



2026 Surry-Skiffes Creek Restricted Funds Grant Round

June 18, 2026



Workshop Agenda

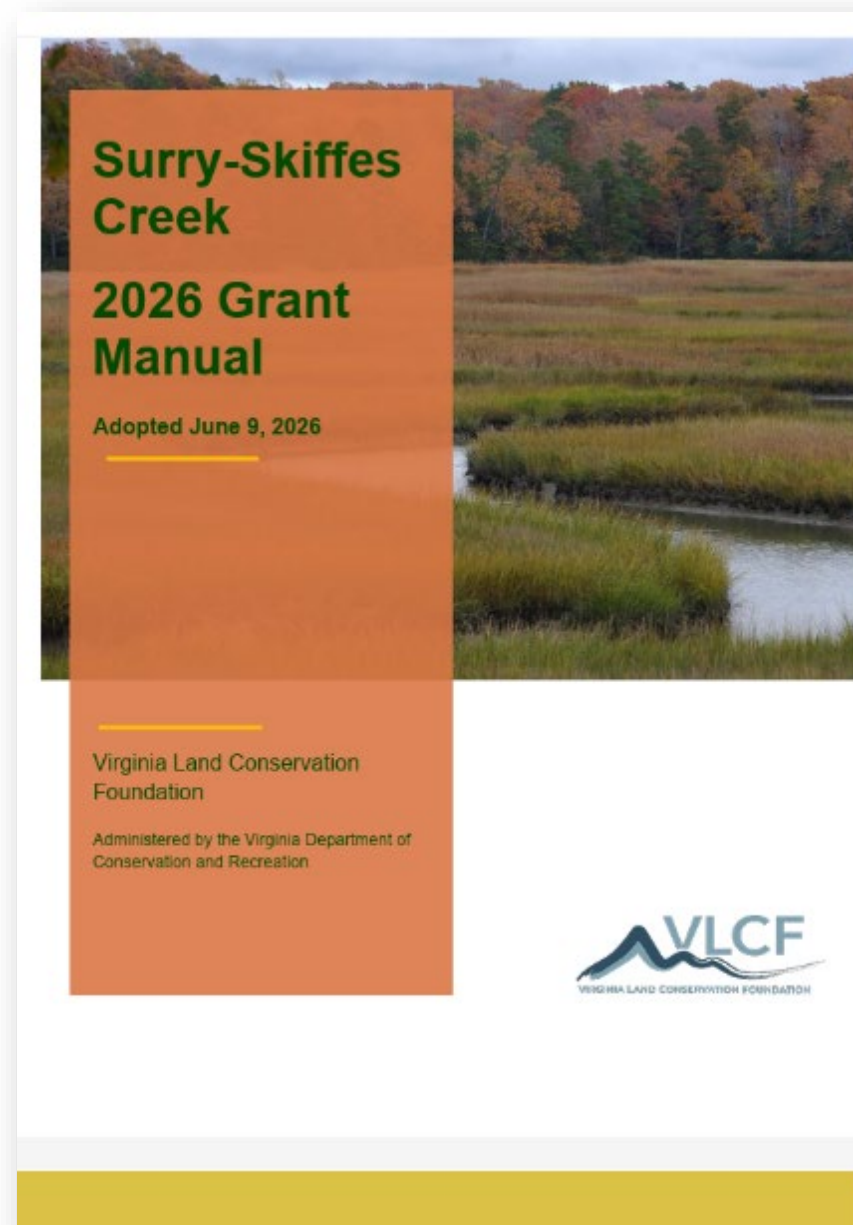
- 10:00 AM Overview of VLCF Grant Application Requirements
Linda Crowe, Grant Specialist, Department of Conservation & Recreation
- 10:30 AM Historic Resources Criteria
Elizabeth Tune, Deputy Director, Department of Historic Resources
- 11:00 AM Remaining Criteria
Linda Crowe
- 11:30 AM Questions from the audience

Proposed 2026 VLCF Dominion Surry Skiffes Creek Grant Schedule

June 9, 2026	VLCF Board meeting to approve grant manual and initiate the grant round request for proposals (RFP).
Week of June 9, 2026	Announce official opening of grant round (update website and send emails).
June 18, 2026	Virtual Grant Workshop: orientation and program information for grant applicants.
September 4, 2026	Deadline for application submittal.
September - October 2026	Interagency taskforce meetings to score projects.
Late October 2026	SNHR and Director's review of top-scoring projects.
November 2026	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of grant awards.
December 2026	Grant agreements sent to grant recipients. Projects have two years to close.

