

**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
December 2022**

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia
Members of the Virginia General Assembly

Dear Governor Youngkin and General Assembly Members:

We are pleased to provide you with this report prepared on behalf of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (Foundation or 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, covering fiscal years 2021 and 2022, 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.

The Foundation, in concert with its federal, tribal, state, local, and private conservation partners, has made significant annual progress towards the Commonwealth's land conservation goals since it was first funded in the 1999 General Assembly Session. A total of \$86.6 million has been appropriated to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (Fund). The Foundation has leveraged this state funding to protect more than 192,805 acres across Virginia. This includes 84,776 acres from direct VLCF grants and an estimated 108,029 additional acres protected with the VLCF funds 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 additional 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 positively impact the Commonwealth, protecting priority lands under the ConserveVirginia initiative, including working farms and forests; natural, cultural, and historical resources; and parks and other lands for recreational purposes. Additionally, lands that protect water quality in nearby streams and rivers; lands that provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, fish, and wildlife; natural areas and open space have been conserved.

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 for non-state agencies.

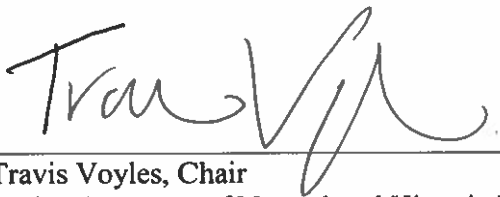
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***State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation***

- The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is strategic in the awarding of grants. The competitive process, incorporation of ConserveVirginia into the scoring criteria, and interagency team approach used by the Foundation to score and award grant funding help to ensure that the best lands are conserved; and
- The grant scoring criteria emphasize projects requiring enhanced riparian buffers and those that provide public access to conserved lands. These efforts protect water quality and help to address the public's growing desire for publicly available lands across the commonwealth's diverse landscapes and populations.

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,



Travis Voyles, Chair
Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources



Matthew Wells, Executive Secretary
Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Attachment

cc: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees
Michael Maul, Director of Planning and Budget
Jason Powell, Special Projects Deputy, Senate Finance Committee
Anne E. Oman, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Chair and Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

The Honorable Travis Voyles, Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Gubernatorial Appointees	Address	Term Expires	Cong. Dist.
Woodie Walker	Tappahannock	6/30/2025	1
Jay C. Ford	Eastville	6/30/2025	2
Mary-Carson Stiff	Norfolk	6/30/2022	3
Susan E. Donner	Suffolk	6/30/2022	4
Bruce Vlk	Charlottesville	6/30/2022	5
Dr. James F. Casey	Lexington	6/30/2023	6
Kat Imhoff	Montpelier Station	6/30/2023	7
Glenda C. Booth	Alexandria	6/30/2023	8
Lisa Kestner Quigley	Saltville	6/30/2024	9
Samantha Vargas Poppe	Oak Hill	6/30/2024	10
Krytina E. White	Burke	6/30/2024	11

Senate Appointees

The Honorable David W. Marsden	Burke	6/30/2024
The Honorable Richard H. Stewart	Montross	6/30/2024

House Appointees

Leslie Cockburn	Castleton	6/30/2025
Andrew C. Jennison	Vienna	6/30/2023
Elizabeth Andrews	Williamsburg	6/30/2024
Sonya Powell	Fairfax	6/30/2024

Executive Secretary

Matthew Wells, Director of the 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*, which instructs the Chairman of the Board of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and report of the interim activity and work of the Board on or before December 15 of each year. The document shall report on the status of the Foundation and its Fund, including but not limited to: (i) land conservation targeting tools developed for the Foundation; (ii) descriptions of projects that received funding; (iii) a description of the geographic distribution of land protected as provided in § 10.1-1021.1; (iv) expenditures from, interest earned by, and financial obligations of the Fund; and (v) progress made toward recognized state and regional land conservation goals. The report shall also estimate the funds needed to achieve goals established by the Board for (a) natural area protection, (b) open spaces and parks, (c) farmland preservation, (d) forest land preservation, (e) historical and cultural sites, (f) meeting the needs of under-resourced communities, and (g) any other goal determined by the Board.

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

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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, cultural resources, open spaces 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 the last biennial report of the Foundation was produced in 2020, the Foundation has held three grant rounds. In the FY2021 state budget, \$10 million was appropriated to VLCF. This amount was divided between two grant rounds due to uncertainty with the state budget during the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The first grant round included \$4.5 million of the appropriation. The Board met virtually to award the grant round on February 5, 2021, with \$3,406,250 available for grants (\$3,375,000 plus \$31,250 unallocated from FY20). The Foundation received 15 applications requesting approximately \$10.5 million. The board approved 12 projects to protect 4,532.22 acres. Additionally, \$1,125,000 was allocated to VOF for the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund.

The second grant round of FY2021 included the remaining \$5.5 million of the FY2021 appropriation. With \$1,375,000 allocated to VOF for the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund, \$4,125,000 was available for the grant round. An additional \$710,000 was made available from projects withdrawn from the FY20 and FY21 grant rounds, totaling \$4,835,000 in grant funding. The Foundation received 35 proposals requesting approximately \$11.4 million. On June 10, 2021, the Board approved 22 projects to protect 5,092.76 acres.

The FY2022 grant round received \$7,500,000 in the state budget, with \$2,500,000 allocated to the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. The Foundation received 34 proposals requesting approximately \$10.5 million. The Board met on October 27, 2021, to award funding to 30 projects that will protect 6,770.80 acres. Details of each grant round are provided later in this report.

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

Total funds appropriated to the Foundation exceed \$86 million since FY2000 (Table 1) and have resulted in the protection of 192,805 acres. To date, \$66.5 million has been allocated to VLCF's matching grant program. Additionally, more than \$20 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.

Since first receiving funding in FY2000, the Foundation has held 17 grant rounds. During those 17 grant rounds, VLCF received 455 applications requesting more than \$170 million in state funding, which was more than twice the available amount (Table 2). To date, VLCF has awarded funding to 287 of the 455 grant applications and awarded more than \$72.5 million to land conservation projects to protect nearly 85,000 acres at an average cost to the Foundation of \$732 per acre.

Table 1: VLCF Funding General Summary in Dollars

Fiscal Year	Source of Funding	Amount Available/ Appropriation	Amount to VOF	Amount to VLCF Grants	Amount Paid Out or Allocated to Grant Round	Grant Award Date
FY2000	Appropriation Act (CH 935 –1999)	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	1,353,399.00	12/1/1999
FY2001	Appropriation Act Specific Civil War Battlefields	3,400,000	0	3,400,000	3,382,004.92	
FY2001	Appropriation Act (CH 1073 – 2000)	6,200,000	1,550,000	4,650,000	3,730,783.00	1/4/2001
FY2004	Vehicle Registration (CH 1042 – 2003)	1,463,275	365,819	1,097,456	2,629,822.67	6/7/2005
FY2005	Appropriation Act (CH4 – 2004)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
FY2005	Unallocated Interest	56,982	14,246	42,736		
FY2005	Appropriation Act (CH 951 –2005)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	9,015,182.92	12/1/2005
FY2005	Vehicle Registration (CH 951 – 2005)	381,061	95,265	285,796		
FY2006	Appropriation Act (CH 951 –2005)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
FY2006	Unallocated Interest	188,960	47,240	141,720	5,447,339.00	6/13/2007
FY2006	Vehicle Registration (CH 2 – 2006)	783,563	195,890	587,673		
FY2007	Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2006)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
FY2007	Appropriation Act (CH 847 – 2007)	500,000	125,000	375,000		
FY2007	Unallocated Interest	300,000	75,000	225,000		
FY2008	Appropriation Act (CH 847 – 2007)	3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000	4,036,136.00	1/7/2009
FY2007	Vehicle Registration (CH 3 –2006)	663,269	165,817	497,452		
FY2008	Vehicle Registration (CH 847 –2007)	397,880	99,468	298,412		
FY2009	Appropriation Act (CH 879 –2008)	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000		
FY2010	Appropriation Act (CH 872 –2010)	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000		

Fiscal Year	Source of Funding	Amount Available/ Appropriation	Amount to VOF	Amount to VLCF Grants	Amount Paid Out or Allocated to Grant Round	Grant Award Date
FY2010	Vehicle Registration (CH 781 –2009)	4,666	1,166	3,500	2,106,149	9/13/2011
FY2011	Appropriation Act (CH 874 –2010)	500,000	125,000	375,000		
FY2012	Appropriation Act (CH 874 –2010)	500,000	125,000	375,000		
FY2012	Appropriation Act (CH 890 –2011)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
FY2013	Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2012)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000	1,024,471	12/6/2012
FY2014	Appropriation Act (CH 806 –2013)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
FY2015	Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2014)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000	1,542,239	1/6/2015
FY2016	Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2014)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
FY2016	Appropriation Act (CH 665 –2015)	3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000	1,958,244	10/27/2015
FY2017	Appropriation Act (CH 780 –2016)	8,000,000	2,000,000	6,000,000	4,679,903	9/14/2016
FY2018	Appropriation Act (CH 836 –2017)	4,500,000	900,000	3,600,000	3,244,922	9/19/2017
FY 2020	Appropriation Act (CH 854 –2019)	4,500,000	1,125,000	3,375,000	<i>3,791,793</i>	11/19/2019
FY2021	Appropriation Act (CH 1289-2020)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	<i>3,046,250</i>	2/5/2021
FY 2021 Round II					3,925,451	6/10/2021
FY 2022	Appropriation Act (CH 552-2021)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	<i>7,200,000</i>	10/27/2021
TOTALS		\$86,589,656	\$20,134,911	\$66,454,745	\$66,150,285.04	

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.

Table 2: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Award Summary

Grant Award Date	# of Applic. Received	Amount requested from VLCF	# Projects Awarded	Amount Awarded by VLCF	# of Projects Closed	Total Amount Expended	Total Acres Preserved	Easement Amount Expended	Acres by Easement
12/1/99	20	\$5,800,000	12	\$1,688,842	9	\$1,353,399	1,136.87	\$384,600	532
Projects Specified in Appropriations Act		\$3,400,000	4	\$3,400,000	4	\$3,382,005	1,257.00	0	0
1/4/01	41	\$11,200,000	19	\$3,919,695	18	\$3,730,783	2,764.55	\$1,164,666	1,218.15
6/7/05	23	\$6,011,695	12	\$3,027,665	11	\$2,629,823	6,552.80	\$1,080,729	3,441.00
12/1/05	52	\$30,850,220	22	\$9,717,411	20	\$9,015,183	6,931.02	\$1,401,200	2,271.46
6/13/07	31	\$24,847,590	15	\$6,217,843	13	\$5,447,399	10,543.31	\$2,257,114	2,598.80
1/7/09	22	\$5,404,839	16	\$4,310,945	15	\$4,036,136	12,040.52	\$978,518	2,080.00
9/13/11	27	\$5,933,991	17	\$2,404,408	15	\$2,106,149	2,283.63	\$880,708	1,379.57
12/6/12	15	\$2,775,121	12	\$1,569,250	9	\$1,024,471	1,400.43	\$644,250	1,237.21
1/6/15	23	\$3,955,725	15	\$1,781,081	14	\$1,542,239	5,461.38	\$485,496	1,771.91
10/27/15	18	\$3,890,884	14	\$2,250,000	11	\$1,958,244	1,820.36	\$1,083,645	1,469.91
9/14/16	36	\$11,450,556	23	\$6,423,011	17	\$4,679,903	4,750.45	\$2,429,893	4,453.92
9/19/17	29	\$7,438,001	23	\$4,238,800	19	\$3,244,922	4,027.77	\$1,882,259	3,398.64
11/22/19	34	\$15,140,144	19	\$5,859,684	<i>10</i>	<i>\$3,791,793</i>	<i>7,409.77</i>	<i>\$1,971,509</i>	<i>829.99</i>
2/5/21	15	\$10,498,371	12	\$3,406,250	2	<i>\$3,046,250</i>	<i>4,532.22</i>	<i>\$1,159,818</i>	<i>1,278.23</i>
6/10/21	35	\$11,367,545	22	\$4,835,000	4	<i>\$3,925,451</i>	<i>5,092.76</i>	<i>\$2,217,298</i>	<i>3,176.40</i>
10/27/21	34	\$10,532,985	30	\$7,500,000	3	<i>\$7,200,000</i>	<i>6,770.80</i>	<i>\$5,695,500</i>	<i>6,445.05</i>
TOTAL	455	\$170,497,667	287	\$72,549,885	194	\$62,114,150	84,775.64	\$25,717,203	37,582.24

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

Chapter 705 of the 2022 Virginia Acts of Assembly (Senate Bill 31) amended provisions of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to include Virginia's Indian Tribes. At least one of the nonlegislative citizen members of the Board of Trustees shall now be a member of a state-recognized or federally-recognized Virginia Indian Tribe. These Tribes are now also eligible entities to apply for grants for the conservation and restoration of their homelands. Additionally, the reporting requirements were changed from biennial to annual and will now include an estimate of funds needed to achieve goals established by the Board for natural area protection, open spaces and parks, farmland preservation, forestland preservation, historic and cultural areas and meeting the needs of under-resourced communities. As a result, the FY23 VLCF Grant Manual and scoring criteria were revised to include Tribes and assign points to projects that meet the needs of under-resourced communities.

The Foundation 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 is updated regularly. The Board approved the most recent revisions to the grant manual at the July 12, 2022, meeting to establish the FY2023 grant round www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia_land_conservation_foundation/. The grant scoring criteria are outlined in Appendix C.

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 Wildlife Resources, 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), developed by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage. This important and useful land conservation-planning tool, which is updated regularly, is accessible at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nhdeinfo>.

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES IN FY2021 AND FY2022

Board of Trustees Meetings

In FY2021 and FY2022, the VLCF 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:

- September 22, 2020 – Board of Trustees Meeting: The virtual Board meeting included election of a new Vice-Chairwoman, Mary-Carson Stiff; approval of the 2020 VLCF stewardship fund distribution; a presentation and approval of the FY21 grant round schedule and financial plan; approval of proposed changes to the VLCF grant manual and scoring criteria; approval of a 2020 Grant Round and timeline to award available Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek funds; and approval of the request for pre-applications for ranking and submission to the General Assembly.
- February 5, 2021 – Board of Trustees Meeting: The Board met virtually due to COVID-19. The Board received a presentation of the FY21 VLCF grant applications received. The board approved the projects recommended by the interagency task force. The Board also approved the proposed second FY21 grant round, fiscal plan, and proposed changes to the Grant Manual and scoring criteria.
- March 26, 2021 –Board of Trustees Subcommittee: A subcommittee of the Board was established with the intent of reviewing the Grants Manual and making recommendations for revisions to improve the public comment component of the grants process. Member discussion included concerns heard during a March 10, 2021, listening session. Board members shared comments and their priorities for the Foundation.
- June 10, 2021 – Board of Trustees Meeting: The Board met virtually due to COVID-19. The Board approved the Funding Plan for the second FY21 grant round. The Board received a presentation of the FY21 Round 2 projects. The Board approved a motion to approve the projects as recommended by staff. In other business, the Board approved a motion to expend interest generated by the Fund to support staff assisting with grant management, tracking and stewardship. The Board also received a presentation on the proposed FY22 grant round. The Board approved the motion to accept the FY22 grant round and application process as presented by staff.
- October 22, 2021 – Board of Trustees Meeting: The Board received a presentation on the projects proposed in the FY22 grant round, then approved a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for funding. The Board approved the pre-proposal grant round as presented by staff. The Board also approved the 2021 VLCF Stewardship Fund distribution.

Interagency Task-Force Meetings

Grant applications for VLCF grant rounds 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 Wildlife Resources, Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as required by Virginia Code § 10.1-1018(E).

In 2021, the task force met to review and rank grant applications received during the February 5, 2021, June 10, 2021, and October 27, 2021, grant rounds and to develop grant-award recommendations for the Board. The VLCF Board authorized the grant awards for these rounds at the respective board meetings. The information on projects for each of the grant rounds is presented below.

Competitive Grant Awards (February 5, 2021 Grant Round)

Item 374 A.1. of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly included, in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands, \$10,000,000 from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia. Due to the uncertainty of the budget due to the pandemic, \$4,500,000 was available for the first FY21 grant round. An additional \$31,250 that was unallocated from FY20 historic category was added to the available funding for a total of \$3,406,250 in grant funds (Table 3). On September 22, 2020, the Board met and approved the grant round.

During the first FY21 grant cycle, the Foundation received 30 applications requesting \$10,498,371 in grants. The project costs for all 30 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$55,049,487 and would protect 15,876 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on February 5, 2021, to consider these applications and approved \$3,406,250 in grant funds for 12 projects to protect 12,261 acres (Table 4). As of the date of this report, two projects from this grant round have been successfully completed.

