

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

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA LAND
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

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



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
December 2025**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

December 15, 2025

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

Dear Governor Youngkin and General Assembly Members:

We are pleased to present 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 is issued in accordance with § 10.1-1018.1 of the Code of Virginia, which mandates that the Chairman of the VLCF Board annually submit an executive summary and a report on the Board's interim activities and work to the Governor and the General Assembly.

In 2025, the Foundation, along with its federal, tribal, state, local, and private conservation partners, celebrated its 25th anniversary of conservation achievements since it was first funded in the 1999 General Assembly session. As of June 30, 2025, a total of \$118.6 million has been appropriated to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (Fund). The Foundation has leveraged this state funding to protect more than 269,683 acres across Virginia. This includes 154,991 acres from direct VLCF grants, and an estimated 114,692 additional acres protected with VLCF funds that were 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 toward the goals and, along with other mapping resources, provides a way for VLCF trustees to make better-informed decisions.

Virginia citizens have many reasons to be proud of the conservation efforts made through grants awarded by VLCF. The projects funded by VLCF grants have a positive effect across the Commonwealth, helping to protect priority lands under the statewide ConserveVirginia initiative. These include working farms and forests, natural, cultural, and historical resources, as well as parks and other lands for recreation. Notably, VLCF has recently awarded grants to several Virginia Indian Tribes for conserving and restoring their homelands. Additionally, lands that protect water quality in streams and rivers, habitats for threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife, and natural areas and open spaces have been preserved.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation program provides several notable features:

- The Foundation's funds have often been leveraged to secure a match exceeding the 50 percent minimum required by state law for entities other than state agencies and tribes.
- The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is strategic in grant allocation. The competitive process, incorporation of ConserveVirginia into scoring criteria, and interagency team approach used by the Foundation to evaluate and award grants help ensure that the most valuable lands are conserved; and
- The grant scoring criteria emphasize projects that include enhanced riparian buffers and provide public access to conserved lands. These initiatives protect water quality and support the public's increasing demand for publicly accessible lands across the Commonwealth's varied landscapes and communities.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation has contributed to the Commonwealth's conservation efforts through its grant programs. As more funds become available, we are confident that the Foundation will continue to be a responsible steward and partner, helping Virginia excel in its conservation efforts.

Respectfully submitted,



Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Chair of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation



Andrew W. Smith
Acting Director
Department of Conservation & Recreation
Executive Secretary of the Virginia Land
Conservation Foundation

Attachment

cc: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees
Michael Maul, Director of Planning and Budget
Wendy Kang, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance Committee
Anne E. Oman, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025

Chair and Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

The Honorable Travis A. Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (Through 01/25/2025)

The Honorable Stefanie K. Taillon, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (Effective 01/26/2025)

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Executive Secretary

Matthew S. Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation (Through 10/31/2025)

Andrew Smith, Acting Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation (Effective 11/01/2025)

Gubernatorial Appointees	Address	Term Expires	Cong. Dist.
Robert Beals	Midlothian	6/30/2029	1
Ryan Horsley	Virginia Beach	6/30/2029	2
Brian Hallberg	Chesapeake	6/30/2026	3
Stuart Leeth	Richmond	6/30/2026	4
Kathleen Kilpatrick	Fork Union	6/30/2026	5
Morgan Slaven	Staunton	6/30/2027	6
Ed Scott	Rochelle	6/30/2027	7
Gabriella Hoffman	Alexandria	6/30/2027	8
The Honorable Katie Lamb	Damascus	6/30/2028	9
Bradley Gable	Bluemont	6/30/2028	10
Michael Molina	Vienna	6/30/2028	11
Chief Frank Adams	King William	6/30/2027	

Senate Appointees

The Honorable David W. Marsden Burke 6/30/2028

The Honorable Richard H. Stewart Montross 6/30/2028

House Appointees

Elizabeth Andrews Williamsburg 6/30/2028

James Beamer Richmond 6/30/2027

Lauren Martin Norfolk 6/30/2029

Sonya Powell Fairfax 6/30/2028

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

CONTENTS

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024.....	i
PREFACE.....	ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	v
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.....	v
FOUNDATION OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025.....	1
Board of Trustees Meetings	1
Interagency Task Force Meetings	1
Competitive Grant Awards FY25 (November 21, 2024 Grant Round)	2
Restricted Funds Grant Rounds.....	15
Dominion Energy Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Project (November 1, 2017, and December 10, 2020).....	19
STATUS OF LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA.....	16
Land Conservation Status Summary	16
Land Preservation Tax Credit Responsibilities	18
Virginia Outdoors Foundation.....	18
CONSERVATION PLAN AND TOOL DEVELOPMENT	20
Comprehensive Plan Development	20
ConserveVirginia.....	20
The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP).....	22
Virginia’s Natural Heritage Plan.....	23
Virginia’s Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.....	26

Strategic Plan Development	27
Looking Forward: Estimate of Funds Needed to Achieve Foundation Goals	27
APPENDIX A: PAST VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION GRANT ROUNDS.....	30
Competitive Grant Awards FY21 Round I (February 5, 2021 Grant Round).....	30
Competitive Grant Awards FY21 Round II (June 10, 2021 Grant Round)	33
Competitive Grant Awards FY22 (October 27, 2021 Grant Round)	36
Competitive Grant Awards FY23 (November 14, 2022 Grant Round)	39
Competitive Grant Awards FY24 (November 13, 2023 Grant Round)	43
APPENDIX B: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	47
APPENDIX C: GRANT CRITERIA	50
Appendix 1 - Farmland Preservation Category	51
Appendix 2 - Forest Land Preservation Category	54
Appendix 3 - Historic Area Preservation Category.....	56
Appendix 4 - Natural Areas Category	58
Appendix 5 - Open Space and Parks Category	60
Appendix 6 - Additional Scoring Criteria	63

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (Foundation or VLCF) plays a vital role in land conservation across the Commonwealth. It uses state funds along with matching grants and partnerships to protect working farms and forests, historic lands, cultural resources, open spaces, parks, and natural areas. The Foundation's unique features include a comprehensive grant review process designed to maximize the conservation value of funded projects, an inter-agency staff review team that brings together expertise from multiple state agencies, and a final review conducted by a diverse Board of Trustees. The membership of the board includes appointees from the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Senate of Virginia.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

In fiscal year 2025, the state budget allocated \$16,000,000 for VLCF, with \$4,000,000 of that amount designated for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020(C) of the Code of Virginia. Unused and withdrawn funds from previous grant rounds totaled \$1,419,724 and were carried over into the FY25 round. Additionally, \$1,020,910 in interest earned from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund was added, increasing the total available VLCF grant funds to \$14,440,634. The Foundation received 40 proposals requesting approximately \$24.5 million for land conservation projects. The Board met on November 21, 2024, to award funding to 28 projects aiming to protect 11,220 acres. Details of these projects are provided starting on page 2.

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.

Since FY2000, \$102.4 million has been allocated to VLCF's matching grant program (Table 1). Additionally, more than \$32.1 million has been allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund in accordance with Virginia Code § 10.1-1020(C)(1). Moneys from this Fund are used to help localities acquire open-space easements or assist landowners in conveying open-space easements, including the costs associated with the conveyance of these easements. To date, total funds allocated to the Foundation amount to \$134.6 million and have resulted in the protection of 280,527 acres (Table 2 plus VOF's Preservation Trust Fund acreage, page 19).

Since receiving its first funding in FY2000, the VLCF has conducted 20 grant rounds. During these rounds, VLCF received 580 applications requesting over \$235 million in state funding, nearly double the available funds (see Table 2). Notably, many projects' total costs greatly exceed the requested amounts. As of June 30, 2025, VLCF has awarded funding to 384 of the 580 applications and allocated nearly \$116.6 million to land conservation efforts, protecting 159,688 acres at an average cost of \$730 per acre.

Table 1: VLCF Funding General Summary in Dollars

Source of Funding	Amount Available/ Appropriation	Amount to VOF	Amount to VLCF Grants	Amount Paid Out or Allocated to Grant Round	Grant Award Date
Appropriation Act (CH 935 –1999)	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	1,303,399	12/1/1999
Appropriation Act (CH 1073 – 2000) Specific Civil War Battlefields	3,400,000	0	3,400,000	3,382,005	
Appropriation Act (CH 1073 – 2000)	6,200,000	1,550,000	4,650,000	3,730,783	1/4/2001
Vehicle Registration (CH 1042 – 2003)	1,463,275	365,819	1,097,456	2,629,823	6/7/2005
Appropriation Act (CH4 – 2004)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
Unallocated Interest	56,982	14,246	42,736		
Appropriation Act (CH 951 –2005)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	9,015,183	12/1/2005
Vehicle Registration (CH 951 – 2005)	381,061	95,265	285,796		
Appropriation Act (CH 951 –2005)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
Unallocated Interest	188,960	47,240	141,720	5,447,399	6/13/2007
Vehicle Registration (CH 2 – 2006)	783,563	195,890	587,673		
Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2006)	2,500,000	625,000	1,875,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 847 – 2007)	500,000	125,000	375,000		
Unallocated Interest	300,000	75,000	225,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 847 – 2007)	3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000		
Vehicle Registration (CH 3 –2006)	663,269	165,817	497,452	4,036,136	1/7/2009
Vehicle Registration (CH 847 –2007)	397,880	99,468	298,412		
Appropriation Act (CH 879 –2008)	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 872 –2010)	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000		
Vehicle Registration (CH 781 –2009)	4,666	1,166	3,500	2,106,149	9/13/2011
Appropriation Act (CH 874 –2010)	500,000	125,000	375,000		

Source of Funding	Amount Available/ Appropriation	Amount to VOF	Amount to VLCF Grants	Amount Paid Out or Allocated to Grant Round	Grant Award Date
Appropriation Act (CH 874 –2010)	500,000	125,000	375,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 890 –2011)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2012)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000	1,024,471	12/6/2012
Appropriation Act (CH 806 –2013)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2014)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000	1,542,239	1/6/2015
Appropriation Act (CH 3 –2014)	1,000,000	250,000	750,000		
Appropriation Act (CH 665 –2015)	3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000	1,958,244	10/27/2015
Appropriation Act (CH 780 –2016)	8,000,000	2,000,000	6,000,000	4,679,903	9/14/2016
Appropriation Act (CH 836 –2017)	4,500,000	900,000	3,600,000	3,244,922	9/19/2017
Appropriation Act (CH 854 –2019)	4,500,000	1,125,000	3,375,000	3,446,666	11/22/2019
Appropriation Act (CH 1289-2020)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	1,946,725	2/5/2021
Appropriation Act (CH 56 - 2020)				3,367,797	6/10/2021
Appropriation Act (CH 552-2021)	10,000,000	2,500,000	7,500,000	5,451,791	10/27/2021
Appropriation Act (CH 2 - 2022)	16,000,000	4,000,000	12,000,000	<i>13,817,105</i>	11/14/2022
Appropriation Act (CH 2-2023)	16,000,000	4,000,000	12,000,000	<i>13,352,309</i>	11/13/2023
Appropriation Act (CH 2- 2024)	16,000,000	4,000,000	12,000,000	<i>13,640,634</i>	11/21/2024
VLCF Interest	1,361,211	340,301	1,020,910		
	\$134,589,656	\$32,134,911	\$102,454,745	\$99,123,683	

NOTES:

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

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

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

Fiscal Year	# 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
FY2000	20	\$5,800,000	12	\$1,688,842	9	\$1,303,399	1,136.87	\$384,600	532.00
Projects Specified in Appropriations Act		\$3,400,000	4	\$3,400,000	4	\$3,382,005	1,257.00	\$0	0.00
FY2001	41	\$11,200,000	19	\$3,919,695	18	\$3,730,783	2,764.55	\$1,164,666	1,218.15
FY2005	23	\$6,011,695	12	\$3,027,665	11	\$2,629,823	6,552.80	\$1,080,729	3,441.00
FY2006	52	\$30,850,220	22	\$9,717,411	20	\$9,015,183	6,931.02	\$1,401,200	2,271.46
FY2007	31	\$24,847,590	15	\$6,217,843	13	\$5,447,399	10,543.31	\$2,257,114	2,598.80
FY2009	22	\$5,404,839	16	\$4,310,945	15	\$4,036,136	12,040.52	\$978,518	2,080.00
FY2012	27	\$5,933,991	17	\$2,404,408	15	\$2,106,149	2,283.63	\$880,708	1,379.57
FY2013	15	\$2,775,121	12	\$1,569,250	9	\$1,024,471	1,400.43	\$644,250	1,237.21
FY2015	23	\$3,955,725	14	\$1,781,081	14	\$1,542,239	5,461.38	\$485,496	1,771.91
FY2016	18	\$3,890,884	14	\$2,250,000	11	\$1,958,244	1,820.36	\$1,083,645	1,469.91
FY2017	36	\$11,450,556	23	\$6,423,011	17	\$4,679,903	4,750.45	\$2,429,893	4,453.92
FY2018	29	\$7,438,001	24	\$4,238,800	19	\$3,244,922	4,027.77	\$1,882,259	3,398.64
FY2020	34	\$15,140,144	19	\$5,859,684	14	\$3,446,666	13,928.29	\$1,671,704	480.90
FY2021	15	\$10,498,371	12	\$3,406,250	8	\$1,946,725	5,225.74	\$942,432	1,126.40
FY2021 Round II	35	\$11,367,545	22	\$4,835,000	15	\$3,367,797	4,193.24	\$1,796,250	2,299.41
FY2022	34	\$10,532,985	30	\$7,500,000	22	\$5,451,791	5,587.59	\$4,920,155	5,496.93
FY2023	45	\$20,035,453	40	\$14,927,440	22	<i>\$13,817,105</i>	<i>8,400.43</i>	<i>\$9,921,605</i>	<i>6,539.35</i>
FY2024	40	\$20,612,307	29	\$14,672,672	7	<i>\$13,352,309</i>	<i>52,373.00</i>	<i>\$7,468,766</i>	<i>51,206.86</i>
FY2025	40	\$24,497,108	28	\$14,440,634	1	<i>\$13,640,634</i>	<i>9,009.40</i>	<i>\$8,350,729</i>	<i>5,703.27</i>
TOTAL	580	\$235,642,535	384	\$116,590,631	264	\$99,123,683	159,687.78	\$49,744,719	98,705.69

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

The Foundation fulfilled its obligation to create a strategic plan for managing the funds received from the Fund. This strategic plan for fiscal spending has been included in successive VLCF grant manuals starting in 1999 and is regularly updated. The Board approved the FY2025 grant manual at the June 5, 2024, meeting to set the schedule for the FY2025 grant round. The grant scoring criteria are detailed in Appendix C. The most recent grant manual is available at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation acts as a coordinating body that brings together various state agencies' land conservation efforts and priorities. The Foundation is a key tool used by Virginia to achieve its land conservation goals. A multi-agency task force, including 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 representatives, advises the VLCF Board on matters such as grant criteria, priorities, and selection. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provides the lead staff support for the Foundation.

