

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

AGENDA

Welcome

1. Call to order, welcome, introduction of members, and opening remarks
David Bulova, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Business and Financial Matters

2. Approval of minutes for the November 3, 2025 Board Meeting
Secretary Bulova
3. Virginia Land Conservation Fund financial report
Laura Ellis, Deputy Director for Administration and Finance, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
4. Annual resolution to authorize DCR to expend interest from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR
5. Analysis of returned VLCF grant funds by category
Damian Martin, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR
6. Grantee requests for Board approval of existing VLCF awarded projects:
 - a. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources request to extend their FY23 grant to acquire and conserve 244 acres in Chesapeake beyond the three-year limitation due to delays associated with federal match funding
Becky Gwynn, Executive Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife Resources
 - b. The Nature Conservancy request to change the scope of their FY24 grant to acquire and conserve 680 acres in Washington County due to severed mineral rights
Meg Short, Land Protection Manager, and Brad Kreps, Program Director, Clinch Valley Program, The Nature Conservancy
7. Discussion of [House Bill 846](#), regarding public-body coholder requirements for accredited land trusts
Nikki Rovner, Director, DCR
8. Review of VLCF grant projects that have closed since November 2025
Damian Martin, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR

New VLCF Grant Rounds

9. Update on the Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek grant funding and approval of the 2026 Grant Round

Linda Crowe, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR

10. Discussion and approval of the VLCF FY27 Grant Round

Suzan Bulbulkaya

- a. Proposed FY27 Grant Manual and public comments
 - i) Overview
 - ii) Accounting for migration of wetlands in the scoring criteria
- b. Proposed FY27 Fiscal Expenditure Plan
- c. Proposed timeline for applications and awards
- d. Public comment
Secretary Bulova
- e. Board discussion and adoption of FY27 Grant Round documents

Other Business

11. Public comment

Secretary Bulova

12. Adjourn

Secretary Bulova

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

Chairman: The Honorable David Bulova, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Vice Chair: Morgan Slaven

Member Ex Officio: The Honorable Katie Frazier, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Executive Secretary: Nikki Rovner, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

1st Congressional District Robert Beals

2nd Congressional District Ryan Horsley

3rd Congressional District Col. Brian Hallberg

4th Congressional District Stewart Leeth

5th Congressional District Kathleen Kilpatrick

6th Congressional District Morgan Slaven

7th Congressional District The Honorable Ed Scott

8th Congressional District Gabriella Hoffman

9th Congressional District The Honorable Katie Lamb

10th Congressional District Bradley Gable

11th Congressional District Michael Molina

Chief William “Frank” Adams

The Honorable David W. Marsden

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Elizabeth Andrews

James Beamer

Lauren Alexandra Martin

Sonya Powell

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

Financial Condition Report

June 9, 2026

Fund Statement

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Fund Statement
As of April 30, 2026

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2022 **\$16,287,778**

INCOME

FY22 Stewardship Funds	\$2,124,370
FY23 Stewardship Funds	\$1,667,123
FY24 Stewardship Funds	\$2,222,606
FY25 Stewardship Funds	\$979,432
FY23 Appropriation - Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY24 Appropriation - Chapter 1	\$16,000,000
FY25 Appropriation - Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY26 Appropriation - Chapter 725	\$16,000,000
FY23 Interest	\$506,071
FY24 Interest	\$1,485,359
FY25 Interest	\$1,665,087
FY26 Interest*	\$1,298,741
TOTAL INCOME	\$75,948,789

DISBURSEMENTS

FY23 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,124,370
FY24 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,667,123
FY25 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,222,606
FY26 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$979,432
FY23 Grant Payments	\$5,507,148
FY24 Grant Payments	\$7,980,536
FY25 Grant Payments	\$6,810,796
FY26 Grant Payments*	\$16,804,734
FY23 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY24 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY25 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,340,301
FY26 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments*	\$4,000,000
FY23 Administrative Expenses	\$122,897
FY24 Administrative Expenses	\$54,947
FY25 Administrative Expenses	\$151,724
FY26 Administrative Expenses*	\$139,538
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$60,906,153