Surry-Skiffes Creek 2026 Grant Manual

Total funding available for third
grant round: \$250,000



Primary Focus Areas

1. Battlefield Conservation:

- Enhancement and/or preservation of the setting and feeling for the Battle of Yorktown and Fort Crafford.
- Development of public interpretive programs, signage, and exhibits focusing on the Peninsula Campaign, including the Battle of Hampton Roads, the Battle of Yorktown, the Battle of Williamsburg, and the strategic importance of Fort Monroe in each.



Primary Focus Areas

2. Landscape preservation with an emphasis on projects within the James River watershed benefitting the historic properties and district; and
3. Landscape scale conservation that may lead to precluding future river crossings and non-compatible shoreline development within the Area of Potential Effects (“APE”).





Area of Potential Effects

Program Eligibility

- State agencies, federal agencies, localities, state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes public bodies, and nonprofit organizations that are “holders”
- Nonprofits must show that they meet “holder” requirements of Va. Code. Federal co-holders allowable
- Letter from all landowners is required
- Applicant should show necessary capacity to manage the project





Program Eligibility

- Project must be able to be completed in TWO YEARS
- Putting an easement on land currently owned by the applicant = eligible
- Property or easements used as match must have been acquired within TWO YEARS before the start of this grant round (9/4/2026)