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

The Office's website (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/>) and the Foundation's website (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf>) offer a wide range of land conservation materials and contact details to help landowners, conservation groups, and managers with their conservation planning. Additionally, the state's comprehensive conserved lands resource mapping tool, Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE), developed by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage, is available here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nhdeinfo>. This valuable land conservation planning tool is updated regularly.

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

Board of Trustees Meetings

In Fiscal Year 2025, the VLCF Board of Trustees met twice to review applications, award grants, consider interest expenditures, address land preservation tax credit issues, and then authorize the start of the FY26 grant round. The meetings of the Board during this period were as follows:

- November 21, 2024 – Board of Trustees Meeting:

The Board reviewed applications received for the FY25 Grant Round and awarded grants to projects based on the recommendations of the interagency task force. The Board approved the disbursement of funds from the Stewardship Fund. Additionally, the Board approved a resolution honoring Michael Fletcher for his service upon his retirement as DCR’s Board Liaison. Secretary Voyles, Chair of the Board, appointed three members to serve on a subcommittee to discuss the development of the FY26 grant manual.

- April 17, 2025 – Subcommittee Meeting:

The subcommittee met with the Interagency Task Force (IAT) to discuss the following updates to the grant manual: 1) handling projects that involve multiple parcels and easements, 2) adding more categories of points for Purchase of Development Rights programs, and 3) allowing reimbursement of indirect costs as matching funds.

- June 3, 2025 – Board of Trustees Meeting:

The Board approved an annual resolution authorizing DCR to expend \$250,000 of the interest generated from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for administrative expenses. They received an update on the Stewardship Fund payments and a presentation of the 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan. The Board also received a report from the subcommittee and approved the FY26 grant manual and grant round.

Interagency Task Force Meetings

Grant applications for VLCF grant rounds are evaluated and ranked by an interagency task force consisting of representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Wildlife Resources, the Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as required by Virginia Code § 10.1-1018(E).

In FY25, the task force met twice to evaluate, review, and rank grant applications received during the FY25 grant cycle, as well as to develop grant recommendations for the Board. They also convened to discuss and suggest updates to the FY26 grant manual.

Competitive Grant Awards FY25 (November 21, 2024, Grant Round)

During the FY25 grant cycle, the Foundation received 40 applications requesting \$24,497,108 in grant funds. The project costs for all 40 applications, including applicant matches, totaled \$60,559,465 and would protect 12,302 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on November 21, 2024, to consider these applications and approved \$14,440,634 in grant funds for 28 projects to protect 11,220 acres (Table 4). As of June 30, 2025, one grant was successfully closed, and one was withdrawn.

Summaries of the 28 projects awarded funding in the FY25 grant round are as follows:

FARMLAND PRESERVATION CATEGORY

- The Conservation Fund – Hazelwood Farm:** The Conservation Fund, Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) and the U.S. Army will conserve 339 acres of prime, active farmland in Caroline County with a VOF open-space easement. The farm produces corn and soybeans and has significant frontage on the Rappahannock River. Located within Fort Walker's priority area for buffering the Army's training installation, the Army will provide funding towards the purchase of this easement through the Army Compatible Use Buffers program.

Total Project Cost	\$1,906,500
Match	US Army Compatible Use Buffer Program and landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$440,750
Grant Amount	\$440,750

- Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Jatt Farm-Musapatike:** The project will protect 354 acres of farmland and forestland in Mecklenburg County through an open space easement held by VOF. The farm produces cattle, hay, and timber. The property fronts on a designated state byway, has frontage along Finneywood Creek and adjoins property already under easement with VOF.

Total Project Cost	\$1,234,000
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$480,715
Grant Amount	\$480,715

- Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Greg and Kyli Waddle Property:** VOF will secure an open-space easement on 850 acres of working farmland in Smyth and Washington counties. The project will protect karst geology, as it contains nearly 200 mapped sinkholes close to the Middle Fork Holston River, a

potential State Scenic River with designated Conservation Sites. The property supports Loggerhead Shrike (a state-threatened bird) and habitat for Bobolink (a rare bird). The farm is a working cow-and-calf operation with land in pasture, hay, and corn production. The landowners have previously donated easements to VOF on adjacent property, resulting in a block of more than 2,000 acres of conserved working farmland.

Total Project Cost	\$2,731,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$989,300
Grant Amount	\$914,017

4. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – *Beaver Dam Legacy, LLC***: This project will aid in the conservation of 138 acres in Loudoun County. The VOF easement will protect the agricultural viability of this farm, which is adjacent to three properties protected by VOF easements. The property fronts Beaverdam Creek, a tributary of Goose Creek, and contains historic structures that contribute to the Unison Battlefield Historic District. The property is bisected by Newlin Mill Road, part of the Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District.

Total Project Cost	\$2,000,000
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$125,000
Grant Amount	\$125,000

5. **Stafford County – *William Long Farm***: This grant will help purchase a conservation easement on a 69-acre farm through Stafford County’s Purchase of Development Rights Program. The easement will protect soils of statewide importance; mixed forestland; environmental features, including forested perennial streams, wetlands, and 100-year floodplain; and important wildlife habitat. The property falls within an ecological core and has predictive suitable habitat for Threatened and Endangered species and DWR Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and is located within a wildlife biodiversity resilience corridor in DWR's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The farm is adjacent to conserved lands under easement with the county.

Total Project Cost	\$508,000
Match	Stafford County
VLCF Grant Request	\$254,000
Grant Amount	\$254,000

6. **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – *Panamint Farm Supplemental Funding***: Virginia Outdoors Foundation was awarded additional grant funds for the purchase of an open-space easement on Panamint Farm in Louisa County. The 533-acre cattle farm supports pastures and grazing with a mixture of open fields and woodlands. VOF received an FY24 grant of \$110,300 for this project.

Total Project Cost	\$1,017,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$389,700
Grant Amount	\$389,700

FORESTLAND PRESERVATION CATEGORY

7. **Land Trust of Virginia – Huff Rock Supplemental Funding:** LTV was awarded supplemental funding for the purchase of a conservation easement on the 662-acre Huff Rock property located in Wise County six miles east of Big Stone Gap. The conservation easement will be co-held by LTV and the Lonesome Pine Soil and Water Conservation District. This project received a grant from VLCF last year for \$182,000. They are seeking supplemental funds to cover the unexpectedly high cost of the required boundary survey for this exceptionally mountainous property.

Total Project Cost	\$454,000
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$182,000
Grant Amount	\$45,000

8. **Virginia Department of Forestry – Shooting Creek:** The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) received a grant to purchase an open-space easement on 675 acres of mountainous forestland located along the Patrick and Franklin County border. With 98.6% forest coverage, this property boasts Very High Forest Conservation and Outstanding ecological core distinction. Further, the Agriculture and Forestry Category of the ConserveVirginia layer covers almost the entire property. The property contains tributaries that feed the Smith River North Stream Conservation Site, classified as “High Priority”, due to the state and federally endangered occurrences of the Roanoke Logperch. Protection of this property will further the ecological and historical integrity of the headwaters feeding Philpott Lake.

Total Project Cost	\$592,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$337,500
Grant Amount	\$286,875

9. **Virginia Department of Forestry – Working Forests Between Battlefields:** The DOF purchase of this open-space easement will secure 798 acres of timber lands and protect connectivity of a rural landscape situated between three Civil War battlefields in Dinwiddie County. The land also supports water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic views from the East Coast Greenway. The landowners have turned down a solar company's offer in order to keep stewarding this forestland.

Total Project Cost	\$1,851,000
--------------------	-------------

Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$925,500
Grant Amount	\$775,000

10. Virginia Department of Forestry – *Tank Hill*: The Department of Forestry will secure a 1,491-acre open-space easement to protect working forestland in Dinwiddie County. The project will also protect riparian lands along White Oak Creek, designated as Threatened & Endangered Species Water by DWR due to the presence of Roanoke Logperch, a state and federally endangered fish.

Total Project Cost	\$2,751,000
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$952,720
Grant Amount	\$810,000

11. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – *Richard Rolan Property*: VOF will purchase an open-space easement on 700 acres located along the North Fork Holston River in Washington County. The property contains 600 acres of prime forestland. The forest conservation values on this property are outstanding, covering almost 90% of the property. With numerous ponds and streams, the water resources support many fish and insect species, including the Virginia Springfly. The ecological cores are classified as “Very High” importance and cover nearly the entire property. The project supports the bountiful wildlife within and protects river habitat with seven miles of frontage along the North Fork Holston River.

Total Project Cost	\$979,500
Match	Landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$417,500
Grant Amount	\$354,875

12. Virginia Department of Forestry – *Southampton 900 Supplemental Funding*: DOF will purchase an open-space easement on 900 acres in Southampton County. The property contains valuable working forestlands and bottomland forests along the Blackwater River within areas designated as ecological cores ranked “Very High”. The property has 371 acres of riverfront wetlands and 3.5 miles of State Scenic Blackwater River frontage. This project received a VLCF grant of \$164,450 in FY24.

Total Project Cost	\$1,613,500
Match	Enviva Conservation Fund, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, landowner donation.
VLCF Grant Request	\$400,000
Grant Amount	\$340,000

13. Monacan Indian Nation – *Daisy Adcock Property*: The Monacan Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe, received this grant to acquire and protect 100 forested acres of their historic homeland, adjacent to the Monacan Museum and Culture Center. Bear Mountain in Amherst County has been the home of the

Monacan people for more than 10,000 years and remains the cultural hub of their community. The property contains an Outstanding Forest Conservation Value hardwood forest, and the Monacan Indian Nation is committed to the responsible stewardship of their lands, protecting and managing their natural resources sustainably, while honoring the deep spiritual connection their people have with the land.

Total Project Cost	\$434,600
Match	N/A
VLCF Grant Request	\$434,600
Grant Amount	\$285,367

HISTORIC AREA PRESERVATION CATEGORY

14. The Conservation Fund – Oak Hill: The Conservation Fund will purchase and conserve 87 acres of President James Monroe's Oak Hill, a National Historic Landmark, in Loudoun County. Constructed 1822-1823, the main house served as Monroe's residence during part of his presidency and most of his retirement. It is believed that he wrote the Monroe Doctrine while residing at Oak Hill in 1823. The property also includes formal gardens, outbuildings, tenant houses, and an agricultural building complex. This property will be developed as a public park, allowing the public to interpret the history of the land and people who lived and worked there, as well as for walking, hiking, and wildlife watching. The Board of Historic Resources will hold an open-space easement on the property.

Total Project Cost	\$7,578,000
Match	Private Fundraising, landowner donation
VLCF Grant Request	\$3,000,000
Grant Amount	\$2,000,000

15. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Seven Pines at Broad Water Creek: Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) will place a conservation easement held by the Board of Historic Resources on 24 acres in Henrico County within the core battlefield area of the Battle of Seven Pines. The project will protect battlefield acreage, as well as a natural area within an otherwise urban and quickly developing area of the county. Providing a 100-foot forested buffer along Broad Water Creek will enhance water quality and benefit wildlife habitat. Once conserved, CRLC plans to transfer the property to the Richmond Battlefields Association to own and operate as a public park.

Total Project Cost	\$543,500
Match	American Battlefield Protection Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$271,750
Grant Amount	\$271,750

16. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Funk Tract at Cedar Creek: SVBF will acquire and conserve 45 acres of the core area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Warren County. The property is adjacent to lands preserved by SVBF and is comprised of farm fields, forestland, and streambeds. The project will permit public access via mowed trails, allowing for current agricultural practices to continue. The Virginia Board of Historic Resources will hold an open-space easement on the property.

