, and all of the soils currently in agriculture are classified as either Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The easement will protect over 4.5 miles of watercourses with permanent forested buffers, including the wetlands present on the property. A quarter of the property and a number of structures on it are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Total Project Cost	\$1,329,600
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$250,000
Recommended Amount	\$230,000

2. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Flowers Easement

The grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement that will protect 845 acres of forest and farmland in Southampton County. The property contains over a mile and a half of frontage along the Nottoway River, this stretch of which is a State-designated Scenic River. The project contains 690 acres of forestland under active management and 155 acres of land currently in agricultural use. The easement will protect over three miles of watercourses with permanent forested buffers, with 286 acres of predominantly tupelo/cypress wetlands along the river. The property will contribute significantly to the corridor of connected, interagency conserved lands along the river, as it lies within the larger DCR Natural Heritage-designated Nottoway River – Three Creek Stream Conservation Unit (SCU), and is immediately downstream of the DGIF Cary’s Bridge public boat ramp.

Total Project Cost	\$1,002,100
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$300,000
Recommended Amount	\$250,000

3. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Wingfield-Cosby Acquisition

The grant request is to support the fee-simple purchase of 572 acres of forestland in Louisa County as a new State Forest. In addition to providing local outdoor recreational opportunities, the property is located within an hour of the population centers of Richmond, Charlottesville, and Fredericksburg. Once initial basic infrastructure improvements are made, the property will be fully available to the public for all forms of outdoor recreation, meeting the “most-needed goals” identified for this area in the Virginia Outdoors Plan. The property is entirely forested, 94% of which is considered high forest conservation value and all of which will be protected as a State Forest. In total, the property contains approximately one mile of streams that flow into the Long Creek-Little River SCU, and will be protected by permanent forested buffers.

Total Project Cost	\$1,467,300
Match	\$357,500 bargain sale from owners and \$537,800 from VDOF
VLCF Grant Request	\$572,000
Recommended Amount	\$170,412

4. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – *Goosepond Easement*

The grant request is to support the partial purchase of an open-space easement on 955 acres of primarily forested land in Dinwiddie County. The 931 acres that are currently forested are classified by VDOF as having high forest conservation value and are under active management. Seventeen acres are in agricultural use, the majority containing soils classified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The easement will protect nearly two miles of streams with permanent forested buffers, including approximately 40 acres of wetlands present on the property. DCR Natural Heritage has confirmed the presence of the State-threatened barking tree frog (*Hyla gratiosa*) and its habitat on the property, which will be protected by establishing heightened habitat protection areas. The project will support the Virginia Outdoors Plan by protecting DCR-NH resources in “the most biologically diverse region along the fall line.”

Total Project Cost	\$1,157,250
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$150,000
Recommended Amount	\$125,000

5. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – *Bucks Elbow Mountain Easement*

The grant request is to support the partial purchase of an open space easement on 263 acres of forested land near Crozet in western Albemarle County. All of the forestland is classified as having high forest conservation value by VDOF, and two globally rare natural communities occur on site. It contains approximately 1,700 linear feet of headwater streams of Powell Creek. The property is highly visible from publicly-owned parks in the area.

Total Project Cost	\$497,100
Match	Partial donation of easement value
VLCF Grant Request	\$150,000
Recommended Amount	\$125,000

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – *Malvern Hill Farm*

Capital Region Land Conservancy is requesting \$1,000,000 for the fee simple acquisition of approximately 524 acres in Henrico County containing prime farmland, forested cover with a high level of forest conservation value, roughly 7,000 linear feet of streams, and a portion of the James River-Turkey Island Creek Stream Conservation Unit. The property lies within the core and study area of the Civil War Battle of Malvern Hill (1862) and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places, primarily for the archaeological and architectural significance of

the brick ruins of the late 17th century manor house present during the 1862 battle, but burned in a 1905 fire. Union Army Commander George B. McClellan also occupied this house as his headquarters and signal station during the Battle of Malvern Hill. Malvern Hill also witnessed the encampment of General Marquis D. Lafayette in 1781 as well as the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. A 10-acre portion of the property will become a canoe/kayak launch into Turkey Island Creek, which will not only provide public access to this estuary of the James River, but also to the adjacent Virginia Capital Trail, Presquile National Wildlife Refuge and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The entire property is currently listed on the market for sale.

Total Project Cost	\$3,690,000
Match	Civil War Trust, James River Association, state and federal battlefield preservation grants, and other grants.
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,000,000
Recommended Amount	\$687,500

2. City of Alexandria – Historic Murray-Dick Fawcett House

The City of Alexandria is requesting \$1,250,000 for the fee simple acquisition of a 0.30-acre lot on Prince Street in Old Town Alexandria, containing a historically significant 18th century timber frame and brick dwelling distinguished by its relatively unaltered state of preservation and high degree of integrity. The property is a contributing resource to the Alexandria Historic District, which is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in 1966. The Murray-Dick Fawcett House is also adjacent to the Washington-Rochambeau Route and was one of the few buildings in existence in the area during the time of the American Revolution. The Office of Historic Alexandria currently manages eight museums and historic sites and plans to incorporate the house into its system as a public museum and educational center. As one of the largest open space/garden areas in Old Town Alexandria, the lot will become public open space. Protection of the property will preserve a nationally significant architectural and cultural resource while promoting heritage tourism and providing full public access to an urban green space in the downtown core.

Total Project Cost	\$2,500,000
Match	Donated property value
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,250,000
Recommended Amount	\$900,000

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee approximately 504 acres as an addition to The Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The Cedars region is a focal area for DCR due to the extraordinary biodiversity significance of the region’s natural heritage resources. The subject parcel is the largest remaining unprotected tract identified as a conservation priority in the region. The tract

includes 6,170 feet of frontage on the Powell River, which supports the most significant freshwater diversity in North America. In addition, recent surveys by DCR personnel confirm the property supports several rare plant species, natural communities, and cave and karst features. The outstanding conservation values of the property are at risk from impending logging and potentially expanded agricultural uses.

Total Project Cost	\$1,064,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,064,000
Recommended Amount	\$317,711

2. The Nature Conservancy – North Landing River Sawgrass Marsh

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking a grant to assist with the purchase of an easement on approximately 1,275 acres of wetlands on the North Landing River within the city of Virginia Beach. If successful, this project will close the last unprotected gap along more than thirteen miles on the western side of the river. Since the earliest days of the Natural Heritage Program, this watery landscape – which is home to four globally rare natural communities and more than a dozen rare plant and animal species – has been a target for conservation by both TNC and DCR. The property has approximately 700 acres of open marsh and 575 acres of tidal cypress/water tupelo swamp. If the project is successful, the easement will be held jointly by TNC and DCR and will be dedicated as part of North Landing River Natural Area Preserve.

Total Project Cost	\$320,000
Match	\$170,000
VLCF Grant Request	\$150,000
Recommended Amount	\$150,000

3. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Redrock Mountain Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee 98 acres in Smyth County as an addition to Redrock Mountain Natural Area Preserve. This project will connect the Preserve with the nearby Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and secure an inholding in one of Virginia’s most significant contiguous forested landscapes. In addition, the project will protect a portion of the red siltstone cliff for which the mountain – and the preserve – are named, as well as four associated rare plant species and two rare natural communities.

Total Project Cost	\$151,200
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$151,200
Recommended Amount	\$151,200

4. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Cowbane Wet Prairie Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program proposes to acquire in fee approximately 84 acres along the South River and adjacent to Cowbane Prairie Natural Area Preserve in Augusta County. The subject property is within a mapped Conservation Site, which has the highest possible biodiversity ranking of B1. This high ranking is due to the high number of rare species and significant natural communities found there, as well as the high viability and the extreme rarity of some of those elements. Fifteen rare plants and five globally rare communities are found within the preserve and most of these populations require periodic burning to remain healthy. Protecting the property will serve as a smoke buffer for the prescribed burning necessary on the adjacent preserve, as well as prevent further degradation of water quality to the South River by securing the riparian zone along more than 4,100 feet of the river and tributary streams.

Total Project Cost	\$877,050
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$877,050
Recommended Amount	\$877,050

5. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee six acres in Floyd County as an addition to Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve. Although a relatively small acquisition, this tract will nonetheless be an important addition to the preserve, which is an increasingly popular public recreation destination and one of the most important scenic resources in the region according the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Visiting natural areas and hiking are among the fastest growing sectors of nature-based outdoor recreation across Virginia. Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve accommodates both, as well as two of the top three “most-needed outdoor recreation” types in the New River region. By acquiring this key tract of private land with frontage on the Buffalo Mountain access road, multiple conservation, recreation, and visual goals can be met. The proposed acquisition will support continued public access to the existing Natural Area Preserve, help maintain a scenic entrance into the Preserve, and further protect more of the outstanding biodiversity which epitomizes Buffalo Mountain.

Total Project Cost	\$39,550
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$39,950
Recommended Amount	\$39,950

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

1. Living River Restoration Trust – Eastern Branch Restoration Park

The Living River Restoration Trust (LRRT) seeks VLCF funding to acquire an 8.8-acre tract on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. Located in Virginia’s most populated city, Virginia Beach, the site is threatened by development. In partnership with Virginia Beach, the property will become a nature park with kayak launch and hiking trail. The kayak launch will provide direct access onto the Eastern Branch Elizabeth River Water Trail, part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. Protecting this parcel from development ensures the integrity of the scenic view along the water trail and from Carolanne Farms Park, located just across the river. Once the property is developed as a park, LRRT will donate the property to the City of Virginia Beach.

Total Project Cost	\$283,050
Match	Cash from LLRT and bargain sale from property owner (\$107,275), City of Virginia Beach legal fees and appraisal (\$12,200) and LRRT contributions (\$22,050)
VLCF Grant Request	\$141,525
Recommended Amount	\$141,525

2. City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department – Cypress Locks

The City of Virginia Beach is seeking VLCF funding to complete acquisition of a 17-acre tract of land situated along the North Landing River. The tract will be developed by the City as a gateway park for canoe and kayak access to the North Landing River, a state-designated scenic waterway with over 10,000 acres of conserved lands encompassing 15 miles of river shoreline. The project will help meet public recreation and resource conservation needs identified in the Virginia Outdoors Plan and 2016 City of Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan. More than one million people live within 20 miles of the property.

Total Project Cost	\$480,000
Match	Virginia Beach (\$150,000) and The Nature Conservancy / North American Wetland Conservation grant (\$165,000) to be awarded in early 2017
VLCF Grant Request	\$165,000
Recommended Amount	\$165,000

3. Botetourt County – Eagle Rock Park

Botetourt County is requesting VLCF assistance in the purchase of a six-acre parcel along the James River near the town of Eagle Rock. Once acquired, the County intends to provide a loop trail, camping facilities, swimming, fishing and boating access. The County intends to purchase the property within six months of receiving notice of VLCF funding.

Total Project Cost	\$144,000.00
Match	Cash (\$72,000)
VLCF Grant Request	\$72,000
Recommended Amount	\$72,000

4. Stafford County – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve III

Stafford County proposes to purchase four parcels totaling 127.72 acres located on the Crow’s Nest peninsula adjacent to the Potomac Creek heron rookery and approximately 1,800 feet from Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve. Once acquired, the property will be conveyed to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for inclusion in the natural area preserve. Acquiring this property will result in the protection of 121 acres of forest land, 6,400 feet of streams and wetlands, 12 historic resource sites, wildlife habit, the federally listed Small Whorled Pogonia and the Potomac Creek heron rookery. It will also allow for the expansion of the hiking trail network developed within the existing natural area preserve.

Total Project Cost	\$866,000
Match	Cash (\$433,000)
VLCF Grant Request	\$433,000
Recommended Amount	\$433,000

5. City of Charlottesville – Charley Close Land Acquisition

VLCF assistance is being requested to acquire a 2.78-acre parcel along Moore’s Creek near Jordan Park (1607 Sixth St S.E.) in Charlottesville. The property represents one of the last undeveloped parcels in this area of the city and is currently divided into six buildable lots. Surrounding properties have been developed into subdivisions. The City desires to purchase the property because it will allow for a key link in the City’s developing trail network and includes a link to the existing Rivanna Trails which is a designated National Recreational Trail.

Total Project Cost	\$207,600
Match	Cash (\$125,000)
VLCF Grant Request	\$82,600
Recommended Amount	\$82,600

6. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation/Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) – Pigg River Water Trail Viewshed Protection, Public Access, and Riparian Buffer

DCR-DNH is requesting VLCF assistance to acquire a 36 acre tract adjacent to the Pigg River and Bald Knob Natural Area Preserve. Once acquired, DCR-DNH in partnership with the Town of Rocky Mount plans to develop the property for nature-based outdoor recreation, with a small parking area and walking trail through grassland and forest. In addition to recreational, the purchase of the property will ensure scenic integrity of the Pigg River, a potential Scenic River and the designated Pigg River Water Trail.

Total Project Cost	\$449,650
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$449,650
Recommended Amount	\$449,650

7. City of Chesapeake – Indian River Watershed Project

The City of Chesapeake’s proposal involves the fee simple acquisition of a 2.023-acre parcel in the Indian River Watershed to be developed as a public park. An urgent need identified by numerous local plans is for open space and water access for the public in the Indian River Watershed. Currently there is no public access in the watershed. Other proposed developments for the new park are facilities for fishing, picnicking and wildlife observation.

Total Project Cost	\$365,000
Match	Cash (\$182,500)
VLCF Grant Request	\$182,500
Recommended Amount	\$182,500

8. Town of Altavista – Dalton’s Landing Canoe Launch Site

VLCF assistance is requested to obtain a recreation easement on a 1.50-acre property to provide a public water access site for fishing and canoeing. Once acquired, the site, which will be known as Dalton’s Landing, will serve as the beginning point of an approximate seven-mile water trail on the Staunton River (Roanoke River) and end at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries boat ramp located at Altavista’s English Park. The need for public access to the Staunton River has been an identified need in the 2002, 2007 and 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plans.