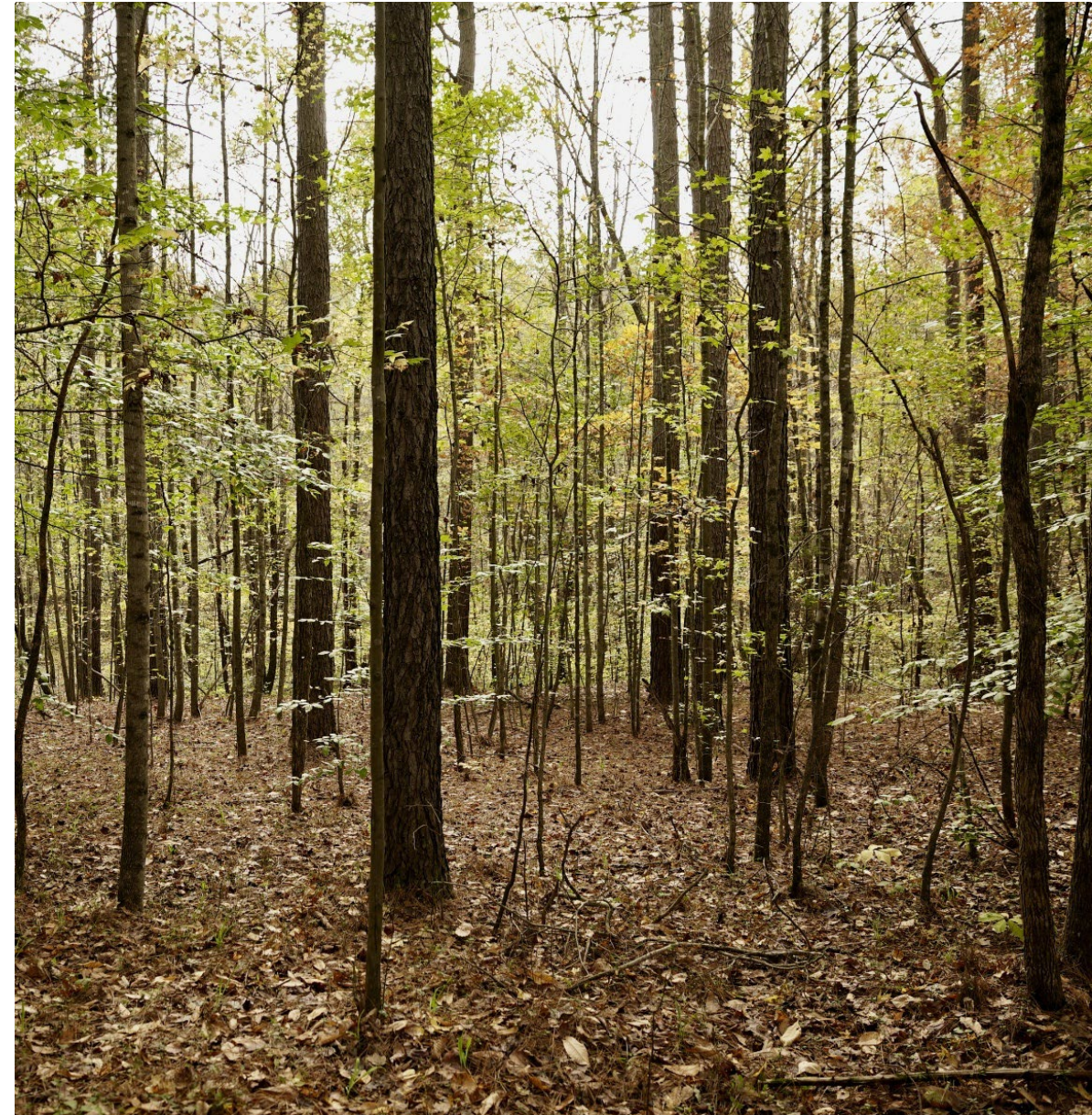
Program Requirements

- Projects undertaken by private holders must have an open space easement held or co-held by a PUBLIC BODY, i.e., a state or federal agency, local government or SWCD
- If project has a historic component, DHR has the right of first refusal for an easement to protect these resources



Program Requirements

- Explain conditions to be included in the easement – provide term sheet or draft deed
- The budget for development and implementation of interpretive signs and exhibits or other non-land acquisition costs must be supported by estimates from consultants or other providers of such materials





Program Requirements

Due diligence documents:

- USPAP appraisals no more than six months prior to payment of grant funds
- Evidence of clear title is needed, and all projects require title insurance
- A survey to ALTA/ACSM standards for fee simple acquisitions, or state specifications for easements is required
- Phase I Environmental Assessment is required on acquisition projects (not for easement projects)

Ineligible Projects and Costs

- Indirect costs (staff time or overhead) are not eligible match for acquisition or easement projects but may be considered for enhancement/interpretative projects
- Acquisition projects that include costs for maintenance and operation of lands and facilities; any such cost must be excluded from the total project costs and will not be considered as match contribution
- Project proposals that are not site specific or do not have a willing letter from all landowners

Match Contributions

- Due diligence costs – appraisals, legal fees, title reports, surveys, recordation fees, etc.
- “Pass-through” dollars from other governmental agencies
- Bargain sales, i.e., donation of some of the acquisition or easement cost
- Match should be committed at time of application and must be received by the time of closing
- A form letter (pg. 16 of the grant manual) must be used if match is not definite at the time of application.

Application Scoring

Applications are scored by:

- Dept. of Historic Resources, and
- Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

Scores are based on the criteria (pgs. 20 to 22 in grant manual)

VLCF Board will award grants in November 2026



Scoring Criteria

1. Historical Significance, Maximum score: 30

Property or resource is:

- associated with the Battle of Yorktown, Ft. Crafford, or Peninsula Campaign;
- identified with a preservation priority rating in the in specific battlefield reports
- individually listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) or is a contributing resource in a listed historic district;
- determined eligible for listing on VLR by DHR within previous 5 years and remains eligible in the opinion of DHR

Applicants must submit the VLR nomination form or documentation of battlefield priority rating, if applicable.