* Changes since last report

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - April 30, 2026 **\$31,330,414**

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
June 9, 2026

Resolution: Authorization for Administrative Funding for FY27

Background:

Pursuant to Va. Code § 10.1-1020(G): Up to \$250,000 per year of the interest generated by the Fund may be used for the Foundation's administrative expenses, including, but not limited to, the expenses of the Board and its members, development of the Foundation's strategic plan, development and maintenance of an inventory of properties as provided in subdivision 1 b of § [10.1-1021](#), development of a needs assessment for future expenditures as provided in subdivision 1 c of § [10.1-1021](#), and fulfillment of reporting requirements. All such expenditures shall be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Interest Balance on July 1, 2025	\$2,147,188
Interest Earned during FY26 through April 30, 2026	\$1,298,741
Budgeted VLCF Administrative Expenses for FY26	(\$150,000)
Budgeted Natural Heritage Expenses	(\$100,000)
FY26 Grant Round	(\$1,000,000)
Available interest	\$2,195,929

Authorization:

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expend up to \$250,000 of interest generated by the Fund in FY 2027 for use consistent with the legislative authority provided by *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-1020.G.; as outlined below:

FY 2027 \$250,000

Address existing administrative, web service and database-related expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant management activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff assisting with the VLCF grant program, the Webgrants online Grants Management Portal, land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission, and fulfillment of statutorily required reporting requirements.



Assessment of Returned VLCF Grant Funds

Analysis of Withdrawn and Under Expended VLCF Projects FY20 to FY24

In the past 26 years, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation has awarded 413 grants for land conservation projects across Virginia. Of those grants, 49 are still open, 66 have been withdrawn, and 297 grants have been successfully completed, conserving more than 106,000 acres.

At the June 3, 2025 VLCF Board meeting, staff presented summaries of projects that closed within the past six months. With five withdrawn grants returning more than \$2.2M in grant funds, the Board requested that staff evaluate past grant rounds to determine if there is an inherent risk in the success rate of projects in certain categories over others. Staff analyzed the five VLCF grant categories looking back five years to determine if there are any patterns of withdrawn projects and returned grant funds under each category.

The following analysis is based on “closed projects” from grant rounds FY20 to FY24, through May 1, 2026. During these five years, VLCF held five grant rounds awarding a total of \$50,262,296 to 152 grants.

For this analysis, “closed projects” means (i) those grant awards that were successfully completed and (ii) those that were unsuccessful and withdrew their grants. Meaning, they are closed out in our records. Some successful projects close under budget. Those under expended funds are included in this analysis as well.

At the time of this analysis, the FY23 grant round had 3 of 40 grants still open, and the FY24 grant round had 10 of 29 grants still open.

SUMMARY of VLCF GRANTS AWARDED FY20 to FY24

Grant Awards: 152

Grant Amount: \$50,262,296

Acres to be Protected: 99,383

OPEN VLCF GRANTS FY20 to FY24

Open Projects: 13

Total Grant Amount: \$4,647,938

CLOSED VLCF GRANTS FY20 to FY24

Closed Projects: 139

Total Grant Amount: \$45,614,358

Successful Projects: 104 (74.8% of closed projects)

Withdrawn Projects: 35 (25.2% of closed projects)

Under Expended Projects: 25 (17.9% of closed projects)

Withdrawn Amount: \$8,930,377 (19.6% of grant amount)