Total Project Cost	\$46,625
Match	Cash (\$23,313)
VLCF Grant Request	\$23,313
Recommended Amount	\$23,313

Table 5: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Funding Summary Plan for September 14, 2016 Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY17 Budget Bill Chapter 780	Carryover Funding from Past Grants	TOTAL
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25%)		\$2,000,000	N/A	\$2,000,000
II. Grant Program (75%)				
(i) Natural Area Protection		\$1,500,000	\$35,511	\$1,535,511
(ii) Open Space and Parks		\$1,500,000	\$300,000	\$1,800,000
(iii) Farmland and Forest Preservation		\$1,500,000	0	\$1,500,000
(iv) Historic Area Preservation		\$1,500,000	\$87,500	\$1,587,500
TOTAL		\$8,000,000	\$423,011	\$8,423,011
Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$6,423,011				
Natural Area Protection	\$35,511	[Unexpended: FY13 (December 2012) The Nature Conservancy: Clinch River: Cleveland to Artrip Conservation Area for \$35,511]		
Open Space and Parks	\$300,000	[Unexpended: FY00 (December 1999) City of Chesapeake: Indian River Park Acquisition for \$50,000] [Withdrawn: FY13 (December 2012) Northern Virginia Conservation Trust: Belmont Bay Farm Phase I for \$250,000]		
Historic Area Preservation	\$87,500	[Withdrawn: FY15 (October 2015) Civil War Trust: Gaines Tract for \$87,500]		

Item 365 D of the FY17 Budget Bill (HB 30 Enrolled) Chapter 780

D.1 Included in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$8,000,000 the first year and \$8,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. Of these funds, after Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund statutory distribution obligations have been satisfied, no less than 50 percent of the remaining appropriations are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia.

Table 6: Competitive Grant Awards (September 14, 2016 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Project Acres
	Farmlands & Forest Preservation						
1	Farmland Protection along the Rapidan River*	7	\$250,000	367.70	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>367.70</i>
2	Flintshire Farm (Phase II)*	1	\$400,000	353.29	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>	<i>353.29</i>
3	Valley Pike Farm*	6	\$200,000	151.50	12-2016	\$200,000	151.50
4	Pleasant Grove Easement*	5	\$230,000	1,005.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$230,000</i>	<i>1,005.00</i>
5	Flowers Easement*	4	\$250,000	845.24	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>845.24</i>
6	Wingfield Cosby Tract Acquisition	7	\$170,412	572.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$170,412</i>	<i>572.00</i>
7	Goosepond Easement*	4	\$125,000	954.69	12-2016	\$125,000	954.69
8	Bucks Elbow Mountain Easement*	5	\$125,000	263.00	12-2016	\$125,000	263.00
	Historic Area Preservation						
9	Malvern Hill Farm*	4	\$687,500	523.79	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$687,500</i>	<i>523.79</i>
10	Historic Murray-Dick-Fawcett House	8	\$900,000	0.30	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$900,000</i>	<i>0.30</i>
	Natural Area Protection						
11	Cedars NAP Addition	9	\$317,711	150.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$317,711</i>	<i>150.00</i>
12	North Landing River Sawgrass Marsh Project*	2	\$150,000	1,275.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>	<i>1,275.00</i>
13	Redrock Mtn NAP Addition - Connection to WMA	9	\$151,200	98.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$151,200</i>	<i>98.00</i>
14	Cowbane Prairie NAP Addition **	6	\$877,050	84.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$877,050</i>	<i>84.00</i>
15	Buffalo Mountain NAP Addition	9	\$39,550	6.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$39,550</i>	<i>6.00</i>
	Open Spaces & Parks						
16	Eastern Branch Restoration Park*	2	\$141,525	8.80	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$141,525</i>	<i>8.80</i>
17	Cypress Locks Park	2	\$165,000	17.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$165,000</i>	<i>17.00</i>
18	Eagle Rock Park	6	\$72,000	6.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$72,000</i>	<i>6.00</i>
19	Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve, Phase III	1	\$433,000	127.72	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$433,000</i>	<i>127.72</i>
20	Charley Close Land Acquisition	5	\$82,600	2.78	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$82,600</i>	<i>2.78</i>
21	Pigg River Water Trail	5	\$449,650	36.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$449,650</i>	<i>36.00</i>
22	Indian River Watershed Project	4	\$182,500	2.02	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$182,500</i>	<i>2.02</i>
23	Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch Site*	5	\$23,313	3.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>\$23,313</i>	<i>3.00</i>
	Totals		\$6,423,011	6,852.83		\$6,423,011	7,037.83

*Denotes Acquisition by Easement

NOTE: *Italicized amounts represent expected payments and acreages based on the grant application*

**Denotes the VLCF Board awarded funds to this project; however, if another source of funding is used by the grantee then the Board approved moving the funds awarded to this project to the following three grant projects: (1) an additional \$183,800 to Cedars NAP for an additional 87 acres; (2) \$118,650 for 75 acres at Antioch Pines NAP; and (3) \$574,600 for 110 acres at Deep Run Pods NAP.

STATUS OF LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA

Land Conservation Status Summary

The Conservation Lands Database reports that as of December 31, 2016, a total of 4,021,678 acres across Virginia have been preserved by federal, state, and local governments, or private conservation organizations (Table 7). This indicates that about 15.91 percent of the Commonwealth's total land is currently permanently protected. In Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a total of 2,835,645 acres of land, or about 20.50 percent, has been protected. (Approximately 60 percent of Virginia geographically lies within the Bay watershed.)

Table 7: Land Preservation Statistics in Virginia (through December 31, 2016)

Group Holding the Property or the Easement	Acres of Land Preserved Statewide	Percentage Preserved by Holder	Acres of Land Preserved in Virginia's Portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Percentage Preserved by Holder	Acres of Land Preserved in Virginia's Non-Bay portion	Percentage Preserved by Holder
Federal	2,345,588	58.32%	1,676,085	59.11%	669,503	56.45%
State	1,284,927	31.95%	899,693	31.73%	385,234	32.48%
Local	151,810	3.77%	133,266	4.70%	18,544	1.56%
Private/Non-profit	239,353	5.95%	126,601	4.46%	112,753	9.51%
Total Protected	4,021,678	100.00%	2,835,645	100.00%	1,186,034	100.00%
Total Acreage of Land in VA	25,270,000		13,831,890		11,438,110	
Percent Protected	15.91%		20.50%		10.37%	

Since tracking began in 2000, the amount of land protected each year, whether through conservation easements or fee simple acquisitions, has varied greatly (Table 8). There was a high of 107,017 acres conserved in FY2010 and a low of 33,389 acres in FY2016. In total, since 2000, approximately 992,544 acres have been preserved overall, with a yearly average of 62,034 acres. Sixty-nine percent of the preserved acres over that period of time are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Table 8: Current Annual Protection Trends as of December 31, 2016

Fiscal Year	Statewide Acreage	Bay Acreage	Non-Bay Acreage
2001	43,463.72	29,855.67	13,608.05
2002	50,536.82	36,567.11	13,969.70
2003	48,369.96	39,714.31	8,655.65
2004	39,680.25	30,790.04	8,890.20
2005	69,559.79	44,184.72	25,375.07
2006	70,798.22	55,622.16	15,176.06
2007	97,984.66	73,312.31	24,672.35
2008	94,252.32	60,675.43	33,576.89
2009	90,388.85	62,222.70	28,166.15
2010	107,017.18	80,122.57	26,894.61
2011	34,289.15	21,645.43	12,643.72
2012	55,952.92	36,344.48	19,608.44
2013	44,916.48	24,659.24	20,257.24
2014	75,371.18	44,768.82	30,602.36
2015	36,573.38	22,254.02	14,319.36
2016	33,388.77	22,414.10	10,974.67
Total	992,543.65	685,153.11	307,390.52
Average annual acreage protected	62,033.98	42,822.07	19,211.91

Land Preservation Tax Credit Responsibilities

Beginning January 1, 2007, the Department of Conservation and Recreation became responsible for verifying the conservation value of donated land or conservation easements that result in land preservation tax-credit applications for \$1 million or more. The Department's recommendations are forwarded to the Department of Taxation. Annual reports summarizing the conservation value of all tax credits claimed during 2009 through 2015 are published separately from this report and are available online at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation/lpc.shtml.

Virginia Treasures

On Earth Day, April 22, 2015, Governor McAuliffe announced his goal to identify, preserve, and protect at least 1,000 Treasures in Virginia during his administration. He announced that “[e]very Treasure attained - from my first day in office to my last - will be added to our list. This list will become the scorecard by which my administration measures success at protecting land, water and recreational space.” The Virginia Treasures initiative concentrates on quality rather than just quantity. The focus is on safeguarding significant sites and assets rather than just the numbers of acres. The idea is to preserve, protect, and highlight Virginia’s most important ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational assets, as well as its special lands.

In December 2016, Governor McAuliffe announced that the goal to protect 1,000 natural and historic treasures had been achieved. As with past conservation goals, the preservation of working farms, forests, waterways, and open space contributed to the effort. Most of this land protection has been accomplished through conservation easements, which preserve land and improve the health of waterways, including that of the Chesapeake Bay.

The initiative also aimed to identify and expand public access to the great outdoors through recreational opportunities such as playgrounds, boat launches, scenic byways, and public gardens. By increasing public access to and appreciation for Virginia’s outdoor treasures, public support for conserving, protecting, and maintaining Virginia’s natural resources will likewise grow.

Although the Governor’s goal has been met, DCR continues to accept and review applications submitted under the Treasures’ program. Since December 2016, 173 new Treasures have been officially recognized. Additional information on the program may be found at: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-treasures.shtml>.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Since 2001, the VLCF has allocated more than \$13.1 million to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (Table 9). Pursuant to the funding formula provided in § 10.1-1020 (C)(1) of the *Code of Virginia*, the VLCF transfers 25 percent of its appropriation to VOF. The monies are transferred to the Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund to assist with the purchase of farm and forestland easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The projects involve the partial purchase of development rights and/or the reimbursement

of costs of the easement donations (legal, appraisal, etc). Funds are periodically further leveraged with grants from the VLCF and other deposits to the Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund.

Table 9: VLCF Funding Allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Fiscal Year	Source	Amount Allocated to VOF
FY2001	Approp. Act	\$1,550,000
FY2004	Vehicle Reg.	\$365,819
FY2005	Approp. Act	\$625,000
FY2005	Interest	\$14,246
FY2005	Approp. Act	\$2,500,000
FY2005	Vehicle Reg.	\$95,265
FY2006	Approp. Act	\$625,000
FY2006	Interest	\$47,240
FY2006	Vehicle Reg.	\$195,890
FY2007	Approp. Act	\$625,000
FY2007	Vehicle Reg.	\$165,817
FY2008	Approp. Act	\$125,000
FY2008	Interest	\$75,000
FY2008	Approp. Act	\$750,000
FY2008	Vehicle Reg.	\$99,468
FY2009	Vehicle Reg.	\$1,166
FY2009	Approp. Act	\$500,000
FY2010	Approp. Act	\$500,000
FY2011	Approp. Act	\$125,000
FY2012	Approp. Act	\$125,000
FY2012	Approp. Act	\$250,000
FY2013	Approp. Act	\$250,000
FY2014	Approp. Act	\$250,000
FY2015	Approp. Act	\$250,000
FY2016	Approp. Act	\$250,000
FY2016	Approp. Act	\$750,000
FY2017	Approp. Act	\$2,000,000
TOTAL		\$13,109,911

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2016, \$11,109,911 had been transferred from VLCF to the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. Of this amount, \$9,995,351 had been spent in part on 283 conservation easements protecting 70,955 acres. The VLCF funds were leveraged to secure private, local, and federal funds totaling over \$7.2 million towards the easements noted. An additional 65 easements protecting 12,700 acres were completed using funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia (but not received through VLCF) and funding from other sources. The remaining balance of the transferred funds has been committed to 38 projects that will protect an additional 11,290 acres.

CONSERVATION PLAN AND TOOL DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Development

Subsection 1 of § 10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia* directs the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to prepare a comprehensive plan “that recognizes and seeks to implement all of the purposes for which the Foundation is created.” In the process of developing this comprehensive plan, the Code of Virginia directs the Foundation to:

- 1) Develop a strategic plan for the expenditure of unrestricted moneys;
- 2) Develop and maintain an inventory of those properties in which the Commonwealth holds a legal interest “for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, state forest lands, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agricultural and forestal lands and open space;” and
- 3) Develop and maintain a needs assessment for future land conservation projects considering the reports and information listed in Subsection 1c. Subsection 1c specifies that “[i]n developing the needs assessment, the Board of Trustees shall consider among others the properties identified in the following: (i) Virginia Outdoors Plan, (ii) Virginia Natural Heritage Plan, (iii) Virginia Institute of Marine Science Inventory, (iv) Virginia Joint Venture Board of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and (v) Virginia Board of Historic Resources Inventory. In addition, the Board shall consider any information submitted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on farmland preservation priorities and any information submitted by the Department of Forestry on forest land initiatives and inventories.” The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Action Plan also serves as a resource to the Foundation in identifying lands in need of protection.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) has been expanded to substantially meet the requirements of the Foundation’s comprehensive plan. The VOP is prepared by DCR, and is updated every five years. The VOP is the state’s official plan for the protection and conservation of Virginia’s important natural, outdoor recreational, and open space resources. The plan is based on an inventory of publicly held park and open space land, including local, state, and federal outdoor recreational lands. This inventory of existing lands and facilities serves as a basis for the Foundation’s needs assessment, as required under § 10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The 2013 edition of the Virginia Outdoors Plan identifies and expands on the Foundation's key land conservation needs and protection strategies, and continues to serve as a sound foundation for future land conservation activities within the Commonwealth. The plan's chapter on land conservation covers the benefits of land conservation, tools for achieving land conservation, and recommendations for types of land that should be protected.