Summaries of the 12 projects awarded funding in the February 5, 2021 grant round are as follows:

FARMLANDS PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along the Blue Ridge Turnpike:** The 451-acre M & W Farm is located in Madison and Orange Counties and has a prominent view shed identified in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Corridor Management Plan. Current farming operations include producing beef cattle and mowing hay. M & W Farm encompasses high-quality farmland with 193 acres having prime and statewide significant soils and 298 acres intersecting the Agriculture and Forestry, Cultural and Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. About 74 acres of the property are located in the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District. The project will protect over 2.3 miles of perennial and intermittent watercourses in the Rapidan River watershed. Approximately 1.1 miles of buffers are located within the Natural Heritage designated Rapidan River-Blue, Cedar, Barbour Runs Stream Conservation Unit, where a federally threatened mussel is known to occur. The project will leverage VLCF funds with matching federal Agricultural Land Easement funds, and PEC will co-hold the conservation easement with the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Total Project Cost	\$1,600,000
Match	NRCS-ALE, Volgenau Foundation, PEC, and landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$315,000
Grant Amount	\$315,000

2. **Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along the Robinson River:** The 592-acre Goodall Family Farm, located in Madison County, is a Century Farm with over two miles of frontage along the Robinson River. The large working farm encompasses high-quality farmland with 332 acres of prime and statewide significant soils and 143 acres of conservation priorities identified in ConserveVirginia in the Water Quality Improvement category. The farm borders 4.5 miles of perennial and intermittent watercourses. The Goodall family began the farm in 1906, with early farm operations including cultivating small grains and corn and raising dairy cows, pigs and chickens. Today, farming operations include producing beef cattle and mowing hay. In 2019, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) awarded the Goodalls its forestry award for their outstanding forest management and reforestation efforts. PEC will leverage VLCF funds with matching federal Agricultural Land Easement funds. PEC and the local SWCD will co-hold the conservation easement.

Total Project Cost	\$530,000
Match	NRCS ACEP-ALE, Volgenau Foundation, PEC, and landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$392,500
Grant Amount	\$106,875

FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative:** The Department of Wildlife Resources requested an additional \$500,000 to help acquire, conserve and improve 8,654 acres of forestland in Accomack and Northampton counties through its Eastern Shore Forest Conservation initiative. These properties intersect several ConserveVirginia categories: Agriculture and Forestry, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Protected Landscapes Resilience. This project would expand existing Wildlife Management Areas, facilitate natural marsh migration, support coastal resiliency, provide new public lands for wildlife-related recreation, and, most importantly, improve habitat for migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. The Delmarva Peninsula, including Accomack and Northampton counties, supports 7-10 million birds in fall migration annually. The Department and partners estimate that improvement of the forest quality on the subject property could double the food resources available to migratory birds in this region. The addition of this acreage to the

public land portfolio substantially expands opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, outdoor recreation, and more. This project received an FY20 VLCF grant of \$292,287 in 2019.

Total Project Cost	\$10,942,750
Match	DWR, NFWF Acres for America, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant, NAWCA, TNC, DU, and The Wildlife Foundation of Virginia.
VLCF Grant Request	\$500,000
Grant Amount	\$421,875

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Brill:** The 72-acre Brill property is located in Warren County and intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. The property is entirely within the core area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield, the boundary of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, and The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. The center of Confederate General Joseph Kershaw’s early morning attack that began the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, was centered on the Brill property. Currently, the property is surrounded by 472 previously conserved acres. Conservation of this property would create a 544-acre preserve with trail access across the entire property, linking an existing trail to parts of the battlefield not currently accessible.

Total Project Cost	\$1,423,614
Match	Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, landowner donation and SVBF.
VLCF Grant Request	\$411,807
Grant Amount	\$411,807

2. **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Stoner-Keller:** The 120-acre Stoner-Keller property is located in Shenandoah County and is entirely within the core of the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield and the study area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield. This project intersects with ConserveVirginia in the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement layers. Fisher’s Hill, including land that is part of this project, was used as a Confederate defensive position multiple times throughout the Civil War. The Stoner-Keller property will connect with 383 acres of neighboring conserved land. SVBF seeks funding for a conservation easement, which will allow for a trail to connect these lands and further enhance the visitor experience.

Total Project Cost	\$684,340
Match	Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and ABPP
VLCF Grant Request	\$242,170
Grant Amount	\$242,170

3. **American Battlefield Trust – James Jackson Tract at the Wilderness Battlefield:** ABT received funding for fee acquisition and an open-space easement held by the Board of Historic Resources of the 36-acre James Jackson Tract located in Orange County. The tract is within the Core Area of the Wilderness Battlefield and in the Study Areas of the Mine Run and Chancellorsville Battlefields. The site intersects ConserveVirginia in the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement categories. Preservation would prevent a residential development or utility-scale solar facility and protect the view sheds of nearby preserved tracts, including the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and improve the recreational and educational experiences of visitors.

Total Project Cost	\$650,150
Match	Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and ABPP
VLCF Grant Request	\$275,000
Grant Amount	\$221,023

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Southside Virginia Conservation & Recreation Complex:** The first joint State Parks and Natural Heritage Division acquisition project supports the acquisition of significant conservation lands intersecting two ConserveVirginia categories: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and

Protected Landscapes Resilience. When completed, this 7,400-acre, multi-phase transaction will create a protected corridor connecting Kerr Lake, Staunton River State Park, and Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve. This project will result in opportunities to restore Piedmont natural habitats at an unprecedented scale and support the local economy by meeting growing demands for recreational trails and water access while remedying the paucity of per-capita spending on parks and recreation in Halifax County, which is approximately 10% of the statewide average. This phase targets the acquisition of 2,010 acres adjoining Staunton River State Park, intersecting three mapped conservation sites and multiple cultural resources.

Total Project Cost	\$3,440,000
Match	LWCF pending
VLCF Grant Request	\$860,000
Grant Amount	\$843,750

OPEN SPACES AND PARKS CATEGORY

1. **Friends of the Lower Appomattox River – Appomattox River Trail – Critical Petersburg Gap Connection:**

This project is for the acquisition of an eight-acre tract with 0.4 miles of river frontage along a state-designated Scenic River in Petersburg to complete the Appomattox River Trail. This project will secure a critical gap in the developing 25-mile greenway trail system that spans the Tri-Cities Region, linking neighborhoods, vibrant areas of commerce, and tranquil forested riparian greenspace. The project intersects two layers of ConserveVirginia: Cultural and Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation. Completing the Appomattox River Trail will support the growth of the outdoor recreation industry and increase its beneficial impact on health and wellness in the region. The trail would provide daily access for biking and walking and access to state waters for fishing, bank swimming and an informal rest site for paddlers. Increasing public greenspace and access to recreation and alternative transportation is invaluable in a region that ranks among the lowest in the state for health outcomes and is socially vulnerable. Project partners include FOLAR, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, The Cameron Foundation, and the City of Petersburg.

Total Project Cost	\$57,885
Match	Landowner donation of land value
VLCF Grant Request	\$28,943
Grant Amount	\$28,943

2. **City of Franklin – Blackwater Conservation Acquisition:** The City of Franklin, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, plans to acquire 203 acres of river frontage on the state's scenic Blackwater River to create a new public park with access to the river. This property intersects four layers of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement. It contains old-growth hardwood bottomlands and contains forestlands categorized as High Forest Conservation Value. The tract sits at the intersection of two Natural Heritage sites, the Blackwater River Main Stem Conservation site and the Antioch Swamp Stream Conservation unit. This site supports several rare species and significant natural communities, including anadromous fish and colonial water birds.

Total Project Cost	\$1,268,500
Match	USFWS via Ducks Unlimited, Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund
VLCF Grant Request	\$500,000
Grant Amount	\$375,000

3. **Culpeper County – Rappahannock River Park:** Culpeper County, together with the Piedmont Environmental Council and other partners, plans to acquire and conserve 47 acres to provide public access to the river with an existing non-motorized boat launch; a park with an existing primitive campground with 47-sites and infrastructure; nature trails; a stocked fishing pond; and picnic areas. The property intersects four layers of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Cultural and Historic Preservation, and Scenic Preservation. Currently, public access to the upper Rappahannock River is limited. This project will add to a network of public boating access sites that are developing into an established water trail. This rural property is mostly forested and borders the Rappahannock River. The historic and cultural

significance is documented starting in the 1600s through the Civil War and contains historic features such as Skinker’s Ford, with the historic roadbed still evident today.

Total Project Cost	\$789,190
Match	Culpeper County, Piedmont Environmental Council, LWCF, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund
VLCF Grant Request	\$315,676
Grant Amount	\$210,000

4. **Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – *River Farm***: River Farm is a public garden and event venue consisting of 24 acres on the Potomac River in Fairfax County, threatened by sale. To secure the property for continued public access and resource preservation, NOVA Parks is working with partners, including Fairfax County, Fairfax County Park Authority, elected officials, and Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. River Farm holds community significance for its history of ownership by George Washington. It offers scenic and water quality conservation values, with more than 1,150 feet of mostly forested shoreline along the Potomac River. It is also in the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. River Farm currently fills a community need for public open space with river access. District 44 is one of the few districts in Fairfax County classified as “moderate social vulnerability.” NOVA Parks and partners are collaborating to secure grants to conserve this critical resource for public use with Fairfax County for ownership and management of River Farm.

Total Project Cost	\$13,065,750
Match	Fairfax County, NVCT Save River Farm initiative, LWCF, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund.
VLCF Grant Request	\$500,000
Grant Amount	\$150,000

5. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – *Camp Kum Ba Yah***: Camp Kum Ba Yah, Inc. (KBY) plans to purchase and enter into a conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) on the 44-acre urban forest in Lynchburg, upon which it has facilitated outdoor nature programming for the past 70 years. VOF, as the easement holder, will permanently protect the property, providing inclusive outdoor nature education and public recreational opportunities. The mature forest contributes to climate resilience and provides habitat space to wildlife, and its streams and pond contribute to a healthier watershed. Additionally, KBY has a rich civil rights history, encouraging use by diverse populations over its 70-year history. Today, KBY offers scholarships to nearly 50% of campers, fulfilling a core value that no child is denied the gift of camp due to financial need. It continues to expand its year-round programming to school groups, families, and partner organizations. An FY20 VLCF grant of \$201,134 was awarded for this project in 2019.

Total Project Cost	\$1,040,950
Match	VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$324,000
Grant Amount	\$79,807

Table 3: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for February 5, 2021 Grant Round

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY21 Budget Bill Chapter 1289, Item 374 A.1.	FY20 Remainder	TOTAL
1.	VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25%)	\$1,125,000		\$1,125,000
2.	Grant Program			
	(i) Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$843,750		\$843,750
	(ii) Historic Area Preservation	\$843,750	\$31,250	\$875,000
	(iii) Natural Area Protection	\$843,750		\$843,750
	(iv) Open Space and Parks	\$843,750		\$843,750
	TOTAL	\$4,500,000	\$31,250	\$4,531,250

Item 374 of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$4,500,000* the first year and \$10,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied 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. [Grant Funds]

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from non-general funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. [Stewardship Funds]

*Due to budget uncertainties at that time, we assumed a budget of \$4,500,000 for FY21 as appropriated in FY20.

Table 4 Competitive Grant Awards (February 5, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist.	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres
	Farmlands Preservation						
1	Farmland Protection along the Blue Ridge Turnpike*	5	\$315,000	450.58	Open	\$315,000	450.58
2	Farmland Protection along the Robinson River*	5	\$106,875	592.18	Open	\$106,875	592.18
	Forestlands						
3	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative	2	\$421,875	8,654.00	Open	\$421,875	1,043.63
	Historic Area Preservation						
4	Brill **	6	\$411,807	72.00	June-22	\$411,807	73.82
5	Stoner-Keller*	6	\$242,170	120.27	Open	\$242,170	120.27
6	James Jackson Tract at the Wilderness Battlefield**	7	\$221,023	36.17	Open	\$221,023	36.17
	Natural Area Protection						
7	Southside Virginia Conservation & Recreation Complex (Phase I)	5	\$843,750	7,368.70	Open	\$843,750	2,010.00
	Open Spaces & Parks						
8	Appomattox River Trail - Critical Petersburg Gap Connection**	4	\$28,943	7.90	Open	\$28,943	5.21
9	Blackwater Conservation Acquisition	4	\$375,000	203.00	Open	\$375,000	200.36
10	Rappahannock River Park	7	\$210,000	46.53	Withdrawn	0	0
11	River Farm	8	\$150,000	24.71	Withdrawn	0	0
12	Camp Kum Ba Yah Inc. *	6	\$79,807	44.00	Mar-22	\$79,807	42.13
	Totals		\$3,406,250	17,620.04		\$3,046,250	4,532.22

*Denotes acquisition by easement.

** Denotes fee acquisition with an open-space easement held by a governmental entity (state or locality)

Funds from **Withdrawn** projects will be rolled into a future grant round.

Competitive Grant Awards (June 10, 2021 Grant Round) FY2021 Round II

During the FY21 Round II grant cycle, the Foundation received 35 applications requesting \$11,367,545 in grants. The project costs for all 35 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$56,064,352 and would protect 9,153.71 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on June 10, 2021, to consider these applications and approved \$4,835,000 in grant funds for 22 projects to protect 6,138.11 acres (Table 5). As of the date of this report, four projects from this grant round have been successfully completed.

Summaries of the 22 projects awarded funding in the June 10, 2021, grant round are as follows:

FARMLANDS PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy**: This project will protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County with an open-space easement on the 900-acre Forkland Dairy farm, a multi-generational Century farm in the family since 1848. The farm lies on the Appomattox River with an area along the river of Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity in ConserveVirginia. The farm has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council’s award. The dairy is an active 300-head operation with a consultant’s plan recently developed for future expansion. The property also intersects the Agricultural and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$2,041,000
Match	VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant and landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$813,800
Grant Amount	\$500,000

2. **Piedmont Environmental Council – Protected Farmland along the Rappahannock River**: This grant will secure a conservation easement to protect Lakota Ranch, a 100% grass-fed Devon cattle family farm comprised of 732 acres in Culpeper County, zoned for agriculture with 652 acres containing prime and statewide important soils, and 286 acres of forestland. The Rappahannock River, a Virginia Scenic River, borders the property for 1.02 miles with a 100’ livestock exclusion buffer along the river. There are 80 acres of core and 547 acres of study area for Rappahannock Station Battlefield. The property is viewable to the public from a State Scenic Byway that contributes to the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, another state-maintained road, and the river. PEC is partnering with the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District and securing funding through the NRCS Agricultural Land Easement program to leverage state and private funding to advance farmland protection. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$1,940,000
Match	NRCS ACEP-ALE, American Farmland Trust, and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$208,000
Grant Amount	\$208,000

3. **Stafford County – Kevin Jones Farm**: This grant will purchase a conservation easement on the Kevin Jones Farm, which intersects both the Cultural and Historic Preservation and the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity categories of ConserveVirginia. The easement will be held by Stafford County, pursuant to their Purchase of Development Rights Program. The 70-acre property is located along Forest Land Road, a scenic, rural road providing visual access to the traveling public and is used for crop production and keeping of livestock. The easement will protect 36 acres of prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance; 15 acres of mixed forestland; and environmental features, including 2,430 feet of a forested perennial stream and 4.8 acres of high-quality wetlands. The property falls within a Natural Heritage ecological core and contains an element occurrence of a threatened and endangered species. The property itself is associated with Civil War activity and will preserve on-site Civil War trenches.

Total Project Cost	\$333,000
Match	Stafford County
VLCF Grant Request	\$166,500
Grant Amount	\$46,250

4. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Morse Brothers Farm:** This grant will help protect a 111-acre property owned by third-generation African American farmers in Nelson County by a VOF perpetual easement. The owners plan an agricultural enterprise combining cattle and hay production with a small vineyard and an event barn to draw people from the Capital region who would not normally have the opportunity to visit a working farm. They envision a retreat that welcomes families to a venue where they can enjoy a day in the country, picnic and walk along a trail system highlighting the streams and views of nearby Turner Mountain. The owners are working with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish pastures and fence the streams to showcase livestock production best-management practices. This property does not intersect with ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$249,500
Match	NRCS ACEP-ALE, VOF Preservation Trust Fund, and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$70,750
Grant Amount	\$70,750

FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II:** This grant is to acquire, conserve and improve 749 acres of forestland in Accomack County, which complements a current VLCF-funded initiative to purchase 8,800 acres on the Eastern Shore. This fee-simple acquisition presents opportunities to facilitate natural marsh migration, support coastal resiliency, provide new public lands for wildlife-related recreation, and, importantly, improve habitat for migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. The addition of this acreage to the public land portfolio provides for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and more. This project intersects the Forestry, Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$1,444,775
Match	USFWS Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Grant; DWR Game Protection Fund; DWR Nongame Cash Fund; DWR Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Fund.
VLCF Grant Request	\$700,000
Grant Amount	\$400,000

2. **Department of Forestry – Three Creek Capron:** This a grant to acquire an open-space easement over Three Creek – Capron to permanently protect riparian forest habitat and ensure continued use of upland acreage for commercial timber management. The 376-acre tract is fully forested with 1.8 miles of stream frontage on Three Creek, the largest blackwater tributary of the Nottoway River. The tract is comprised of roughly 300 acres of forested wetlands and 75 acres of upland pine forest. Forest cover in the expansive Three Creek riparian corridor, a central feature of Southampton County’s working forest and agriculture landscape, provides important terrestrial wildlife habitat and helps regulate water flows and water quality critical for aquatic system health of Three Creek and downstream reaches of the Nottoway River. The tract’s forest cover has a Forest Conservation Value of 5 (outstanding), and 45 percent of the tract is scored as class IV (high) Watershed Model Conservation Priority. Over 70 percent of the tract falls in a C3 (high) Ecological Core and is in the Forestry layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$530,000
Match	Landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$240,000
Grant Amount	\$200,000

3. **Department of Forestry – Round Hill Swamp at Doles Farm:** The Virginia Department of Forestry is seeking to acquire an open-space easement over a 705-acre farm in Southampton County to permanently protect forest habitat and ensure continued use of the upland acreage for agriculture and forest management. Round Hill includes 507 acres of forests and 150 acres of prime farmland. The Round Hill swamp is 200 acres, with roughly 137 acres of that being blackwater swamp containing Cypress-Tupelo forests. The property represents a

significant opportunity to protect water sources that drain directly into the Blackwater River at the Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve. The easement will place substantial limits on taking forest along the waterways, including 100' riparian buffers and protections of the Cypress stand. This project intersects the Agriculture, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$1,294,000
Match	Landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$275,000
Grant Amount	\$225,000

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. **Belmead on the James, Inc. – Drexel-Morrell Center**: This grant is to purchase the 56.48-acre Rosemont property in Powhatan that intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. With the financial assistance of a VLCF grant, Belmead on the James will conserve a historic home on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places; an original wood frame barn; 40 acres of pristine wooded space and 16 acres of open space; and a permanent waterway that bisects the property. All the property will be placed under conservation easement with the Board of Historic Resources. The Drexel-Morrell project will create and preserve a safe-space museum for common stories, history, and cultural inter-enrichment. The project will tell a crucially important story of African American life impacted by the Drexel and Morrell schools in Powhatan.