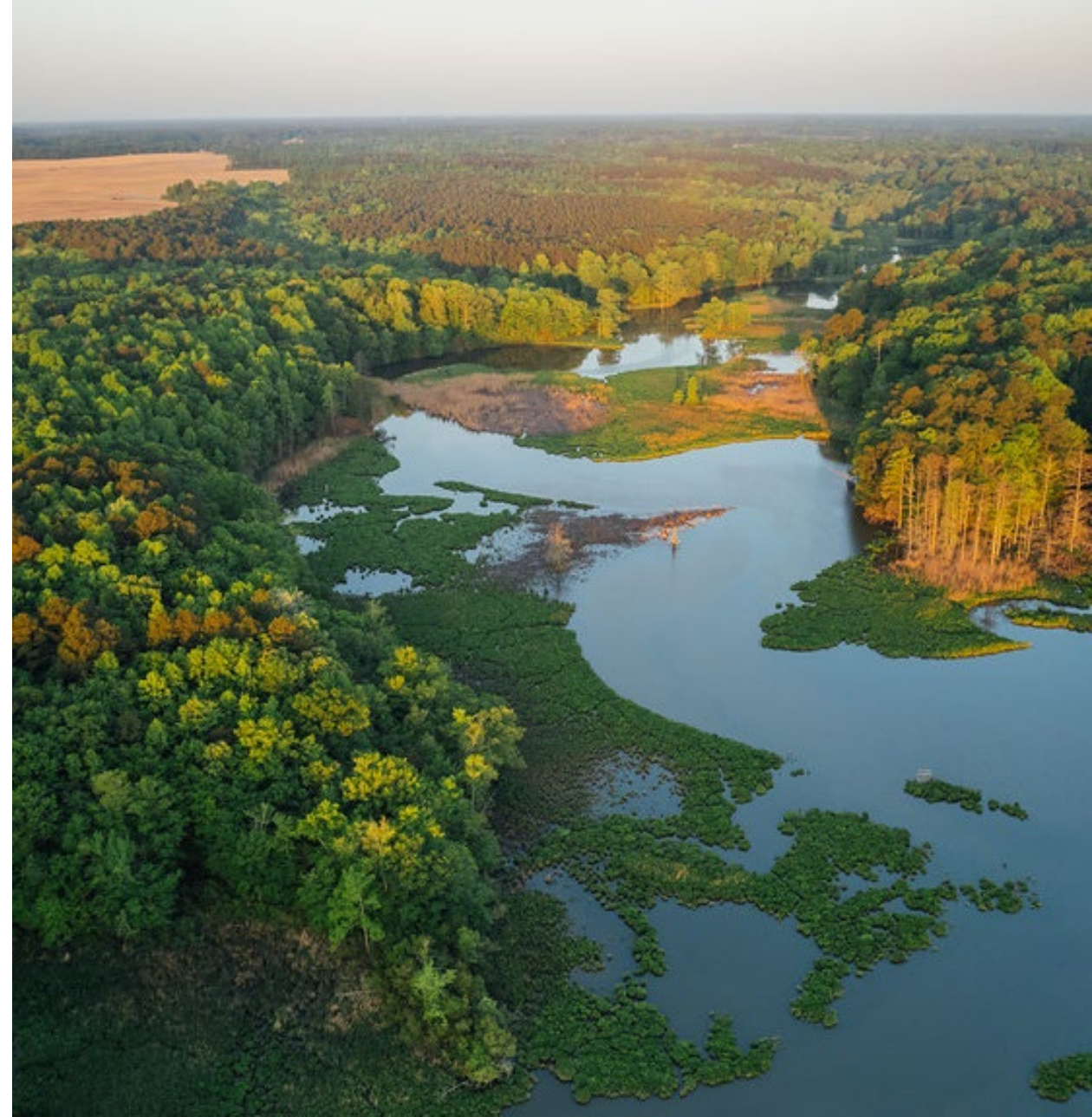
American Battlefield Protection Program website:
<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/resources.htm>