Projects that protect the Commonwealth's natural, scenic, open space, and cultural resources are identified as part of the annual VOP regional outreach. In addition to an assessment of existing statewide outdoor recreational resources and conserved lands, the VOP also provides recommendations for regional featured projects. Since the last VOP was published in 2013, DCR has hosted 66 meetings in collaboration with each of Virginia's 21 planning districts. These meetings are the foundation for DCR's assessment of outdoor recreation and land conservation implementation progress. Regional accomplishments are identified annually and the needs and priorities for outdoor recreation and land conservation are assessed by engaging government agencies, localities, regional planning districts, and outdoor recreation and land conservation stake holders.

A statewide Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey is administered every five years in preparation for the next edition of the VOP. The 2017 Virginia Outdoors Survey will be launched in late spring 2017 and will serve as the basis for the 2018 VOP. Both the 2007 and 2011 surveys showed that many Virginians considered outdoor recreation and access to open space to be important to their families. These past two surveys showed widespread public support for using government resources to protect open space. The surveys found the public to have high regard for the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities and a strong commitment to the protection of natural areas. The surveys also found strong support for public funding and public management of lands to protect natural areas and make them available for public access. Close to two-thirds of respondents rated the protection of natural areas as "very important;" with only 1.3 percent of respondents rating such protection as "not important." More than two-thirds of respondents considered the best method of protecting natural areas to be "outright purchase and then management of a natural area or park for public use."

The 2013 VOP integrates land conservation with other outdoor recreation priorities. The 2013 VOP is a digital document and includes an interactive web mapping component. The document can be viewed and downloaded by visiting www.dcr.virginia.gov/vop.

Virginia's Natural Heritage Plan

The Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (Virginia Code § 10.1-209 *et seq.*) charges the Department of Conservation and Recreation with establishing and maintaining the state's Natural Heritage Program and developing a Natural Heritage Plan (NHP) to guide the preservation of habitat for rare plants, animals and significant natural communities. Land conservation planning is a key component of the Natural Heritage Plan and vital to the effective conservation of the state's natural heritage. The most recent version of the plan is from 2003 and is entitled "*Virginia's Precious Heritage: A Report on the Status of Virginia's Natural Communities, Plants and Animals, and a Plan for Preserving Virginia's Natural Heritage Resources.*" (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/NHPc_Web.pdf)

A revised NHP is under development for completion in 2017. The plan lays out DCR's approach to identifying across the state, those places that are most important for preserving intact natural communities, habitat for rare species and the many ecosystem services related to biodiversity. In particular, the 2017 plan revision will include a Natural Area Preserves (NAP) Build-Out Plan. This analysis and summary identifies key acquisitions for growing the existing Natural Area Preserve System, so that management of Natural Heritage Resources on the NAP System can be carried out with better success and efficiency. This and other aspects of the plan are integral to the Foundation's planning efforts and are also important components of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. DCR's land conservation planning tools – the VOP and the NHP – play an important role in land conservation planning by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Virginia's land conservation community. These planning tools also have significant utility for regional initiatives such as the Chesapeake Treasured Landscapes and the Captain John Smith Water trail.

For more than 30 years, DCR has worked to convert its high-quality scientific data and information into easily interpreted and versatile map-based tools to use and share to inform conservation decisions. Field data on Natural Heritage Resources – Virginia's best remaining intact natural communities; rare species locations and associated habitats; and significant cave and karst resources - are used to develop maps of Conservation Sites. Conservation Sites are mapped boundaries that encompass one or more rare plant or animal locations or significant natural communities, and the surrounding habitat or buffer necessary to permanently protect the resources. Each Site includes detailed information on the location, viability, threats and conservation status of the resources they contain. DCR has developed boundaries for more

than 2,080 Conservation Sites around the state, totaling 1,585,211 acres of terrestrial, stream and karst associated lands.

Mapped Conservation Sites are central to the Natural Heritage Plan, and relied upon by a myriad of local, state, and federal governmental agencies with conservation and natural resources management objectives. These and other DCR data are also shared with conservation partners via the Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE), for conservation planning and project review efforts. The NHDE is an efficient tool utilized by nearly 200 government agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and private companies. Moreover, to date, this tool has been replicated in ten other states based on the model of efficiency that has been set in Virginia. DCR staff strive to keep the community and species level data up-to-date and reflective of current conditions for internal uses, and these data are updated for partners on a quarterly basis.

Another key component to the Natural Heritage Plan is maintaining an inventory of lands already protected in Virginia, not only by DCR but by the many partners in land conservation. Toward this end, the Department has developed the Conservation Lands Database. This database addresses the requirements of § 10.1-1021(1)(b) of the *Code of Virginia*, which directs VLCF to develop an inventory of those properties in which the Commonwealth holds a legal interest “for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, state forest lands, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agricultural and forestal lands and open space.” The Conservation Lands Database includes local, state, and national parks, university lands, as well as privately held protected lands and conservation easements with parcel-level boundaries and attributes. These lands are mapped to the parcel level for a comprehensive spatial dataset of lands that serve conservation, recreation, and open-space purposes. The database is refined for accuracy on a daily basis. Parcel information related to management intent, legal protection status, dates of initial conservation action, and boundary refinements are available to the conservation community. New parcels are constantly incorporated into the Conservation Lands Database, through regular data sharing between DCR and other state agencies, localities, land trusts, and other conservation organizations.

The Conservation Lands Database is available to the public through DCR’s Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) website at <https://vanhde.org/>. This mapping website allows users to view, query, and explore conservation lands data in the context of several base layers (i.e. aerial photography, hydrologic data,

jurisdictional boundaries, etc.) and alongside other maps of natural and cultural resource features (Virginia ConservationVision). Information on the Conservation Lands Database is available at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/clinfo> where GIS shapefiles can be downloaded for use in any GIS. The Conservation Lands Database is also an important tool for the Chesapeake Bay Program in establishing and tracking progress on land conservation related goals for the 2025 Watershed Agreement. LandScope Chesapeake is an interactive website designed to inform and inspire land conservation throughout the Bay watershed. The website was developed in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and is maintained by NatureServe with major staff and conservation information support from DCR.

Virginia Natural Heritage has worked to integrate the Virginia Conservation Lands Database into the PAD-US (Protected Areas Dataset for the United States) and NCED (National Conservation Easements Database), two national efforts to map protected lands. The PAD-US manages national public lands data, while the NCED concentrates on private conservation easements. Virginia Natural Heritage is considered the state's data aggregator for both efforts, and has developed streamlined ways to efficiently share current public lands and easement data in the specific formats requested by PAD-US and NCED.

DCR's Natural Heritage Program also maintains Virginia ConservationVision, formerly known as the Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment (VCLNA). ConservationVision is a set of seven statewide GIS models, which are available to the public as conservation planning maps that quantify relative values of Ecological, Cultural, Recreational, Forest Economics, Agricultural, and Watershed values, as well as Development Vulnerability. The Foundation provided funding for the development of these strategic conservation tools, available at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvision> and on the NHDE website. These models have been used by many state and local governments, Planning District Commissions, and conservation organizations, to provide explicit, quantitative guidance in the development of Green Infrastructure plans, strategic conservation plans, comprehensive plan revisions, and various other land use and conservation prioritization decisions.

The following is a brief description of the available GIS models that make up Virginia ConservationVision:

1. The **Ecological Model**, or the **Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment (VaNLA)**, developed by the DCR-Division of Natural Heritage, utilizes a collection of datasets of known biodiversity including Natural Heritage Resources information, Conservation Sites and Species of Greatest Conservation Need from DGIF's Wildlife Action Plan. The VaNLA includes additional datasets that serve as

landscape scale surrogates of biodiversity including mapped boundaries of large remaining intact habitat cores, healthy streams, wetlands and other representative datasets. Via GIS-based modeling, the VaNLA provides a publicly available map with all remaining natural vegetation cover ranked from 1- General Importance to 5 – Outstanding. This tool identifies and connects the most important natural, unfragmented lands based on considerations of species habitat, natural communities, and ecological integrity. The VaNLA, revised in 2017, is available for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website and can be viewed on multiple mapping websites, including the NHDE.

2. The **Cultural Model** is a statewide summary map illustrating the relative cultural value of lands in Virginia. The DCR Division of Natural Heritage worked closely with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to identify and prioritize important cultural assets in Virginia, including archaeological and architectural sites and some American Indian Areas. The Cultural Model was developed in 2007, is available for viewing on the NHDE, and available by request from the Virginia DHR.
3. The **Recreational Model** maps the relative value of lands as they contribute to recreational opportunities. The DCR Division of Natural Heritage worked closely with the Virginia DGIF, DCR's Division of Planning and Recreation Resources, and numerous other collaborators and data contributors to analyze a variety of recreational datasets in an effort to model recreational value statewide. These datasets included public hunting areas, water access sites, fishing areas, wildlife watching areas, parks, trails and other publicly accessible recreational resources. The Recreation Model was developed in 2007, is available for viewing via NHDE, and for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.
4. The **Forest Economics Model** is a GIS effort to map viable forestland with economic values throughout Virginia. The DCR Division of Natural Heritage worked closely with the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) to analyze forest cover, management constraints such as slope and soils data, and socioeconomic influences including distance from markets for forest products. The Forest Economics model is currently under revision by DCR and the DOF. The 2007 version is available for viewing on the NHDE and for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.
5. The **Agricultural Model** was developed to quantify the relative suitability of lands for agricultural activity across the state. The DCR Division of Natural Heritage worked with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation

Service on the development of the model. The Agricultural Model is presented as a GIS dataset and output map with agricultural value ranging from 0 (unsuitable) to 100 (optimal). Agricultural value is based on three analytical components of soil quality (i.e. suitability for agriculture), foodshed (i.e. distance to markets), and suitable land cover for agricultural use or conversion. The 2015 revision is available for viewing on the NHDE and for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.

6. The **Watershed Model** identifies lands that are most important for protecting water quality and maintaining watershed integrity. It is presented as a GIS data set and output map where the relative protection priority of lands ranges from 0 (lowest priority) to 100 (highest priority). The DCR Division of Natural Heritage worked closely with the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Environmental Sciences and the DCR Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Inputs address biological integrity of streams (via fish and macroinvertebrate species and communities); land cover and land uses (i.e. forest and wetlands versus impervious surfaces); hydrological zones and features; drinking water sources; soil type and slope (i.e. to assess erodibility, slope and runoff potential) and pollution loading due to different land cover types. The 2017 revision of the Watershed Model is available via NHDE and can be downloaded from the Virginia ConservationVision website.
7. The **Development Vulnerability Model** quantifies the predicted relative risk of conversion from natural, rural, or other open space lands to urbanized or other built-up land uses. It is presented as a GIS data set and associated maps, in which the relative vulnerability of lands ranges from 0 (not developable) to 100 (most vulnerable). The model uses GIS and statistical methods to analyze travel time from existing developed urban, metropolitan and growth hotspots, and the conservation status of lands based on their legal level of protection and management intent. The 2015 revision of the Vulnerability Model is available via NHDE and can be downloaded from the Virginia ConservationVision website.

DCR's Division of Natural Heritage continues to support implementation of products that provide ConservationVision to localities and land trusts for specific uses to prioritize their conservation efforts. This implementation effort began with a survey of hundreds of conservation partners in Virginia, to assess what components of the ConservationVision are most valuable to them, and to determine the most efficient means of sharing these data. Natural Heritage delivers ConservationVision "packages" to conservation partners, in formats and geographic extents that are targeted at their needs. This

implementation includes training sessions and ongoing follow-up support to help guide the local uses of these tools.

Along with the Conservation Sites Database and the Conservation Lands Database, ConservationVision is utilized to assess grant projects submitted to the Foundation for funding consideration. These maps prioritize pertinent conservation values and are used in scoring potential lands in all VLCF interest areas, alongside other criteria. Furthermore, other state agencies (e.g. DOF and VDACS) and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation rely on specific ConservationVision maps to screen potential conservation easement lands.

The Natural Heritage Plan and the assemblage of conservation information and tools developed by DCR's Natural Heritage Program greatly assist VLCF with strategic planning. These tools should continue to be developed, updated and refined to enable objective evaluations of Foundation proposals, planning of future natural area conservation needs, and fulfillment of information requests from land planners and managers at the local, state, and federal levels.

Strategic Plan Development

Subdivision (1)(a) of § 10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia* directs the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to “[d]evelop a strategic plan for the expenditure of unrestricted moneys received from the Fund.”

The current strategic plan is embodied in the grant program guidelines approved by the VLCF Board most recently on May 18, 2016. This document clearly addresses how the unrestricted moneys are to be expended through grants and delineates what categories the funding is to be used for, who is eligible, what the match requirements are, and what evaluation criteria are to be used to judge the applications. The plan may be found at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia_land_conservation_foundation/.

These revised grant criteria guided the review of applications received during the May 18 through July 28, 2016 grant round that was considered by the Board at their meeting on September 14, 2016. As in the past, all of the technical information collected from these grant applicants was evaluated by an interagency task force.