Total Project Cost	\$830,548
Match	American Battlefield Protection Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$415,274
Grant Amount	\$415,274

17. American Battlefield Trust (ABT)– Jackson at Wilderness: ABT will preserve 36 acres in Orange County via fee purchase and recordation of a Virginia Board of Historic Resources open-space easement. The property is within the core area of Wilderness Battlefield, and also within the study area of Chancellorsville Battlefield and the study area of Mine Run Battlefield. The tract is adjacent to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park and is partially forested.

Total Project Cost	\$409,475
Match	American Battlefield Preservation Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$204,238
Grant Amount	\$162,406

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION CATEGORY

18. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage – Crow’s Nest Harbor Partnership Phase I: DCR will acquire 262 acres as an addition to Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve with the help of Stafford County and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT). This project continues building on one of VLCF's applauded conservation success stories and long-standing partnerships. Both Stafford County and NVCT acquired these 101 individual parcels to be added to the preserve. Acquiring these inholdings improves the resilience of the Northern Coastal Plain/Piedmont Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest, one of northern Virginia's most significant ecological cores.

Total Project Cost	\$254,500
Match	Stafford County, DCR-DNH Due Diligence Fund
VLCF Grant Request	\$153,500
Grant Amount	\$153,500

19. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage – South Quay Natural Area Preserve - Biodiversity, Climate Resilience and Public Access in the Chowan River Basin: DCR will acquire 1,900 acres in the City of Suffolk to protect natural heritage resources within one of the world's documented biodiversity hotspots, including 10 miles of streams and 200 acres of

wetlands. This project enhances longleaf pine habitat restoration, contributes to Virginia's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, and creates opportunities for tribal engagement. The project creates opportunities for public access and supports local, regional, and interstate conservation plans within the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed and a congressionally designated estuary of national significance.

Total Project Cost	\$6,100,000
Match	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant (\$5,631,150)
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,300,000
Grant Amount	\$1,300,000

- 20. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage – *Ellett Escarpment - Eastern Divide South*:** DCR will acquire 84 acres in Montgomery County with an underlying karst landscape that supports a population of one of the Commonwealth's most imperiled species. Global persistence of this imperiled species rests entirely on conservation efforts in Virginia, as the species' worldwide range lies immediately east of Blacksburg, where development pressures are severe. The subject acreage would also benefit another significantly rare species similarly confined to Virginia, as well as mature calcareous forests, and 1,100' of tributaries to the North Fork Roanoke River.

Total Project Cost	\$3,000,000
Match	N/A
VLCF Grant Request	\$3,000,000
Grant Amount	\$975,219

- 21. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage – *Ellett Escarpment Supplemental Funding*:** This grant provides supplemental funding to acquire 34 acres in Montgomery County. DCR-DNH was awarded a VLCF grant in FY23, but land values were appraised higher than expected. The project lies along the rapidly developing edge of Blacksburg, where existing karst features support Virginia's best population of a critical conservation need species known from only three locations worldwide. Acquiring these properties will help protect a significantly rare natural heritage resource, and mature calcareous forests surrounding the karst feature and a narrow ecological buffer.

Total Project Cost	\$165,254
Match	N/A
VLCF Grant Request	\$165,254
Grant Amount	\$165,254

- 22. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage – *Ellett Escarpment - Eastern Divide North*:** This grant will fund the acquisition of approximately 36 acres in Montgomery County. The underlying karst landscape supports a portion of Virginia's best population of one of the Commonwealth's most imperiled species, lying within one of Virginia's essential conservation

sites. The project will also protect another rare species similarly confined to Virginia, as well as mature calcareous forests, and 2,000' of tributaries to the North Fork Roanoke River.

Total Project Cost	\$800,000
Match	N/A
VLCF Grant Request	\$800,000
Grant Amount	\$800,000

OPEN SPACES AND PARKS

23. City of Virginia Beach – *Hancock North Landing Open Space*: The City of Virginia Beach will acquire 28 acres as an addition to Munden Point Park. Daily public access will be provided for land and water-based recreation, wildlife viewing, and education and research opportunities along North Landing River, a Virginia Scenic River. The property is within the North Landing River Oakum Creek Natural Area and in several categories of ConserveVirginia. Additionally, the property is within an important ecological core and wildlife corridor connecting North Landing River to the Atlantic Coast. The property provides 220-degree views of North Landing River, and viewsheds of cypress coves and cordgrass hummocks that contribute to the rare “wind-tidal marsh.” The property is surrounded by water, with over 1,600’ of walkable North Landing River shoreline, and frontage along North Landing River marsh, Oakum Creek, and a canal used for boat access.

Total Project Cost	\$1,529,000
Match	City of Virginia Beach Open Space Acquisition Capital Improvement Program
VLCF Grant Request	\$675,000
Grant Amount	\$650,000

24. City of Chesapeake – *Open Spaces and Parks Application*: The City of Chesapeake will acquire 96 acres along the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. More than 65% of the property is encumbered by wetlands. The objective of the project is to protect the wetlands – and thus protect and improve water quality, floodplains and flooding resilience, protect ecological integrity along the Elizabeth River, and provide public access for recreation opportunities and waterfront access.

Total Project Cost	\$3,008,795
Match	City of Chesapeake
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,465,000
Grant Amount	\$800,000

25. Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation – *Lake Caledon - Caledon State Park Extension*: This grant helps fund the acquisition of the 468-acre Lake Caledon property in King George County immediately south of Caledon State Park. The property is mostly forested and was slated for a residential

subdivision. With this acquisition, Caledon State Park, a designated National Natural Landmark, will be able to expand recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and potentially overnight lodging.

Total Project Cost	\$6,000,000
Match	Land and Water Conservation Fund, DCR Parks, Recreation and Development Fund, Dept. of Defense
VLCF Grant Request	\$1,000,000
Grant Amount	\$500,000

26. Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – *Robinson-Baker’s Creek Acquisition:*

This grant helps fund the acquisition of 513 acres in King and Queen County for recreational purposes. The acquisition will conserve land in coastal and waterfront areas that contain significant ecological value and essential wildlife habitat and will provide public access for recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, swimming, and wildlife watching. This project will build upon ongoing local and regional efforts to enhance community resiliency by protecting marsh habitat and natural areas.

Total Project Cost	\$607,950
Match	Town of West Point and bargain sale
VLCF Grant Request	\$303,975
Grant Amount	\$255,000

27. Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia – *Patawomeck Tribe Land Grant:* This grant will help the Patawomeck Tribe, a state-recognized Tribe, fund the purchase and conservation of 14.24 acres located in Stafford County along the state scenic Rappahannock River. The property is located just downriver from the Patawomeck Tribal Center and McDuff Park. The Patawomeck Tribe intends to create a public access trail from McDuff Park to the property, as well as a small-boat loading area along the river.

Total Project Cost	\$500,000
Match	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
VLCF Grant Request	\$500,000
Grant Amount	\$390,932

28. City of Virginia Beach – *Pleasure House Point Access/Waterfront Area:* This grant will help fund the purchase of 0.57 acres in Virginia Beach at Pleasure House Point, part of a network of conserved areas along Crab Creek, Pleasure House Creek, and Lynnhaven Bay, with 1.25 miles of shorelines and wetlands, tidal mudflats, and maritime forests. The City of Virginia Beach currently manages 108 conserved acres adjacent to the property. The site showcases the beauty and function of a coastal ecosystem despite its heavily developed surroundings. The tidal wetlands at the site provide food and habitat for various bird species year-round and support amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and regionally iconic species. Sandy trails offer excellent birdwatching and wildlife viewing, with close-up views of the marsh. The property offers scenic views, public access, and maritime forests featuring mature long-leaf pines.

Total Project Cost	\$600,000
Match	VOF grant, City funds
VLCF Grant Request	\$300,000
Grant Amount	\$100,000

Table 3: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for the November 21, 2024, Grant Round (FY25)

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY25 Budget Bill Chapter 2, Item 360 A.1.	Interest through 4/30/24	Approved Reallocated Grant Funds	Available TOTALS
I. Available Funds		\$16,000,000	\$1,361,211	\$1,419,724	\$18,780,935
II. VOF Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)		\$4,000,000	\$340,301	-	VOF PTF: \$4,340,301
III. Grant Program					VLCF Grant Round
(i) Farmland Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$204,182	\$0	\$2,604,182
(ii) Forest Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$204,182	\$292,935	\$2,897,117
(iii) Historic Area Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$204,182	\$245,248	\$2,849,430
(iv) Natural Area Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$204,182	\$789,791	\$3,393,973
(v) Open Spaces & Parks		\$2,400,000	\$204,182	\$91,750	\$2,695,932
TOTAL for Grant Round		\$12,000,000	\$1,020,910	\$1,419,724	\$14,440,634
Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds					
Forest Preservation	\$292,935	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY22 Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds \$161,000 ; FY23 Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds \$131,935 .			
Historic Area Preservation	\$245,248	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY21 American Battlefield Trust, James Jackson Tract at the Wilderness Battlefield \$221,023 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY22 The Germanna Foundation, Siegen Forest \$18,460 . FY23 Capital Region Land Conservancy, 5270 New Market Road \$5,765 .			
Natural Area Preservation	\$789,791	<u>Unallocated FY24 Grant Funds:</u> \$151,425 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY21 DCR-DNH, Southside VA Conservation & Recreation Complex \$32,582 . FY22 DCR-DNH, Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation \$6,489 . FY22 DCR-DNH, Difficult Creek South Addition \$5,018 . FY21RII DCR-DNH, Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Kinzer Hollow Cove \$67,685 ; FY22 TNC, Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion \$53,528 ; FY23 VOF, Camp Branch NAP Addition \$73,064 <u>Change of Scope:</u> FY22 DCR-DNH, Pedlar Hills NAP Addition \$335,000 <u>Withdrawn:</u> FY24 DCR-DNH, Pedlar Hills Addition – Supplemental Funding \$65,000			
Open Spaces and Parks	\$91,750	<u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY22 DWR, Copper Creek Initiative \$954 ; FY23 City of Charlottesville, Moores Creek Land Acquisition \$3,296 <u>Withdrawn:</u> FY22 City of Waynesboro, Basic Park - Natural Area \$87,500			

Table 4: FY25 Competitive Grant Awards (Grant Round November 21, 2024)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Project in Conserve Virginia
	Farmland Preservation							
1	Hazelwood Farm*	7	\$440,750	339.00	<i>Open</i>	\$440,750	339.00	Y
2	Jatt Farm ~ Musapatike*	5	\$480,715	353.56	<i>Open</i>	\$480,715	353.56	Y
3	Greg & Kyli Waddle Property*	9	\$914,017	850.00	<i>Open</i>	\$914,017	850.00	Y
4	Beaver Dam Legacy, LLC*	10	\$125,000	138.32	2/18/2025	\$125,000	138.32	Y
5	William Long Farm*	7	\$254,000	69.25	<i>Open</i>	\$254,000	69.25	N
6	Panamint Farm (Supplemental Funding)*	5	\$389,700	533.00 (FY24)	<i>Open</i>	\$389,700	See FY24	Y
	Forestland Preservation							
7	Huff Rock (Supplemental Funding)*	9	\$45,000	647.00 (FY24)	<i>Open</i>	\$45,000	See FY24	Y
8	Shooting Creek*	9	\$286,875	674.68	<i>Open</i>	\$286,875	674.68	Y
9	Working Forests Between Battlefields*	4	\$775,000	797.80	<i>Open</i>	\$775,000	797.80	Y
10	Tank Hill*	4	\$810,000	1,491.54	<i>Open</i>	\$810,000	1,491.54	N
11	Richard Rolen Property*	9	\$354,875	697.00	<i>Open</i>	\$354,875	697.00	Y
12	Southampton 900 (Supplemental Funding)*	4	\$340,000	900.00 (FY24)	<i>Open</i>	\$340,000	See FY24	Y
13	Monacan Indian Nation - Daisy Adcock Property**	5	\$285,367	100.40	<i>Open</i>	\$285,367	100.40	Y
	Historic Area Preservation							
14	Oak Hill**	10	\$2,000,000	86.00	<i>Open</i>	\$2,000,000	86.00	Y
15	Seven Pines at Broad Water Creek*	4	\$271,750	23.99	<i>Open</i>	\$271,750	23.99	Y
16	Funk Tract at Cedar Creek**	6	\$415,274	45.56	<i>Open</i>	\$415,274	45.56	Y
17	Jackson at Wilderness*	7	\$162,406	36.17	<i>Open</i>	\$162,406	36.17	Y
	Natural Area Preservation							
18	Crow's Nest NAP - Crow's Nest Harbor Partnership Phase 1	7	\$153,500	262.00	<i>Open</i>	\$153,500	262.00	Y
19	South Quay Sandhills NAP - Biodiversity, Climate Resilience & Public Access in Chowan River Basin	2	\$1,300,000	1,900.00	<i>Open</i>	\$1,300,000	1,900.00	Y

20	Ellett Escarpment - Eastern Divide South	9	\$975,219	84.00	<i>Open</i>	\$975,219	84.00	Y
21	Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve (Supplemental Funding)	9	\$165,254	34.38 (FY24)	<i>Open</i>	\$165,254	See FY24	Y
22	Ellett Escarpment - Eastern Divide North	9	\$800,000	36.00	<i>Open</i>	\$800,000	36.00	Y
	Open Spaces and Parks							
23	Hancock North Landing Open Space	2	\$650,000	28.00	<i>Open</i>	\$650,000	28.00	Y
24	City of Chesapeake Open Spaces and Parks Application	2	\$800,000	96.00	Withdrawn	\$0	0.00	-
25	Lake Caledon - Caledon State Park Expansion	7	\$500,000	468.00	<i>Open</i>	\$500,000	468.00	Y
26	Robinson-Baker's Creek Acquisition	1	\$255,000	513.32	<i>Open</i>	\$255,000	513.32	Y
27	Patawomeck Tribe Land Grant	7	\$390,932	14.24	<i>Open</i>	\$390,932	14.24	Y
28	Pleasure House Point Access/ Waterfront Area	2	\$100,000	0.57	<i>Open</i>	\$100,000	0.57	N
	Totals		\$14,440,634	9,105.40		\$13,640,634	9,009.40	

Restricted Funds Grant Round: Dominion Energy Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Project (November 1, 2017, and December 10, 2020)

On July 3, 2017, the United States 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 Army Corps of Engineers, the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, and Dominion Energy Virginia to resolve adverse effects on historic properties due to the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Project.