Total Project Cost	\$456,900
Match	VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$228,400
Grant Amount	\$228,400

2. **American Battlefield Trust - Rollins Tract at Bristoe Station Battlefield**: This is a grant to acquire the 22-acre Rollins Tract, located in Prince William County and to record an open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Rollins Tract intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia and is located in the Core Areas of the Bristoe Station Battlefield and the Manassas Station Operations Battlefield. Preservation of this property is a high priority for the county and the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. In addition to its historic significance, the Rollins Tract includes 410 feet of a perennial stream, 0.49 acres of woods, and 0.41 acres of wetlands. After protecting the property with an open-space easement, the Trust will transfer the parcel to the county for incorporation into the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

Total Project Cost	\$912,370
Match	American Battlefield Protection Program, ABT, grant from Prince William Co.
VLCF Grant Request	\$285,000
Grant Amount	\$285,000

3. **American Battlefield Trust – Fussell’s Mill Tracts at Second Deep Bottom Battlefield**: This grant will preserve the 52-acre Fussell’s Mill Tracts, located in Henrico County, via a fee acquisition and recordation of an open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tracts are in the Core and Study Areas of the Second Deep Bottom, First Deep Bottom, Glendale, and Fair Oaks & Darbytown Road Battlefields. Two of those battlefields are documented United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) sites, an important facet of African American history. The property includes 106 feet of Bailey Creek, a pond, 48 acres of woods, and 0.86 acres of wetlands. The property is mostly open space, with one single-family residence and is located in the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$846,859
Match	ABPP, Va. Battlefield Preservation Fund, and private funding.
VLCF Grant Request	\$282,000
Grant Amount	\$282,000

4. **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards:** This project will protect the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County, a property that intersects the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. This property is part of the “The Coaling,” made famous by the roll this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. Although fighting raged across a mile-wide and three-mile-long battlefield, the eventual outcome of the battle was decided by the fighting on the Coaling. It was control of this high ground that determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic but also the fate of Jackson’s entire Valley campaign. Today, nine acres of The Coaling are owned by SVBF, but the vast majority of the site is still unprotected. The Edwards property makes up most of that unpreserved land, which has been subdivided into 12 parcels. This project will preserve the remaining unsold ten parcels.

Total Project Cost	\$1,624,370
Match	Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, and ABPP.
VLCF Grant Request	\$400,000
Grant Amount	\$29,550

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pickett’s Harbor Maritime Forest & Migratory Bird Protection:** This grant will fund the fee-simple purchase of 4.5 acres, two bayside lots on the Eastern Shore in Northampton County. Although small in size, these lots support two globally rare natural communities, a globally rare beach dwelling insect, as well as high quality, internationally significant migratory bird habitat. The property adjoins Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve and provides an important protective buffer and management access to the existing Preserve. The property also intersects five categories of ConserveVirginia: Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost	\$892,500
Match	Natural Area Preservation Fund, NOAA/CZM
VLCF Grant Request	\$642,500
Grant Amount	\$255,549

2. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve – Lake Allure Woods:** This grant is for the purchase of a 44-acre open-space easement to protect high ecological value, mature maritime forests that adjoin Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve and the largest natural lake known on the Eastern Shore. This forest provides exceptional value for songbirds and lies within the mapped Delmarva Migratory Animal Stopover Habitat conservation site, which is Virginia’s only site mapped for a significant aggregation of fall-migrating bird species. The area supports one of the largest concentrations of land birds along the Atlantic Coast each fall, comprising nearly 200 different species (representing about 70 percent of all breeding bird species in North America). This project intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia

Total Project Cost	\$551,500
Match	NOAA/CZM
VLCF Grant Request	\$551,500
Grant Amount	\$142,298

3. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands:** This grant will fund the fee purchase of 52 acres in Stafford County as an addition to Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve. The property is adjacent to the preserve and situated along Raven Road. Acquisition of this tract will enhance DCR’s ability to protect key visual and ecological buffers along the main public access corridor into the preserve and prevent incompatible development. The majority of the property includes forested wetlands and extensive forested riparian buffers along Accokeek Creek that provide habitat for numerous species of greatest conservation need, including songbird habitat. The tract falls within three categories of

ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Floodplains and Flooding Resilience.

Total Project Cost	\$450,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$450,000
Grant Amount	\$450,000

4. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Kinzer Hollow Cave:**
 This grant will fund the fee-simple acquisition of 77 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The subject property supports several rare plants, a foraging habitat for endangered Gray Bats, and Kinzer Hollow Cave, home to the globally rare Powell Valley Terrestrial Cave Isopod (*Amerigoniscus henroti*). An underground stream within the cave drains to the Powell River, which supports a host of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Acquisition of the property will also provide long-needed management access in support of prescribed burning efforts on the adjoining Dry Creek Barrens. The tract falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Total Project Cost	\$204,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$204,000
Grant Amount	\$204,000

5. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition:**
 This grant will fund the fee-simple acquisition of 63 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The tract supports several rare plants, caves, and groundwater quality of the Powell River. These lands also harbor a rich cultural heritage dating back to Native Americans and, later, frontiersmen such as Daniel Boone and the waves of pioneers that traveled the Wilderness Road on their way west through Cumberland Gap. The tract falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Total Project Cost	\$164,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$164,000
Grant Amount	\$164,000

6. **Department of Conservation and Recreation – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition:**
 This grant funds the fee-simple acquisition of 77 forested acres that adjoin the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County. The Preserve, established in 1991, is designed to protect the world’s largest population of a globally imperiled plant species and the pine-oak heath habitats it occupies. The subject tract not only supports individuals of the globally rare plant, but it also provides significant buffer on the northeastern flank of the Preserve and would effectively complete the Preserve design in this direction. The tract falls within the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience categories of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$346,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$346,000
Grant Amount	\$109,153

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

1. **City of Franklin – Blackwater Conservation Acquisition:** This grant was made to acquire 203 acres of river frontage on the state's scenic Blackwater River to create a new public park with access to the Blackwater River. This property intersects four layers of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement. The City of Franklin and VOF have been awarded federal funding for the purchase of this tract, and this project also received a grant award of \$375,000 from VLCF in FY21.

Total Project Cost	\$1,268,500
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Match	USFWS via Ducks Unlimited, Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund
VLCF Grant Request	\$168,500
Grant Amount	\$168,500

2. **Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – Haskins Creek Waterfront Land Acquisition:**

This grant will assist the MPCBPAA, on behalf of the Town of Tappahannock, to acquire seven acres on Haskins Creek at the Rt. 17 Bridge in Tappahannock. The project will provide additional public access to Haskins Creek and the nearby Rappahannock River, increase passive outdoor recreation opportunities (i.e., hiking/walking, fishing and swimming, wildlife viewing and bird watching), conserve a pristine coastal environment, and protect a wetland marsh. Plans are to construct a car-top boat launch with parking and have a family outdoor gathering area. The property intersects the Floodplains and Flooding Resilience category of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$540,000
Match	Town of Tappahannock
VLCF Grant Request	\$219,500
Grant Amount	\$200,000

3. **Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – South Garden International LLC Public Access Land Expansion:**

This grant will fund the acquisition of 125.59 acres in Gloucester County, which will double the size of public access to state waters of the Middle Peninsula. This fee-simple acquisition is adjacent to 96.81 acres of existing MPCBPAA recreational resources and will expand recreational interests and conserved land. Once the land is acquired by the MPCBPAA, this property will be open daily for public waterfront access. The property is in the Floodplains and Flooding Resilience category of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$787,400
Match	MPCBPAA and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$391,200
Grant Amount	\$312,000

4. **The Conservation Fund – Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area:** This grant will help fund the purchase of a 1,597- acre property in Sussex County, which will provide public access to the Nottoway River and protect land for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. The property contains nearly 2.5 miles of frontage on the Nottoway River, a designated Virginia Scenic River and 2.5 miles of Black Branch Swamp. There are more than 220 acres of forested wetlands and more than 400 acres of bottomland hardwoods. The Conservation Fund is working with the Department of Wildlife Resources to acquire this property for the creation of a new Wildlife Management Area. Over 90 percent of the property is identified as a priority in three categories of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Scenic. Once acquired, the property will be restored to native longleaf pine and hardwoods to better support water quality and habitat for endangered species, such as the federally threatened Red-cockaded woodpecker.

Total Project Cost	\$2,550,000
Match	Forest Legacy and landowner (TCF) donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$637,500
Grant Amount	\$264,500

5. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia:** This grant will assist VOF and the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond in converting a surface parking lot at its historic Broad Street Station into an urban park. The proposed 5.2 acres will be protected in perpetuity as open space providing recreational and environmental benefits. The proposed project will incorporate and demonstrate science-based, natural solutions to the effects of climate change while addressing the growing need for open green space in an area under intense development pressure. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$21,540,000
Match	LWCF and landowner donation

VLCF Grant Request	\$250,000
Grant Amount	\$90,000

Table 5: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for June 10, 2021, Grant Round (FY21 Round II)

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY21 Budget Bill Chapter 56, Item 374 A.1. *	Unspent Grant Reallocated on Feb. 5, 2021	Withdrawn Grant to be Reallocated	TOTAL
1	VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$1,375,000			\$1,375,000
2	Grant Program				
	(i) Farmland Preservation	\$825,000			\$825,000
	(ii) Forest Preservation	\$825,000			\$825,000
	(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$825,000			\$825,000
	(iv) Natural Area Protection	\$825,000	\$500,000		\$1,325,000
	(v) Open Space and Parks	\$825,000		\$210,000	\$1,035,000
TOTAL		\$5,500,000	\$500,000	\$210,000	\$6,210,000
<i>Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds</i>					
Natural Area Protection		\$500,000	Withdrawn: FY20 Bluebell Tract		
Open Space and Parks		\$210,000	Withdrawn: FY21 Culpeper County Rappahannock River Park		

Item 374 of Chapter 56 of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly Special Session I

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$10,000,000 the first year and \$10,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied 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. [Grant Funds]

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from non-general funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. [Stewardship Funds]

*Due to budget uncertainties, we assumed a budget of \$4,500,000 for FY21 as appropriated in FY20. Because the final total amount is \$10,000,000, this grant round will award the remaining \$5,500,000 and includes separate Farmland and Forest funding categories as per § 10.1-1020 (D).

Table 6: Competitive Grant Awards (June 10, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres
	Farmlands Preservation						
1	Forkland Dairy*	5	\$500,000	906.00	22-Aug	\$500,000	904.39
2	Protected Farmland along the Rappahannock River*	7	\$208,000	732.45	<i>Open</i>	\$208,000	732.45
3	Kevin Jones Farm*	1	\$46,250	70.00	<i>Open</i>	\$46,250	70.00
4	Morse Brothers Farm*	5	\$70,750	106.00	<i>Open</i>	\$70,750	106.00
	Forest Protection						
5	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II	2	\$400,000	749.00	Withdrawn	0	0
6	Three Creek Capron*	4	\$200,000	376.00	<i>Open</i>	\$200,000	376.00
7	Round Hill Swamp at Doles Farm*	4	\$225,000	705.37	<i>Open</i>	\$225,000	705.37
	Historic Area Preservation						
8	Drexel-Morrell Center**	7	\$228,450	56.48	<i>Open</i>	\$228,450	56.48
9	Rollins Tract at Bristoe Station Battlefield**	7	\$285,000	22.35	<i>Open</i>	\$285,000	22.35
10	Fussell's Mill Tracts at Second Deep Bottom Battlefield**	4	\$282,000	52.01	<i>Open</i>	\$282,000	52.01
11	Edwards**	6	\$29,550	107.35	<i>Open</i>	\$29,550	107.35
	Natural Area Protection						
12	Pickett's Harbor Maritime Forest	2	\$255,549	4.50	Withdrawn	0	0
13	Pickett's Harbor NAP - Lake Allure Woods*	2	\$142,298	44.00	<i>Open</i>	\$142,298	44.00
14	Crow's Nest NAP Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands	1	\$450,000	52.30	<i>Open</i>	\$450,000	58.81
15	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve - Kinzer Hollow Cave	9	\$204,000	76.70	<i>Open</i>	\$204,000	76.70
16	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition	9	\$164,000	62.90	Withdrawn		
17	Poor Mountain NAP - Northeast Addition	9	\$109,153	77.00	22-Jul	\$109,153	78.15
	Open Spaces & Parks						
18	Blackwater Conservation Acquisition	4	\$168,500	See FY 21	22-Aug	\$168,500	See FY21
19	Hoskins Creek Waterfront Land Acquisition	1	\$200,000	6.91	<i>Open</i>	\$200,000	6.91
20	S. Garden International LLC Public Access Land Expansion	1	\$312,000	125.59	22-Aug	\$312,000	98.79
21	Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area	4	\$264,500	1,597.00	<i>Open</i>	\$264,500	1597.00
22	The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia	4	\$90,000	5.20	Withdrawn	0	0
	Totals		\$4,835,000	5,935.11		\$3,925,451	5092.76

*Denotes acquisition by an easement.

** Denotes fee acquisition with an open-space easement held by a governmental entity. Funds from *Withdrawn* projects will be rolled into a future grant round.

Competitive Grant Awards (October 27, 2021 Grant Round)

Item 374 of Chapter 552 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly included, in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands, \$10,000,000 from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia (Table 7). On June 10, 2021, the Board met and approved the FY22 grant round.

During the FY22 grant cycle, the Foundation received 34 applications requesting \$10,532,985 in grants. The project costs for all 34 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$58,915,997 and would protect 8,345.76 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on October 27, 2021, to consider these applications and approved \$7,500,000 in grant funds for 30 projects to protect 8,022 acres (Table 8).

Summaries of the 30 projects awarded funding in the October 27, 2021, grant round are as follows:

FARMLANDS PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy:** VOF is working to protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County by placing an open space easement on the 900-acre Forkland Dairy farm, a multi-generational Century farm in the family since 1848. The farm lies along the Appomattox River for 0.8 miles and has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council’s award. The property intersects the Agricultural and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia. This project also received an FY21 Round II VLCF grant for \$500,000.

Total Project Cost	\$2,041,000
Match	VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$813,800
Grant Amount	\$500,000

2. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Thomas Neck Family Farm:** This project will conserve 840 acres of working farmland, including 90 acres of high conservation value forest located within the Occupacia-Rappahannock Rural Historic District in Essex County. A VOF conservation easement will ensure the protection of the following: water quality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, flood and coastal resilience, and natural habitat for wildlife and plants. The property has been farmed by the same family for more than 50 years, presently in accordance with a nutrient management plan for crops including wheat, soybeans and corn. The farm is located within the Lower Rappahannock River Audubon Important Bird Area; the federally designated boundary of the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge; and the Agriculture & Forestry, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$3,246,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,623,250
Grant Amount	\$879,750

3. **Stafford County – Kevin Jones Farm (Phase II):** Stafford County is seeking to conserve the Kevin Jones Farm, which intersects both the Cultural & Historic Preservation and the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity categories of ConserveVirginia. The 70-acre farm produces crops and livestock and is located along Forest Land Road, a scenic, rural road. The conservation easement will be held by the county under its Purchase of Development Rights Program and will protect prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance, forestland, and environmental features, including a forested perennial stream and five acres of high-quality wetlands. The easement will also protect an ecological core and an element occurrence of a threatened and endangered species, as well as historic Civil War trenches. The property is adjacent to other conserved lands.