The interagency task force is comprised of representatives of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia

Outdoors Foundation. Through this rigorous multi-agency review and scoring process, only those proposals that best serve the purposes of the Foundation and that make the best fiscal sense are recommended to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Foundation has also made significant progress on development of a state-of-the-art land conservation information system and decision support tool, with the completion of the Conservation Lands and Conservation Sites Databases, and the continued development of the ConservationVision support tool. These products have assisted the Foundation in ranking and selecting priority land preservation projects and the Foundation continues to seek ways to more effectively leverage these tools and utilize staff expertise to make VLCF land conservation decisions.

APPENDIX A: HISTORIC STATUS OF PAST VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION GRANTS

More detailed information on the following grant rounds (1999 through 2015) can be found in prior VLCF reports, available at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>.

Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 1999 Grant Round)

In FY1999-2000, the VLCF received an appropriation of \$1.75 million from the Water Quality Improvement Fund in accordance with Chapter 935 of the 1999 Acts of Assembly. The Foundation Board made grants from the \$1.75 million appropriation on December 1, 1999. Twenty applications totaling \$5.8 million were received. The Foundation awarded \$1,688,842 in competitive grant funds to 11 projects to conserve 1,267 acres and earmarked funds for a 12th project, The Big Survey (Table 8). Of the FY1999-2000 grants awarded, the Foundation actually paid \$1,323,969 in competitive grant funds to 8 projects conserving 1,136.87 acres. **All grants from this grant round have been closed.** In addition to the 8 grant projects that were completed, \$29,430 was awarded to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries project to reimburse them for expenses associated with the purchase of The Big Survey. Three projects originally awarded funds were withdrawn and funds were reverted to the General Fund (\$313,255) during FY03 budget reductions. From the balance of remaining funds from this appropriation, \$22,188 was carried forward to the FY05 grant round, thus zeroing out any remaining balances.

In 2016, \$50,000 was returned to VLCF as unexpended funds remaining after the closure of the Indian River Park Acquisition project. These funds were reallocated to the September 2016 (FY17) grant round.

Table 10: Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 1999 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Acres
Open Space						
McAfee Knob Carter Land	6	43,800	72	09-2000	43,800	72.00
Powhatan Creek Program	1	250,000	48	WITHDRAWN	250,000 Reverted to GF – budget reduction	
Indian River Park Acquisition	4	100,000	108	06-2001	50,000	90.00
Natural Areas						
Powers Tract, NW River Watershed	4	286,000	187	05-2003	286,000	172.27
Hickory Hollow Nature Trail	1	150,012	225	07-2000	150,012	254.00
Cultural and Historic						
Fort Christanna Preservation Project	5	50,975	34	WITHDRAWN	50,000 Reverted to GF – budget reduction	
Purchase of the Embrey Farm	1	225,000	30	01-2001	225,000	11.60
*Talbot Farm Cons. Easement	10	76,350	25	01-2001	76,350	25.00
Palmyra Lock & Mill Site	5	6,200	5	03-2002	5,557	5.00
James River Kanawha Canal Park Expansion	6	13,255	3	WITHDRAWN	13,255 Reverted to GF – budget reduction	
*Welbourne Farm Easement	10	50,000	530	02-2001	50,000	507.00
Agricultural and Forestal						
*Welbourne Farm Easement	10	258,250	above	02-2001	258,250	Above
Indian River Park Acquisition	4	100,000	above	06-2001	100,000	Above
Hickory Hollow Nature Trail	1	29,000	above	07-2000	29,000	above
Project Expense Subtotal			1,267		1,273,969	1,136.87
The Big Survey	9	50,000		08-2003	29,430	
Totals		\$1,688,842			1,303,399	

** Denotes Acquisition By Easement*

Civil War Battlefield Grant Awards FY 2000-2001

Chapter 1073 of the 2000 Virginia Acts of Assembly, § 1-104. Department of Conservation and Recreation (199), Item 410, Note J1, Page 329 noted that “[o]ut of the amount for Preservation of Open-Space Lands \$3,400,000 the first year from the general fund shall be transferred to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (§ 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia). From this deposit, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation shall make grants to private non-profit organizations as a match for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies for acquisitions at four threatened Civil War battlefields. From the deposit to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, \$2,100,000 is for acquisitions at the Brandy Station battlefield, \$250,000 is for acquisitions at the Cedar Creek battlefield, \$350,000 is for acquisitions at the Kernstown battlefield, and \$700,000 is for acquisitions at the Third Winchester (Opequon) battlefield. The Department of Historic Resources shall work in conjunction with the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and private nonprofit organizations in securing the acquisition of the battlefields.”

A total of \$3,382,004 dollars from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation was used to make grants to private non-profit organizations as a match for Land and Water Conservation Fund monies (with \$17,996 unexpended) (Table 9). The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants under the American Battlefield Protection Program for Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition, awarded by the National Park Service, were for land acquisition of threatened Civil War Battlefields. The Virginia funds were used as a portion of the required match for the acquisition of four threatened Civil War Battlefields, Brandy Station (570 acres), Cedar Creek (150 acres), Kernstown (315 acres), and Third Winchester Battlefield (222 acres). In summary, 1,257 acres of battlefield were preserved through the expenditure of \$3,382,004.92. The unobligated amount (\$17,996) was reverted to the General Fund in FY01.

Table 11: FY2000-2001 Civil War Battlefield Grant Awards

Battlefield Projects					
Project Title	Grant Award (Dollars)	Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Acres
Brandy Station	2,100,000	570	12-2000	2,100,000.00	570
Third Winchester	700,000	222	08-2000	700,000.00	222
Kernstown	350,000	315	09-2000	350,000.00	315
Cedar Creek	250,000	150	10-2000	232,004.92	150
Totals	\$3,400,000	1,257		3,382,004.92	1,257

Competitive Grant Awards (January 4, 2001 Grant Round)

In FY2000-2001, the VLCF received an additional appropriation of \$9,600,000 in accordance with Chapter 1073 of the 2000 Virginia Acts of Assembly. From this appropriation, \$3,400,000 was designated for Civil War Battlefield acquisitions (see previous section) and \$1,550,000 was designated to the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund. This left \$4,650,000 in the FY2000-2001 appropriation for grant awards. Combined with the \$61,158 FY1999-2000 carry-forward, \$4,711,158 of funds were available for grant awards. On January 4, 2001, the Foundation's Board of Trustees considered 41 applications totaling \$11.2 million in requested funds. With the help of the Interagency Task Force, the Foundation Board reviewed the grant applications and awarded 19 grants for a total of \$3,919,695 for 3,302 acres (Table 10). **All of these grant projects have been closed out.** In total, \$3,730,783 was expended on 18 grants that protected 2,764.55 acres. One project, Garden Creek was withdrawn and the funds from this appropriation, \$155,000 was carried forward to the January 2009 grant round. Other funds remaining after project closure were allocated as follows: Waid Recreation Area (\$32,858) to the June 2005 grant round; and The Meadow (\$1,054) to the June 2007 grant round. Additionally, out of the \$4,711,158 available for grants, \$791,463 remained unobligated. Additionally, from the \$3,400,000 available for Civil War Battlefield acquisitions, \$17,996 remained unobligated. Of the unobligated amounts (\$791,463 and \$17,996), \$791,464 reverted to the General Fund in FY01 leaving an unobligated balance of \$17,995. The Foundation approved the reallocation of the \$17,995 to the June 2005 grant round.

Table 12: Competitive Grant Awards (January 4, 2001 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
Waid Recreation Area	5	126,255	134	10-2003	93,397	134.00	0
Mary B. Stratton Estate	7	75,000	154	06-2006	75,000	167.00	0
Whitt- Riverbend Park	9	110,000	28	09-2001	110,000	28.00	0
*Fairfax Cross County Trail	10**	30,000	3	01-2006	30,000	0.55	0
Keister Park	6	306,575	151	09-2002	306,575	151.00	0
Jamison's Cove Marina	1	245,955	2	05-2001	245,955	2.00	0
Williams Wharf	1	36,300	1	12-2004	36,300	0.40	0
*Yorktown Beach Trail	1	117,500	2	04-2004	117,500	1.60	0
Natural Areas							
Garden Creek	1	155,000	623	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Clinch River	9	196,640	458	04-2002	196,640	458.00	0
Oak Hickory Forest	10	729,250	180	02-2004	729,250	226.00	0
Cultural and Historic							
*North Meadow/ Carr Property	10	187,042	125	06-2002	187,042	125.00	0
Chancellorsville Battlefield	1	150,000	11	11-2001	150,000	11.00	0
Buhrman (Malvern Hill)	3	300,000	245	04-2001	300,000	245.00	0
Totopotomoy Battlefield	7	323,000	124	03-2001	323,000	124.00	0
Agricultural and Forestal							
*Brush Creek Farm	9	72,747	94	05-2001	72,747	94.00	0
*Elgin Dairy Farm	10	317,000	314	08-2001	317,000	314.00	0
*The Meadow	1	359,625	535	11-2004	358,571	535.00	0
*Leonard Farm	9	81,806	118	04-2002	81,806	148.00	0
Totals		\$3,919,695	3,302		\$3,730,783	2,764.55	0
*Denotes Acquisition by Easement							
**Originally this project contained 3 easements in Congressional District 10 and one in 11; project modified to be one parcel in Congressional District 10							

Competitive Grant Award Funding FY2001 through FY2003

In FY2001-2002, per Chapter 1073 of the 2000 Acts of Assembly, the VLCF was appropriated \$6,200,000. The General Assembly adjourned from the 2001 regular session without enacting a budget bill amending the 2000 Appropriation Act (Chapter 1073 of the 2000 Acts of Assembly). Therefore, the 2000 Appropriation Act remained the appropriations law of Virginia for the 2000-2002 biennium. In order to prevent a potential deficit, the Governor invoked his Constitutional duty and issued Executive Order 74 (01), Balanced Budget Implementation Plan, 2000-02 Biennium on Saturday, February 24, 2001. The Governor directed the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) to withhold general fund allotments “to the extent necessary to prevent any expenditures in excess of the estimated general fund revenue, and in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the annual total general fund appropriation of each state agency, department and institution and other nonstate agencies and institutions listed in the Act for each year of the 2000-02 biennium.” Per this authority, the \$6,200,000 for VLCF in FY2001-2002 was unallotted. This action was documented in Chapter 814 (caboose bill) of the 2002 Virginia Acts of Assembly.

No funds were appropriated to or received by the VLCF in FY2002-2003 (Chapter 899 of the 2002 Virginia Acts of Assembly and Chapter 1042 of the 2003 Virginia Acts of Assembly).

Competitive Grant Awards (June 7, 2005 Grant Round)

During the 2004 Session, Item H2, Chapter 4 of the 2004 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, provided \$2,500,000 the first year (FY05) and \$2,500,000 the second year (FY06) from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund. In addition to this funding, pursuant to Item K, Chapter 1042 of the 2003 Virginia Acts of Assembly and Item J, Chapter 4 of the 2004 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, \$1,463,275 from vehicle registration fees was deposited at the end of FY04. Based on the funds available to the Foundation in FY05, the Board approved \$3,088,303 to be allocated to the June 2005 grant round (Table 13). On June 7, 2005, the Foundation's Board of Trustees considered 23 applications totaling over \$6 million in requested funds. With the help of the Interagency Task Force, the Foundation Board reviewed the grant applications and awarded 12 grants for a total of \$3,027,665 for 6,587 acres (\$60,638 left unallocated and not awarded). **All of these grant projects have been closed out (Table 14).** In total, \$2,629,822.67 was expended on 11 grants that protected 6,552.80 acres. One project, Cedar Creek Bluff was withdrawn and the funds from this appropriation, \$244,793.50 were carried forward to the January 2009 grant round. Funds remaining after project closure were allocated to later grant rounds as follows: Gilvary Forest (\$12,528) to June 2007; Brandy Station (\$75,714.83) to June 2007; Black Farms (\$7,756) to June 2007, and Port Tobacco (\$57,050) to September 2011. Unallocated funds in the amount of \$60,638 were allocated to the December 2005 grant round.