Scoring Criteria

2. Proximity to Impacts, Maximum score: 20

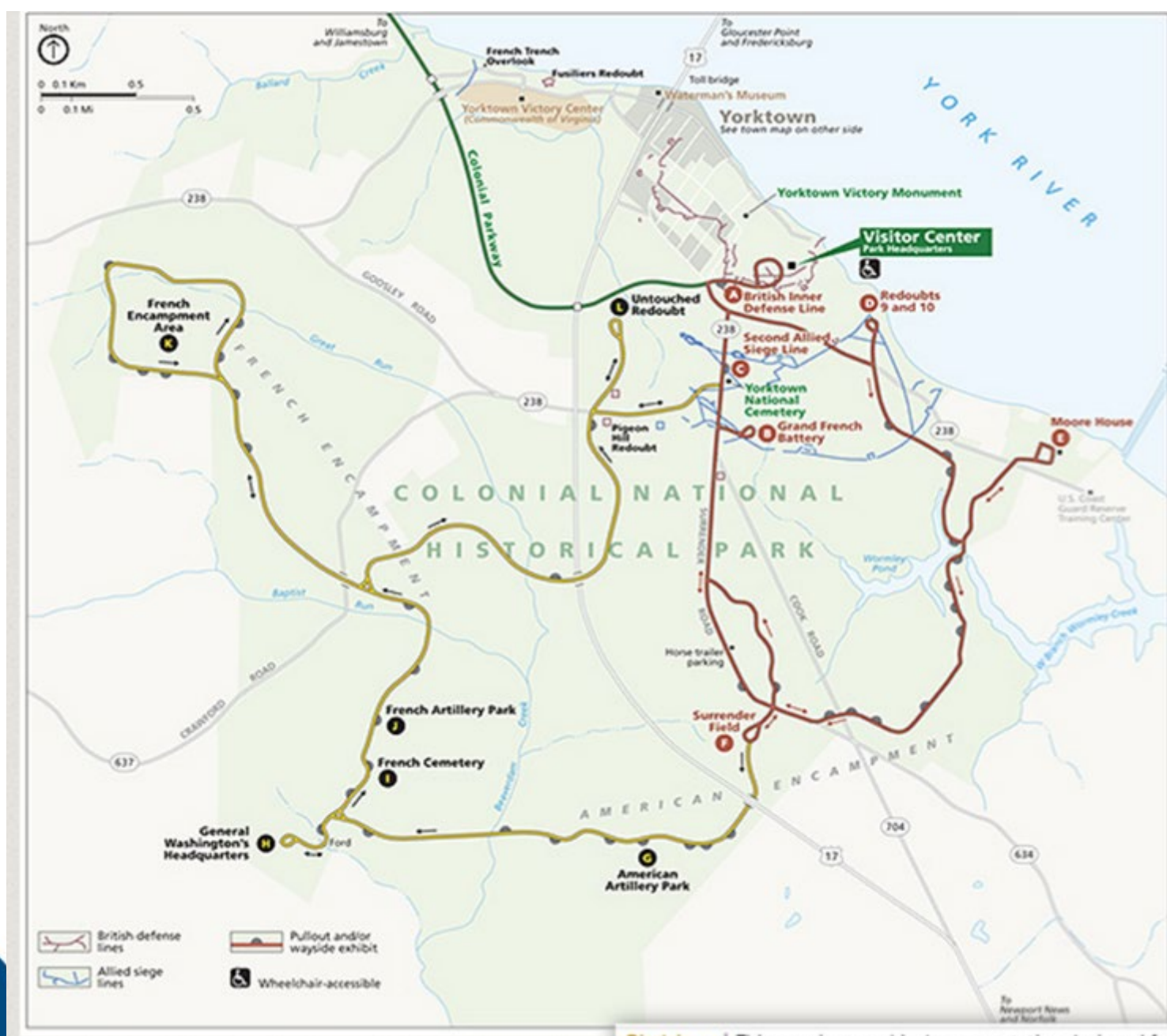
The Property or resource is located in, or will have an impact on:

- the Jamestown Island-Hog Island-Captain John Smith Trail Historic District, and thematically related areas;
- the Area of Potential Effect (APE); or
- the James River watershed