Total Project Cost	\$333,000
Match	Stafford County
VLCF Grant Request	\$120,250
Grant Amount	\$120,250

FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Pierces Lowgrounds – Meherrin River Conservation Easement:** Pierces Lowgrounds consists of 2,860 acres of multigenerational family-owned and operated forest and farmland along the Meherrin River in Greensville County. The property contains a high conservation value forest with bottomlands, buffers and sloughs in and along the river. The open grounds consist of approximately 450 acres of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Additionally, an outstanding ecological core blankets the tract. A VOF open-space easement will protect the sensitive bottomlands, buffers and wildlife habitat along the Meherrin River and ensure that future generations may continue to own and manage its forests in perpetuity. The property is within four categories of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost	\$2,863,000
Match	NAWCA grant funds and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$350,000
Grant Amount	\$350,000

2. **The Conservation Fund – Roanoke River Working Forest:** The Virginia Department of Forestry is proposing to hold an open-space easement on 932 acres of working forestland adjacent to the newly created State Forest in Charlotte County, also funded in part through a VLCF grant (FY20). The Conservation Fund is working in partnership with DOF to permanently protect a critical wildlife corridor and important habitat for threatened and endangered species, maintain sustainable working forests and safeguard clean drinking water. These efforts will contribute to a larger protected landscape, increasing habitat connectivity and resilience and supporting a sustainable timber supply for one of the Commonwealth’s largest industries. The project is within five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost	\$1,160,000
Match	Forest Legacy grant (anticipated)
VLCF Grant Request	\$464,000
Grant Amount	\$464,000

3. **Virginia Department of Forestry – Over the River and Point Beach:** Two properties along the State Scenic Nottoway River under the same family ownership for almost 100 years are proposed to be placed under easement with the Department of Forestry. Over the River consists of approximately 300 acres, including 25 acres of Cypress bottomlands and high bluffs overlooking 3,200 feet of river. The property is contiguous to the General Vaughn Wildlife Management Area and contains the historic Smith Ferry landing and roadbed. Remnants of the original ferry crossing dock and road site remain in place today. Point Beach is a 20-acre peninsula of Cypress bottomland with more than one mile of frontage on the Nottoway River. It contains the ruins of a historic fish camp. Scenic values along the Nottoway River will be protected, and the cypress stands will be managed to encourage their long-term health and to improve wildlife habitat. The two properties are within five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Scenic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost	\$580,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$250,000
Grant Amount	\$225,000

4. **Virginia Department of Forestry – Poplar Hollow:** This grant will fund the purchase of an open-space easement on a 611-acre property in Shenandoah County with 568 acres of High Conservation Value Forest adjacent to Devil’s Backbone State Forest, which is part of an ecological core and within the Cedar Creek Stream Conservation Unit. A DOF easement will ensure permanent conservation of the high-quality forest canopy protecting habitat for state-threatened species, provide water quality protections to more than 4,000 feet of perennial streams and maintain an undeveloped buffer for the state forest. This project lies within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$611,500
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Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$300,000
Grant Amount	\$300,000

5. **Meadowview Biological Research Station, Inc. – Caroline Diamonds – The Oak Barrens and Barrel Springs:** The Meadowview Biological Research Station seeks to acquire and protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog and surrounding oak barren uplands in Caroline County by adding it to the adjacent existing 17-acre preserve. This property contains the northernmost native purple pitcher plant population in Virginia and one state-threatened plant. The preserve is managed and restored through mechanical clearing and prescribed fire to enhance rare indigenous plants found on the property. The site is used for guided tours, research, and educational and recreational purposes. The existing conservation easement co-held by Caroline County on the preserve would be expanded to include the new acreage. This project intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$800,400
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$400,200
Grant Amount	\$161,000

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. **The Germanna Foundation – Siegen Forest:** The Siegen Forest easement project encompasses 170 acres of both floodplain and upland mature forest that borders the Rapidan River for 1.4 miles. Significant archaeological artifacts found on the property include remains of an early 19th-century mill, along with the mill race, rifle pits from the Civil War, a cemetery and a 1920s navigational marker. The property was part of the advance/retreat portion of the Wilderness Battlefield and includes seven miles of walking trails, along with a Visitor Center telling the story of the diverse people who lived and worked this land from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Germanna Foundation is working in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust, the Department of Historic Resources and the Piedmont Environmental Council to make this project possible. The property is located within the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$1,294,740
Match	ABPP grant
VLCF Grant Request	\$647,370
Grant Amount	\$647,370

2. **Capital Region Land Conservancy – Campbell’s Bridge Mills:** Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with Chesterfield County and Friends of Lower Appomattox River, is seeking to acquire the site of the Ettrick Mill, Northside Mill, Campbell’s Mill, Powhatan Mill, Eanes Mill and their associated mill races. The 29.6 acres of land and islands are located in Ettrick in Chesterfield County along the Appomattox River, an area that falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. For this grant request, CLRC is seeking to acquire and protect five of the acres with the greatest intact historic resources at Campbell’s Bridge. CLRC will place a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources on the property and provide public access and implement the Appomattox River Trail and Ettrick VSU Special Area Plan.

Total Project Cost	\$2,225,000
Match	LWCF and VOF Preservation Trust Fund (anticipated)
VLCF Grant Request	\$750,000
Grant Amount	\$375,000

3. **Campbell County Training School Complex, Inc. – CCTSC Restoration Project:** This grant will help fund the purchase of an easement on the historic nine-acre Campbell County Training School Complex (CCTSC) Restoration Project (a Historic Rosenwald School) in Rustburg (Campbell County). The complex consists of four original one-story buildings listed on Virginia and the National Historic Registries, including the original two-room classroom building. A larger community effort is in place to restore and develop the CCTSC property.

Efforts include structure restoration, as well as the development of outside spaces to encourage outdoor recreational activities, community gatherings, walking trails, outdoor classes, archaeological digs and more. This site intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$181,150
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$69,075
Grant Amount	\$69,075

4. **American Battlefield Trust – Pegram’s Battery Tract at Cedar Mountain:** This grant will help preserve the 44-acre Pegram’s Battery Tract in Culpeper County via a fee acquisition and a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is within the Core Area of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield. The property is currently used for agriculture and falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. The Trust intends to steward the tract and incorporate it into its existing Cedar Mountain Park, which is open to the public year-round for educational purposes.

Total Project Cost	\$514,152
Match	ABPP grant expected and ABT Trust funds
VLCF Grant Request	\$249,876
Grant Amount	\$249,876

5. **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards:** This grant will help fund the fee purchase and historic easement on the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County, which intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. This property is part of the “The Coaling,” made famous by the role this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. It was control of this high ground that determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic but also the fate of the 1862 Valley campaign. SVBF received an FY21 Round II grant award of \$29,550 for this project.

Total Project Cost	\$1,634,136
Match	ABPP grant
VLCF Grant Request	\$370,450
Grant Amount	\$158,679

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage Program – Difficult Creek South Addition:** This grant provides funding to support a two-acre addition to the 819-acre Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve (DCNAP) in Halifax County near Scottsburg. This “south addition” parcel will expand connectivity between DCNAP and the soon-to-be-acquired Southside Virginia Conservation and Recreation Complex. Situated on one of Virginia’s rarest geologic types, this small tract also supports intact hardwood forest that likely represents a significantly rare community type. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$30,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$30,000
Grant Amount	\$30,000

2. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition:** This grant provides funding to purchase 156 acres adjoining the Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. The property lies within the Pedlar Hills Conservation Site, which has a biodiversity rank of B1 – the highest rank possible – due to a suite of highly viable rare species habitats and rare woodland natural communities. Acquisition of this property will help close a gap of the preserve, protect a sub-population of a federally endangered plant and a large swath of forest and improve access to the preserve. The Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia intersect the proposed acquisition.

Total Project Cost	\$515,000
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Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$515,000
Grant Amount	\$515,000

3. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation:** This grant will provide the funding needed to cover the due diligence necessary to accept the fee-simple donation of a one-acre parcel adjoining the 905-acre Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve in Rockingham County. The property lies within the priority Deep Run – Madison Run Pond Conservation Site. Acquisition of the tract will expand the preserve and eliminate the possibility of incompatible development. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$20,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$20,000
Grant Amount	\$20,000

4. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition:** This grant will fund the purchase of a 102-acre addition to the Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve in Sussex County, which contains one of Virginia’s original natural areas, the Steirley Heron Rookery. The property lies within the Dendron Swamp Conservation Site and supports an unprotected portion of an outstanding occurrence of a Bald Cypress – Water Tupelo Brownwater Swamp community. The tract provides road frontage and access into the preserve and falls within the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvements layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$300,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$300,000
Grant Amount	\$300,000

5. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition:** This grant will support a 77-acre addition to the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County. These acres, which support intact forest in a mapped ecological core, a headwater stream/tributary of the Roanoke River, a drinking water spring used for several generations, and a viewshed observed from Salem and southwest Roanoke and users of the Appalachian Trail, are highly vulnerable to development. The ConserveVirginia Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers overlap the property. This project received an FY21 Round II grant award of \$109,153.

Total Project Cost	\$346,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$236,847
Grant Amount	\$236,847

6. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition:** This grant funds the purchase of 11 acres in Floyd County that adjoin the 244-acre Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve. The acquisition will support three rare animal species – two of which are endangered – and a globally rare plant. The property lies within the priority Chestnut Creek Wetlands Conservation Site and intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia. Natural Heritage will restore the farmstead area to native vegetation on the edge of the wetlands and remove incompatible development from the edge of the preserve.

Total Project Cost	\$165,000
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$165,000
Grant Amount	\$165,000

7. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Difficult Creek North Addition – Life Estate:** This grant will fund the acquisition of a 1.5-acre inholding within the Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County near

Scottsburg. The parcel is within the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity ConserveVirginia layers. The preserve supports a high number of significant natural heritage resources, many of which are fire-adapted. Acquisition of this inholding will improve the ability to implement prescribed fires that are necessary to adequately manage and restore vegetation and natural heritage resources. DCR will acquire the property with the current owners/residents retaining a life estate.

Total Project Cost	\$51,153
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$50,153
Grant Amount	\$50,153

8. **Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition:** This grant will provide a match for a federal grant to acquire 205 acres in Lee County as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The property lies within the Powell Ford Woodlands Conservation Site and borders the Powell River for approximately two miles in a designated conservation unit. Acquisition of the tract will protect newly discovered populations of four significantly rare plant species, the headwaters and outflow of a natural spring with an unnamed (possibly new to science) isopod and remove cattle grazing along the Powell River where a suite of rare mussels, fish and other aquatic species are known to occur. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$474,242
Match	\$0
VLCF Grant Request	\$50,000
Grant Amount	\$50,000

9. **The Nature Conservancy – Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion – Weaver Creek:** The Nature Conservancy is requesting a grant for the fee-simple purchase of 92 acres, including a large riparian corridor along Weaver Creek, a significant tributary to the Clinch River in Russell County. This acquisition will protect the viewshed of the new Clinch River State Park and potentially provide hiking opportunities for visitors. Protection of this forested acreage will also complement both the Pinnacle and Cleveland Barrens State Natural Area Preserves, increasing the Commonwealth’s conservation footprint in a biologically critical section of the Clinch River, including the “Clinch River – Little River Stream Conservation Unit” designated as having outstanding biological significance. The property is within ConserveVirginia’s Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers. Partners include the Department of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Clinch River Valley Initiative.

Total Project Cost	\$266,000
Match	TNC private funds
VLCF Grant Request	\$133,000
Grant Amount	\$133,000

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

1. **Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Copper Creek Initiative:** This grant will fund the purchase of an eight-acre parcel located at the confluence of Copper Creek and the Clinch River in Scott County. The shoreline along the Clinch River will provide new fishing and boating access for the public. Companion public boating access sites are located 2.5 miles upstream and 9.5 miles downstream. The site is easily accessible, located 0.6 miles from a four-lane highway. DWR will protect the shorelines of Copper Creek that transect the property. Many rare and endangered fish are known near the mouth of Copper Creek, including several Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Copper Creek has been a refuge for many species during and as a source of replenishment after pollution events in the Clinch River. Twenty-eight mussel species, including 19 federally endangered, have been reported from Copper Creek, which is by far the most of any tributary on the Virginia side of the Clinch River. This parcel is within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

Total Project Cost	\$100,000
Match	\$0

VLCF Grant Request	\$100,000
Grant Amount	\$100,000

2. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Camp Kum Ba Yah:** This grant will help VOF secure a conservation easement with Camp Kum-Ba-Yah on a 47-acre urban forest located in Lynchburg. The camp has facilitated outdoor nature programming for more than 70 years. The land also has connections to the civil rights movement – the only space in the city to offer a meal to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his 1962 visit – and the first pools in Lynchburg to welcome African American families to swim alongside their white neighbors. This project received grants of \$201,134 in FY20 and \$79,807 in FY21.

Total Project Cost	\$1,007,500
Match	VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$251,330
Grant Amount	\$200,000

3. **Town of Colonial Beach – Eleanor Park Conservation Easement:** This grant will provide partial funding for the purchase of a conservation easement on 1.9 acres of waterfront property. The land is owned by the Town of Colonial Beach and is adjacent to the Potomac River. This parcel is the last undeveloped and publicly owned waterfront greenspace in town, making it a unique space for townspeople and wildlife alike. Eleanor Park is home to large, native, mature hardwood trees, which provide a sanctuary for osprey, eagles and other wildlife. The space has been used as a park on and off for more than 130 years and is currently a passive recreation space. The town seeks to protect the park and to increase its scenic, cultural/historic, flood resilient and water quality conservation values. The property is in the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$1,127,000
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$463,500
Grant Amount	\$312,500

4. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia:** This proposed 5.2-acre project will incorporate and demonstrate science-based, natural solutions to the effects of climate change while addressing the growing need for open green space in an area under intense development pressure. Transferring control of the parcel to VOF protects it from the threat of future development and provides the necessary capital for its transformation into a high-quality public park and sustainable landscape. The property intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. This project received an FY21 Round II grant award of \$90,000.

Total Project Cost	\$21,540,000
Match	LWCF and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$250,000
Grant Amount	\$250,000

5. **Capital Region Land Conservancy – Brander Street:** This grant will fund the acquisition of six acres located along the south bank of the James River adjacent to Ancarrow’s Landing within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. The property is across the river from Great Shiplock Park and is currently owned by Norfolk Southern and zoned for industrial use. The Richmond Riverfront Plan and James River Park Master Plan call for this property to become part of the city’s James River Park, as the path of the Richmond Slave Trail crosses the extent of it.

Total Project Cost	\$300,000
Match	Expected VOF Preservation Trust Fund and private donations
VLCF Grant Request	\$150,000
Grant Amount	\$150,000

6. **City of Waynesboro – Basic Park Natural Area:** This grant will fund the acquisition of 44 acres adjacent to Basic Park and South River. The project will create a natural area for the public to enjoy nature and wildlife. The

forested parcels offer numerous trails for hiking, wildlife viewing and river access for fishing, paddling and bank swimming in the South River. The project would protect vegetative buffers along 1,100 feet of the South River’s banks, safeguarding the viewshed from this Virginia Scenic River. Steele Run also passes through this property, and approximately 2,500 linear feet of riparian buffer would be protected. Numerous opportunities exist to educate visitors on native and invasive plants, trees, and the importance of urban forests, birds and river systems, including oxbows and wetlands, with interpretive signage on a self-guided hike through the trail system in this project. The tract is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$175,000
Match	City of Waynesboro
VLCF Grant Request	\$87,500
Grant Amount	\$87,500

7. **Town of Blacksburg – Brush Mountain Park – Edison Property Expansion:** This grant will fund the acquisition of 207 acres of richly biodiverse forest habitat used as a recreational resource in Montgomery County. The property represents a priority viewshed along the southeastern face of Brush Mountain. Once acquired, the property will be integrated into the Brush Mountain Park system serving as a bridge between the Poverty Creek Trail System in the Jefferson National Forest and ultimately to the Huckleberry Trail. Partnerships among the town, New River Land Trust and a diverse set of community stakeholders ensure the long-term success of this project. This property is within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$500,000
Match	Appalachian Trail Conservancy grant, Town of Blacksburg, and New River Land Trust funds.
VLCF Grant Request	\$220,000
Grant Amount	\$200,000

8. **Tadpole Land and Trail Conservancy – Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve:** TLTC purchased 76 acres along Ballenger Creek in Fluvanna County to create Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve. With this grant, TLTC will place 73 acres of this property in a conservation easement with Virginia Outdoors Foundation to conserve the land, prohibit timber harvesting, and provide public access and trails. The land is covered in forest and recovering forest, with a diversity of hardwood trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns, and contains several attractive cliffs covered with mountain laurel. TLTC plans to build trails, parking lots, information kiosks, and plant and habitat interpretive signs. The property is not within ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost	\$312,324
Match	Private donations
VLCF Grant Request	\$65,084
Grant Amount	\$65,084

Table 7: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for October 27, 2021, Grant Round

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY22 Budget Bill Chapter 552, Item 374 A.1.
1.	VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$2,500,000
2.	Grant Program	
	(i) Farmland Preservation	\$1,500,000
	(ii) Forest Preservation	\$1,500,000
	(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$1,500,000
	(iv) Natural Area Protection	\$1,500,000
	(v) Open Space and Parks	\$1,500,000
	TOTAL	\$10,000,000

Item 374 of Chapter 552 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$10,000,000 the first year and \$10,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied 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. [Grant Funds]

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from non-general funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. [Stewardship Funds]

Table 8: Competitive Grant Award (October 27, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Est. Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres
	Farmlands Preservation						
1	Forkland Dairy*	5	\$500,000	906.00	22-Mar	\$500,000	904.39
2	Thomas Neck Family Farm*	1	\$879,750	840.60	Open	\$879,750	840.6
3	Kevin Jones Farm (Phase II)*	1	\$120,250	70.00	Open	\$120,250	70
	Forest Protection						
4	Pierces Lowgrounds - Meherrin River Easement*	4	\$350,000	2,860.00	Open	\$350,000	2,860.00
5	Roanoke River Working Forest*	5	\$464,000	932.00	Open	\$464,000	932.00
6	Over the River and Point Beach*	4	\$225,000	321.64	Open	\$225,000	321.64
7	Poplar Hollow*	6	\$300,000	611.00	Open	\$300,000	611.00
8	Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens & Barrel Springs**	1	\$161,000	96.00	Open	\$161,000	96.00
	Historic Area Preservation						
9	Siegen Forest*	7	\$647,370	170.00	Open	\$647,370	170
10	Campbell's Bridge Mills**	4	\$375,000	5.00	Open	\$375,000	5
11	CCTSC Restoration Project*	5	\$69,075	8.95	Open	\$69,075	8.95
12	Pegram's Battery Tract at Cedar Mountain**	7	\$249,876	44.75	Open	\$249,876	44.75
13	Edwards**	6	\$158,679	107.35	Open	\$158,679	107.35
	Natural Area Protection						
14	Difficult Creek South Addition	5	\$30,000	2.16	Open	\$30,000	2.16
15	Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$515,000	156.00	Open	\$515,000	156
16	Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation	6	\$20,000	1.00	Open	\$20,000	1.00
17	Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition	4	\$300,000	102.00	Open	\$300,000	102
18	Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition	9	\$236,847	See FY21R2	Open	\$236,847	See FY21R2
19	Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$165,000	11.00	Open	\$165,000	11.00
20	Difficult Creek North Addition - Life Estate	5	\$50,153	1.39	Open	\$50,153	1.39
21	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition	9	\$50,000	205.00	Withdrawn	0	0
22	Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion - Weaver Creek**	9	\$133,000	92.00	Open	\$133,000	92.00
	Open Spaces and Parks						
23	Copper Creek Initiative	9	\$100,000	8.00	Open	\$100,000	8
24	Camp Kum-Ba-Yah*	6	\$250,000	44.00	22-Mar	\$250,000	42.13
25	Eleanor Park Conservation Easement*	1	\$387,416	1.90	Open	\$387,416	1.81
26	The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia	4	\$250,000	5.20	Withdrawn	0	0
27	Brander Street**	4	\$150,000	6.29	Open	\$150,000	6.29
28	Basic Park - Natural Area	6	\$87,500	44.20	Open	\$87,500	44.2
29	Brush Mountain Park - Edison Property Expansion**	9	\$210,000	207.00	22-Sep	\$210,000	204.66
30	Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve*	5	\$65,084	73.00	Open	\$65,084	73
	Totals		\$7,500,000	6,983.43		\$7,200,000	6,770.80
*Denotes acquisition by easement ** Denotes fee acquisition with an open-space easement held by a governmental entity (state or locality)							
***Money from Withdrawn projects will be rolled into a future grant round.							