Table 13: VLCF: Funding Source and Allocation for June 7, 2005 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Unallocated Principal Balance	Proposed Return of Unspent Grant	Interest	FY04 Vehicle Registration	Chapter 4 Appropriation Act	TOTAL
VOF			14,246	365,819	625,000	1,005,065
Open Space and Parks	17,995	32,858	10,684	274,364	468,750	804,668.50*
Natural Area Protection	0		10,684	274,364	468,750	753,815.50*
Historic Area Preservation	1,618		10,684	274,364	468,750	755,433.50*
Farmland and Forest Preservation	20,570		10,684	274,364	468,750	774,385.50*
Proposed Admin. Expenses FY05			136,300			136,300
Proposed Admin. Expenses FY06			140,000			140,000
TOTAL	40,183	32,858	333,282	1,463,275	2,500,000	4,369,668**
Amounts Reserved for Easement Projects (33% of the 4 use areas)				362,160	618,750	
Amounts reserved for Grant Program = \$3,070,303						
* - Includes an additional \$17.50 from a \$70 donation						
** - does not reflect FY05 interest or payments						
Open Space and Parks			[FY01 \$17,995 Battlefield Earmarks – Cedar Creek; FY00 (January 2001) \$32,858 Waid Recreation Area]			
Natural Area Protection						
Historic Area Preservation	1,618		[FY00 (December 1999) \$975 Fort Christanna Preservation Project; FY00 (December 1999) \$643 Palmyra Lock + Mill Site]			
Farmland and Forest Preservation	20,570		[FY00 (December 1999) \$20,570 Big Survey]			

Table 14: Competitive Grant Awards (June 7, 2005 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
*Cedar Creek Bluff	6	244,793.50	117	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
*Mount Pleasant Farm	6	100,000.00	106	07-2006	100,000.00	106.80	0
Fray Tract	7	190,500.00	550	08-2006	190,500.00	624.00	0
Fairview Park Acquisition	6	250,000.00	23	03-2006	250,000.00	23.00	0
Trevilian Station – Riveroak	7	19,375.00	938	02-2006	19,375.00	938.00	0
Natural Areas							
Marks and Jacks Islands	2	500,000.00	2,000	08-2005	500,000.00	2,000.00	0
*Gilvary Forest	9	224,130.00	225	08-2006	211,602.00	233.00	0
Historic Resources							
Fishers Hill	6	212,408.50	25	12-2007	212,408.50	25.00	0
Brandy Station	7	362,400.00	19	12-2005	286,685.17	19.00	0
Trevilian Station – Riveroak	7	180,625.00	See above	02-2006	180,625.00	See above	See above
Agricultural and Forestal							
*Port Tobacco	1	258,000.00	1,803	08-2008	200,950.00	1,803.00	0
*Black Farms Property	2	400,000.00	222	12-2006	392,244.00	222.00	0
*Page Project (PDR)	5	85,433.00	559	08-2006	85,433.00	559.00	0
Totals		\$3,027,665.00	6,587		\$2,629,822.67	6,552.80	0
* Denotes Acquisition by Easement							

Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 2005 Grant Round)

During the 2005 General Assembly Session, FY05 funding resulted in an appropriation of \$10 million to the Foundation in accordance with Chapter 951 of the 2005 Virginia Acts of Assembly. As the monies available for the June 2005 grant round had already been announced, the new monies were combined with FY06 funds for a total of \$9,721,434 available for a December 2005 grant round (Table 13). On December 1, 2005, the Foundation's Board of Trustees considered 52 applications totaling over \$30.8 million in requested funds. With the help of the Interagency Task Force, the Foundation Board reviewed the grant applications and awarded 22 grants for a total of \$9,717,411 for 7,822 acres. **All of these grant projects have been closed out (Table 14).** In total, \$9,015,182.92 was expended on 20 grants that protected 6,931.02 acres. Subsequent to the award, the Oaken Brow project was withdrawn. The \$600,000 allocated to the project was approved by the Foundation to be advanced to the June 2007 grant round as were the unallocated amounts of \$3,824 and \$199. Additionally, funds from the withdrawal of the Clinch/Pinnacle project for \$62,375 were also advanced to the June 2007 grant round. Remaining balances from the Brumley project (\$1), the Kelly's Ford Battlefield Overlook Park project (\$6,685), and the Portobago Creek project (\$11) were authorized for advancement to the January 2009 grant round.

Chapter 951 of the Virginia Acts of Assembly also reduced the amount of money available to the Foundation from the vehicle registration fees as the monies allocated ahead of these funds for other activities was increased from \$5 million to \$6 million with the remaining balance generated going to VLCF.

Table 15: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for December 1, 2005 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Interest	Unallocated Principal From June 05 Grant Round	FY05 Vehicle Registration	Chapter 951 Appropriation Act	Chapter 951 Appropriation Act	TOTAL
VOF	0	0	95,265	2,500,000	625,000	3,220,265.00
Open Space and Parks	0	0	71,449	1,875,000	468,750	2,415,199.00
Natural Area Protection	0	29,685.50	71,449	1,875,000	468,750	2,444,884.50
Historic Area Preservation	0	0	71,449	1,875,000	468,750	2,415,199.00
Farmland and Forest Preservation	0	30,952.50	71,449	1,875,000	468,750	2,446,151.50
Admin. Expenses FY07 proposed	198,700	0	0	0	0	198,700
Admin. Expenses FY08 proposed	182,000	0	0	0	0	182,000
TOTAL	380,700	60,638.00	381,061	10,000,000	2,500,000	13,322,399.00
Amounts reserved for Grant Program = \$9,721,434						
Amounts Reserved for Easement Projects (33% of the 4 use areas of the new monies)			94,312	2,475,000	618,750	3,188,062.00
Open Space and Parks						
Natural Area Protection		29,685.50		[Money not allocated to projects in FY05 (June 2005) grant round]		
Historic Area Preservation						
Farmland and Forest Preservation		30,952.50		[Money not allocated to projects in FY05 (June 2005) grant round]		

Table 16: Competitive Grant Awards (December 1, 2005 Grant Round)

** Denotes Acquisition by Easement*

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
Jamestown Campground & Yacht Basin	1	750,000.00	112.00	02-2007	750,000.00	104.50	0
Rappahannock Station Park	1	200,000.00	26.00	03-2009	200,000.00	26.00	0
Altavista/English Area Park Project	5	75,000.00	146.39	06-2009	75,000.00	146.39	0
Paradise Creek Eco-Park	4	500,000.00	18.50	12-2006	500,000.00	24.00	16.60
Chincoteague Open Space Acquisition Project	2	500,000.00	77.00	08-2006	500,000.00	77.00	47.93
Tobacco Heritage Trail Phase II Land Acquisition	5	386,375.00	240.00	12-2009	386,375.00	607.00	0
Historic Resources							
Huntsberry Farm Project	10	1,000,000.00	247.00	08-2009	1,000,000.00	247.00	0
*Hutchinson Farm/South Lot Project	10	135,000.00	25.00	07-2007	135,000.00	25.00	0
Lick Run Civil War Battlefield	1	500,000.00	134.00	12-2006	500,000.00	134.00	0
Kelly's Ford Battlefield Overlook Park	7	75,000.00	8.00	05-2007	68,315.00	8.00	0
Kippax Plantation	4	205,000.00	9.27	11-2006	205,000.00	9.27	0
*Four Mile Tree	3	500,000.00	306.00	06-2007	500,000.00	306.00	0
Agricultural and Forestal							
*George Property	1	213,500.00	274.46	07-2007	213,500.00	274.46	0
*Oaken Brow Conservation Easement	2	600,000.00	589.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
*Meadow Grove Property	7	300,000.00	300.00	06-2006	300,000.00	346.00	0
Dragon Run Conservation Corridor Initiative	1	194,000.00	164.00	02-2007	194,000.00	165.60	251.00
Brumley Mountain	9	885,941.00	880.00	04-2008	885,941.00	880.00	0
*Portobago Creek Easement	1	252,710.50	1320.00	01-2007	252,700.00	1,320.00	0
Natural Areas							
Cedars/Fletcher Ford	9	68,450.00	81.00	11-2008	35,292.92	54.60	0
Crow's Nest	1	500,000.00	1800.00	04-2008	500,000.00	1,170.30	0
Brumley Mountain	9	314,059.50	720.00	03-2008	314,059.00	720.00	0
Clinch River/Pinnacle	9	62,375.00	64.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Bulls Pond	2	1,500,000.00	281.00	09-2006	1,500,000.00	285.90	0
Totals		9,717,411.00	7,822.62		9,015,182.92	6,931.02	315.53

Competitive Grant Awards (June 13, 2007 Grant Round)

Chapter 3 of the 2006 General Assembly Special Session 1, Item 359E provided for \$2,500,000 in FY07 and \$2,500,000 in FY08 for Foundation grants. Chapter 847 of the 2007 Virginia Acts of Assembly increased each of these amounts to \$3,000,000. These two appropriations, combined with funds advanced from previous grant rounds, vehicle registration fee monies, and interest, totaled \$6,217,843 in funds for the June 2007 grant round (Table 17). During the November 15, 2006 through January 16, 2007 grant round, the Foundation received 31 applications requesting \$13,460,425 from the Foundation. The total project costs including applicant match were \$41,054,084 and would have protected 13,128 acres if all were funded. With the help of the Interagency Task Force, the Foundation Board reviewed the grant applications and awarded on June 13, 2007, 15 grants for a total of \$6,217,843 for 11,539 acres. **All of these grant projects have been closed out (Table 18).** In total, \$5,447,399 was expended on 13 grants that protected 10,543.31 acres. Two projects, Bull Pasture River Acquisition and Charlton Hill Easement were withdrawn and the funds from these appropriations, \$536,200 and \$108,590 respectively were carried forward to the September 2011 and January 2009 grant rounds respectively. Funds remaining after project closure were allocated to the September 2011 grant round as follows: Gallohan-Surgenor Cave System (\$6,177); Sweet Spring Hollow (\$116,364); and Lower Blackwater River (\$3,113).

Table 17: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for June 13, 2007 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Unallocated Principal Balance	Interest (thru 06/30/06)	FY06 Vehicle Registration	Chapter 3 (FY07) Appropriation Act	Chapter 3 (FY08) Appropriation Act	Chapter 847 (FY07)	Chapter 847 (FY08)	Unallocated Principal Balance	Interest allocation	TOTAL
VOF	0	47,240	195,890	625,000	625,000	125,000	125,000	0	75,000	1,818,130
Open Space and Parks	3,824	35,430	146,918	468,750	468,750	93,750	93,750	0	56,250	1,367,422
Natural Area Protection	0	35,420	146,918	468,750	468,750	93,750	93,750	74,903.00	56,250	1,438,501
Historic Area Preservation	78,082	35,420	146,918	468,750	468,750	93,750	93,750	-2,168.17	56,250	1,439,512
Farmland and Forest Preservation	601,054	35,420	146,918	468,750	468,750	93,750	93,750	7,756.00	56,250	1,972,408
TOTAL	682,960	188,960	783,562	2,500,000	2,500,000	500,000	500,000	80,490.83	300,000.00	8,035,973
Amounts reserved for Grant Program = \$6,217,843										
Open Space and Parks	3,824	[FY06 (December 2005) \$3,824 Unexpended – Easement]								
Natural Area Protection	0					74,903		[FY05 (June 2005) \$12,528 Gilvary Forest; FY06 (December 2005) \$62,375 Clinch River/ Pinnacle]		
Historic Area Preservation	75,913.83	[FY06 (December 2005) \$199 Unexpended Easement; FY05 (June 2005) \$75,714.83 Brandy Station – Acquisition]								
Farmland and Forest Preservation	601,054	[FY06 (December 2005) \$600,000 Oaken Brow – easement; FY01 (January 2001) \$1,054 The Meadow – Easement]					7,756	[FY05 (June 2005) \$7,756 Black Farms]		

Table 18: Competitive Grant Awards (June 13, 2007 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
Paradise Creek Nature Park	3	300,000	15.60	11-2007	300,000	15.60	0
Merrimac Farm	11	820,773	302.00	01-2008	820,773	302.00	0
Bullpasture River Acquisition	6	246,649	177.62	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Natural Areas							
*Galohan-Surgenor Cave System	9	315,000	330.00	06-2007	308,823	285.80	0
*Blackwater River – Old Growth	4	400,000	500.00	08-2012	400,000	500.00	0
*Sweet Spring Hollow	9	225,950	232.00	07-2009	109,586	232.00	0
*Lower Blackwater River	4	208,000	415.00	02-2009	204,887	416.00	0
Bullpasture River Acquisition	6	289,551	See above	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Historic Areas							
*Montpelier	7	700,000	700.00	08-2009	700,000	700.00	0
Cooley Farm	10	539,512	189.00	04-2008	539,512	189.00	0
Historic Dunn’s Meadow Property	9	200,000	8.96	10-2009	200,000	8.96	0
Forests and Farmlands							
Brumley Mountain	9	1,030,000	3,200.00	04-2008	1,030,000	3,236.00	0
Big Woods	4	300,000	4,915.00	06-2010	300,000	4,192.95	0
*Charlton Hill Easement	1	108,590	89.19	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
*Marlboro Angus: Snapp Farm	10	250,000	151.00	02-2008	250,000	151.00	0
*Ingles Ferry Farm	9	283,818	314.00	08-2009	283,818	314.00	0
Totals		6,217,843	11,539.37		5,447,399	10,543.31	

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement

Competitive Grant Awards (January 7, 2009 Grant Round)

Chapter 879 of the 2008 Virginia Acts of Assembly provided for \$2,000,000 in FY09 and \$2,000,000 in FY10 for Foundation grants. These two appropriations, combined with funds advanced from previous grant rounds, vehicle registration fee monies, and interest, totaled \$4,310,945 in funds available for the January 2009 grant round (Table 19). During the August 15, 2008 through October 10, 2008 grant round, the Foundation received 22 applications requesting more than \$5.4 million in grants. The total project costs including applicant match were \$20,886,959 and would have protected 8,797 acres if all were funded. The Board met on January 7, 2009, to consider these applications and approved \$4,310,945 in grant awards for 16 projects to protect 10,110 acres. **All of these grant projects have been closed out (Table 20).** Funds from the withdrawn project (\$150,000) for a tract on the Appalachian Trail were carried forward to the September 2011 grant round. Funds remaining after closure of Unthanks Cave Natural Area Acquisition (\$16,882) and the Ott Farm PDR Easement in Fauquier County (\$15,122) projects also were allocated to the September 2011 grant round. Funds remaining after closure of Blackwater River – Old Growth 2 (\$92,500) were allocated to the December 2012 grant round. A balance of \$305 remained from the Blackwater River – Old Growth 2 project, which was allocated to the January 2015 grant round.