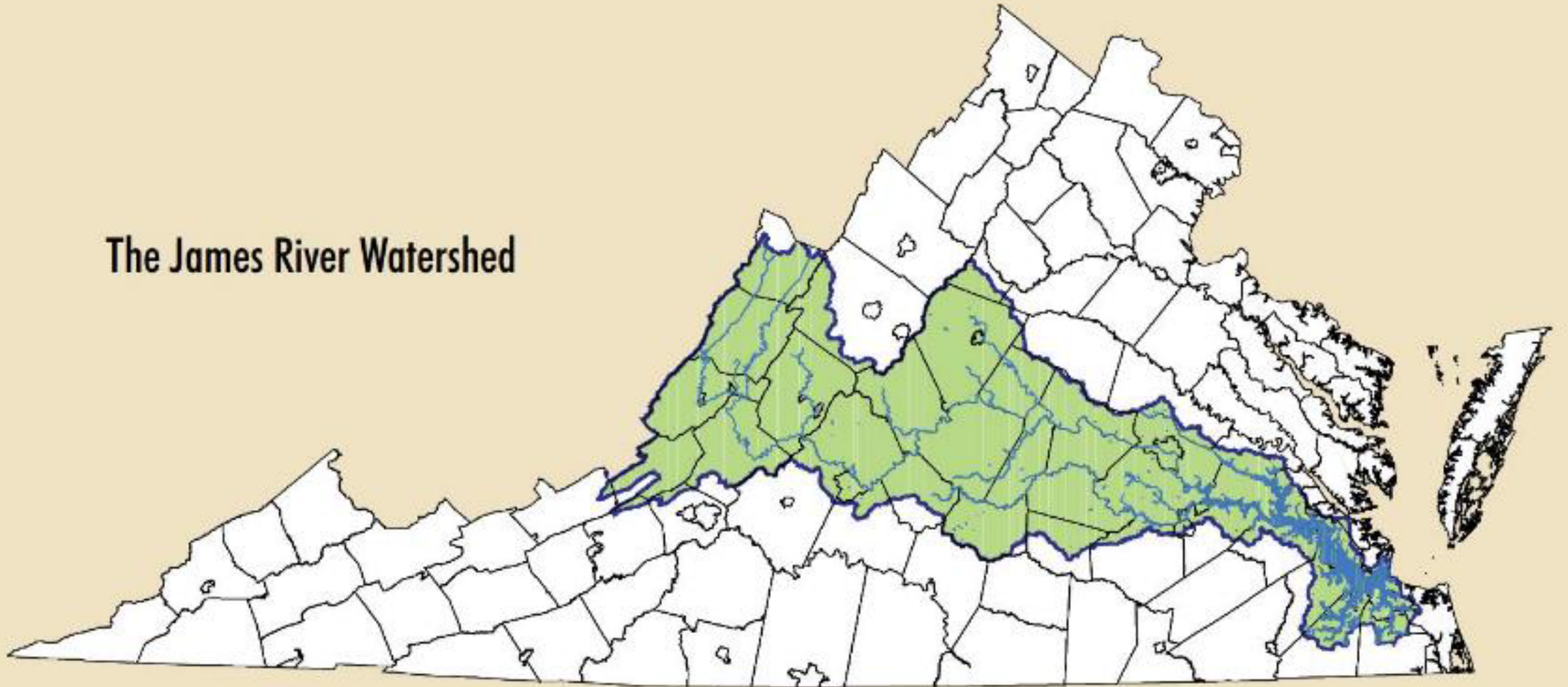




Area of Potential Effects



The James River Watershed



Scoring Criteria

3. Landscape Scale Shoreline Preservation, Max. score:15

Does the project permanently protect shoreline or adjacent landscapes from development, future river crossings, and loss of natural vegetation cover?

4. Presettlement Landscape Protection Max. score: 20

Is the project within a natural landscape core as identified in the Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment

The model can be found under the Natural Land Network layer at <https://vanhde.org/>

Scoring Criteria

5. **Public Use**, Maximum score: 15

Project provides public access and interpretive materials

6. **Degree of Threat**, Maximum score: 15

The project alleviates a threat to the resource, or a compelling need for immediate preservation exists

7. **Alignment with other Initiatives**, Maximum score: 13

Supports national, state, regional or local conservation goals and initiatives, comprehensive plans

Scoring Criteria

8. Management Capacity, Maximum score: 10

Applicant will manage property according to a documented resource management plan and has demonstrated organizational and financial capacity to ensure appropriate treatment and ongoing maintenance of the historic or natural resource

**Project plans must meet the relevant preservation standards and be approved by the Department of Historic Resources*

**Historic Structures Report or Resource Management Plan should be submitted with application, with sections applicable to the grant proposal highlighted.*



Scoring Criteria

9. Ratio of Match to Project Cost,
Maximum score: 10

Based on percentage of match provided

10. Cost and Budget, Maximum score: 5
Based on detailed itemized budget with
realistic cost projections

Total Maximum Score: 153

Application Information

- An electronic version of the application below must be emailed to DCR at landcon@dcr.virginia.gov, and must arrive no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026
- One electronic file – please don't split the application into multiple files
- If it's in PDF format, ensure that the file is searchable
- Photographs and maps are encouraged (actually, they're essential)
- All reproduced images must be clear and understandable

Application Weaknesses

- Project not within the APE, Historic District or James River Watershed
- No letter from the property owners stating they are willing to conserve their property
- No clear indication that project can be completed within two years
- No clear demonstration of the actual degree of threat to the property
- Providing an entire plan or study rather than just the excerpt from the plan that supports the application
- Not explicitly addressing all items and all scoring criteria in the application

Additional Information:

- Find the 2026 Surry-Skiffes Creek Grant Manual and other information here:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/vlcf>

- Contacts

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