Restricted Funds Grant Rounds

Dominion Energy Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Project (November 1, 2017)

On July 3, 2017, the Army Corps of Engineers issued a final permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was developed and executed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the Department of Historic Resources acting as the State Historic Preservation Office, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, and Virginia Electric and Power Company, doing business in Virginia as Dominion Energy Virginia to resolve adverse effects on historic properties due to the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Project.

The VLCF Board was tasked with holding a grant round for \$12.5 million and awarded nine grants at their November 1, 2017, Board meeting. On September 22, 2020, the Board approved a second grant round to award for the FY2017 Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek available funding from the withdrawn project and leftover funds totaling \$1,145,829. This grant round was for the same historic preservation and land conservation purposes to mitigate impacts from the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Transmission Line as the first grant round. Applications were due to DCR by October 30, 2020. Three proposals were submitted for consideration: two new projects and a request for additional funds for a project that was approved in 2017.

At the meeting on December 10, 2020, the VLCF board approved funding for each of these three projects, committing all the remainder of the VLCF Surry-Skiffes Creek funds. These projects now have signed grant agreements that expire on December 30, 2022.

As of July 1, 2022, a total of nine projects have been completed, permanently protecting over 1,735 acres and adding to the public's understanding of historical events through new interpretive materials. The one remaining project is underway and has been granted an extension. In total, \$12,250,000 in grant funds have been distributed, with \$250,000 left to be distributed to the final project.

The following nine grants have been completed:

1. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation/The Chickahominy Tribe: Chickahominy on the Powhatan:** This grant funded the fee-simple acquisition of a 104.79-acre property known as Chickahominy on the Powhatan, located on the James River in Charles City County. The property borders the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, is adjacent to Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park, and will enhance public access to the James River. A VOF open-space easement will permit tribal functions and provide a place for historic interpretation.
2. **Capital Region Land Conservancy: Malvern Hill:** The grant helped to fund the acquisition of the 871.39-acre Malvern Hill Farm in Charles City and Henrico Counties that served as an important antecedent to the Revolutionary War Battle of Yorktown, as well as both the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. The property includes the ruins of the 17th-century Malvern Hill, listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.
3. **American Battlefield Trust: Battlefield Bluffs at Yorktown:** The grant funded the acquisition and interpretation of the 52.69-acre Battlefield Bluffs property, which has historical associations with both the Revolutionary War and the American Civil War. The York County property is located within the study area of the 1781 Battle of Yorktown and the core area of the 1862 Battle of Yorktown. It is also believed to be the location of General Nelson's Quarter, a slave plantation owned by the Revolutionary War-era Governor of Virginia, Gen. Thomas Nelson. The Trust intends to fully interpret each aspect of

the site's history through on-site interpretive signage, including information on protecting historic/cultural and natural resources like the James River Watershed.

4. **The Fort Eustis Cultural Resources Management Program: Development of a 3D Laser Scan of Fort Crafford and an Earthwork Preservation Plan to Include a Landscape Management Plan:** This grant will fund a project to develop a 3D virtual model and an earthwork preservation plan of Fort Crafford (located at Fort Eustis). The virtual models will be accessible to visitors who cannot access the locations physically, as an illustration of the sophisticated defensive system developed by Confederate General John B. Magruder during the American Civil War.
5. **City of Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism:** Endview Plantation Interpretive Program Development: This grant will fund a new interpretive plan for Endview Plantation, located in Newport News, to enhance visitors' knowledge of the role the plantation and surrounding areas played in the American Revolution and the American Civil War.
6. **Civil War Trust: Egger Tract at the Williamsburg Battlefield:** This grant funded the fee acquisition of the 251.17-acre Egger Tract in York County, located within the core area of the American Civil War Battle of Williamsburg. The parcel was also associated with the Algonquian People in the era of the Powhatan Confederacy. Public interpretation of the site's history will be supported through on-site interpretive signage.
7. **Civil War Trust: Colonial Williamsburg Tract at Williamsburg Battlefield:** This grant will fund the fee-simple acquisition of the 20.45-acre Colonial Williamsburg Tract, located within the core area of the Williamsburg Battlefield in the City of Williamsburg, and will also fund interpretive signage related to the 1862 Battle of Williamsburg.
8. **DCR - Natural Heritage Program: Yorktown Civil War Battlefield Protection:** This grant is to fund a York County project to protect six undeveloped, wooded tracts totaling 700 acres that are considered part of the Yorktown Civil War Battlefield Study Area.
9. **DCR/State Parks – Cedar Fields Plantation Easement:** This grant award funded the acquisition of an open-space easement held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation on 286.30 acres located on the south side of the James River in Surry County. The property is within the Surry Skiffes Creek-Wheaton 500 kV Transmission Line Project Area of Potential Effects. It lies within the viewshed of Historic Jamestown and Jamestown Island, Colonial National Historic Park, Chippokes Plantation State Park, and Hog Island Wildlife Management Area.

The following project has been awarded a one-year extension:

American Battlefield Trust – Atkins Tract: This grant will assist in the purchase and interpretation of the 39.45-acre Atkins Tract in Henrico County. The property is situated entirely in the Core Area of the Glendale Battlefield and partially in the Study Area of the Malvern Hill Battlefield, two battles that were part of the Peninsula Campaign. This tract is also located in the Gravel Hill Community, a historic African American community founded in 1777 by formerly enslaved persons who had been freed.

STATUS OF LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA

Land Conservation Status Summary

The Conservation Lands Database reports that as of June 30, 2022, a total of 4,224,168 acres across Virginia have been preserved by federal, state, and local governments or private conservation organizations (Table 9). This indicates that about 16.72 percent of the Commonwealth’s total land is permanently protected. In Virginia’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a total of 2,963,354 acres of land, or about 21.42 percent, has been protected. (Approximately 60 percent of Virginia geographically lies within the Bay watershed.)

Table 9: Land Preservation Statistics in Virginia (through June 30, 2022)

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	2,353,625	55.72%	1,683,209	56.80%	670,416	53.17%
State	1,416,518	33.53%	968,695	32.69%	447,822	35.52%
Local	157,806	3.74%	138,890	4.69%	18,916	1.50%
Private/Non-profit*	296,219	7.01%	172,560	5.82%	123,659	9.81%
Total Protected	4,224,168	100.00%	2,963,354	100.00%	1,260,814	100.00%
Total Acreage of Land in VA**	25,270,000		13,831,890		11,438,110	
Percent Protected	16.72%		21.42%		11.02%	

*Private/Non-profit acreage declined since the 2020 report due to a correction, which removed 153,000 acres of TNC-owned land because of its uncertain protection status.

**Total Acreage of land does not include the acreage of rivers or other water bodies that cannot be legally owned or permanently conserved.

Since tracking began in 2000, the amount of land protected each year, whether through conservation easements or fee simple acquisitions, has varied greatly (Table 10). There was a high of 107,017 acres conserved in FY2010 and a low of 31,598 acres in FY2019. In total, since 2000, approximately 1,237,413 acres have been preserved overall, with a yearly average of 52,246 acres. Sixty-eight percent of the preserved acres over that period of time are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Table 10: Current Annual Protection Trends as of June 30, 2022

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	21,881.23	12,407.92
2012	56,144.62	36,536.18	19,608.44
2013	45,510.56	25,508.41	20,002.15
2014	75,463.18	44,873.68	30,589.50
2015	36,573.38	22,319.07	14,254.31
2016	33,445.77	23,063.90	10,381.87
2017	40,633.60	24,389.91	16,243.69
2018	51,474.02	34,899.02	16,575.00
2019	31,596.98	24,647.81	6,949.17
2020	53,790.71	23,737.24	30,053.47
2021	32,099.16	20,694.09	11,405.07
2022	34,340.05	21,973.36	12,366.69
Total	1,237,412.95	837,590.92	399,822.01
Average annual acreage protected	56,246.04	38,072.31	18,173.73

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 from 2009 through 2021 are published separately from this report and are available online at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/lp-taxcredit>.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Since 2001, the VLCF has allocated more than \$20 million to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (Table 11). 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 unless otherwise provided in the state budget. These 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 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.

As of July 2022, \$24,134,911 had been appropriated from VLCF to the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. Of this amount, \$15,240,148 had been spent in part on 438 conservation easements protecting 108,029 acres. The VLCF funds were leveraged to secure private, local, and federal funds totaling over \$7.8 million towards the easements noted. An additional 65 easements protecting 12,926 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 52 projects that will protect an additional 2,742 acres.

Table 11: VLCF Funding Allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Fiscal Year	Source	Amount Allocated to VOF
FY2001	Appropriation Act	\$1,550,000
FY2004	Vehicle Registration	\$365,819
FY2005	Appropriation Act	\$625,000
FY2005	Interest	\$14,246
FY2005	Appropriation Act	\$2,500,000
FY2005	Vehicle Registration	\$95,265
FY2006	Appropriation Act	\$625,000
FY2006	Interest	\$47,240
FY2006	Vehicle Registration	\$195,890
FY2007	Appropriation Act	\$625,000
FY2007	Vehicle Registration	\$165,817
FY2008	Appropriation Act	\$125,000
FY2008	Interest	\$75,000
FY2008	Appropriation Act	\$750,000
FY2008	Vehicle Registration	\$99,468
FY2009	Vehicle Registration	\$1,166
FY2009	Appropriation Act	\$500,000
FY2010	Appropriation Act	\$500,000
FY2011	Appropriation Act	\$125,000
FY2012	Appropriation Act	\$125,000
FY2012	Appropriation Act	\$250,000
FY2013	Appropriation Act	\$250,000
FY2014	Appropriation Act	\$250,000
FY2015	Appropriation Act	\$250,000
FY2016	Appropriation Act	\$250,000
FY2016	Appropriation Act	\$750,000
FY2017	Appropriation Act	\$2,000,000
FY2018	Appropriation Act	\$900,000
FY2019		\$0
FY2020	Appropriation Act	\$1,125,000
FY2021	Appropriation Act	\$2,500,000
FY2022	Appropriation Act	\$2,500,000
FY2023	Appropriation Act	\$4,000,000
TOTAL		\$24,134,911

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:

- i. Develop a strategic plan for the expenditure of unrestricted moneys;
- ii. 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
- iii. 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 Wildlife Resources’ Wildlife Action Plan also serves as a resource to the Foundation in identifying lands in need of protection.

ConserveVirginia

Virginia’s land conservation investments are essential to making the Commonwealth a wonderful place to live and visit. Land and water conservation protect the places we love, support a high quality of life and foster economic growth and prosperity. In 2016, the Trust for Public Land reported that every \$1 invested in land conservation returns \$4 in economic value in natural goods and services in the form of improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat. The Commonwealth is dedicated to ensuring the highest conservation outcomes from state funds spent on protecting land, and ConserveVirginia, Virginia’s land conservation strategy, is a key tool in guiding these investments. This strategy includes spatial data representing only the highest statewide priorities on unprotected lands that were provided by 15 state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

The 2021 General Assembly supported the establishment of ConserveVirginia in the Code of Virginia (§ 10.1-104.6:1). DCR is now charged with developing this GIS-based land conservation strategy; updating and maintaining mapping tools; making those tools available to the conservation community; and supporting the integration of ConserveVirginia into conservation prioritizations and grant programs, while collaborating with the conservation community and consulting with the Chief Resilience Officer and Special Assistant for Coastal Adaptation and Protection.

ConserveVirginia identifies approximately 7.8 million acres of priority lands for conservation. The ConserveVirginia Map is the synthesis of 24 mapped data inputs divided into seven categories, each representing a different overarching conservation value. The categories are Agriculture and Forestry; Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity; Floodplains and Flooding Resilience; Cultural and Historic Preservation;

Scenic Preservation; Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement. As with most land conservation, resource benefits cross multiple categories.

The law that established ConserveVirginia mandates an update no less than once every two years, with the last update, to version 3.0, occurring in October 2021. Almost one million (964,366) unprotected acres were added to the tool since version 2.0, with these additions being the result of refined priorities in the data inputs provided by the partners. Lands protected since the release of version 2.0 were removed from version 3.0. The 7,829,233 acres included in version 3.0 are envisioned to guide land conservation in Virginia for the next generation. This strategy charts a new path for data-driven prioritized land conservation and a method by which to set both conservation and funding needs and monitor progress.

Outdoor recreation opportunities and needs, including access for underserved communities, are critical components of the strategy and are addressed across the categories via DCR's Nature-based Recreation Model (discussed later, herein). In 2016, the Trust for Public Land reported that outdoor recreation generates \$13.6 billion in consumer spending and \$923 million in state and local tax revenues in Virginia. Identifying land conservation opportunities to expand upon recreational opportunities on land and water is a key consideration for conservation efforts across all ConserveVirginia categories. The Virginia ConservationVision Nature-based Recreation Access Model is used to assess public access values of land conservation projects and to place emphasis on providing outdoor recreation opportunities in areas where there is currently greatest need.

Three broad approaches have been implemented to help advance ConserveVirginia since its inception:

1. Engagement of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and other state grant programs to place emphasis on funding projects identified in the strategy.
2. Focus of land conservation funds and efforts by state agencies on these priority lands.
3. Expansion of existing and creation of new, funding sources and tools to advance the protection of these priority lands.

Through ConserveVirginia, Virginia is leading targeted, value-based land conservation to ensure the greatest conservation outcomes and prosperity for future generations across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) is the Commonwealth's official outdoor recreation and land conservation plan. The VOP serves as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for compliance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) federal assistance program provided by the National Park Service in accordance with the LWCF Act of 1965. The plan has been expanded to substantially meet the requirements of the Foundation's comprehensive plan. The VOP is prepared by DCR and 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, and an assessment of Virginia's outdoor recreational needs. This inventory of existing lands and facilities and unmet needs serves as a basis for the Foundation's needs assessment, as required under § 10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The 2018 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 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. As part of the development of the 2018 VOP, DCR hosted annual 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, 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 stakeholders.

A statewide Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey is administered every five years in preparation for the development of the VOP. The 2017 Virginia Outdoors Survey indicates high regard for the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities and a strong commitment to the protection of natural areas. More than 90 percent of respondents consider access to outdoor recreation to be “very important” or “important”.

Consistent with previous surveys conducted in 2007 and 2011, the 2017 survey showed widespread public support for using government resources to protect open space. In addition, about half of the respondents would support an increased state tax to fund outdoor recreation in Virginia, about a quarter would oppose such a tax, and the rest would neither support nor oppose or did not know.

Survey respondents identified the most needed outdoor recreation opportunities in Virginia as:

1. Natural Areas (54%)
2. Parks (49%)
3. Trails (43%)
4. Water Access (43%)

More than three-quarters (82%) of respondents rated the protection of natural areas as “very important,” with only one percent of respondents rating such protection as “not important.” More than two-thirds of respondents support public spending to prevent the loss of natural areas and open spaces.

The 2018 VOP integrates land conservation with other outdoor recreation priorities. The VOP is a digital document and includes an interactive web-mapping component, the “VOP Mapper.” The document can be viewed and downloaded by visiting: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop>.

The Department’s Planning and Recreation Resources Division staff are actively working on planning and coordination for the 2023 VOP. As per the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must be updated every five years. This will include an up-to-date comprehensive public survey as well as input from all Regions of the Commonwealth and partner agencies.