The VLCF Board was responsible for managing a grant round of \$12.5 million and awarded nine grants in 2017. In 2020, the Board approved a second grant round to disburse the remaining funds resulting from a withdrawn project and unused grant funds, totaling \$1,145,829. This second round focused on the same historic preservation and land conservation goals to offset impacts from the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Transmission Line, just like the first grant round.

As of June 30, 2024, nine projects have been completed, permanently protecting over 1,735 acres and enhancing the public's understanding of historical events with new interpretive materials. One remaining project is in progress and has been granted an extension until December 31, 2026. In total, \$12,250,000 in grant funds have been awarded, with \$250,000 remaining to be distributed at the conclusion of this final project.

American Battlefield Trust – Atkins Tract: This grant will support the purchase and interpretation of the 39.45-acre Atkins Tract in Henrico County. The property is entirely within the Core Area of the Glendale Battlefield and partly in the Study Area of the Malvern Hill Battlefield, two battles from the Peninsula Campaign. The tract is also located in the Gravel Hill Community, a historic African American community founded in 1777 by formerly enslaved persons who had gained their freedom.

Please refer to the 2022 Annual Report for descriptions of the nine successfully completed projects.

STATUS OF LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA

Land Conservation Status Summary

The Conservation Lands Database reports that as of June 30, 2025, a total of 4,338,971 acres across Virginia have been preserved by federal, state, and local governments, and private conservation organizations (Table 5). This data indicates that about 17.17 percent of the Commonwealth’s total land is permanently protected. In Virginia’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a total of 3,033,925 acres of land, or about 21.93 percent, has been protected. (Approximately 60 percent of Virginia geographically lies within the Bay watershed.)

Table 5: Land Preservation Statistics in Virginia (through June 30, 2025)

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	2,354,361	54.26%	1,683,570	55.49%	670,791	51.40%
State	1,457,962	33.60%	992,769	32.72%	465,193	35.65%
Local	160,600	3.70%	141,684	4.67%	18,916	1.45%
Private/Non-profit	364,691	8.41%	214,545	7.07%	150,146	11.51%
Tribal	1,357	0.03%	1,357	0.04%	0	0.00%
Total Protected	4,338,971	100.00%	3,033,925	100.00%	1,305,046	100.00%
Total Acreage of Land in VA*	25,270,000		13,831,890		11,438,110	
Percent Protected	17.17%		21.93%		11.41%	

Since monitoring conserved lands began in 2000, the amount of land protected each year—whether through conservation easements or fee simple acquisitions—has fluctuated significantly (Table 6). The highest was 107,017 acres conserved in FY2010, and the lowest was 22,010 acres in FY2025. Overall, since 2000, approximately 1,342,218 acres have been preserved, with an average of 53,689 acres annually.

Seventy-seven percent of the preserved acres during this period are located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Table 6: Current Annual Protection Trends as of June 30, 2025

Fiscal Year	Statewide Acreage	Bay Acreage	Non-Bay Acreage
2001	43,463.72	29,855.67	13,608.05
2002	50,536.81	36,567.11	13,969.70
2003	48,369.96	39,714.31	8,655.65
2004	39,680.24	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	37,314.56	22,523.29	14,791.27
2016	33,618.49	23,063.90	10,554.59
2017	41,210.89	24,389.91	16,820.98
2018	54,123.17	35,424.90	18,698.27
2019	40,951.83	30,007.42	10,944.41
2020	58,706.16	26,424.63	32,281.53
2021	37,421.39	23,403.57	14,017.82
2022	26,483.08	10,257.15	16,225.93
2023	37,138.79	25,975.46	11,163.33
2024	29,780.23	18,343.80	11,436.43
2025	22,010.34	12,804.97	9,205.37
Total	1,342,218.19	894,485.52	447,732.67
Average annual acreage protected	53,688.73	35,779.42	17,909.31

Land Preservation Tax Credit Responsibilities

Starting January 1, 2007, the Department of Conservation and Recreation took on the responsibility of verifying the conservation value of donated land or conservation easements that lead to land preservation tax-credit applications of \$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 2024 are published separately from this report and are available online at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/lp-taxcredit>. The Land Preservation Tax Credit program recently reached a significant milestone, celebrating the conservation of over one million acres.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Since 2001, the VLCF has allocated over \$32 million to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (Table 7). Under the funding formula outlined in § 10.1-1020 (C)(1) of the Code of Virginia, the VLCF transfers 25 percent of its appropriation to VOF unless the state budget specifies otherwise. These funds are deposited into the Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund to help purchase farm and forestland easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The projects include partial purchases of development rights and reimbursement for easement donation costs such as legal and appraisal fees. Additionally, the funds are periodically supplemented with grants from VLCF and other contributions to the Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund.

As of June 30, 2025, a total of \$32,475,212 has been appropriated from VLCF to the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. Of this amount, \$24,271,561 has been spent on 602 conservation easements protecting 120,839 acres. The VLCF funds were leveraged to secure over \$68.8 million from private, local, and federal sources toward these easements. The remaining balance of the transferred funds has been committed to 59 projects that will protect an additional 10,108 acres.

Table 7: 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
FY2020	Appropriation Act	\$1,125,000
FY2021	Appropriation Act	\$2,500,000
FY2022	Appropriation Act	\$2,500,000
FY2023	Appropriation Act	\$4,000,000
FY2024	Appropriation Act	\$4,000,000
FY2025	Appropriation Act	\$4,000,000
FY2025	Interest	\$340,301
TOTAL		\$32,475,212

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 vital to making the Commonwealth a wonderful place to live and visit. Land and water conservation protect the places we cherish, support a high quality of life, and promote economic growth and prosperity. The Commonwealth is committed to achieving the highest conservation outcomes from state funds allocated for land protection, and ConserveVirginia, Virginia’s land conservation strategy, serves as a key tool in guiding these investments. This strategy includes spatial data representing only the highest statewide priorities on unprotected lands, provided by 15 state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

The 2021 General Assembly endorsed the creation of ConserveVirginia in § 10.1-104.6:1 of the Code of Virginia. DCR is responsible for developing this GIS-based land conservation plan, updating and maintaining mapping tools, making these tools accessible to the conservation community, and supporting

the integration of ConserveVirginia into conservation prioritizations and grant programs. Additionally, DCR collaborates with the conservation community and consults 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 combines 24 data inputs, organized into seven categories, each representing a key conservation value: 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. Lands may fall into multiple categories.

ConserveVirginia is designed to guide land conservation efforts in Virginia for future generations. Data must be updated every two years. The latest update, version 3.0, added nearly one million new acres due to refined priorities provided by partners. Lands conserved since the release of version 2.0 were removed because they were successfully protected. This strategy paves a dynamic new path for data-driven prioritized land conservation and provides a method to determine conservation and funding needs as well as monitor progress.

Outdoor recreation opportunities and needs, including access for underserved communities, are critical components of the strategy and are addressed across categories through DCR's Nature-based Recreation Model. 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 recreational opportunities, on land and water is a key consideration for conservation efforts across all ConserveVirginia categories. The Virginia Nature-based Recreation Access Model is used to evaluate public access values of land conservation projects, emphasizing outdoor recreation opportunities in areas where the need is greatest.

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 protection of these priority lands.

Through ConserveVirginia, Virginia leads targeted, value-based land conservation to achieve the greatest conservation outcomes and prosperity for future generations. ConserveVirginia summarizes the top priorities in seven categories on unprotected lands. An update to ConserveVirginia, version 4.0, is currently being developed.

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 administered by the National Park Service under 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 current 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 offers recommendations for regional featured projects. As part of the development of the VOP, DCR hosts annual meetings in collaboration with each of Virginia's 21 planning districts. These meetings serve as the foundation for DCR's assessment of outdoor recreation and land conservation progress. Regional achievements are highlighted, and the needs and priorities for outdoor recreation and land conservation are evaluated through engagement with government agencies, localities, regional planning districts, and outdoor recreation and land conservation stakeholders.

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must be updated every five years. This update includes a current comprehensive public survey and input from all regions of the Commonwealth and partner agencies. The Department's Planning and Recreation Resources Division recently released the 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan, which can be viewed here: <https://vop-vdcr.hub.arcgis.com/>. This GIS-based tool offers users a new, improved way to connect people with outdoor recreation opportunities and the protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources that enrich our daily lives. It summarizes the latest results of the Virginia Outdoors Survey and provides planning districts and localities with best practices for grant management and applications.

Furthermore, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program continues to support the acquisition of park properties. The LWCF is a 50-50 match reimbursement grant program with annual allocations to the state, which distributes funds to eligible recipients through a grant cycle. VLCF funding can also serve as a matching source for these projects. The Department's LWCF and VLCF staff work together to assist partners with 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 to establish and maintain the state's Natural Heritage Program (NHP) and develop a Natural Heritage Plan (NHPlan) to guide the preservation of Virginia's natural heritage resources. These resources include habitat for rare plants and animals, significant natural communities, and significant geologic features such as caves and other karst features). Land conservation planning is a vital part of the NHPlan and essential for effectively conserving the state's natural heritage. The NHPlan, titled "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 website (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/NHPc_Web.pdf). The data and conservation planning tools within the NHPlan are continuously expanded and improved, with updates to natural heritage resources data provided quarterly for external sharing and partner use.

A revision of the NHPlan is underway and is scheduled for completion in 2026. The revised plan will outline DCR's strategy for identifying the most critical areas for preserving Virginia's natural heritage resources. The NHPlan is built on the most comprehensive and current biodiversity data available in the Commonwealth. The updated NH Plan will more effectively identify top priority natural heritage resources to conserve, with data and information tailored to the conservation targets, missions, and territories of partners (such as partner agencies, non-profits, and land trusts), reflecting where they operate within the Commonwealth.

Over the past five decades, DCR has worked to transform its detailed scientific data and information into easy-to-understand, versatile map-based tools for use and sharing to aid conservation decisions. Field data on natural heritage 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 support those resources. It's important to distinguish these conservation sites from permanently protected lands shown in the Conservation Lands Database. Although some conservation sites overlap with protected areas, most—about 61% by area—are not protected. Each conservation site contains detailed information on the location, viability, threats, and conservation status of the resources they hold. DCR has created and maintains mapped boundaries for 2,489 conservation sites, covering more than 3,476,937 acres of terrestrial, stream- and karst-associated lands.

Mapped Conservation Sites are central to the NHPlan and are used by various local, state, and federal agencies involved in conservation and natural resources management. These and other DCR data are also shared with conservation partners through the Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) for conservation planning and project review. The NHDE, available at <https://vanhde.org/>, is a powerful tool used by 200 government agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and private companies. Additionally, this tool has been adopted by a dozen other states, modeled after Virginia's efficient environmental review process. DCR staff work to keep natural heritage resources data current and accurate for internal purposes, updating this information quarterly for partners.

In addition to Conservation Sites, DCR shares with partners two other statewide GIS datasets that help guide conservation priorities. These datasets identify the Natural Area Preserve Resiliency Areas and Conservation Sites of highest conservation priority.

The Natural Area Preserve Resiliency Areas are key lands surrounding the Natural Area Preserves (NAPs), where the Program aims to: (i) focus land protection efforts and land management activities; (ii) concentrate on partnerships with existing landowners and land managers of these resiliency lands; and (iii) tailor information sharing based on resources in these resiliency areas. Focusing acquisition efforts, partnerships, and management in resiliency areas will help protect the rare species and natural communities within NAPs against climate change and other large-scale landscape disturbances. It will also support the development of public access opportunities that do not threaten rare species and habitats, and improve the management of natural heritage resources on the NAP System (e.g., access for prescribed fire use and invasive species control) to achieve better success and efficiency.

Conservation sites for habitats of natural heritage resources that are of the highest conservation priority are also ranked with multiple levels of "essential" status for internal and partner use. These Essential Conservation Sites (ECS) are prioritized by identifying the most important sites that need protection and management -- those crucial for preserving the rarest and most threatened species and natural communities in Virginia. So far, this prioritization has only been applied to terrestrial sites, not cave or stream conservation sites. While all conservation sites highlight habitat for at-risk natural heritage resources and would be suitable for protection actions, prioritizing ECS helps focus conservation efforts on the most essential areas and enables quick recognition of opportunities when they arise for natural heritage resources of the highest conservation priority.