Table 19: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for January 7, 2009 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Prior Project Balances	Canceled Projects	FY07 Vehicle Registration	FY07 Vehicle Registration	Chapter 879 (FY09) Appropriation Act	Chapter 879 (FY10) Appropriation Act	TOTAL
VOF	0	0	0	99,470	500,000	500,000	1,099,470
Open Space and Parks	0	244,794	124,363	74,603	375,000	375,000	1,193,760
Natural Area Protection	1	155,000	124,363	74,603	375,000	375,000	1,103,967
Historic Area Preservation	6,685	0	124,363	74,603	375,000	375,000	955,651
Farmland and Forest Preservation	11	108,590	124,363	74,603	375,000	375,000	1,057,567
TOTAL	6,697	508,384	497,452	397,882	2,000,000	2,000,000	5,410,415
Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$4,310,945							
Open Space and Parks	244,793.50	[Withdrawn: FY05 (June 2005) Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation: Cedar Creek Bluff Easement, for \$244,793.50]					
Natural Area Protection	155,001	[Withdrawn: FY01 (January 2001) Middle Peninsula Land Trust: Garden Creek/Winter Harbor Acquisition, for \$155,000] [Unexpended: FY06 (December 2005) Department of Forestry: Brumley Mountain, \$1]					
Historic Area Preservation	6,685	[Unexpended: FY06 (December 2005) Brandy Station Foundation: Kelly's Ford Battlefield Overlook Park, \$6,685]					
Farmland and Forest Preservation	108,601	[Withdrawn: FY07 (June 2007) Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Charlton Hill Easement, for \$108,590] [Unexpended: FY06 (December 2005) The Trust for Public Land: Portobago Creek, \$11]					

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY09 FUNDS AVAILABLE	FY10 FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL AVAILABLE
Open Space and Parks	818,760	375,000	1,193,760
Natural Area Protection	728,967	375,000	1,103,967
Historic Area Preservation	580,651	375,000	955,651
Farmland & Forest Preservation	682,567	375,000	1,057,567
TOTAL	2,810,945	1,500,000	4,310,945

Table 20: Competitive Grant Awards (January 7, 2009 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
Crow's Nest Acquisition Phase 2	1	11,812	1,100.00	07-2009	11,812	1,100.00	0
White's Ford Regional Park	10	150,000	274.58	07-2010	150,000	295.00	0
Appomattox River Conservation Area	4	280,000	80.00	06-2010	280,000	80.00	0
Short Hills Acquisition	6	239,500	3,682.00	07-2009	239,500	4,900.00	0
Nelson Tract, Appalachian Trail	9	150,000	177.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Big Woods	4	362,448	610.00	06-2010	362,448	1,286.43	0
Natural Areas							
Crow's Nest Acquisition Phase 2	1	787,162	See above	07-2009	787,162	See above	0
Unthanks Cave Natural Area Acquisition	9	150,500	140.00	04-2010	133,618	148.65	0
Blackwater River – Old Growth 2	4	166,305	2,000.00	08-2012	73,500	2,144.00	0
Historic Areas							
Adam Thoroughgood House National Historic Landmark	2	425,000	2.50	06-2010	425,000	2.50	0
Pamplin Pipe Factory	5	61,000	2.96	07-2009	61,000	2.96	0
B. Williams & Co. Store	1	345,000	0.98	11-2009	345,000	0.98	0
*Cool Spring Farm	10	123,625	204.00	11-2009	123,625	216.00	0
Crow's Nest Acquisition Phase 2	1	1,026	See above	07-2009	1,026	See above	0
Farm and Forestlands							
*Richardson PDR, Northampton	1	250,000	268.00	06-2009	250,000	268.00	0
*Clarke County Dairy Farm	10	146,000	216.00	09-2009	146,000	216.00	0
*Frank C. Ott Farm PDR	1	198,400	280.00	01-2011	183,278	279.00	0
*Feedstone Hunt Club	6	275,615	1,072.00	02-2010	275,615	1,101.00	0
Big Woods	4	187,552	See above	06-2010	187,552	See above	0
Totals		4,310,945	10,110.02		4,036,136	12,040.52	

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement

Competitive Grant Awards (September 13, 2011 Grant Round)

Chapter 874 of the 2010 Virginia Acts of Assembly and Chapter 890 of the 2011 Virginia Acts of Assembly provided for \$500,000 in FY11 and \$1,500,000 in FY12 to the Foundation. These two appropriations, combined with funds advanced from previous grant rounds, vehicle registration fee monies, and interest, totaled \$2,404,408 in funds for the September 2011 grant round (Table 19). During the May 10, 2011 through July 12, 2011 grant round, the Foundation received 27 applications requesting over \$5.9 million in grants. The total project costs including applicant match were \$33,883,335 and would have protected 4,213 acres if all were funded. The Board met on September 13, 2011, to consider these applications and approved \$2,404,408 in grant awards for 17 projects to protect 2,513 acres. **All of these grant projects have been closed out (Table 20)**. Funds from two withdrawn projects: General Jackson's Amputation Site grant (\$70,875) and the Cheroenhaka Protected Land (\$150,000) were carried forward to the January 2015 grant round. Additionally, three grant projects closed under budget leaving balances, which were allocated to the January 2015 grant round: the South Quay NAP project left a balance of \$56,677; Pitchers for the Public left a balance of \$6,500; and Roanoke River Greenway had a balance of \$14,207.

Table 21: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for September 13, 2011 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Prior Project Balances	Canceled Projects	FY09 Vehicle Registration	Chapter 874 (FY11) Appropriation Act	Chapter 874 (FY12) Appropriation Act	HB1500ER2 (FY12) Appropriation Act	TOTAL
VOF	0	0	1,166	125,000	125,000	250,000	501,166
Open Space and Parks	0	396,649	875	93,750	93,750	187,500	772,524
Natural Area Protection	142,536	289,551	875	93,750	93,750	187,500	807,962
Historic Area Preservation	6,0	0	875	93,750	93,750	187,500	375,875
Farmland and Forest Preservation	72,172	0	875	93,750	93,750	187,500	448,047
TOTAL	214,708	686,200	4,666	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	2,905,574

Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$2,404,408

\$28,388 in FY07 Interest allocated to FY12 Administrative Expenses (Total authorized by Board: \$2,933,962)

Open Space and Parks	396,649	[Withdrawn: FY08 (June 2007) DGIF: Bullpasture for \$246,649; FY09 (January 2009) Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Nelson Tract for \$150,000]
Natural Area Protection	432,087	[Withdrawn: FY08 (June 2007) DGIF: Bullpasture for \$289,551] [Unexpended: FY08 (June 2007) New River Land Trust: Sweet Spring Hollow for 116,364; FY08 (June 2007) The Nature Conservancy: Gallohan Surgenor Caves for \$6,177; FY08 (June 2007) The Nature Conservancy: Lower Blackwater for \$3,113; FY10 (January 2009) The Nature Conservancy: Unthanks Cave for \$16,882]
Historic Area Preservation	0	
Farmland and Forest Preservation	72,172	[Unexpended: FY06 (June 2005) Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Port Tobacco, for \$57,050; FY10 (January 2010) Fauquier County PDR Program – Ott Farm PDR, for \$15,122]

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY11 FUNDS AVAILABLE	FY12 FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL AVAILABLE
Open Space and Parks	491,274	281,250	772,524
Natural Area Protection	526,712	281,250	807,962
Historic Area Preservation	94,625	281,250	375,875
Farmland & Forest Preservation	166,797	281,250	448,047
TOTAL	1,279,408	1,125,000	\$2,404,408

Table 22: Competitive Grant Awards (September 13, 2011 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres	Final Match Acres
Open Space							
Lynnhaven Estuary Protection	2	500,000	82.00	07-2012	500,000	82.00	0
Gilbert's Corner Regional Park	10	200,000	68.28	11-2013	200,000	68.28	0
*Island Farm – Cedar Creek Battlefield	6	13,937	See below	10-2014	13,937	See below	0
Roanoke River Greenway	6	33,825	8.78	12-2013	19,618	8.78	0
*Whitehall Trail Easement	1	24,762	9.37	06-2014	24,762	9.37	0
Natural Areas							
Cedars NAP, Bowen Tract	9	250,000	296.00	12-2012	250,000	284.00	0
South Quay NAP	4	262,500	514.00	06-2013	205,823	444.00	0
Cheroenhaka Protected Land	4	150,000	155.73	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
*Smooth Coneflower Habitat	9	145,462	165.00	10-2012	145,462	257.38	0
Historic Areas							
*Island Farm – Cedar Creek Battlefield	6	225,000	174.00	10-2014	225,000	174.00	0
*Werowocomoco	1	80,000	60.00	12-2012	80,000	57.58	0
Gen. Jackson's Amputation Site	1	70,875	81.69	WITHDRAWN	0	0	0
Farm and Forestlands							
*Arkfeld Farm	10	40,000	200.00	11-2013	40,000	200.00	0
*Island Ford Farm	6	82,500	150.00	07-2013	82,500	150.00	0
*Moore & Dorsey	10	80,000	151.00	11-2013	80,000	151.00	0
*Noland PDR Project	1	52,047	168.50	05-2012	52,047	168.54	0
Pitchers for the Public	1	56,500	17.00	12-2013	50,000	17.00	0
*Upper Hoskins Creek	1	137,000	211.70	01-2012	137,000	211.70	0
Totals		2,404,408	2,513.05		2,106,149	2,283.63	0

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement

Competitive Grant Awards (December 6, 2012 Grant Round)

Chapter 3 of the 2012 Virginia Acts of Assembly provided \$1,000,000 in FY13 and \$1,000,000 in FY14 to the Foundation. These two appropriations, combined with funds advanced from previous grant rounds totaled \$2,092,500. Of this amount, \$1,592,500 was available for this grant round (Table 21). During the August 24, 2012, through October 24, 2012, grant round, the Foundation received 15 applications requesting nearly \$2.8 million in grants. The total project costs including applicant match were \$8,293,430 and would have protected 2,366 acres if all were funded. The Board met on December 6, 2012, to consider these applications and approved \$1,569,250 in grant awards for 12 projects to protect 1,858 acres. **All of these grant projects have now been closed out (Table 24).** An unexpended balance of \$23,250 remained in the Natural Heritage Unprogrammed Funds that was carried forward to the January 6, 2015 grant round. Funds from two withdrawn projects: South Quay Natural Area Preserve Project, Phase II for \$155,000 and the Prillaman Farm for \$102,871 were carried forward to the January 2015 grant round. Additionally, the Chapman Farm project closed leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,396, which was also allocated to the January 2015 grant round. Subsequently, The Coneflower Habitat – Milton Farm Phase II project closed leaving an unexpended balance of \$35,512 and the Belmont Bay Farm Phase I project for \$250,000 was withdrawn. These funds were carried forward to be awarded in the September 2016 grant round.

Table 23: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for December 6, 2012 Grant Awards

Funding Categories	Prior Project Balances	Chapter 3 (FY13) Appropriation Act	Chapter 3 (FY14) Appropriation Act	TOTAL
VOF	0	250,000	250,000	500,000
Open Space and Parks	0	187,500	187,500	375,000
Natural Area Protection	92,500	187,500	187,500	467,500
Historic Area Preservation	0	187,500	187,500	375,000
Farmland and Forest Preservation	0	187,500	187,500	375,000
TOTAL		1,000,000	1,000,000	2,092,500
Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$1,592,500				
Open Space and Parks	0			
Natural Area Protection	92,500	[Unexpended: FY10 (January 2009) The Nature Conservancy: Lower Blackwater for \$92,500] [Balance of an additional \$305 from this project not programmed; to be advanced in a future grant round]		
Historic Area Preservation	0			
Farmland and Forest Preservation	0			

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY13 FUNDS AVAILABLE	FY14 FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL AVAILABLE
Open Space and Parks	187,500	187,500	375,000
Natural Area Protection	280,000	187,500	467,500
Historic Area Preservation	187,500	187,500	375,000
Farmland & Forest Preservation	187,500	187,500	375,000
TOTAL	842,500	750,000	1,592,500

Table 24: Competitive Grant Awards (December 6, 2012 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres
Open Spaces and Parks						
Jackson House at Ball's Bluff	10	\$125,000	See below	06-2014	\$125,000	See below
*Belmont Bay Farm Phase I	8	\$250,000	115.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0
Natural Areas						
*Coneflower Habitat – Milton Farm Phase II	9	\$169,250	165.00	04-2015	\$169,250	165.00
South Quay NAP Phase II	4	\$155,000	310.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0
Clinch River Cleveland to Artrip Conservation Area	9	\$120,000	100.00	06-2016	\$84,488	159.00
Historic Areas						
Jackson House at Ball's Bluff	10	\$50,000	3.22	06-2014	\$50,000	3.22
* Prillaman Farm/Gabriel Jones Farm	6	\$102,871	92.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0
*Chapman Farm	10	\$100,000	140.00	11-2013	\$98,604	140.00
Crew House Tract at Malvern Hill	3	\$122,129	1.00	05-2013	\$122,129	1.00
Farm and Forestlands						
*Messick Farm PDR	1	\$100,000	408.30	05-2013	\$100,000	408.30
*Dorsey Orchard Tract	10	\$61,250	68.00	12-2014	\$61,250	68.00
*Sundance Properties	6	\$151,750	206.00	01-2014	\$151,750	206.00
*BLD Farms Rose Hill	4	\$62,000	249.91	04-2013	\$62,000	249.91
Awarded Grant Totals		\$1,569,250	1,858.43		\$1,024,471	1,400.43
Natural Heritage Unprogrammed Funds		\$23,250				
Available Grant Funds		\$1,592,500				

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement

Competitive Grant Awards (January 6, 2015 Grant Round)

Chapter 3 of the 2014 Special Session Virginia Acts of Assembly provided \$1,000,000 in FY15 and \$1,000,000 in FY16 to the Foundation. These two appropriations, combined with unexpended funds advanced from previous grant rounds, after accounting for a reduction of a \$300,000 transfer to the General Fund, totaled \$2,281,081. Of this amount, \$1,781,081 was available for this grant round (Table 25). During the October 24, 2014 through November 24, 2014 grant round, the Foundation received 23 applications requesting nearly \$4.0 million in grants. The total project costs including applicant match were \$14,264,837 and would have protected 6,343 acres if all were funded. The Board met on January 6, 2015, to consider these applications and approved \$1,781,081 in grant awards for 14 projects to protect 5,731 acres (Table 26). As of the date of this report, five of the 14 projects have been completed.