Further, the Land and Water Conservation Fund program continues to fund the acquisition of park properties. The LWCF Program is a 50-50 match reimbursement grant program with annual apportionments to the State to distribute to eligible recipients upon a grant round process. VLCHF funding can be a match source for these projects as well. The Department’s LWCF and VLCHF staff continue to coordinate to assist partners in their funding needs as appropriate.

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 (NHP) and developing a Natural Heritage Plan (NHPlan) to guide the preservation of habitat for rare plants and

animals; significant natural communities and significant geologic features (e.g., caves and other karst features). Land conservation planning is a key component of the NHPlan and vital to the effective conservation of the state's natural heritage. The NHPlan, 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*" is available on DCR's website¹. The data and conservation planning tools that comprise the NHPlan are continually expanded and enhanced, and updates to natural heritage resources data are updated for external sharing and partner use quarterly.

A revision to the text summary component of NHPlan is under development for completion in 2023. The revised plan will lay out DCR's approach to identifying, across the state, those places that are most important for preserving intact natural communities, habitats for rare species and the many ecosystem services related to biodiversity. The Natural Heritage Plan is developed from a foundation of the most comprehensive and up-to-date biodiversity data available in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the revised Plan will more effectively identify the highest priority natural heritage resources to conserve, where data and information will be tailored to partners' (e.g., partner agencies, non-profits, land trusts) land conservation targets, missions and territories (i.e., where they work in the Commonwealth).

For over 35 years, DCR has worked to convert its detailed 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; documented locations of rare species 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 natural heritage resources and the surrounding habitat or buffer necessary to permanently protect the resources. Each conservation site includes detailed information on the location, viability, threats and conservation status of the resources they contain. DCR has developed boundaries for 2,250 conservation sites around the state, totaling more than 2,565,000 acres of terrestrial, stream- and karst-associated lands.

Mapped Conservation Sites are central to the NHPlan, and relied upon by a variety of local, state, and federal government 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, accessible at <https://vanhde.org/>, is an efficient tool utilized by 200 government agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and private companies. Moreover, to date, this tool has been replicated in a dozen other states based on the model of environmental review efficiency that has been set in Virginia. DCR staff strive to keep natural heritage resources data up-to-date and reflective of current conditions for internal uses, and these data are updated for partners on a quarterly basis.

In addition to Conservation Sites, two additional statewide datasets are included in the Natural Heritage Plan and partner-shared datasets to help inform conservation prioritization efforts of DCR and our conservation partners. These GIS-based datasets identify the Natural Area Preserve Resiliency Areas and Conservation Sites of greatest conservation urgency.

The Natural Area Preserve Resiliency Areas are key lands surrounding the Natural Area Preserves, where the Program works to (i) focus land protection efforts and land management activities; (ii) concentrate on partnerships with existing landowners and land managers of those resiliency lands; and (iii) tailor

¹ (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/NHPc_Web.pdf)

information sharing based on resources in those resiliency areas. Focusing acquisition, partnership and management of lands in resiliency areas will help to ensure the protection of the rare species and natural communities protected on Natural Area Preserves (NAPs) in light of climate change and other landscape-scale disturbances, enable the development of public access opportunities that do not jeopardize rare species and habitats and help to assure that management of Natural Heritage Resources on the NAP System (e.g., access for the use of prescribed fire and invasive species control) can be carried out with better success and efficiency.

Conservation Sites for rare plant and animal species habitats that are of greatest conservation urgency will also be ranked/prioritized for internal and partner uses. These sites are analyzed by the rarity of those resources, the quality and viability of the specific occurrences of those species and communities, and the threats to those occurrences based on surrounding landscape and land use patterns. In short, this analysis identifies the very most important sites that need protection and management – those that are essential to the preservation of the rarest and most threatened species and natural communities in Virginia. The availability of this dataset enables conservation efforts to be focused on essential areas for the conservation of natural heritage resources and allows opportunities to be swiftly recognized when they arise in relation to natural heritage resources of the most urgent conservation need.

These aspects of the Program data, information and the NHPlan are integral to the Foundation's planning efforts and important components of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. DCR's land conservation planning tools – the VOP and the NHPlan – play an important role in land conservation planning by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Virginia's land conservation community.

Another key component of the NHPlan and data provided to partners and the public is the DCR-maintained inventory of all conserved lands in Virginia. The Department's Conservation Lands Database addresses the requirements of § 10.1-1021(1)(b) of the *Code of Virginia*, which directs VLDCF 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 daily. Parcel information related to management intent, legal protection status, dates of initial conservation action, and boundary refinements is 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 used by the Chesapeake Bay Program to establish and track 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 maintains collaborative roles with partners to integrate the Virginia Conservation Lands Database into the USGS' PAD-US (Protected Areas Dataset for the United States) and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities' 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. ConservationVision is a set of eight statewide, publicly available GIS models for conservation planning. Each statewide map quantifies the relative importance of ecological, cultural, recreational, forested, agricultural, and watershed values throughout the Commonwealth, as well as relative vulnerability to development. The Foundation provided funding for the development of these 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. Green infrastructure is a strategically planned and managed network of natural lands, working landscapes, and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations (Benedict and McMahon 2006). The highest priority lands in several ConservationVision models are also identified as such in ConserveVirginia.

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

1. Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment

The Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment is a landscape-scale geospatial analysis for identifying, prioritizing and connecting natural lands. The analysis was piloted in 2004 in the Virginia Coastal Zone, expanded to a statewide model in 2007, and updated in 2017. The VaNLA uses land cover data to identify natural habitats called Ecological Cores, which are large patches of natural land with at least 100 continuous acres of interior cover. Interior cover begins 100 meters inward from edges caused by fragmenting features, such as roads or utility corridors, and the edge zones are added to the interior areas to create Ecological Cores. Smaller features called Habitat Fragments, with 10 to 99 acres of continuous interior cover, are included because they support other VaNLA features and because they are important in localities with few large patches of natural land. The predominant cover in Ecological Cores statewide is forest, but marshes, beaches, and dunes are significant components where they are abundant and meet minimum size requirements. Ecological Cores are ranked by integrity, from C1-Outstanding to C5-General Ecological Integrity, to reflect the wide range of important benefits and ecosystem services they provide, including biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, recreational opportunities, and protections for air and water quality. Ecological Cores are connected by Landscape Corridors to create a statewide network of the highest priority lands, known as the Natural Lands Network, and are aggregated along with contiguous natural cover into larger planning units called Natural Landscape Blocks. A set of special Landscape Corridors connecting a great diversity of environments were selected and expanded for potential conservation as Resilience Corridors to maintain connectivity to allow species movement between elevations, between latitudes, and inland from the ocean. These Resilience Corridors were integrated with other partner datasets to develop the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity category of *ConserveVirginia*.

2. Cultural Resources Preservation Index

The Cultural Resources Preservation Index, developed by the Department of Historic Resources, displays the likelihood of a given location having conservation value when considering known and evaluated cultural heritage resources. The dataset includes unprotected National Historic Landmarks; lands listed on, contributing to, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Virginia Landmarks Register; and sites or properties without formal evaluations of eligibility that are recommended to have potential for eligibility. The index is ranked from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest) and shows the highest priority occurring within broad hexagons to obscure locations of sensitive resources. The index can be used to prioritize lands for protection of significant cultural resources. The DHR developed a highest priority Cultural & Historic Resources dataset for integration ConserveVirginia.

3. Nature-based Recreational Model

The purpose of the Nature-based Recreation Access Model is to quantify the availability of opportunities for nature-based recreation on Virginia's public lands and waters and to identify areas where more opportunities are needed. DCR developed two sets of metrics to evaluate land- and water-based recreation needs. The land-based model uses travel times to, and the numbers and sizes of, protected lands with public access and the recreation pressures on those lands based on local population sizes. The water-based model uses travel times to, and the numbers of, water access points, and the numbers of water-based activities offered at those points, as well as the recreation pressures on those points based on local population sizes. The Nature-based Recreation Access Model is part of ConserveVirginia in that it is, used to assess the potential public access values of all lands proposed for protection via the VLCF Grant Program.

4. Forest Conservation Value (FCV) Model

The Forest Conservation Value (FCV) Model is a tool designed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) to strategically identify the highest priority forestland for conservation in Virginia. The intent is to maximize the efficiency of limited resources by focusing conservation efforts on the highest quality, most productive and most vulnerable forestland statewide. The 2020 FCV model evaluates components for forested blocks, management potential, connectivity to other conserved lands, watershed integrity, and threat of conversion to prioritize the highest-value forestlands for conservation. The model ranks all forestland in Virginia from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) FCV. The highest priority forestlands identified in the FCV provided the forest component data input to the Agriculture & Forestry category of the ConserveVirginia.

5. Agricultural Model

The Agricultural Model, revised in 2015, quantifies the relative suitability of lands for agricultural activity. The model output is a spatial dataset with the agricultural value ranging from 0 (unsuitable) to 100 (optimal). Agricultural value is assessed primarily based on three measures of soil suitability derived from the gSSURGO soils geodatabase produced by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In addition, the model accounts for current land cover and travel time to markets in the final valuation. Staff at NRCS and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) were consulted during development of the model. The model can be viewed as a web map on the NHDE and in ArcGIS Online, and the dataset is available for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website. For ConserveVirginia version 3.0, the agricultural data input to the Agriculture & Forestry category was developed by the American Farmland Trust from its *Farms Under Threat: State of the States* project (version 2.0) database.

6. Watershed Model

The purpose of the Watershed Impact Model, revised in 2022, is to help establish geographic priorities for conservation, restoration, or implementation of best management practices, where the goal is to

maintain or improve water quality and/or aquatic ecological integrity. It is intended as a geospatial screening tool for assessing where activities on the land are expected to have the greatest impact on water. The model relies on multiple data sources representing conditions that drive the terrestrial influence on aquatic systems, including precipitation, geology, soils, topography, and hydrology. Although land cover also exerts a key influence on hydrologic flow and pollutant loads reaching streams, it is not used to calculate potential impact. Instead, the potential impact is calculated under a "worst-case scenario" assumption of barren land. By leaving land cover out of the equation, the calculation of potential impact is robust in the face of land cover changes that can happen over very short time scales. The model can be viewed as a web map on the NHDE and in ArcGIS Online, and the dataset is available for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.

7. Development Vulnerability Model

The purpose of the Development Vulnerability Model, revised in 2022, is to quantify the risk of conversion from greenspace (natural, rural, or other open space lands) to urbanized or other built-up land uses. The model output is a raster dataset in which the relative vulnerability of lands ranges from 0 (least vulnerable) to 100 (most vulnerable). Vulnerability values are not probabilities but should be interpreted as a relative measure of development potential. Conservation lands on which biodiversity preservation is believed to be the primary goal are considered undevelopable and are coded with the value -1, while areas in which development has already occurred are coded 101. The model can be viewed as a web map on the NHDE and in ArcGIS Online, and the dataset is available for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.

8. Potential Rare Species Richness

The Potential Rare Species Richness data layer, originally developed in 2019 and now updated quarterly, represents the relative number of Virginia's threatened, endangered, and/or rare plant and animal species likely to occur across the Commonwealth by summarizing predictions of suitable habitat within three-mile diameter hexagons. The layer is derived from the collection of current Predicted Suitable Habitat (PSH) maps; each individual PSH map indicates where suitable habitat for a particular species is expected to exist. These maps are developed and maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) to assist in the protection and inventory of rare species in Virginia. The layer can be viewed as a web map on the NHDE, and the dataset is available for download from the Virginia ConservationVision website.

The Natural Heritage Program continues to support the 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. By request, Natural Heritage delivers ConservationVision "packages" to conservation partners in formats and geographic extents that are targeted at their needs. This implementation also includes training 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., Department of Forestry and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation rely on specific ConservationVision maps to screen potential conservation easement lands.

Additionally, DCR-Natural Heritage continues to pursue soft money funds to support ongoing efforts to develop maps that summarize areas of predicted suitable habitats for all rare species in Virginia, including all state and federal listed threatened and endangered species, as well as state and globally rare species that are not listed. Also referred to as Species Distribution Modeling (SDM), Predicted Suitable Habitat (PSH) modeling, and Species Habitat Models (SHM), this work has led to a one-of-a-kind set of geospatial map layers and datasets for incorporation into the Natural Heritage Plan, the Natural Heritage Data Explorer, the land protection and NAP management decisions at DCR-Natural Heritage, as well as the data and information shared with a variety of partners in both the conservation and development communities. In short, SDM begins with biological inventory data managed at Natural Heritage (i.e., Element Occurrence data and the Conservation Sites database). Environmental conditions and habitat characteristics associated with those known species' locations are analyzed using statistical and GIS software to predict other areas with suitable habitats for each species. For each species, the predicted suitable habitat is mapped throughout the species' Virginia range, encompassing areas where field inventory has not been feasible to date so that statewide suitable habitat maps can be used in conservation planning and environmental review. The NHP's SDM work was conducted throughout the east coast for a subset of federal Threatened and Endangered species, with funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and via a partnership with Natural Heritage Programs in Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. The SDM work at Virginia Natural Heritage is recognized as a model for SDM efforts in other states and USFWS regions.

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 will continue to be developed, updated, and refined to enable objective evaluations of VLCF proposals in multiple grant categories; 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 July 12, 2022. This document clearly addresses how the funding will 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/.

Revised grant criteria guided the review of applications received during the recent grant rounds that were considered by the Board at their respective meetings. As in the past, all 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 Wildlife Resources, 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 continues to use and develop state-of-the-art land conservation information systems and decision support tools. Conservation Lands and Conservation Sites Databases and ConserveVirginia assist

the Foundation in ranking and selecting priority land preservation projects, and the Foundation continues to seek ways to effectively leverage these tools.

Looking Forward: Estimate of Funds Needed to Achieve Foundation Goals

Recent changes to the reporting requirements of the Foundation in § 10.1-1018.1 of the Code of Virginia require an estimate of the funds needed to achieve goals established by the Board for (a) natural area protection, (b) open spaces and parks, (c) farmland preservation, (d) forest land preservation, (e) historical and cultural sites, (f) meeting the needs of under-resourced communities, and (g) any other goal determined by the Board. Because the funding categories are set in § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia, we look to the funding requested in each grant round over the past year. Table 12 illustrates how the total request for the FY21, FY21 Round II, and the FY22 grant rounds across all categories is 2.4 times the amount of funding available for projects.

Table 12: Funds needed to achieve the need for funding by category

Category	FY21		FY21 Round 2		FY22		% Available Funding
	Requested	Available	Requested	Available	Requested	Available	
Farms and Forest	\$1,837,050	\$843,750					46%
Farmland			\$1,486,550	\$825,000	\$2,557,300	\$1,500,000	57%
Forest land			\$1,556,940	\$825,000	\$1,764,200	\$1,500,000	70%
Historic	\$2,092,427	\$843,750	\$1,195,450	\$825,000	\$2,624,071	\$1,500,000	54%
Natural Areas	\$860,000	\$843,750	\$3,234,250	\$1,325,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	66%
Open Spaces & Parks	\$5,708,894	\$843,750	\$3,894,345	\$1,035,000	\$2,087,414	\$1,500,000	29%
Totals	\$10,498,371	\$3,375,000	\$11,367,535	\$4,835,000	\$10,532,985	\$7,500,000	48%

If requested funding may be taken as need, on average nearly twice the amount of money available in a typical year is needed to meet the need.

APPENDIX A: PAST VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION GRANT ROUNDS

Appendix A includes updated information on recent grant rounds with remaining open grants. Detailed information on past grant rounds starting in 1999 can be found in prior biennial VLCF reports, available at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>.

Competitive Grant Awards (September 19, 2017 Grant Round)

Item 365 D of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly included, in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands, \$4,500,000 from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, §10.1-1020, Code of Virginia, which was available for the FY18 grant round. An additional \$638,800 from previous years' funded projects that had been withdrawn or from projects that were accomplished under budget was added to the available funding for a total of \$4,238,800 (Table 13).

During the May 24 through September 19, 2017, grant cycle, the Foundation received 29 applications requesting \$7,438,001 in grants. The project costs for all 29 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$28,949,295 and would protect 6,031 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on September 19, 2017, to consider these applications and approved \$4,238,800 in grant funds for 23 projects to protect 4,390 acres (Table 14). The following four projects were withdrawn, and their funds were carried forward to the November 2019 grant round to be re-awarded in the same grant category: in Natural Area Protection: Mount Joy Ponds NAP Addition for \$316,400; Difficult Creek NAP Addition for \$174,200; and Blackwater Scenic River Corridor Protection for \$57,761; and in Open Space and Parks: Catherine Gray Preserve for \$321,000. **The remaining projects have been closed out, completing this grant round.**

The following three projects closed under budget, and the remaining funds were carried forward to the November 2019 grant round to be re-awarded in the same category: Antioch Pines NAP Addition for \$66,448 and Magothy Bay NAP Addition for \$12,666 in Natural Area Protection; and Riverview Walk Park for \$19,453 in Open Space and Parks.