These aspects of DCR's Natural Heritage Program data, information, Natural Heritage Data Explorer, 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 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 complies with § 10.1-1021(1)(b) of the Code of Virginia, which directs VLCF to develop an inventory of those

properties in which the Commonwealth holds a legal interest “for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, state forest lands, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agricultural and forestal lands, and open space.” The Conservation Lands Database includes local, state, and national parks, university lands, as well as privately held protected lands and conservation easements, with parcel-level boundaries and attributes. These lands are mapped to the parcel level for a comprehensive spatial dataset of lands serving conservation, recreation, and open-space purposes. The database is regularly updated to ensure accuracy. Parcel information related to management intent, legal protection status, dates of conservation action, and boundary refinements is available to the conservation community. New parcels are continuously added to the Conservation Lands Database through ongoing data sharing between DCR and other state agencies, localities, land trusts, and conservation organizations.

The Conservation Lands Database is accessible to the public through DCR’s Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) website at <https://vanhde.org/>. This mapping platform allows users to view, query, and explore conservation lands data layered with various base maps such as aerial photography, hydrologic data, jurisdictional boundaries, and more, alongside other maps highlighting natural and cultural resources (Virginia ConservationVision). Additional information about the Conservation Lands Database can be found at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/clinfo>, where GIS shapefiles are available for download and use in any GIS application. The Chesapeake Bay Program uses this database to establish and monitor progress toward land conservation goals outlined in the 2025 Watershed Agreement.

Virginia Natural Heritage collaborates 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 focuses on private conservation easements. Virginia Natural Heritage is considered the state’s data aggregator for both efforts.

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program also maintains Virginia ConservationVision, a collection of eight statewide, publicly accessible GIS models used for conservation planning. Each map measures the relative importance of ecological, cultural, recreational, forested, agricultural, and watershed values across the Commonwealth, as well as their vulnerability to development. The Foundation funded the development of these conservation tools, which are available on the Virginia ConservationVision page (<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvision>) and on the NHDE website. These models have been utilized by numerous state and local governments, Planning District Commissions, and conservation groups to offer clear, quantitative guidance in the development of green infrastructure plans, strategic conservation plans, comprehensive plan updates, and various land use and conservation priority decisions.

The eight GIS models that comprise Virginia ConservationVision are the Agricultural Model, Cultural Resources Preservation Index, Development Vulnerability Model, Forest Conservation Value (FCV)

Model, Nature-Based Recreational Model, Potential Rare Species Richness, Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment, and the Watershed Model. Details of these individual conservation tools can be found here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvision>.

Virginia ConservationVision products are available to the public through the NHDE website, where users can compare them with each other, reference layers, conserved lands, and ConserveVirginia. They are also accessible for use in desktop GIS, with access details provided at the bottom of the page for each model linked to the Virginia ConservationVision site.

Along with ConserveVirginia, the Conservation Sites layer, and the Conservation Lands Database, Virginia ConservationVision is used to evaluate grant proposals submitted to the Foundation for funding consideration. Because these maps highlight relevant conservation values, they are employed in scoring potential lands across all VLCF categories. Other state agencies also rely on specific Virginia ConservationVision maps to screen potential conservation easement lands.

The Natural Heritage Plan and the assemblage of conservation information and tools developed by DCR's Natural Heritage Program support VLCF with strategic planning. They are also available to grant applicants to assess the conservation values and strengths of potential land conservation proposals to VLCF. These tools are continuously being developed, updated, and refined, allowing for objective evaluations of VLCF proposals across grant categories, planning of future natural area conservation needs, and responding to information requests from land planners and managers at local, state, and federal levels.

Virginia's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan

Virginia is among the first states in the eastern U.S. to develop a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (WCAP). This plan emphasizes protecting vital habitat corridors to reduce wildlife-vehicle conflicts and support biodiversity conservation. Wildlife-vehicle conflicts happen when animals cross roads to find food, water, shelter, mates, or disperse. These incidents pose safety risks for drivers and can be deadly for wildlife. Over 60,000 wildlife-vehicle conflicts are reported each year in Virginia, costing the state and its residents about \$533 million annually.

To create the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, a collaborative leadership team was formed from members of multiple state agencies involved with wildlife habitats and road infrastructure. The plan's goals are to identify corridors comprised of high-quality habitats for priority species and ecosystem health; identify areas with high risk of wildlife-vehicle conflicts; identify priority locations for wildlife crash countermeasures to promote habitat connectivity and improve road safety; and develop a publicly accessible website to host the plan and its related data.

High-priority wildlife corridors were identified by utilizing and enhancing data from ConserveVirginia, the Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment conservation planning tools, and other sources to develop Wildlife Biodiversity Resilience Corridors. Areas with high wildlife-vehicle conflict rates were estimated

through an analysis of two databases compiled from police-reported collisions. An evaluation of the corridor and wildlife-conflict data was conducted to identify 26 Wildlife Crossing Nexus Areas as state priority areas potentially requiring wildlife crash countermeasures. These nexus areas are located within Wildlife Biodiversity Resilience Corridors and experience the highest rates of wildlife-vehicle conflict across the state. Virginia now has a strong foundation to strategically direct state resources for the mutually compatible benefits of protecting wildlife corridors and promoting driver safety. The WCAP is available here: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/corridors/>. As this important tool continues to be developed, updated, and refined, it enables evaluations of VLCF proposals across multiple grant categories to achieve multiple significant statewide objectives.

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 outlined in the grant program guidelines approved by the VLCF Board most recently on May 16, 2023. This document clearly explains how the funding will be expended through grants and specifies what categories the funding is to be used for, who is eligible, what the match requirements are, and what evaluation criteria will be used to evaluate the applications. The plan can be accessed at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia_land_conservation_foundation/.

Revised grant criteria guided the review of applications received during the recent grant round, which was considered by the Board. As in the past, all the technical information collected from these grant applicants was evaluated by an interagency task force.

The interagency task force consists of representatives from 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 thorough multi-agency review and scoring process, only proposals that best align with the Foundation's goals and are financially sound are recommended to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Foundation continues to develop and utilize advanced land conservation information systems and decision support tools. Conservation Lands and Conservation Sites Databases, along with ConserveVirginia, help the Foundation prioritize and select land preservation projects, and the Foundation persistently seeks ways to more effectively leverage these tools.

Looking Forward: Estimate of Funds Needed to Achieve Foundation Goals

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. The grant funding categories are set in § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia, so we review the funding requested in each grant round over the past few years. Figure 1 illustrates how the total funding available for grant rounds in fiscal years 2023 through 2025 is approximately 66% of the funding requested for projects across all categories.

If the amount of requested funding is considered a need, then, on average, nearly twice the amount of money available in a typical year is required to meet that need. However, the amount applicants request depends on the funding available. Additionally, potential applicants may or may not apply for grants based on how much funds are accessible. Total project costs often surpass the available grant funding by more than four times.

Figure 1: VLCF Grant Awards Versus Requested Amount from FY23 to FY25



APPENDIX A: PAST VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION GRANT ROUNDS

Appendix A includes updated information on recent grant rounds. Detailed information on past grant rounds starting in 1999 can be found in prior VLCF reports, at <https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/>

Competitive Grant Awards FY21 Round I (February 5, 2021 Grant Round)

Item 374 A.1. of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly allocated \$10,000,000 to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund under § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia. Due to budget uncertainties caused by the pandemic, \$4,500,000 was available for the first FY21 grant round. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation received its 25 percent share of \$1,125,000 for the Preservation Trust Fund. An additional \$31,250, not allocated in the FY20 historic category, was added, bringing the total to \$3,406,250 in grant funds (Table 8). The Board met on September 22, 2020, and approved the grant round.

The Foundation received a total of 30 applications requesting \$10,498,371 in grants. The combined project costs for all 30 applications, including applicant matches, amounted to \$55,049,487 and would protect 15,876 acres if fully funded. The Board convened on February 5, 2021, to review these applications and approved \$3,406,250 in grants for 12 projects, which would protect 12,261 acres, as shown in Table 9. Eight projects have been completed, and four were withdrawn, concluding this grant round. Funding from the withdrawn projects and those completed under budget was included in the same category for future grant rounds.

Table 8: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for FY21 February 5, 2021 Grant Round

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY21 Budget Bill Chapter 1289, Item 374 A.1. \$4,500,000	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 Spaces and Parks	\$843,750		\$843,750
	TOTAL for Grant Round	\$3,375,000	\$31,250	\$3,406,250

Table 9: FY21 Grant Awards (February 5, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve Virginia
	Farmlands Preservation							
1	Farmland Protection along the Blue Ridge Turnpike*	5	\$315,000	450.58	May 2024	\$315,000	447.10	Y
2	Farmland Protection along the Robinson River*	5	\$106,875	592.18	April 2024	\$106,875	596.38	Y
	Forestlands							
3	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative	2	\$421,875	8,654.00 See FY20	May 2023	\$421,875	7,912.11 (See FY20)	Y
	Historic Area Preservation							
4	Brill **	6	\$411,807	72.00	June 2022	\$411,807	73.82	Y
5	Stoner-Keller*	6	\$242,170	120.27	Withdrawn	-	-	-
6	James Jackson Tract at the Wilderness Battlefield**	7	\$221,023	36.17	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Natural Area Protection							
7	Southside Va. Conservation & Recreation Complex (Phase I)***	5	\$843,750	2,010.00	March 2024	\$207,418	3,898.99	Y
	Open Spaces & Parks							
8	Appomattox River Trail - Critical Petersburg Gap Connection**	4	\$28,943	7.90	July 2023	\$28,943	9.09	Y
9	Blackwater Conservation Acquisition	4	\$375,000	203.00	Oct. 2022	\$375,000	200.36	Y
10	Rappahannock River Park	7	\$210,000	46.53	Withdrawn	-	-	-
11	River Farm	8	\$150,000	24.71	Withdrawn	-	-	-
12	Camp Kum Ba Yah Inc. II*	6	\$79,807	44.00 See FY20	March 2022	\$79,807	42.13 (See FY20)	N
	Totals		\$3,406,250	12,261.34		\$1,946,725	5225.74	

*Denotes acquisition by easement

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

***As of May 16, 2023, board meeting, original grant of \$843,750 reduced to \$240,000, due to landowner donation rather than purchase, leaving \$603,750 to be rolled into FY24 grant round.

Competitive Grant Awards FY21 Round II (June 10, 2021 Grant Round)

Item 374 A.1. of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly allocated \$10,000,000 for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund pursuant to § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia. Due to budget uncertainty during the pandemic, \$4,500,000 was available for the first FY21 grant round, as shown in Table 10. The remaining \$5,500,000 would be awarded at a second grant round. During this FY21 Round II cycle, the Foundation received 35 applications requesting \$11,367,545 in grants. The total project costs for all 35 applications, including applicant match, amounted to \$56,064,352, which could protect 9,153.71 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on June 10, 2021, to review these applications and approved \$4,835,000 in grant funds for 22 projects to protect 6,138.11 acres, see Table 11.

Fifteen projects were successfully completed, and seven projects were withdrawn to complete this grant round. Funding from both the withdrawn projects and those completed under budget have been combined into the same category for future grant rounds.

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

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY21 Budget Bill Chapter 56, Item 374 A.1. *	Approved Reallocated Unspent Grant Funds	TOTAL
1. VOF Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$1,375,000	-	\$1,375,000
2. Grant Program			
(i) Farmland Preservation	\$825,000	\$0	\$825,000
(ii) Forest Preservation	\$825,000	\$0	\$825,000
(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$825,000	\$0	\$825,000
(iv) Natural Area Protection	\$825,000	\$500,000	\$1,325,000
(v) Open Spaces and Parks	\$825,000	\$210,000	\$1,035,000
TOTAL for Grant Round	\$4,125,000	\$710,000	\$4,835,000
<i>Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds</i>			
Natural Area Protection	\$500,000	Withdrawn: FY20 Capital Region Land Conservancy, Bluebell Tract.	
Open Spaces and Parks	\$210,000	Withdrawn: FY21 Culpeper County Rappahannock River Park.	