Table 25: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for January 6, 2015 Grant Awards

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	Prior Project Balances	Withdrawn Project Balances	Cash Balance Reduction	CHAPTER 3 (FY15) APPROPRIATION ACT	CHAPTER 3 (FY16) APPROPRIATION ACT	TOTAL
1.	VOF				\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
2.	Open Space and Parks	\$14,207		(\$14,207)	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
3.	Natural Area Protection	\$80,232	\$305,000	(\$139,647)	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$620,585
4.	Historic Area Preservation	\$1,396	\$173,746	(\$139,646)	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$410,496
5.	Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$6,500		(\$6,500)	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
	TOTAL	\$102,335	\$478,746	(\$300,000)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,281,081
Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$1,781,081							
1.	Open Space and Parks	\$14,207	[Unexpended: FY12 (September 2011) City of Salem Planning Dept.: Roanoke River Greenway: \$14,207]				
2.	Natural Area Protection	\$385,232	[Unexpended: FY10 (January 2009) The Nature Conservancy: Lower Blackwater: \$305] [Unexpended: FY12 (September 2011) The Nature Conservancy: South Quay Natural Area Preserve: \$56,677] [Withdrawn: FY12 (September 2011) Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Tribe: Cheroenhaka Protected Land: \$150,000] [Withdrawn: FY14 (December 2012) The Nature Conservancy: South Quay Natural Area Preserve Project, Phase II: \$155,000] [Unprogrammed: FY14 (December 2012) for \$23,250]				
3.	Historic Area Preservation	\$175,142	[Withdrawn: FY12 (September 2011) The County of Spotsylvania: "Stonewall" Jackson Site: \$70,875] [Withdrawn: FY15 (December 2012) Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation: Prillaman Farm/ Gabriel Jones Farm: \$102,871] [Unexpended: FY14 (December 2012) Clarke County Easement Authority: Chapman Farm: \$1,396]				
4.	Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$6,500	[Unexpended: FY12 (September 2011) Meadowview Biological Research Station: Pitchers For the Public: \$6,500]				
	TOTAL	\$581,081					

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY15 FUNDS AVAILABLE	FY16 FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL AVAILABLE
1.	Open Space and Parks	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
2.	Natural Area Protection	\$433,085	\$187,500	\$620,585
3.	Historic Area Preservation	\$222,996	\$187,500	\$410,496
4.	Farmland & Forest Preservation	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
	TOTAL	\$1,031,081	\$750,000	\$1,781,081

NOTE: Grant Funding available for this round is the sum of rows 2 through 5, which equals \$1,781,081. This represents a combination of FY15 and FY16 funds (provided for in Chapter 3 of the 2014 Appropriation Act) and a portion of prior unobligated balances not allocated to cash balance reductions.

Table 26: Competitive Grant Awards (January 6, 2015 Grant Round)

Project Title	Cong. District	Grant Award (Dollars)	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment (Dollars)	Final Project Acres
Open Space						
Vauxhall Island	3	75,000	2.82	<i>Open</i>	<i>75,000</i>	<i>2.82</i>
Ware Creek Preserve Acquisition	7	100,000	1,062.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>100,000</i>	<i>1,062.00</i>
New River – Connector Parcel	9	125,000	11.93	<i>Open</i>	<i>125,000</i>	<i>11.93</i>
Huntley Property	7	75,000	102.00	07-2016	75,000	108.00
Natural Areas						
Lee County Cave Isopod Habitat Protection	9	160,000	254.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>160,000</i>	<i>254.00</i>
South Quay – Somerton	4	70,000	160.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>70,000</i>	<i>160.00</i>
Pedlar Hills Glades NAP Addition	9	70,000	140.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>70,000</i>	<i>140.00</i>
Bald Knob NAP	5	320,585	76.00	03-2016	320,585	78.57
Historic Areas						
*Stoner-Keller Mill Farm	6	200,000	104.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>104.00</i>
*Bacon’s Castle farmland	3	210,496	See below	<i>Open</i>	<i>210,496</i>	<i>See below</i>
Farm and Forestlands						
*Bacon’s Castle farmland	3	47,500	1,260.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>47,500</i>	<i>1,260.00</i>
*Wainbur Farm	1	90,000	166.74	09-2015	90,000	166.74
*Jones Farm	1	50,000	43.00	08-2016	50,000	43.00
Westervelt Acquisition	4	100,000	2,046.00	<i>Open</i>	<i>100,000</i>	<i>2,046.00</i>
*Pigeon Hill	1	87,500	302.17	03-2016	87,500	302.17
Totals		1,781,081	5,730.66		1,781,081	5,739.23

* Denotes Acquisition by Easement NOTE: *Italicized numbers represent expected payments and acreages based on the proposal.*

APPENDIX B: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation works diligently to support projects across the breadth of Virginia. The following supporting data illustrates the number of grants awarded within Virginia’s eleven Congressional Districts at the time of each VLCF grant round. The District boundaries have been realigned over the years so the cumulative totals provided in Tables 27 and 28 may not be representative of today’s Congressional Districts. The map below reflects Virginia’s 2016 Congressional boundaries.

Since 1999, the greatest concentration of grants awarded to date has come in the 1st Congressional District (Table 27), which stretches along the east coast of Virginia from Prince William County down to Gloucester Point. The greatest amount of grant funds also has been expended in the 1st Congressional District (Table 28). This may be a reflection of the rapid growth and loss of open space and historic resources in this area of eastern Virginia. Funds for projects have been awarded in all Districts. The Foundation has been successful in assisting with the conservation of an array of outstanding resources and habitats through easements and acquisitions across Virginia.

Map source: <http://rvahub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/viriniadistricts.png>

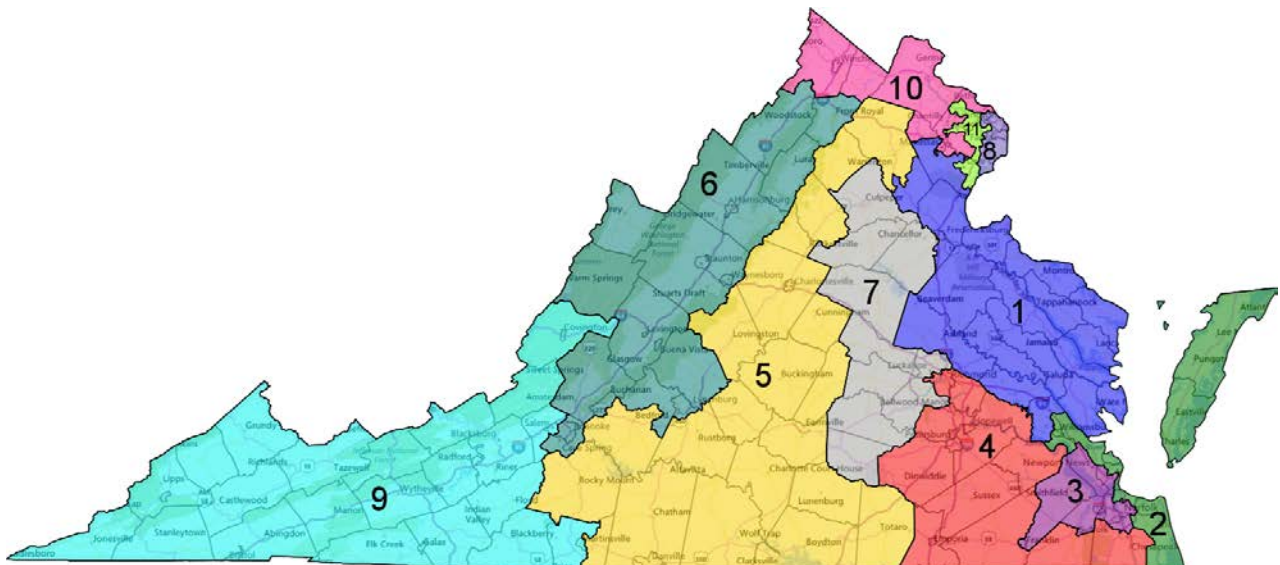


Table 27: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Grant Awards (By Project)

District	12/1999 Awarded	01/2001 Awarded	06/2005 Awarded	12/2005 Awarded	06/2007 Awarded	01/2009 Awarded	09/2011 Awarded	12/2012 Awarded	01/2015 Awarded	10/2015 Awarded	09/2016 Awarded	Total Awarded
1 st	3	6	1	7	1	4	6	1	3	3	2	37
2 nd	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	10
3 rd	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	6
4 th	2	0	0	2	3	3	2	2	2	5	4	25
5 th	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	14
6 th	2	1	4	0	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	21
7 th	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	13
8 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
9 th	1	4	1	3	5	2	2	2	3	1	3	27
10 th	2	3.75	0	2	2	3	3	3	0	1	0	19.75
11 th	0	.25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.25
TOTAL	12	19	12	22	15	16	17	12	14	14	23	176
District	12/1999 Completed	01/2001 Completed	06/2005 Completed	12/2005 Completed	06/2007 Completed	01/2009 Completed	09/2011 Completed	12/2012 Completed	01/2015 Completed To Date	10/2015 Completed To Date	09/2016 Completed To Date	Total Completed
1 st	2	5	1	7	0	4	5	1	3	2	0	30
2 nd	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
3 rd	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
4 th	2	0	0	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	1	14
5 th	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	8
6 th	1	1	3	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	12
7 th	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
8 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 th	1	4	1	2	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	18
10 th	2	4	0	2	2	3	3	3	0	1	0	20
11 th	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	9	18	11	20	13	15	15	9	5	4	3	122

Table 28: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Competitive Grant Awards (By Funding in Dollars)

Cong. District	12/1999 Award	01/2001 Award	06/2005 Award	12/2005 Award	06/2007 Award	01/2009 Award	09/2011 Award	12/2012 Award	01/2015 Award	10/2015 Award	09/2016 Award	Total Awarded
1 st	654,012	1,064,380	258,000	2,610,210.50	108,590	1,593,400	421,184	100,000	227,500	402,500	833,000	7,037,276.50
2 nd	0	0	900,000	2,600,000	0	425,000	500,000	0	0	0	456,525	4,425,000
3 rd	0	300,000	0	500,000	300,000	0	0	122,129	332,996	0	0	1,555,125
4 th	486,000	0	0	705,000	908,000	996,305	412,500	217,000	170,000	980,300	1,245,000	3,894,805
5 th	57,175	126,255	85,433	461,375	0	61,000	0	0	320,585	110,000	910,563	1,111,823
6 th	57,055	306,575	807,202	0	536,200	515,115	355,262	254,621	200,000	173,000	1,149,050	3,032,030
7 th	0	398,000	752,900	375,000	700,000	0	0	0	175,000	62,500	420,412	2,400,900
8 th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	900,000	250,000
9 th	50,000	461,193	224,130	1,330,825.50	2,054,768	300,500	395,462	289,250	355,000	221,700	508,461	5,461,128.50
10 th	384,600	1,255,792	0	1,135,000	789,512	419,625	320,000	336,250	0	300,000	0	4,640,779
11 th	0	7,500	0	0	820,773.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	828,273
TOTAL	1,688,842	3,919,695	3,027,665	9,717,411	6,217,843	4,310,945	2,404,408	1,569,250	1,781,081	2,250,000	6,423,011	43,310,151

APPENDIX C: GRANT CRITERIA

Prior to each grant round, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation reviews the grant evaluation criteria that are utilized to evaluate grant applications and revises them as necessary. An inter-agency task force comprised of representatives of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Forestry, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation work together to develop the recommended document.

The scoring criteria total 120 points. Eighty points are allocated to each of the four primary funding categories, which the applicant chooses (Natural Area Protection, Open Spaces and Parks, Forest and Farmland Preservation, or Historic Area Preservation) and 40 points are allocated amongst five common criteria (Virginia Outdoors Plan Identified Need; Water Quality Benefit; Value Added; Public Access; and Match Funding Ratio). Table 29 shows the possible points to be awarded in each category.