Table 13: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for September 19, 2017, Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY18 Budget Bill Chapter 836, Item 365D	Carryover Funding from Past Grants	TOTAL
1.	VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25%)	\$900,000	N/A	\$900,000
2.	Grant Program (75%)			
(i)	Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$900,000	0	\$900,000
(ii)	Historic Area Preservation	\$900,000	0	\$900,000
(iii)	Natural Area Protection	\$900,000	\$620,161	\$1,520,161
(iv)	Open Space and Parks	\$900,000	\$18,639	\$918,639
TOTAL		\$4,500,000		\$5,138,800
Amount reserved for Grant Program = \$4,238,800				
	Natural Area Protection	\$620,161	[Withdrawn: FY17 Addition to Cedars Natural Area Preserve for \$501,511] [Withdrawn: FY17 Addition to Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve for \$118,650]	
	Open Space and Parks	\$18,639	[Unexpended: FY17 Town of Alta Vista: Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch Site: \$2,445] [Unexpended: FY17 Botetourt County: Eagle Rock Park for \$16,194]	

Item 365 D of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly

D.1. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$8,000,000 the first year and \$8,000,000\$4,500,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. *Notwithstanding § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia, \$900,000 shall be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied* ~~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 14: Competitive Grant Awards (September 19, 2017, Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres
	Farmlands & Forest Preservation						
1	Long Lane*	10	\$187,695	98.98	10-2020	\$187,695	75.12
2	Valley Pike Farm*	6	\$116,100	85.88	02-2018	\$116,100	85.89
3	McClevey Farm*	1	\$146,205	80.00	09-2019	\$146,205	83.61
4	Game Lake Refuge at Joseph Pines Preserve**	4	\$175,000	190.00	11-2020	\$175,000	195.75
5	Jack Mountain Tracts Easement*	6	\$225,000	1,658.00	09-2021	\$225,000	1,658.00
6	White Easement*	4	\$50,000	545.00	07-2020	\$50,000	618.31
	Historic Area Preservation						
7	Turner Tract at the North Anna Battlefield**	1	\$238,800	125.70	11-2019	\$238,800	125.70
8	Bell House**	10	\$209,996	0.68	01-2018	\$209,996	0.68
9	Clinedinst/Crim Greenway Project**	6	\$155,439	1.94	03-2018	\$155,439	1.92
10	Lyon Farm**	6	\$154,283	62.40	08-2018	\$154,283	63.09
11	Malvern Hill Farm**	4	\$141,482	435.00	06-2018	\$141,482	470.82
	Natural Area Protection						
12	Pedlar Hills Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$53,500	2.00	10-2020	\$53,500	2.09
13	Mount Joy Pond Natural Area Preserve Addition	6	\$316,400	85.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0
14	Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve Addition	3	\$419,900	142.00	10-2019	\$327,502	140.24
15	Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$100,000	76.00	06-2019	\$100,000	66.25
16	Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve Addition	2	\$398,400	161.00	10-2019	\$385,734	159.29
17	Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve Addition	5	\$174,200	69.00	WITHDRAWN	0	0
18	Blackwater Scenic River Corridor Protection	3	\$57,761	164.50	WITHDRAWN	0	0
	Open Space & Parks						
19	Carvins Cove Connector	9	\$69,980	242.00	05-2020	\$69,980	242.00
20	Catharine M. Gray Preserve	2	\$321,000	127.70	WITHDRAWN	0	0
21	Pohick Bay Regional Park Stribling Acquisition	8	\$400,000	3.20	05-2018	\$400,000	3.20
22	Riverview Walk Park	3	\$45,500	22.00	04-2019	\$26,047	16.19
23	Culpeper Crossing at Rappahannock Station Battlefield	7	\$82,159	12.37	05-2020	\$82,159	12.44
	Totals		\$4,238,800	4,390.35		\$3,244,922	4,020.59

*Denotes acquisition by easement

**Denotes fee acquisition with an open-space easement held by a governmental entity (state or locality)

Competitive Grant Awards (November 22, 2019 Grant Round)

Item 363 A.1. of Chapter 854 of the 2019 Virginia Acts of Assembly included, in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands, \$4,500,000 from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia, which was available for the FY20 grant round. An additional \$2,515,934 from previous years' funded projects that had been withdrawn or from projects that were accomplished under budget was added to the available funding for a total of \$5,890,934 (Table 15).

During the FY20 grant cycle, the Foundation received 34 applications requesting \$15,140,144 in grants. The project costs for all 34 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$51,838,128 and would protect 18,177 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on November 22, 2019, to consider these applications and approved \$5,890,934 in grant funds for 19 projects to protect 17,575 acres (Table 16). As of the date of this report, ten projects from this grant round have been successfully completed.

Table 15: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for November 22, 2019, Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY20 Budget Bill Chapter 854, Item 363 Appropriation of \$4,500,000	Carryover Funding from Past Grants	TOTAL
1.	VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25%)	\$1,125,000	N/A	\$1,125,000
2.	Grant Program (75%)			
(i)	Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$843,750	\$170,412	\$1,014,162
(ii)	Historic Area Preservation	\$843,750	\$200,000	\$1,043,750
(iii)	Natural Area Protection	\$843,750	\$1,285,638	\$2,129,388
(iv)	Open Space and Parks	\$843,750	\$859,884	1,703,634
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS		\$3,375,000	\$2,515,934	\$5,890,934
Summary of Returned Funds				
Forest Land Preservation	\$170,412	Withdrawn: FY17 Wingfield Cosby Acq. for \$170,412		
Historic Area Preservation	\$200,000	Withdrawn: FY15 Stoner-Keller Mill Farm for \$200,000		
Natural Area Protection	\$1,285,638	Unexpended: FY15 Lee Co. Cave Isopod Habitat for \$38,842; FY16 The Cedars NAP Add. for \$72,101. FY17 Buffalo Mountain NAP Add. for \$1,765; FY17 Deep Run NAP Add. for \$174,000; FY18 Antioch Pines NAP Add. for \$66,448; FY18 Magothy Bay NAP Add. for \$12,666 Withdrawn: FY16 Flatwoods at Piney Grove for \$69,655; FY17 Redrock Mtn. NAP Add. for \$151,200; FY17 North Landing River Sawgrass Marsh for \$150,000; FY18 Mt. Joy Ponds NAP Add. for \$316,400; FY18 Blackwater Scenic River for \$57,761; FY18 Difficult Creek NAP Add. for \$174,200.		
Open Space and Parks	\$859,884	Unexpended: FY17 Pigg River for \$209,331; FY18 Riverview Walk Park for \$19,453. Withdrawn: FY16 Aspen Grove Farm for \$62,500; FY17 Charley Close Land Acq. for \$82,600; FY17 Cypress Locks Park for \$165,000; FY18 Catherine Grey Preserve for \$321,000.		

Item 363 of Chapter 854 of the 2019 Virginia Acts of Assembly:

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$4,500,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020 Code of Virginia. ~~Notwithstanding §10.1-1020, Code of Virginia, \$900,000 in the second year shall be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund.~~ No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied 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 16 Competitive Grant Awards (November 22, 2019)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres
	Farmlands & Forest Preservation						
1	Farmland at Crossroads of Old Fredericksburg*	7	\$300,000	348.21	<i>Open</i>	300,000.00	348.21
2	Smithfield Farm*	10	\$121,875	215.5	Jan 22	121,875.00	195.23
3	Stanley Land and Lumber	5	\$300,000	4,944.00	Dec 21	300,000.00	5,004.76
4	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative	2	\$292,287	8,654.00	<i>Open</i>	292,287.00	1043.63
	Historic Area Preservation						
5	Red Hill*	5	\$600,000	596	Withdrawn	0	0
6	Cedar Run Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield**	7	\$412,500	86.47	Aug 21	412,500.00	86.46
	Natural Area Protection						
7	Crow's Nest Southern Boundary Addition – NVCT**	1	\$256,000	110.53	Feb 20	256,000.00	113.68
8	Piney Grove Vernal Pools	4	\$367,000	465	Sep 21	367,000.00	446.96
9	Bush Mill Stream NAP Addition	1	\$130,500	39	Sept 21	125,955.95	41.1
10	Crow's Nest NAP Additions - DCR	1	\$186,000	1.6	<i>Open</i>	186,000	1.6
11	Cypress Bridge Swamp NAP Addition	4	\$52,000	18	<i>Open</i>	52,000	18
12	Bluebell Tract*	7	\$500,000	1,410.00	Withdrawn	0	0
13	Blackwater River Park and South Quay NAP	4	\$400,000	338	Withdrawn	0	0
14	Gateway to Cape Charles Public Access	2	\$237,888	16	Sept 20	174,540.58	20.71
	Open Spaces & Parks						
15	Dock Street**	4	\$500,000	5.21	<i>Open</i>	500,000.00	5.21
16	McThenia*	6	\$180,000	39.07	Nov 20	180,000.00	39.07
17	Wilderness Road State Park Connectivity Property	9	\$500,000	241.8	Withdrawn	0	0
18	Pohick Bay Regional Park Inholding Acquisition	8	\$322,500	3.05	Oct 20	322,500.00	3.02
19	Camp Kum-Ba-Yah*	6	\$201,134	44	Feb 22	201,134.00	42.13
	Totals		\$5,859,684	17,575.44		3,791,792.53	7,409.77

*Denotes acquisition by easement

** Denotes fee acquisition with an open-space easement held by a governmental entity (state or locality)

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 17 and 18 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 17), which stretches along the east coast of Virginia from Prince William County down to Gloucester Point. The greatest amount of grant funds also have been expended in the 1st Congressional District (Table 18). 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/virginiadistricts.png>

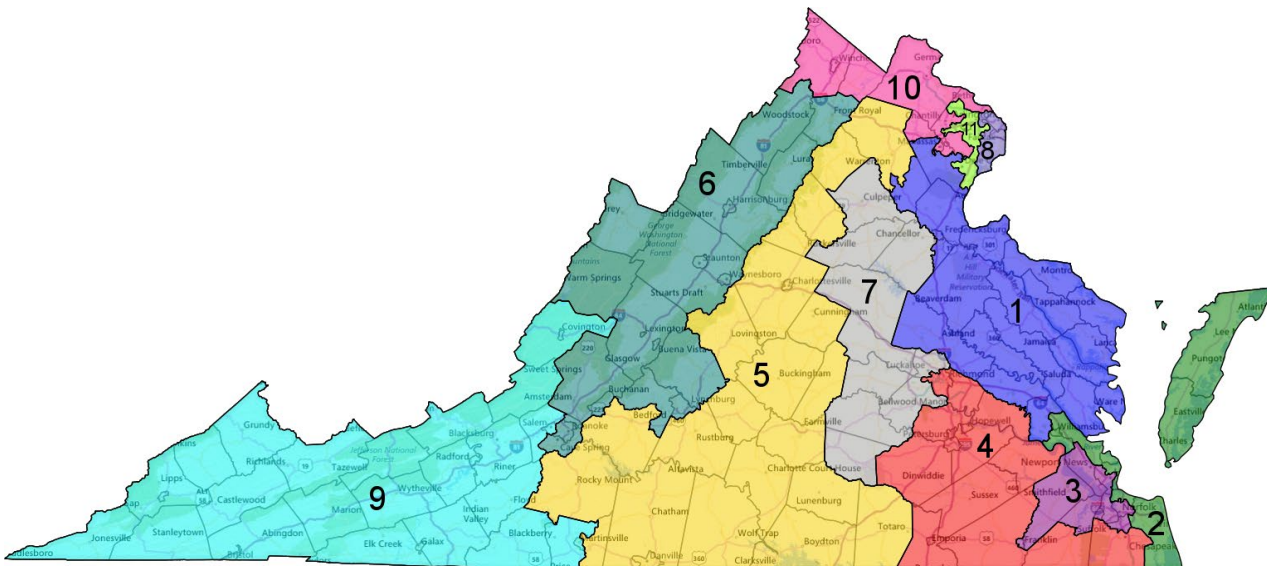


Table 17: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Grant Awards (By Project)

District	1999 thru 2015	09/2016 Awarded	Sep-17 Awarded	11/2019 Awarded	02/21 Awarded	06/21 Awarded	10/21 Awarded	Total Awarded
1 st	35	2	2	3	0	4	4	50
2 nd	7	3	2	2	1	3	0	18
3 rd	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
4 th	21	4	3	4	2	6	6	46
5 th	9	5	1	2	3	2	6	28
6 th	18	3	5	2	3	1	5	37
7 th	11	2	1	3	2	3	2	24
8 th	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
9 th	24	3	3	1	0	3	7	41
10 th	19.75	0	2	1	0	0	0	22.75
11 th	1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.25
TOTAL	153	23	23	19	12	22	30	282
District	12/2019 thru 10/2015	09/2016 Completed To Date	Sep-17 Completed To Date	11/2019 Completed to Date	02/2021 Completed to Date	06/2021 Completed to Date	10/2021 Completed to Date	Total Completed
1 st	31	2	2	2	0	1	0	38
2 nd	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
3 rd	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
4 th	17	4	3	1	0	1	0	26
5 th	8	4	0	1	0	1	1	15
6 th	13	3	4	2	2	0	1	25
7 th	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	13
8 th	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
9 th	22	1	3	0	0	1	1	28
10 th	20	0	2	1	0	0	0	23
11 th	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	134	17	19	10	2	4	3	189

Table 18: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Competitive Grant Awards (By Funding in Dollars)

Cong. District	12/1999 thru 10/2015 Awards	09/2016 Award	09/2017 Award	11/2019 Award	02/21 Award	06/21 Award	10/21 Award	Total Awarded
1 st	7,439,777	833,000	385,005	572,500	0	1,008,250	1,548,416	11,786,948
2 nd	4425000	456,525	719,400	530,175	421,875	797,847	0	7,350,822
3 rd	1555125	0	523,161	0	0	0	0	2,078,286
4 th	4,875,105	1,245,000	366,482	1,319,000	403,943	1,230,000	1,650,000	11,089,530
5 th	1,221,823	910,563	174,200	900,000	1,265,625	570,750	1,178,312	6,221,273
6 th	3,205,030	1,149,050	967,222	381,134	733,784	29,550	816,179	7,281,949
7 th	2,463,400	420,412	82,159	1,212,500	431,023	721,450	897,246	6,228,190
8 th	250000	900,000	400,000	322,500	150,000	0	0	2,022,500
9 th	5,682,829	508,461	223,480	500,000	0	477,153	1,409,847	8,801,770
10 th	4,940,779	0	397,691	121,875	0	0	0	5,460,345
11 th	828273	0	0	0	0	0	0	828,273
TOTAL	36,887,141	6,423,011	4,238,800	5,859,684	3,406,250	4,835,000	7,500,000	69,149,886

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 Wildlife Resources, Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation work together to develop the recommended document.

The 2022 scoring criteria total 172 points. One hundred points are allocated to each of the five primary funding categories which the applicant chooses (Farmland Preservation, Forest Land Preservation, Historic Area Preservation, Natural Area Protection, or Open Spaces and Parks), and 72 points are allocated amongst nine common criteria (Virginia Outdoors Plan Identified Need; Recreation Access Model Identified Need, Water Quality Benefit; Protection of Cultural Resources; Additional Conserve Virginia Values; Fish and Wildlife Values, Public Access; Underserved Communities; and Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost). Table 19 shows the possible points to be awarded in each category.

The scoring criteria details for each of the categories outlined in Table 19 are provided in the pages that follow from the 2022 VLCF Grant Manual. 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 19: VLCF - Grant Application Scoring Sheet and Criteria

Primary Category	Statutory category scoring	VOP Identified Need	Recreation Access Model Identified Need	Water Quality Benefit	Protection of Cultural Resources	Additional Conserve Virginia Values	Wildlife Values	Public Access	Underserved Communities	Ratio of Match	Total Score
	Max. 100 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 11 points	Max. 10 points	Max. 12 points	Max. 10 points	Max. 10 points	Max. 10 points	Max. 3 points	Max. 172 points
Farmlands Preservation											
Forestland Preservation											
Historic Area Preservation											
Natural Area Protection											
Open Space & Parks											

Appendix 1 - Agricultural (Farmlands) Category

Criterion	Score
<p>Category I: Land Evaluation (40 points)</p> <p>A. Soil Productivity (25 points) Calculate the percentage of project land in each soils class. Points are awarded based on the combined percentages of these three categories x 25 (e.g., 30% prime, 20% unique and 10% important = 0.60 x 25, which equals 15 points.) More information on these soil classes can be found in § 3.2-205 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Value the soils classified as “Prime farmland” 2. Value the soils classified “Unique farmland” 3. Value the soils classified as “Important farmland” <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger by 25% or more = 15 points • Larger by 0% - 24% = 10 points • Smaller by 1% - 24% = 7 points • Smaller by 25% or more = 5 points 	
<p>Category II: Land Use (40 points)</p> <p>A. Current use and status of the land (8 points)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is the land currently being farmed? 4 points, if yes. 2) Is this a Century Farm? 4 points, if yes. <p>B. Proximity to conserved lands (10 points) 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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel adjoins other preserved lands = 10 points • 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>C. Development vulnerability (8 points) What is the vulnerability rank for this parcel as determined by the ConservationVision Development Vulnerability model (https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvulnerable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each ranking from Class II to Class V is awarded 2 points (e.g., a property in Class IV = 6 points) <p>D. Best Management Practices (BMPs) (10 points) Is a farm management plan that specifies BMPs or voluntary BMPs (e.g., stream fencing, buffers, conservation tillage, cover crops, animal waste management, etc.) being utilized as part of the normal operation of this farm? Does the property have either/both a conservation plan or a Nutrient Management Plan for all nutrient applications made to cropland, hayland, and/or pastureland?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has implemented applicable BMPs to protect water quality, either voluntarily or through a state or federal conservation program = 4 points • Applicant has a conservation plan developed by local conservation staff (Soil & Water Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service) = 3 points • Applicant has a Nutrient Management Plan prepared by a DCR-certified nutrient management planner = 3 points <p>E. Local farmland policy (4 points) Is the project supported by local farmland protection policies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One point each for: comprehensive plan; agricultural zoning; agricultural and forestal districts; and use value taxation. 	
<p>F. Category III: ConserveVirginia (20 points) Is the project included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map)</p>	