Table 11: FY21 Round II Grant Awards (June 10, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve Virginia
	Farmland Preservation							
1	Forkland Dairy*	5	\$500,000	906.00	Aug. 2022	\$500,000	904.39	Y
2	Protected Farmland along the Rappahannock River*	7	\$208,000	732.45	Withdrawn	-	-	-
3	Kevin Jones Farm*	1	\$46,250	70.00	Oct. 2023	\$46,250	69.99	Y
4	Morse Brothers Farm*	5	\$70,750	106.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Forestland Preservation							
5	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II	2	\$400,000	749.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
6	Three Creek Capron*	4	\$200,000	376.00	April 2023	\$200,000	381.64	Y
7	Round Hill Swamp at Doles Farm*	4	\$225,000	705.37	Jan. 2023	\$225,000	706.82	Y
	Historic Area Preservation							
8	Drexel-Morrell Center**	7	\$228,450	56.48	Feb. 2023	\$228,450	56.40	Y
9	Rollins Tract at Bristoe Station Battlefield**	7	\$285,000	22.35	July 2024	\$285,000	22.36	Y
10	Fussell's Mill Tracts at Second Deep Bottom Battlefield**	4	\$282,000	52.01	May 2024	\$282,000	50.47	Y
11	Edwards Tract**	6	\$29,550	107.35	April 2023	\$29,550	107.35	Y
	Natural Area Preservation							
12	Pickett's Harbor Maritime Forest & Migratory Bird Habitat Protection	2	\$255,549	4.50	Withdrawn	-	-	-
13	Pickett's Harbor Natural Area Preserve - Lake Allure Woods*	2	\$142,298	44.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
14	Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands	1	\$450,000	52.30	June 2023	\$381,079	58.81	Y
15	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve - Kinzer Hollow Cave	9	\$204,000	60.28	June 2024	\$136,315	55.28	Y
16	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition	9	\$164,000	62.90	Withdrawn	-	-	-

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve Virginia
17	Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition	9	\$109,153	77.00	July 2022	\$109,153	78.15	Y
	Open Spaces & Parks							
18	Blackwater Conservation Acquisition	4	\$168,500	203.00 (See FY21)	Aug 2022	\$168,500	200.36 (See FY21)	Y
19	Hoskins Creek Waterfront Land Acquisition in Tappahannock	1	\$200,000	6.91	Sept. 2024	\$200,000	6.91	Y
20	South Garden International LLC Public Access Land Expansion	1	\$312,000	125.59	April 2023	\$312,000	98.79	Y
21	Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area	4	\$264,500	1,597.00	May 2024	\$264,500	1595.88	Y
22	The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia	4	\$90,000	5.20	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Totals		\$4,835,000	5,918.69		\$3,367,797	4,193.24	95%

*Denotes acquisition by easement

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

Competitive Grant Awards FY22 (October 27, 2021 Grant Round)

Item 374 of Chapter 552 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly allocated \$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 12). On June 10, 2021, the Board met and approved the FY22 grant cycle.

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 review these applications and approved \$7,500,000 in grant funds for 30 projects to protect 8,022 acres (Table 13). To complete this grant round, 22 projects were successfully finished and eight projects were withdrawn. Funding from the withdrawn projects and those completed under budget has been included in the same category in future grant rounds.

Table 12: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for FY22 October 27, 2021 Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY22 Budget Bill Chapter 552, Item 374 A.1. \$10,000,000
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$2,500,000
II. Grant Program	
(i) Farmland Preservation	\$1,500,000
(ii) Forestland Preservation	\$1,500,000
(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$1,500,000
(iv) Natural Area Preservation	\$1,500,000
(v) Open Space and Parks	\$1,500,000
TOTAL for Grant Round	\$7,500,000

Table 13: FY22 Grant Awards (October 27, 2021 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve Virginia
	Farmland Preservation							
1	Forkland Dairy*	5	\$500,000	906.00	March 2022	\$500,000	904.39 (See FY21R2)	Y
2	Thomas Neck Family Farm*	1	\$879,750	840.60	April 2023	\$879,750	840.00	Y
3	Kevin Jones Farm (Phase II)*	1	\$120,250	70.00	Nov. 2023	\$120,250	69.99 (See FY21R2)	Y
	Forestland Preservation							
4	Pierces Lowgrounds - Meherrin River Conservation Easement*	4	\$350,000	2,860.00	May 2024	\$350,000	2,816.40	Y
5	Roanoke River Working Forest*	5	\$464,000	932.00	May 2025	\$375,764	897.96	Y
6	Over the River and Point Beach*	4	\$225,000	321.64	May 2024	\$225,000	324.90	Y
7	Poplar Hollow*	6	\$300,000	611.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
8	Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens and Barrel Springs**	1	\$161,000	96.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Historic Area Preservation							
9	Siegen Forest*	7	\$647,370	170.00	Dec. 2023	\$628,910	163.89	Y
10	Campbell's Bridge Mills**	4	\$375,000	5.00	Dec. 2024	\$375,000	3.65	Y
11	CCTSC Restoration Project*	5	\$69,075	8.95	Withdrawn	-	-	-
12	Pegram's Battery Tract at Cedar Mountain**	7	\$249,876	44.75	May 2024	\$249,876	44.75	Y
13	Edwards**	6	\$158,679	107.35	April 2023	\$158,679	107.35 (See FY21R2)	Y
	Natural Area Preservation							
14	Difficult Creek South Addition	5	\$30,000	2.16	May 2024	\$24,982	2.21	Y
15	Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$515,000	156.00	Aug. 2024	\$161,800	79.97	Y
16	Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation	6	\$20,000	1.00	Oct. 2023	\$13,511	1.05	Y

	Project Title	Cong. Dist	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve Virginia
17	Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition	4	\$300,000	102.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
18	Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition	9	\$236,847	77.00	July 2022	\$182,144	78.15 (See FY21R2)	Y
19	Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition	9	\$165,000	11.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
20	Difficult Creek North Addition - Life Estate	5	\$50,153	1.39	June 2023	\$50,153	1.47	Y
21	The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition	9	\$50,000	205.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
22	Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion - Weaver Creek**	9	\$133,000	92.00	Aug. 2024	\$79,473	121.46	Y
	Open Spaces & Parks							
23	Copper Creek Initiative	9	\$100,000	8.00	May 2024	\$99,046	5.96	Y
24	Camp Kum-Ba-Yah*	6	\$250,000	44.00	Feb. 2022	\$250,000	42.13 (See FY20)	N
25	Eleanor Park Conservation Easement*	1	\$387,416	1.90	Jan. 2023	\$387,416	1.81	Y
26	The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia	4	\$250,000	5.20	Withdrawn	-	-	-
27	Brander Street**	4	\$150,000	6.29	May 2025	\$64,953	4.47	Y
28	Basic Park - Natural Area	6	\$87,500	44.20	Withdrawn	-	-	-
29	Brush Mountain Park - Edison Property Expansion**	9	\$210,000	207.00	Sept. 2022	\$210,000	204.66	Y
30	Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve*	5	\$65,084	73.00	Feb. 2024	\$65,084	72.98	N
	Totals		\$7,500,000	8,010.43		\$5,451,791	5,587.59	

*Denotes acquisition by easement

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

Competitive Grant Awards FY23 (November 14, 2022 Grant Round)

Item 375 A.1. of Chapter 2 of the 2023 Virginia Acts of Assembly allocated \$16,000,000 from the general fund for the Preservation of Open Space Lands to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, in accordance with § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia. Additional unspent grant funds from previous years were added to the available funding, totaling \$14,927,440 in grant funds (see Table 14). On July 12, 2022, the Board met and approved the grant round.

During the FY23 grant cycle, the Foundation received 45 applications requesting \$20,035,453 in grants. The project costs for all 45 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$65,840,538 and would protect 15,285 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on November 14, 2022, to consider these applications and approved \$14,927,440 in grant funds for 40 projects to protect 13,955 acres (Table 15). As of June 30, 2025, 21 projects from this grant round have been successfully completed, 16 remain open, and three have been withdrawn.

Table 14: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for the FY23 November 14, 2022 Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY23 Budget Bill Chapter 2, Item 375 A.1. (\$16,000,000)	Approved Reallocated Unspent Grant Funds	TOTAL Available for Grant Round
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$4,000,000	-	-
II. VLCF Grant Program			
(i) Farmland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
(i) Forestland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$400,000	\$2,800,000
(ii) Historic Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$3,000,000
(iii) Natural Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$937,440	\$3,337,440
(iv) Open Space and Parks	\$2,400,000	\$990,000	\$3,390,000
TOTAL	\$16,000,000	\$2,927,440	\$14,927,440
<i>Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds</i>			
Forestland Preservation	\$400,000	<u>Withdrawn</u> FY20RII, Dept. Wildlife Resources, E. Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II \$400,000 .	
Historic Area Preservation	\$600,000	<u>Withdrawn</u> : FY20 Patrick Henry Mem. Foundation, Red Hill \$600,000 .	
Natural Area Preservation	\$937,440	<u>Unexpended Remainder</u> : FY20 DCR-DNH, Bush Mill Stream NAP Addition \$4,544 ; FY20 DCR-DNH, Gateway to Cape Charles NAP \$63,347 . <u>Withdrawn</u> : FY20 Suffolk Parks and Rec., Blackwater R. Park & South Quay NAP Addition \$400,000 ; FY21RII DCR-DNH Pickett's Harbor Maritime Forest \$255,549 ; FY21RII DCR-DNH The Cedars NAP Northeast Addition \$164,000 ; FY22 DCR-DNH, The Cedars NAP Powell River Addition \$50,000 .	
Open Spaces and Parks	\$990,000	<u>Withdrawn</u> : FY20 DCR-State Parks, Wilderness Rd. Connectivity Prop. \$500,000 ; FY21 NOVA Parks, River Farm \$150,000 ; FY21RII VOF, The Green at the Science Museum of VA \$90,000 ; FY22 VOF, The Green at the Science Museum of VA \$250,000 .	

Table 15: FY23 Competitive Grant Awards (November 14, 2022 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist.	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve-Virginia
	Farmland Preservation							
1	Farmland Protection along Brook Run*	7	\$500,000	698.00	Dec. 2024	\$500,000	698.00	Y
2	<i>Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville*</i>	7	<i>\$237,500</i>	<i>360.44</i>	Open	<i>\$237,500</i>	<i>360.44</i>	<i>Y</i>
3	Harris Farm*	7	\$400,000	327.00	May 2024	\$400,000	317.13	Y
4	<i>Protection of Thornridge Farm*</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>	<i>203.32</i>	Open	<i>\$160,000</i>	<i>203.32</i>	<i>N</i>
5	Downtown Greens Expansion Project*	1	\$400,000	56.00	Dec. 2023	\$400,000	56.17	N
	Forestland Preservation							
6	Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe's Return to the River	1	\$310,000	866.00	Oct. 2023	\$310,000	853.40	Y
7	<i>Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>703.09</i>	Open	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>703.09</i>	<i>Y</i>
8	Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II	4	\$450,000	1,597.00	May 2024	\$450,000	1,597.00 (See FY21R2)	Y
9	Pierces Lowgrounds Meherrin River Conservation Easement II*	4	\$300,000	2860.00	April 2024	\$300,000	2,816.40 (See FY22)	Y
10	Taylor's Mill Farm*	4	\$450,000	1,145.00	Nov. 2024	\$450,000	1,145.00	Y
11	<i>Roanoke River Working Forest II*</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$395,000</i>	<i>1,347.00</i>	Open	<i>\$395,000</i>	<i>1,347.00</i>	<i>Y</i>
12	<i>Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$281,219</i>	<i>244.00</i>	Open	<i>\$281,219</i>	<i>244.00</i>	<i>Y</i>
13	Three Creek Capron Phase II*	4	\$36,054	376.00	March 2023	\$36,054	376.00 (See FY21R1)	Y
14	Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs II**	1	\$131,935	96.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
15	Hornet Swamp*	4	\$400,000	615.00	April 2024	\$400,000	608.21	Y
16	Newfound Farm*	6	\$100,150	59.00	Aug. 2023	\$100,150	60.27	Y
17	New River Hill Park (See OSP category below)	9	\$148,142	See below	March 2025	\$148,142	See below	Y
	Historic Area Preservation							
18	Haskins Farm at New Market Heights**	4	\$600,000	50.00	Oct. 2023	\$600,000	49.09	Y
19	5270 New Market Road**	4	\$588,250	40.00	May 2024	\$582,485	41.02	Y
20	Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield*	6	\$253,433	141.39	Nov. 2023	\$253,433	141.39	Y

	Project Title	Cong. Dist.	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	Conserve-Virginia
21	Edwards Tract at Port Republic Battlefield*	6	\$172,058	107.35	April 2023	\$172,058	107.35 (See FY21R2)	Y
22	<i>Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boydton Plank Road Battlefield**</i>	4	<i>\$121,982</i>	<i>11.72</i>	Open	<i>\$121,982</i>	<i>11.72</i>	<i>Y</i>
23	<i>Woodworth Cottage**</i>	6	<i>\$135,000</i>	<i>0.26</i>	Open	<i>\$135,000</i>	<i>0.26</i>	<i>Y</i>
24	<i>French Tract at Fisher's Hill Battlefield*</i>	6	<i>\$474,258</i>	<i>146.09</i>	Open	<i>\$474,258</i>	<i>146.09</i>	<i>Y</i>
25	<i>Mauler Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield**</i>	10	<i>\$253,439</i>	<i>3.11</i>	Open	<i>\$253,439</i>	<i>3.11</i>	<i>Y</i>
26	<i>Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield**</i>	4	<i>\$183,745</i>	<i>11.78</i>	Open	<i>\$183,745</i>	<i>11.78</i>	<i>Y</i>
27	<i>Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield**</i>	7	<i>\$217,835</i>	<i>7.36</i>	Open	<i>\$217,835</i>	<i>7.36</i>	<i>Y</i>
	Natural Area Preservation							
28	Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II	1	\$390,000	222.00	Sept. 2024	\$299,646	227.56	Y
29	<i>Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve</i>	6	<i>\$670,000</i>	<i>244.00</i>	Open	<i>\$670,000</i>	<i>244.00</i>	<i>Y</i>
30	Mill Creek Spring Natural Area Preserve Expansion	9	\$665,140	318.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
31	Deep Run Ponds NAP – Battlefield Addition Tract	6	\$453,800	110.00	March 2025	\$439,120	100.00	Y
32	<i>Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve</i>	9	<i>\$293,500</i>	<i>33.46</i>	Open	<i>\$293,500</i>	<i>33.46</i>	<i>Y</i>
33	Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition - Eastern Overlook**	10	\$500,000	10.13	May 2023	\$445,836	10.13	Y
34	Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Add.	9	\$365,000	56.00	Aug. 2024	\$291,936	56.37	Y
	Open Spaces and Parks							
35	<i>Mayo Island**</i>	4	<i>\$1,500,000</i>	<i>14.50</i>	Open	<i>\$1,500,000</i>	<i>14.50</i>	<i>Y</i>
36	Red Hill*	5	\$602,830	596.00	Dec. 2023	\$602,830	600.45	N
37	<i>Memorial Drive Recreation Area**</i>	5	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>6.87</i>	Open	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>6.87</i>	<i>Y</i>
38	Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area	9	\$71,937	179.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
39	<i>Coles Point Boating Access</i>	7	<i>\$532,025</i>	<i>2.60</i>	Open	<i>\$532,025</i>	<i>2.60</i>	<i>Y</i>
	New River Hill Park (see FOR category above)	9	\$8,208	82.00	March 2025	\$8,208	91.24	Y
40	Moore's Creek Land Acquisition	5	\$175,000	8.60	Aug. 2024	\$171,704	8.45	Y
	Totals		\$14,927,440	13,955.07		\$13,817,105	8,400.43	

*Denotes acquisition by easement.