The scoring criteria details for each of the categories outlined in Table 29 are provided in the pages that follow. The criteria adopted by the Foundation help to ensure that land conservation funding will be expended wisely to protect properties with substantial resource value for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

**Table 29: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
Grant Application Scoring Sheet and Criteria**

Primary Category	Statutory category scoring	VOP Identified Need	Water Quality Benefit	Value Added	Public Access	Match Ratio	Total Score
	Max. 80 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 15 points	Max. 11 points	Max. 8 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 120 points
Farmlands & Forest Preservation							
Historic Area Preservation							
Natural Area Protection							
Open Spaces & Parks							

Appendix 1

Scoring Criteria For: _____

Open Space & Parks Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
1) Public Access to State Waters: Acquires land or an easement on land which provides increased public access to state waters offering recreational potential. Maximum score 13		Public access to state waters that provides boating, fishing, and beach/bank swimming opportunities = 13 Public access that provides two of those recreational opportunities = 10 Public access that provides one of those recreational opportunities = 5
2) Adjacency to Parks and Conserved Lands: Acquires lands or easements adjacent to existing parks, protected conservation areas, or other recreational resources that expand and protect public conservation or recreational interests. Maximum score 10		Acquisition or easement adjacent to park or conservation area that will allow full public use on the new property = 10 Acquisition or easement adjacent to park or conservation area, with limited public use = 7 Acquisition or easement contiguous to park or conservation area, with no public use = 5
3) Scenic Resources Protection: Protects scenic viewsheds or land important to the protection of any federally designated Wild and Scenic River or American Heritage River in or adjacent to Virginia, Virginia's Scenic Rivers, designated Scenic Roads, and Virginia Byways, and/or recreational trails, including greenways or blueways. Maximum score 10		Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, one of the listed resources = 10 Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a potential resource identified in VOP = 7
4) Alignment with State, Regional, or Local Plans: Supports local and/or regional comprehensive plans for parks, open space, and recreational facilities, and/or contributes to the protection of a state, regionally, or locally identified conservation corridor. Name and Page # of plan cited. Maximum score 9		If project site/corridor is specifically mentioned in regional/local plan, or identified by ConservationVision = 9 If area of project has general reference in regional/local plan = 5
5) Virginia Outdoors Plan Need: Addresses a need identified in the <i>Virginia Outdoors Plan</i> . Applicant must specify VOP Page #. Maximum score 9		Land-conservation and recreation need from regional section of VOP = 9 General Need = 5
6) Public Utilization: Availability of land for public use, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, or wildlife watching. Maximum score 10		Open for public utilization between 1 and 60 days per year = 2 Open between 61 and 120 days per year = 4 Open between 121 and 180 days per year = 6 Open between 181 and 240 days per year = 8 Open between 241 and 365 days per year = 10
7) Densely Populated or Developing Areas: Conserves land in a densely populated or rapidly developing area. Densely populated is defined as a locality with population of 90,000 or more, or a locality designated by the Commonwealth as an incorporated City, regardless of size. Rapidly developing is defined as property identified as Class V in the Conservation Vision Development Vulnerability Model. Maximum score 9		Densely populated locality = 9 Class V in ConservationVision model = 5 URL for Conservation Vision: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvulnerable
8) Degree of Threat: Site is threatened by development. A threatened site is defined as property where plans have been submitted to locality's planning office for rezoning within the last year, documented to be on the market currently or recently, in an estate that is currently being settled, or adjacent to similar property which is on the market or sold in the past year. Maximum score 10		Currently on the market or in an estate = 10 Recently on the market = 8 Adjacent to similar property on the market or sold within the previous year = 5 No documentation of threat = 0

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

Appendix 2

Scoring Criteria For: _____

Natural Areas Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
<p>1) The Natural Heritage Biodiversity Rank of the Natural Heritage conservation site, based upon the global and state rarity of the natural heritage resources present, the number of natural heritage resources present, and their condition. Maximum score: 15 B1=15 B5=0 B2=10 No natural heritage resources=0 B3or B4=5</p>		
<p>2) Size & Natural Condition: Are the size and condition of the tract(s) adequate to protect and allow for management of natural heritage resource targets? Maximum score: 15 Size and condition are adequate to fully protect & manage targets = 15 Size and condition are likely to provide for full protection and management of targets = 10 Size and condition are unlikely to allow protection & management of the conservation targets = 0 – 5</p>		
<p>3) Proximity: Is the tract(s) adjacent to or in close physical or functional proximity (e.g. upstream or upslope) to other conservation lands and would it expand the protection of natural heritage resources? Maximum score: 15 Adjacent to existing conservation land = 15 Possesses physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 10 No physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 0.</p>		
<p>4) Management: Applicants capability to implement necessary management to protect the site from short-term and long-term stresses. Maximum score: 10 Applicant has proven experience with natural community/rare species management = 10 Applicant has land management experience = 5 Applicant has no proven land management experience = 0</p>		
<p>5) Community Representation: To what extent does the site support exemplary natural communities that are not well protected in Virginia? Maximum score: 10 Supports communities not found on other protected lands = 10 Supports communities found on limited number (1–10) of protected lands = 5 Supports communities well represented (10+) on other protected lands = 0</p>		
<p>6) No. & Quality of EOs: How many element occurrences are known for the tract(s) and what is the quality of those occurrences? Assign the value below for each occurrence based on its EO-rank. Sum these values. Maximum score: 10 A-rank=4 D-rank=1 B-rank=3 E-rank=2 C-rank=2</p>		
<p>7) DCR Staff Visit: DCR Natural Heritage Program Staff met with the landowner (or prospective landowner if ownership will change) to discuss implications of natural area preserve dedication; and staff visited enough of the property to adequately evaluate its suitability as a natural area preserve. Sum these values. Maximum score: 5 Landowner meeting = 2; Site visit = 3</p>		

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

Appendix 3

Scoring Criteria For: _____

Historic Area Preservation Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
<p>1) Historic Significance: Resource or property is: (A) individually listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR), or is a contributing resource in a listed historic district; (B) a battlefield or site identified with a preservation priority rating in the "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields," or the "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States;" (together "Battlefield Reports") or (C) formally determined eligible for listing on VLR by DHR within previous 5 calendar years and remains eligible in the opinion of DHR. <i>* Applicants must submit the VLR nomination form or documentation of battlefield priority rating, if applicable. Maximum score 35</i></p>		<p><u>Historic Resource/Property is:</u> Individually listed on VLR or is a contributing resource in a listed historic district = 25; or Identified by DHR as eligible for listing on VLR = 10; OR <u>Historic Resource/Property is:</u> Civil War, Revolutionary War, or War of 1812 site or battlefield designated as Priority I, II, III, or IV in the Battlefield Reports = 25 [Select either 1 or 2 above, not both] AND <u>Other (5 points each, more than one may apply):</u> Resources that do not meet the criteria above = 5 Resources with high degree of historic integrity = 5 Designated a National Historic Landmark = 5</p>
<p>2) An identifiable threat to the resource or compelling need for immediate preservation exists. Maximum score 15</p>		<p>Property is currently on the market for sale OR in imminent danger of demolition = 15 Property is listed with a Threat Value of 7 or 8 on the ConservationVision composite model OR property is significantly deteriorated and in need of immediate preservation = 10 Other identifiable threat to resource or compelling need for preservation = 5</p>
<p>3) Applicant intends to manage property according to a documented resource management plan and has demonstrated organizational and financial capacity to ensure appropriate treatment and ongoing maintenance of the resource. <i>*Project plans must meet the relevant preservation standards and be approved by the Department of Historic Resources.</i> <i>**Historic Structures Report or Resource Management Plan should be submitted with application, with sections applicable to grant proposal highlighted.</i> Maximum score 15</p>		<p>Architectural Resources: Property managed using a Historic Structures Report and applicant has documented financial and organizational capacity to maintain resource = 15 Battlefield: Property surveyed and assessed by a professional archaeologist or professional battlefield historian and operated according to a battlefield management and interpretation plan = 15 Property managed using general Resource Management Plan and applicant has documented financial capacity to maintain resource = 10 Property owner will obtain Resource Management Plan and has limited financial capacity to maintain resource = 5.</p>
<p>4) Preservation of the resource may complement or enhance other cultural or historic resources or land already protected through a conservation easement OR represents a unique cultural resource opportunity within the geographical area. Maximum score 5</p>		<p>Adjacent to significant historic/cultural resources, and/or land already protected through conservation easement or existing conservation land = 5 In viewshed of significant historic/cultural resources, and/or land already protected through conservation easement OR existing conservation land = 3 Not adjacent to significant historic/cultural resources or in viewshed of land already protected through conservation easement or existing conservation land, but represents unique cultural resource within the geographical area = 1</p>
<p>5) Protection or preservation of the resource may further other public interests, such as education, research, heritage tourism promotion or orderly community development. Maximum score 5</p>		
<p>6) DHR Easement Staff met with the applicant to discuss the project; staff visited the property to evaluate its suitability for historic protection. Maximum score 5</p>		<p>Applicant contacted DHR Easement Program to discuss proposed project = 2 Easement staff visited the property = 3</p>

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

Appendix 4

Scoring Criteria For: _____

Agricultural (Farmlands) Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
<p>Category I: Land Evaluation (40 points)</p> <p>A. Soil Productivity (25 points) Using soil classes prime, unique or important farmland, score the percentage of project land in each soils class. Value the soils classified as “Prime farmland.” Value the soils classified “Unique farmland.” Value the soils classified as “Important farmland.”</p> <p>B. Parcel Size (15 points) Using data from the most recent Census of Agriculture, score the size of the farm as it compares to the average sized farm in the locality.</p>		<p>Points will be awarded based on the combined percentages of these three categories x 25. (e.g., 30% prime, 20% unique and 10% important = .60 x 25, or 15 points.) More information on these soil classes can be found in §3.2-205 of the Code of Virginia</p> <p>≥ 25% larger than average size – 15 points < 25% larger but ≥ average farm size – 10 points ≥ 25% smaller but < average farm size – 7 points < 25% smaller farm size – 5 points More information can be found at www.agcensus.usda.gov</p>
<p>Category II: Land Use (40 points)</p> <p>A. 1) Is the land currently being farmed; 2) is this a Century Farm? Maximum score 8 points</p> <p>B. To what degree is the land adjacent to or in close proximity to other preserved lands, either in agriculture production or non-active in farming? Maximum score 10 points</p> <p>C. What is the vulnerability rank for this parcel as determined by the ConservationVision Development Vulnerability model? Maximum score 8 points</p> <p>D. Does the property have a farm-management plan that specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) and that will be implemented in the normal operation of this farm? Maximum score 6 points</p> <p>E. Is the project supported by local farmland protection policies (agricultural zoning, agricultural and forestal districts, use value taxation, etc.)? Maximum score 4 points</p> <p>F. To what degree will preserving the proposed land in agricultural use secure environmental benefits? Maximum score 4 points</p>		<p>A. 4 points for each Yes in A.</p> <p>B. Parcel adjoins other preserved lands = 10 Parcel is within one-quarter mile but not adjoining other preserved lands = 7 points Parcel is within one-half mile but further than one-quarter mile of other preserved lands = 5 points</p> <p>C. 2 points for each ranking from Class II to Class V based on the Virginia ConservationVision Development Vulnerability model, (e.g., a property in Class IV = 6 points). The model can be found at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvulnerable</p> <p>D. For questions and examples, consult DCR’s BMP Manual, at dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/csmanual.pdf</p>

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

Appendix 5

Scoring Criteria For: _____

Forest Lands Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
1) Property Acreage – Is the size of the tract adequate to protect and allow for management of forestal resources? Larger blocks of forestland under single ownerships remain more manageable and functional over time. Maximum score 10		Score = One-half (.5) point for every 50 acres, up to 10 points.
2) Percent forested – Percent of the property that is in a forested condition. To be considered forested, acreage must meet the State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) technical standards for classification of real estate devoted to forestal use. Maximum score 20		Score = Percent forested X 20. [e.g. A property that is 80% forested would receive a score of 16. (.8 *20)].
3) Percent of forestland that is high forest conservation value (FCV 4 and 5) – Based upon the VDOF <i>Forest Conservation Value</i> GIS analysis that ranks relative conservation value of forestland based on water quality, site productivity, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, intactness, and threat to conversion attributes. Maximum score 15		Score = Percent of the forestland that is high FCV X 15 [e.g. A property on which 40% of the forestland is rated FCV 4 and 20% is rated FCV 5 would receive a score of 9. (.4 + .2 * 15)].
4) Water quality – Streamside forests provide considerable water quality, filtration, nutrient retention, and flood attenuation to downstream users. Maximum score 15		Score = One-half (.5) point for every 500 feet of intermittent or perennial stream (as identified on the USGS 7.5" quad) or river, or wetland or impoundment shoreline, up to 15 points.
5) Adjacency to Conserved Lands – The property is located adjacent to, or nearby, already conserved lands held in perpetuity. Maximum score 5		Adjacent to conserved land = 5 points w/i 1 mile of conserved land = 4 points w/i 2 miles of conserved land = 3 points w/i 3 miles of conserved land = 2 points w/i 5 miles of conserved land = 1 points >5 miles = 0 points
6) Management of Multiple Resources – The landowner manages the property according to a multiple resource management plan prepared by a professional forester and is following plan recommendations to achieve their forest management goals. Maximum score 5		Owner has an existing management plan, and exhibits a demonstrated implementation of the plan = 5 points Owner has management plan but no demonstrated implementation of the plan = 3 points Owner does not have a management plan = 0 points
7) Forest Land Base Preservation – Landowner is willing to preserve a portion of the existing forest acreage in perpetuity to protect the working forest land base Maximum score 10		Score = Percent forest land base willing to be preserved X 10. [e.g. A property on which a landowner is willing to protect 80% of the forested acreage in perpetuity would receive a score of 8. (.8 * 10)].

Total Maximum Score 80 points _____

Appendix 6

Scoring Criteria for Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Identified Need

Degree to which a project satisfies resource conservation needs as identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)* or in a local comprehensive plan.

Maximum 3 points

- Meets a resource conservation need identified in the VOP and in a local comprehensive plan = 3 points
- Meets a resource conservation need identified in the VOP or in a local comprehensive plan = 2 points
- Not identified in VOP or in a local comprehensive plan = 0 points

Scoring Criteria for Water Quality Benefit

Extent to which the project will protect water quality through the use of minimum 35'-wide permanent vegetated riparian buffers on all perennial streams, as shown by blue lines on USGS 7.5' topographic maps. If applicable, vegetated buffers on intermittent stream can add points.

Maximum 15 points

Up to 1000' of water-body frontage length (e.g., stream, shoreline, or wetland) = 3 points

1 point for every additional 1000' of perennial streams or other water body, up to 7 points

1 point for every additional 1000' of intermittent streams, up to 5 points

Scoring Criteria for Value Added

Degree to which the project has significant value in other categories.

Maximum 11 points

- Farmland = 2 points
- Forestal land = 2 points
- Historic resources = 2 points
- Natural heritage resources = 2 points
- Recreation/parks = 2 points
- Wildlife = 3 points

Scoring Criteria for Public Access

Degree to which the project has public or visual access.

Maximum 8 points

- Full Public Access = 8 points
- Limited Public Access = 4 points
- Visual Access = 2 points
- No Access = 0 points

Scoring Criteria for Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost

Eighty percent or more of total project cost = 3

Sixty percent or more of total project cost = 2

Fifty percent of total project cost = 0

Total Maximum Score for Additional Scoring Criteria: 40 points