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiply the percent of the property included within the Agriculture and Forestry Category layer by 20 to calculate points. (e.g., 60% of the property is in the Ag and Forestry category; $.60 \times 20 = 12$ points) | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Appendix 2 - Forest Lands Category

Criterion	Score
<p>1) Property Acreage (10 points) Is the size of the tract adequate to protect and allow for management of forestal resources? Larger blocks of land under single ownership remain more manageable and functional over time. To calculate points for projects up to 999 acres, divide acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 8. For parcels larger than 999 acres, see points below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: 0-999 acres = Property Acreage / 1000 * 8 points 1000-4,999 = 8 points 5000-9999 = 9 points ≥10,000 acres = 10 points 	
<p>2) Acres of Forest (20 points) How many acres of the property are currently forested or devoted to forestal use? To be considered forested or devoted to forestal use, acreage must meet the State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) technical standards for classification of real estate devoted to forestal use. See the grant manual for more detail on which land can qualify as “devoted to forestal use.” For up to 999-acre projects, divide the acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 18 to calculate points. For parcels larger than 999 acres, see points below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: 0-999 acres = Forested Acreage / 1000 * 18 points 1,000-4,999 = 18 points 5,000-9,999 = 19 points ≥10,000 acres = 20 points 	
<p>3) Acres of high forest conservation value (FCV 4 and 5) (15 points) Score is based upon VDOF’s analysis and Forest Conservation Values map that ranks relative conservation value of forestland based on water quality, site productivity, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, intactness, and threat to conversion attributes. Find the map here: https://vanhde.org/content/map. To calculate points for projects up to 999 acres, divide High FCV acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 13. For larger parcels, see below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: 0-999 acres = High FCV acreage / 1000 * 13 points 1,000-4,999 = 13 points 5,000-9999 = 14 points ≥10,000 acres = 15 points 	
<p>4) Water Quality (15 points) Streamside forests provide considerable water quality, filtration, nutrient retention, and flood attenuation to downstream users. Scored based on the total linear feet of intermittent or perennial streams or rivers (as identified on the USGS 7.5” quad) or wetland or impoundment shoreline that is on or bordering the property. To calculate points, divide total length of streams or shorelines (measured in feet) by 1,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: 0 -15,000 feet = feet / 1,000 points ≥15,000 feet = 15 points 	
<p>5) Adjacency to Conserved Lands (5 points) Is the property is located adjacent to, or within five miles of, already conserved lands held in perpetuity? To calculate points, subtract the distance from already conserved land in miles from 5. Greater than 5 miles receives 0 points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: Within 5 miles = 5 – (miles away from conserved lands) 	
<p>6) Management of Multiple Resources (5 points) Does the landowner manage the property according to a forest stewardship management plan (or equivalent) prepared by a professional forester and follow plan recommendations to achieve the forest management goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score: Owner has an existing management plan, and with demonstrated plan implementation = 5 points Owner has management plan but no demonstrated plan implementation = 3 	

points	
<p>7) Preservation of Forested Acreage (10 points)</p> <p>Landowner is willing to preserve a proportion of the property in a forested condition in perpetuity. Land that is not currently forested but that the landowner will afforest and maintain as forest in perpetuity counts. To calculate points, multiply percent forested by 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score: Percent of property that the landowner is willing to retain as forest * 10 	
<p>8) ConserveVirginia (20 points)</p> <p>Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score: To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Agriculture and Forestry Category by 20. (e.g., 60% of the property is in the Ag and Forestry category; $0.60 \times 20 = 12$ points) 	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Appendix 3 - Historic Area Preservation Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
<p>1) Historic Significance Maximum score: 30 points</p> <p>1. <u>Historic Resource/Property</u> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually listed on VLR or is a contributing resource in a listed historic district = 25, or • Determined by DHR to be eligible for listing on VLR = 20, or • Civil War, Revolutionary War, or War of 1812 site or battlefield designated as Priority I, II, III, or IV in the Battlefield Reports (see p. 8 of Grant manual) = 25 <p style="text-align: center;">-AND-</p> <p>2. <u>Integrity</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources that retain a high degree of historic integrity = 5 		
<p>2) Underrepresented Communities & Resources Maximum score: 10 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property contains documented resources representing Virginia’s culturally diverse history, such as places or sites associated with people of color (circa 1619-Civil War), the Reconstruction Era (1861-1898), the Civil Rights Movement, LGBTQ, African American, Asian-American, Latino, Hispanic, Native American and women’s history = 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property or area has special community significance related to its history, as explained in application, regardless of formal documentation = 5</p>		
<p>3) Threat Maximum score: 10 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Currently on the market for sale, in an estate being settled, threatened by development, or in imminent danger of demolition = 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recently on the market for sale or sold within the prior calendar year, resource is vacant/unoccupied, or resource is significantly deteriorated and in need of immediate preservation = 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No documentation of threat = 0</p>		
<p>4) Use & Treatment of Historic Resources & Property Max. score: 10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for future use(s) (e.g., interpretation as a historic site, subdivision, timber harvest) of the property are appropriate and consistent with historic resource stewardship and protection = 5, and • Plans for treatment, alteration, and maintenance of historic resources on the property are appropriate and consistent with historic resource stewardship and protection = 5 • No documentation of plans for uses of property or treatment of historic resources = 0 		
<p>5) Historic Resource Protection Maximum score: 10 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proposed easement terms and restrictions provide comprehensive protection for historic resources and are specifically consistent with VBHR easement template = 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proposed easement terms and protections for historic resources are acceptable, and generally consistent with VBHR easement template = 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No list of easement terms provided = 0</p>		
<p>6) Adjacency to Conserved Land Maximum score: 5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent to existing conserved land = 5 • In viewshed of, or in close physical proximity to significant historic resources, and/or existing conserved land = 3 • Not in viewshed of, or in close physical proximity to significant historic resources or conserved land, but represents a unique cultural resource within the geographical area = 1 		

<p>7) Further Public Interests Maximum Score: 5</p> <p>points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes specific plans for programs that promote research, education, community outreach, or heritage tourism = 5 • Project includes general plans for programs to be developed that would promote research, education, community outreach, or heritage tourism = 3 • Project contains no plans that would further public interests = 0 		
<p>8) ConserveVirginia Maximum score: 20</p> <p>points</p> <p>Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map)</p> <p>To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Cultural and Historic Preservation Category by 20. (e.g., 60% of the property is in the Cultural and Historic Preservation category; $0.60 \times 20 = 12$ points)</p>		

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Appendix 4 - Natural Areas Category

Criterion	Score
<p>I. Biodiversity Significance (35 points)</p> <p>1. <u>Will the proposed project protect one or more of Virginia’s highest quality examples of a natural heritage resource?</u> (parcel overlaid on conservation sites layer) Maximum score: 20 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located within Essential Conservation Site = 20 points. • Located within conservation site = 10 points. <p>2. <u>Parcel Significance:</u> What is the number of natural heritage elements present on the subject parcel, or associated with it? Maximum score: 10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 point per viable, extant EO; • 2 points per essential EO; • 0.5 point per viable, extant EO outside parcel but within conservation site that also overlaps the proposed parcel for protection <p>3. <u>Does the project have global significance?</u> (biodiversity rank of conservation site) Proportion of parcel area (acres) within conservation sites, weighted by B-rank Maximum score: 5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1 = 5 points x proportion within conservation site; • B2 = 4 x proportion within conservation site; • B3 = 3 x proportion within conservation site; • B4 = 2 x proportion within conservation site; • B5 = 1 x proportion within conservation site 	
<p>II. Ecological Integrity (20 points)</p> <p>1. <u>Regional Landscape Integrity:</u> What percentage of parcel area (acres) is within one or more ecological cores, weighted by Ecological Integrity rank (i.e., C-rank)? Maximum score: 10 points (points may add up to more, but 10 points is the max) Parcel is located in a Core ranked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1=10 points x proportion within ecological core; • C2=8 x proportion within ecological core; • C3=6 x proportion within ecological core; • C4=3 x proportion within ecological core; • C5=1 x proportion within ecological core; AND <p>Is any portion of the parcel within the Natural Land Network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel intersects with the Natural Land Network (1 point) <p>2. <u>Local/Parcel Integrity:</u> How much of the parcel is in natural vegetation? Maximum score: 5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel supports natural community/natural vegetation: 75% or more of parcel area = 5 points, 50-74% = 4 points, 25-49% = 3 points, 1-25% = 2 points <p>3. <u>Connectivity with Conserved Lands:</u> Is the parcel adjacent to other conserved lands with Biodiversity Management Intent (BMI)? Maximum score: 5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjoins BMI 1 = 5 points; • Adjoins BMI 2 = 4 points; • Adjoins BMI 3 = 3 points; • Adjoins BMI 4 or 5 = 2 points; • Land not adjacent to conserved land = 0 points 	

<p>III. Management Needs, Likelihood of Success, and Threat (25 points)</p> <p>1. Management Needs: What is the intensity of current and future management actions needed to successfully maintain/restore natural heritage resources? Maximum score: 10 points Parcel conditions require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal natural heritage resources management = 10 points; • moderate management = 6 points; • intensive management/restoration = 3 points <p>2. Management Capacity: Does the applicant have proven experience and capacity in terms of staff resources and expertise to address management needs? Maximum score: 8 points Application provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a thorough description of both experience and staff capacity = 8 points; • a cursory description = 4 points; • not mentioned = 0 points <p>3. Site visit & Owner contact: NHP Staff have had timely opportunity to visit tract and discuss with landowner necessary conservation measures and implications of natural area preserve dedication. Maximum score: 5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit & discussion = 5 points; • Site visit only = 3 points; • Discussion only = 2 points <p>4. Threat: Is there high development threat for the project area? Maximum score: 2 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tract threat is ranked Class IV or Class V in the Conservation Vision Development Vulnerability Model = 2 points; ranked Class III = 1 point; otherwise = 0 points. Or Tract is on the market or in estate for settlement = 2 points. 	
<p>IV. ConserveVirginia (20 points)</p> <p>Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity Category by 20. (e.g., 60% of the property is in the category; 0.60 x 20 = 12 points) 	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Appendix 5 - Open Space and Parks Category

Criterion	Score
<p>1) Public Access to State Waters (10 points) Does the project acquire land or an easement that provides increased public access to state waters offering recreational potential?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access to state waters that provides boating, fishing, <u>and</u> beach/bank swimming opportunities = 10 • Public access that provides <u>two</u> of those recreational opportunities = 8 • Public access that provides <u>one</u> of those recreational opportunities = 5 • Public access that provides opportunities to view water resources while recreating = 2 	
<p>2) Project Location (10 points) Does the project conserve and create a new outdoor recreational opportunity? Or is it located adjacent to an existing park, protected conservation area, or other recreational resources that expands and protects public conservation or recreational interests?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserves new stand-alone facility that is critically needed to provide or support recreational activities = 10 • Conserves an in-holding or addition that is critical to the recreational use of an existing site = 5 	
<p>3) Scenic Resources Protection (10 points) Does the project protect 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, statewide connecting trails, or identified greenways or blueways?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 or a proposed statewide connecting trail identified in VOP = 7 • Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a recreational trail = 5 	
<p>4) Alignment with Local or Regional Plans (15 points) Does the project support local or regional plans for parks, open space, and recreational facilities, or contribute to the protection of a documented conservation corridor? Include the name and page # of plan cited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the project/acquisition is specifically mentioned by location AND purpose/features in a local or regional plan = 15 • If project purpose is mentioned in a local or regional plan or other documents or fulfills a specific need in a local or regional plan = 10 • If area of project has a general reference in local or regional plan or project meets a general goal identified in a plan = 5 	
<p>5) Virginia Outdoors Plan Need (10 points) Does the project address a need identified in the <i>Virginia Outdoors Plan</i>? Applicant must specify VOP page #. Add all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project provides public access to natural areas = 3 • Project provides public access to a developed park = 2 • Project provides trails for hiking or walking OR access to water trails = 2 • Project provides public access to historic areas = 1 • Project provides bicycle or equestrian trails = 1 • Project provides other need identified in VOP = 1 	
<p>6) Public Utilization (10 points) Availability of land for public use may include, but is not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking, or wildlife watching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for public utilization between 241 and 365 days per year = 10 • Open between 181 and 240 days per year = 5 • Between 121 and 180 days per year = 3 • Between 61 and 120 days per year = 2 • Between 1 and 60 days per year = 1 	
<p>7) Benefit Underserved Community (15 points)</p>	

<p>Does the project provide a recreational resource to an underserved population? Use the VIMS Social Vulnerability Index (https://cmap2.vims.edu/SocialVulnerability/SocioVul_SS.html) to determine if the project benefits an underserved community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High Social Vulnerability = 15 • High Social Vulnerability = 10 • Moderate Social Vulnerability =5 • Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability =0 <p><i>Applicant must provide a reference source if not using the VIMS Social Vulnerability Index.</i></p>	
<p>8) Recreation Need (10 points)</p> <p>I. Land-based Recreation Need (Maximum score: 7)</p> <p>Will the property provide land-based recreation and is it located in an area of land-based recreation need as identified by either the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model (2021) (https://vanhde.org/content/map) or the Trust for Public Land’s ParkServe Model? [https://www.tpl.org/parkserve] (score will be higher of the two if data is available on both models)</p> <p><i>A. DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model Land-based Recreation Need:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 • High: 5 • Moderate: 3 • Low: 1 • Very low need: 0, but other supporting evidence provided to show need: up to 3 points <p><i>B. ParkServe Park Need:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 • High: 5 • Moderate: 3 • No need identified in the model, but other supporting documentation provided, such as evidence of no other parks within ½ mile walk: up to 3 points <p>II. Water-based Recreation Need (Maximum Score: 3) Will the property provide water-based recreation and is it located in an area of water-based recreation need as identified by the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model (2021)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 3 • High: 2 • Moderate: 1 • Low or very low need but other supporting evidence provided, such as new type of water recreation for area or documented overcrowding at existing nearby sites: 1 	
<p>9) ConserveVirginia (10 points)</p> <p>Is the property included in any category of ConserveVirginia and providing daily outdoor recreation access? (https://vanhde.org/content/map)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within any category of ConserveVirginia and providing daily access by 10. (e.g., 60% of the property is in the category; 0.60 x 10 = 6 points) 	

Total Maximum Score 100 points

Appendix 6 - Additional Scoring Criteria

1. 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

2. Virginia Recreation Access Model Identified Need

If the project includes public access AND there is at least a moderate need for recreation access identified in the Recreation Access Model, based on the terrestrial or aquatic layers, then up to 3 points may be awarded.

Maximum 3 points

- Demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial **and** aquatic recreational access = 3 points
- Demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial **or** aquatic recreational access = 2 points
- No demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial or aquatic recreational access = 0 points

3. Water Quality Benefit

Extent to which the project will protect water quality beyond the required 35'-wide vegetated buffers on perennial streams, rivers, shorelines, and waterbodies with perennial outflow.

Maximum 11 points

- 4 points if the buffer is forested (at least 50% forest canopy) and protected as such in perpetuity, PLUS
- Up to 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 50'-wide buffer = 2 points
- 1 point for every 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 50'-wide buffer, up to 3 points, OR
- Up to 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 100'-wide buffer = 3 points
- 1 point for every 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 100'-wide buffer, up to 4 points

4. Protection of Cultural Resources

Is there a local cultural resource on the property that will be protected by this project? Examples include remnants of prior settlements or burial sites of enslaved or indigenous people, former segregated schoolhouses, sites of early racial integration, historic roadbed or railbed systems, etc.

Maximum 10 points.

- Provide photographs and other documents to authenticate the resource = 8 points
- Provide educational opportunities for the public, signage, trails, etc. = 2 points

5. Additional ConserveVirginia Values

Does the application include information to support additional ConserveVirginia values? If the project includes conservation values other than the primary application category, then two points may be awarded for each additional identified category if the applicant demonstrates that the property is located within another ConserveVirginia category, and the project also protects those respective resources in perpetuity.

Maximum 12 points

ConserveVirginia Categories:

- Agriculture & Forestry = 2 points
- Cultural & Historic Preservation = 2 points
- Floodplains & Flooding Resilience = 2 points
- Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity = 2 points
- Protected Landscapes Resilience = 2 points
- Scenic Preservation = 2 points
- Water Quality Improvement – 2 points

6. Fish and Wildlife Values

Degree to which the application includes information that benefits wildlife, habitat, and human/wildlife interaction.

Maximum 10 points

- Identify wildlife presence = 1 point; if DGIF Species of Greatest Conservation Need or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species is present = additional 3 points
- Protect wildlife habitat = 1 point; if DGIF Species of Greatest Conservation Need or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species habitat is protected = additional 4 points
- Public access to view, hunt, or fish wildlife = 1 point

7. Public Access

Degree to which the project has public or visual access.

Maximum 10 points

- Full Public Access (50% of the year or more) = 10 points
- Limited Public Access (less than 50% of the year) = 5 points
- Visual Access = 2 points
- No Access = 0 points

8. Underserved Communities

Degree to which the community where the project is located is underserved/socially vulnerable.

Maximum 10 points

- Very high social vulnerability = 10
- High social vulnerability = 8
- Moderate Social Vulnerability = 5
- Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability = 0

9. Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost

Maximum 3 points

- Eighty percent or more of total project cost = 3 points
- Sixty percent or more of total project cost = 2 points
- Fifty percent of total project cost = 0 points

Total Maximum Score for Additional Scoring Criteria: 72 points _____