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

Note: *Italicized numbers represent expected payments and acreages based on the grant proposal.*

Competitive Grant Awards FY24 (November 13, 2023 Grant Round)

Item 375 of the 2023 Special Session I Amendments to the 2023 Appropriation Act allocated \$16,000,000 from the general fund for the Preservation of Open Space Lands to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, in accordance with § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia. Additional unspent grant funds from previous years were added to the available funding, bringing the total to \$14,927,440 in grant funds (Table 16). On May 16, 2023, the Board met and approved the grant round.

During the FY24 grant cycle, the Foundation received 40 applications requesting \$20,612,306 in grants. The project costs for all 40 applications, including applicant match, totaled \$56,722,241 and would protect 57,173 acres if all projects were funded. The Board met on November 13, 2023, to consider these applications and approved \$14,672,672 in grant funds for 29 projects to protect 55,575 acres (Table 17). As of June 30, 2025, seven projects from this grant round have been successfully completed, and six have been withdrawn.

Table 16: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: Funding Source and Allocation for the FY24 November 13, 2023 Grant Round

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY24 Budget Bill Chapter 2, Item 375 A.1. (\$16,000,000)	Approved Reallocated Unspent Grant Funds	TOTAL Available for Grant Round
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)		\$4,000,000	-	-
II. VLCF Grant Program				
(i) Farmland Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$578,750	\$2,978,750
(ii) Forestland Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
(iii) Historic Area Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$311,245	\$2,711,245
(iv) Natural Area Preservation		\$2,400,000	\$1,934,102	\$4,334,102
(v) Open Space and Parks		\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
TOTAL		\$16,000,000	2,824,097	\$14,824,097
Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds				
Farmland Preservation	\$578,750	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20 Piedmont Environmental Council, Crossroads of Old Fredericksburg Road \$300,000 . FY21RII Piedmont Environmental Council, Protected Farmland along the Rappahannock River \$208,000 ; FY21RII Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Morse Brothers Farm \$70,750 .		
Historic Area Preservation	\$311,245	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY21 Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Stoner Keller \$242,170 . FY22 Campbell Co. Training School Complex Restoration Project \$69,075 .		
Natural Area Preservation	\$1,934,102	<u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY20 DCR-DNH Crow’s Nest NAP Addtn \$45,126 ; FY21RII DCR-DNH, Crow’s Nest NAP Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands \$68,921 ; FY22 DCR-DNH, Poor Mtn NAP - NE Addition \$54,703 ; FY23 Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Bull Run Mtns Eastern Overlook \$54,164 . <u>Withdrawn:</u> FY21RII DCR-DNH Pickett’s Harbor NAP-Lake Allure Woods \$142,298 ; FY22 DCR-DNH Dendron Swamp NAP Addtn \$300,000 ; FY23 DCR-DNH Mill Creek Springs NAP Expan. \$665,140 <u>Revised Scope:</u> FY21 DCR-DNH, Southside VA Conservation & Recreation Complex \$603,750 .		

Table 17: FY24 Competitive Grant Awards (November 13, 2023 Grant Round)

	Project Title	Cong. Dist.	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	In Conserve-Virginia
	Farmland Preservation							
1	<i>Farmland Protection near Barboursville*</i>	7	\$605,000	544.64	Open	\$605,000	544.64	Y
2	<i>Lower Potomac River Corridor*</i>	1	\$585,000	320.00	Open	\$585,000	320.00	Y
3	East West Creek Farms LLC*	5	\$610,000	720.48	Dec 2024	\$610,000	720.48	Y
4	AP Legacy, LLC Farm *	7	\$248,450	73.35	March 2025	\$248,450	73.35	Y
5	<i>Farmland Protection along Rapidan River Tribs*</i>	7	\$282,500	229.00	Open	\$282,500	229.00	N
6	Nottoway 186*	2	\$537,500	186.00	March 2025	\$537,500	186.00	Y
7	<i>Panamint Farm*</i>	5	\$110,300	533.00	Open	\$110,300	533.00	Y
	Forestland Preservation							
8	<i>Clinch Mountain, Pinnacle Rock**</i>	9	\$567,250	680.00	Open	\$567,250	680.00	Y
9	E. Shore Forest Conservation Initiative III	2	\$441,300	762.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
10	Acquiring Rappahannock Tribe's Ancestral Homelands Phase III	1	\$450,000	964.00	April 2025	\$450,000	964.00	Y
11	Taylor's Mill Farm, Additional Funding Request*	4	\$45,000	See FY23	Nov. 2024	\$45,000	See FY23	Y
12	<i>Huff Rock*</i>	9	\$182,000	660.92	Open	\$182,000	660.92	Y
13	Poplar Hollow, Additional Funding Request*	6	\$250,000	611.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
14	Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II	2	\$300,000	476.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
15	<i>Southampton 900*</i>	4	\$164,450	900.00	Open	\$164,450	900.00	Y
	Historic Area Preservation							
16	<i>Whitby Tract at Second Deep Bottom Battlefield**</i>	4	\$300,215	8.87	Open	\$300,215	8.87	Y
17	<i>Welch-Penden Tract at Glendale Battlefield**</i>	4	\$219,433	12.46	Open	\$219,433	12.46	Y
18	Brandy Rock Farm I Tract at Brandy Station Battlefield*	7	\$271,660	100.00	Dec. 2024	\$266,297	100.00	Y
19	<i>Stanley Hall at New Market Battlefield**</i>	6	\$303,771	9.54	Open	\$303,771	9.54	Y
20	<i>French Tract at Fisher's Hill Battlefield II**</i>	6	\$350,000	146.08	Open	\$350,000	146.08	Y

	Project Title	Cong. Dist.	Grant Award	Estimated Acres	Project Closing Date	Final Payment	Final Acres	In Conserve-Virginia
	Additional secondary funds for Acquiring Rappahannock Tribe's Ancestral Homelands Phase III (see above)	See above	\$1,266,166	See above	April 2025	\$1,266,166	See above	Y
	Natural Area Preservation							
21	<i>Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve - LCI Addition</i>	9	\$3,617,677	1,000.00	Open	\$3,617,677	1,000.00	Y
22	Pedlar Hills Addition - Supplemental Funding	9	\$65,000	156.00	Withdrawn	-	-	-
23	<i>Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve - Anderson Addition</i>	9	\$250,000	48.07	Open	\$250,000	48.07	Y
24	Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve - Browne Farm*	5	\$250,000	45.38	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Open Spaces and Parks							
25	<i>Abrams Creek Property Addition to Mendota Trail**</i>	9	\$241,100	220.00	Open	\$241,100	220.00	Y
26	<i>Bushy Park Farm Acquisition</i>	1	\$750,000	118.07	Open	\$750,000	118.07	Y
27	<i>Deer Creek**</i>	4	\$180,000	96.00	Open	\$180,000	96.00	Y
28	<i>Highlands-Lonesome Pine*</i>	9	\$1,000,000	44,327.00	Open	\$1,000,000	44,327.00	Y
29	<i>Marshland on the Mattaponi River**</i>	1	\$220,200	482.00	Open	\$220,200	482.00	Y
	Secondary Funding for E. Shore Forest Conservation Initiative III (see above)		\$8,700	See above	Withdrawn	-	-	-
	Totals		\$14,672,672	54,429.86		\$13,352,309	52,373.00	

*Denotes acquisition by easement.

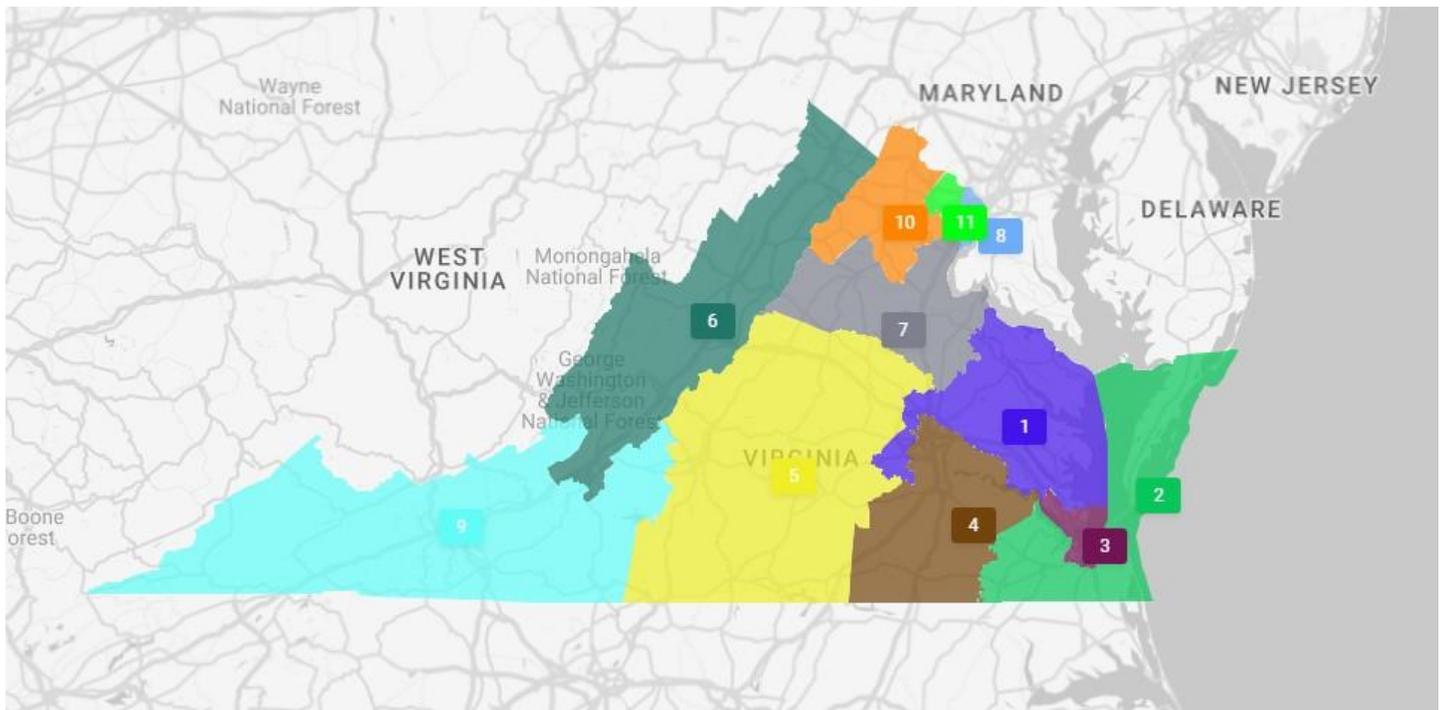
**Denotes fee acquisition with open-space easement held by governmental entity (state or locality).

Note: *Italicized numbers represent expected payments and acreages based on the grant proposal.*

APPENDIX B: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation actively supports projects throughout Virginia. The supporting data below shows the number of grants awarded within Virginia's eleven Congressional Districts at each VLCF grant round. Because district boundaries have been realigned over the years, the totals in Tables 18 and 19 do not fully reflect current Congressional District boundaries. The map below shows Virginia's 2021 Congressional District boundaries.

Since 1999, the highest concentration of grants awarded so far has been in the 4th Congressional District (Table 16), which stretches from the North Carolina border along I-95 to north of Richmond. The largest amount of grant funds has also been expended in this district (Table 19). This may reflect the rapid growth and the loss of open space and historic resources in this part of Virginia. Funds for projects have been awarded in all districts. The Foundation has successfully helped conserve a variety of outstanding resources and habitats through easements and acquisitions across Virginia.



Map source: <https://www.virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/547/1>

Table 18: Geographical Distribution of Foundation Grant Awards by Congressional District

Cong. District	FY2000 thru FY217	FY2018	FY2020	FY2021	FY2021 Round II	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total Awarded
1 st	38	2	3	0	4	4	5	4	1	61
2 nd	10	2	2	1	3	0	1	3	4	26
3 rd	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
4 th	25	3	4	2	6	6	10	5	4	65
5 th	14	1	2	3	2	6	4	3	3	38
6 th	21	5	2	3	1	5	7	3	1	48
7 th	13	1	3	2	3	2	5	4	6	39
8 th	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
9 th	27	3	1	0	3	7	5	7	7	60
10 th	23.75	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	32
11 th	1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	181	23	19	12	22	30	40	29	28	384

Table 19: Geographical Distribution of Grant Awards by Congressional District

Cong. District	FY2000- FY2018	FY2020	FY2021	FY2021 Round II	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total Awarded
1 st	\$8,657,782	\$572,500	\$0	\$1,008,250	\$1,548,416	\$1,731,935	\$3,271,366	\$255,000	\$17,045,249
2 nd	\$5,600,925	\$530,175	\$421,875	\$797,847	\$0	\$281,219	\$1,287,500	\$2,850,000	\$11,769,541
3 rd	\$2,078,286	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,078,286
4 th	\$6,486,587	\$1,319,000	\$403,943	\$1,230,000	\$1,650,000	\$4,630,031	\$909,098	\$2,196,750	\$18,825,409
5 th	\$2,306,586	\$900,000	\$1,265,625	\$570,750	\$1,178,312	\$1,672,830	\$970,300	\$1,155,782	\$10,020,185
6 th	\$5,321,302	\$381,134	\$733,784	\$29,550	\$816,179	\$2,258,699	\$903,771	\$415,274	\$10,859,693
7 th	\$2,965,971	\$1,212,500	\$431,023	\$721,450	\$897,246	\$1,887,360	\$1,407,610	\$1,901,588	\$11,424,748
8 th	\$1,550,000	\$322,500	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,022,500
9 th	\$6,414,770	\$500,000	\$0	\$477,153	\$1,409,847	\$1,551,927	\$5,923,027	\$3,541,240	\$19,817,964
10 th	\$8,738,470	\$121,875	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$913,439	\$0	\$2,125,000	\$11,898,784
11 th	\$828,273	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$828,273
TOTAL	\$46,710,152	\$5,859,684	\$3,406,250	\$4,835,000	\$7,500,000	\$14,927,440	\$14,672,672	\$14,440,634	\$116,590,632

APPENDIX C: GRANT CRITERIA

Before each grant round, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation reviews and updates the grant evaluation criteria used to assess applications. An inter-agency task force, made up of representatives from 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, collaboratively develops the recommended document.

The FY25 scoring criteria total 182 points. One hundred points are allocated to each of the five funding categories, which the applicant chooses (Farmland Preservation, Forest Land Preservation, Historic Area Preservation, Natural Area Protection, or Open Spaces and Parks). The scoring criteria for each category are developed by the relevant subject matter experts from state agencies, represented by the inter-agency task force. An additional 82 points are distributed among nine common criteria (Virginia Outdoors Plan Identified Need; Recreation Access Model Identified Need; Water Quality Benefit; Protection of Cultural Resources; Additional ConserveVirginia Values; Fish and Wildlife Values, Public Access; Underserved Communities; and Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost). Table 20 shows the total possible points.

The scoring criteria for each category listed in Table 20 are explained in the pages that follow from the FY25 VLCF Grant Manual. The criteria used by the Foundation help ensure that land conservation funding will be expended wisely to protect properties with significant resource value for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Table 20: VLCF - Grant Application Scoring Sheet and Criteria

Scoring Criteria	Total Points Possible
Statutory Category Scoring	
Farmlands Preservation, Forest Land Preservation, Historic Area Preservation, Natural Area Protection, or Open Spaces and Parks	100
Additional Scoring Criteria	
VOP Identified Needs	3
Recreation Access Model Identified Need	3
Water Quality Benefit	11
Protection of Cultural Resources	10
Additional ConserveVirginia Values	12
Wildlife Values	10
Protection of Identified Wildlife Corridors	10
Public Access	10
Underserved Communities	10
Ratio of Match	3
Total Available Points	182

Appendix 1 - Farmland Preservation Category

Criterion	Score
<p>Category I: Land Evaluation (35 points)</p> <p>A. Soil Productivity (20 points) Calculate the percentage of project land in each soils class. Points are awarded based on the combined percentages of these three categories x 20 (e.g., 30% prime, 20% unique and 10% important = 0.60 x 20, which equals 12 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

Category II: Land Use (45 points)

A. Current use and status of the land (8 points)

- 1) Is the land currently being farmed? 4 points, if yes.
- 2) Is this a Century Farm? 4 points, if yes.

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?

- 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

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>)

- Each ranking from Class II to Class V is awarded 2 points (e.g., a property in Class IV = 6 points)

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?

- 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

E. Local farmland policy (4 points)

Is the project supported by local farmland protection policies?

- One point each for: comprehensive plan; agricultural zoning; agricultural and forestal districts; and use value taxation.

F. Is the landowner working with a local Purchase of Development Rights program to conserve their farmland? (5 points)

Category III: ConserveVirginia (20 points) Is the project included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) <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 Land Preservation 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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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 x 20 = 12 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. Historic Resource/Property 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. Integrity:</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property or area has special community significance related to its history, as explained in application, regardless of formal documentation = 5 		
<p>3) Threat (Maximum score 10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently on the market for sale, in an estate being settled, threatened by development, or in imminent danger of demolition = 10 • 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 • No documentation of threat = 0 		
<p>4) Use & Treatment of Historic Resources & Property (Maximum 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed easement terms and restrictions provide comprehensive protection for historic resources and are specifically consistent with VBHR easement template = 10 • Proposed easement terms and protections for historic resources are acceptable, and generally consistent with VBHR easement template = 5 • No list of easement terms provided = 0 		
<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 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 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>1) Biodiversity Significance (35 points)</p> <p>A. <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>B. <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>C. <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>2) Ecological Integrity (20 points)</p> <p>A. <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>B. <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>C. <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>3) Management Needs, Likelihood of Success, and Threat (25 points)</p> <p>A. <u>Management Needs:</u> 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>B. <u>Management Capacity:</u> 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>C. <u>Site visit & Owner contact:</u> 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>D. <u>Threat:</u> 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 ConservationVision 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>4) 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 pts • Public access that provides <u>two</u> of those recreational opportunities = 8 pts • Public access that provides <u>one</u> of those recreational opportunities = 5 pts • Public access that provides opportunities to view water resources while recreating = 2 pts 	
<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 pts • 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 pts • Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a potential resource or a proposed statewide connecting trail identified in VOP = 7 pts • Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a recreational trail = 5 pts 	
<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 pts • 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 pts • If area of project has a general reference in local or regional plan or project meets a general goal identified in a plan = 5 pts 	
<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 pts • Project provides public access to a developed park = 2 pts • Project provides trails for hiking or walking OR access to water trails = 2 pts • Project provides public access to historic areas = 1 pt • Project provides bicycle or equestrian trails = 1 pt 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project provides other need identified in VOP = 1 pt 			
<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. Add all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for public utilization between 241 and 365 days per year = 10 pts • Open between 181 and 240 days per year = 5 pts • Between 121 and 180 days per year = 3 pts • Between 61 and 120 days per year = 2 pts • Between 1 and 60 days per year = 1 pt 			
<p>7) Benefit Underserved Community (15 points) 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 pts • High Social Vulnerability = 10 pts • Moderate Social Vulnerability =5 pts • Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability =0 pts <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) 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> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>A. DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model Land-based Recreation Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • Low: 1 pt • Very low need: 0, but other supporting evidence provided to show need: up to 3 points </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>B. ParkServe Park Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • 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 </td> </tr> </table> <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 pts • High: 2 pts • Moderate: 1 pt • 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 pt 	<p>A. DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model Land-based Recreation Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • Low: 1 pt • Very low need: 0, but other supporting evidence provided to show need: up to 3 points 	<p>B. ParkServe Park Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • 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>A. DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model Land-based Recreation Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • Low: 1 pt • Very low need: 0, but other supporting evidence provided to show need: up to 3 points 	<p>B. ParkServe Park Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very High: 7 pts • High: 5 pts • Moderate: 3 pts • 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 		

9) ConserveVirginia (10 points)

Is the property included in any category of ConserveVirginia **and** providing daily outdoor recreation access? (<https://vanhde.org/content/map>)

- 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; $0.60 \times 10 = 6$ points)

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Appendix 6 - Additional Scoring Criteria

1. Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Identified Need

Up to three points will be awarded to applications if a project satisfies resource conservation needs as identified in the VOP or in a local comprehensive plan. The VOP can be found at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop>.

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 Nature Based Recreation Access Model Identified Need

Up to three points will be given to a project that provides public access AND is located in an area where there is at least a moderate need for recreation access identified in the Nature Based Recreation Access Model's terrestrial or aquatic layers found at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisrec>

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

Up to 11 points may be given to a project that protects water quality by requiring permanent vegetated riparian buffers exceeding the mandatory 35-foot width. Points will also be awarded for forested buffers that maintain an evenly dispersed minimal 50% forested canopy. Because protecting water quality is a long-standing goal of the Commonwealth supported through many voluntary cost-share and tax-credit programs, these points are awarded to those projects that voluntarily provide greater water quality protections beyond the required 35-foot riparian buffer in perpetuity.

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

Up to 10 points may be given to a project that identifies and protects cultural resources on the property and provides public educational opportunities. Provide with your application photos and documentation of the cultural resources found on site that will be protected by your project. Also, provide draft language to be used in the deed to protect the resources, and indicate whether there will be educational opportunities provided for the public.

Examples include remnants of prior settlements, artifacts, evidence of unmarked burial sites of enslaved or indigenous people, former segregated schoolhouses, sites of early racial integration, historic roadbed or railbed systems, historic wharfs, pine tar industry sites, gold mining pits, tobacco barns, etc. Applicants should contact the Department of Historic Resources for guidance on identification and the appropriate protections for historic resources.

Maximum 10 points.

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

5. 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

Up to a total of 10 points may be given dependent upon the degree to which the application includes information to demonstrate that the project benefits wildlife, habitat, and human/wildlife interaction. The breakdown for this category is: zero to three points for fish and wildlife habitat protection and management (one point for identifying wildlife, one point for protecting habitat, an added point for providing public access to view, hunt, or fish wildlife). An additional three points may be awarded for the identification of Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Species of Greatest Conservation Need or a state or federal threatened or endangered species; with another four points awarded for protection of associated habitat.

For more wildlife information, see: <https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/> or contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, (804) 593-2043.

Maximum 10 points

- Identify wildlife presence = 1 point; if Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) 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 DWR Species of Greatest Conservation Need or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species habitat is protected = additional 4 points
- Provide public access for viewing or hunting wildlife, or for fishing = 1 point

7. Protection of Identified Wildlife Corridors

Zero to 10 points may be given to projects that fall within an area designated as a wildlife corridor buffer or an actual corridor in the Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. As directed in § 29.1-579 of the Code of Virginia, DWR and partners developed the Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan identifying vital wildlife corridors, high quality habitat for priority species, and migration routes of native, game, and migratory species. The plan emphasizes protecting these vital wildlife habitat corridors and their buffers, as well as reducing wildlife-vehicle conflicts, such as collisions, to promote driver safety. Learn more about the 2023 plan here: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/corridors/>

Wildlife corridors and their buffers are mapped and accessible to the public on the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer (www.vanhde.org). To be awarded points, an application must include a description of how the project will protect the associated wildlife buffer or corridor in perpetuity. For guidance contact the Virginia DWR, (804) 593-2043.

Maximum 10 points

- 1%-50% of the property occurs within a designated wildlife corridor buffer and includes deed language to maintain the integrity of the buffer = 2 points

- >50% of the property occurs within a designated wildlife corridor buffer and includes deed language to maintain the integrity of the buffer = 4 points
- 1%-25% of the property occurs within a designated wildlife corridor and includes deed language to maintain the integrity of the corridor = 6 points
- 26%-75% of the property occurs within a designated wildlife corridor and includes deed language to maintain the integrity of the corridor = 8 points
- >75% of the property occurs within a designated wildlife corridor and includes deed language to maintain the integrity of the corridor = 10 points

8. **Public Access**

Zero to 10 points may be given dependent upon the extent of public access provided. Full public access means the property is open for public visitation 365 days a year. Visual access means the applicant can demonstrate the scenic value of the property and that the project will protect the integrity of the public's scenic view.

Degree to which the project provides public or visual access.

Maximum 10 points

- Full Public Access (365 days/year) = 10 points
- Restricted Public Access (180 to 364 days/year) = 5 points
- Limited Public Access (1 to 179 days per year) = 3 points
- Visual Access only = 2 points

9. **Underserved Communities**

Up to 10 points may be given to projects that benefit underserved communities. The Social Vulnerability Index created by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science may be used to identify underserved areas of the state. This index is found on the Adapt VA Interactive Map, see link here: https://cmap22.vims.edu/AdaptVA/AdaptVA_viewer.html. Data from other sources, such as EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool or Trust for Public Land's ParkServe database will also be considered for this criterion if the applicant provides their findings and the source reference.

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

10. **Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost**

The amount of match provided by the applicant can add up to three points. If the applicant claims 60 percent or more of matching funds, then a preliminary appraisal of the property must be submitted with the application for verification to be awarded points.

If providing 60 percent or more match, to get points provide an appraisal or pre-appraisal with your application.

Maximum 3 points

- Eighty percent or more of total project cost is provided as match = 3 points
- Sixty to 79 percent of total project cost is provided as match = 2 points

Total Maximum Score for Additional Scoring Criteria: 82 points