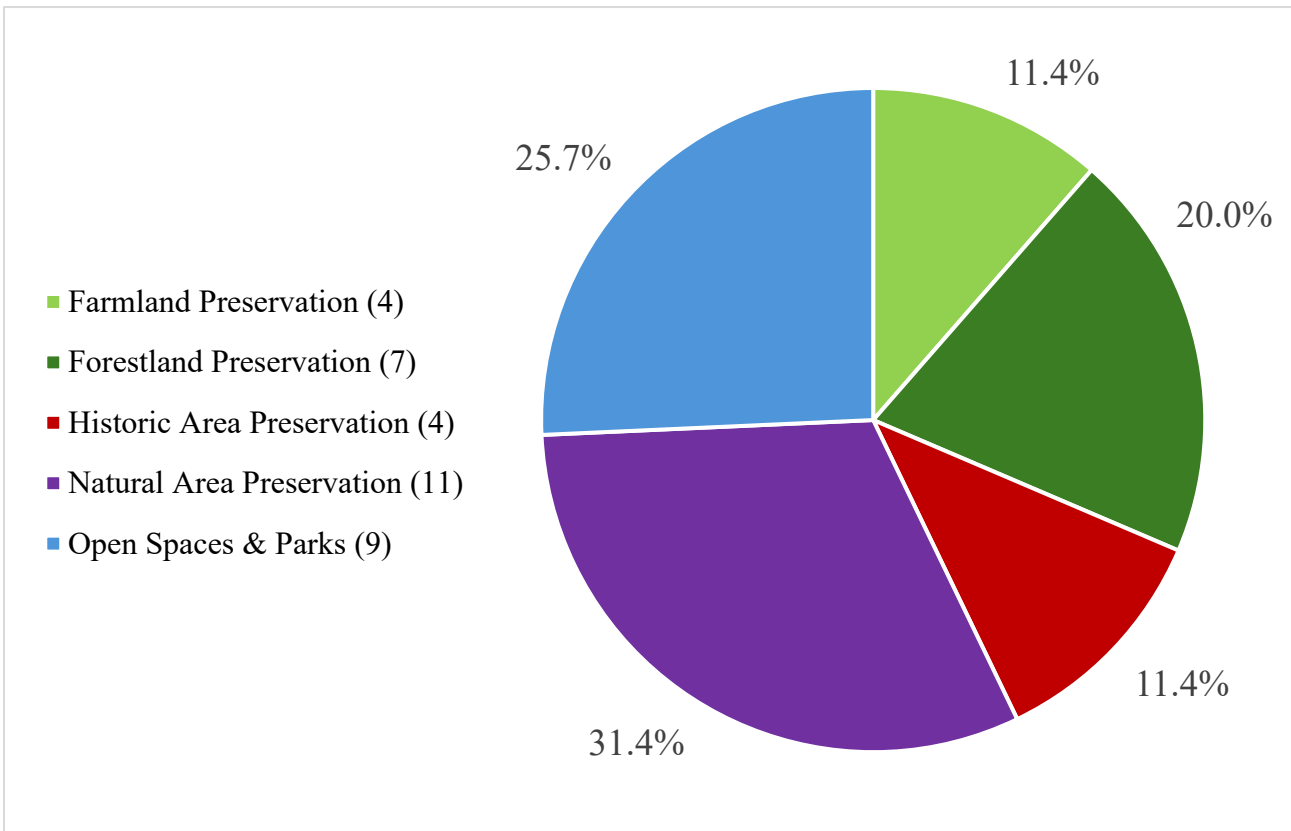
Under Expended Amount: \$1,320,735 (2.9% of grant amount)

Summary of FY20 - FY24 VLCF Grant Rounds									
VLCF Grant Category	Awarded Projects	Open Projects	Closed Projects	Completed Projects	Withdrawn Projects	Under Expended Projects	Grant Amount	Withdrawn Amount	Under Expended Amount
Farmland Preservation	23	2	21	17	4	0	\$7,129,700	\$738,750	\$0
Forestland Preservation	30	4	26	19	7	1	\$7,728,743	\$1,984,235	\$88,236
Historic Area Preservation	29	4	25	21	4	3	\$8,965,326	\$1,132,268	\$29,588
Natural Area Preservation	35	0	35	24	11	18	\$12,379,505	\$2,956,987	\$1,113,614
Open Spaces & Parks	35	3	32	23	9	3	\$9,411,084	\$2,118,137	\$89,297
Totals	152	13	139	104	35	25	\$45,614,358	\$8,930,377	\$1,320,735

Total Number of Withdrawn Projects and Associated Amount (\$) by Category

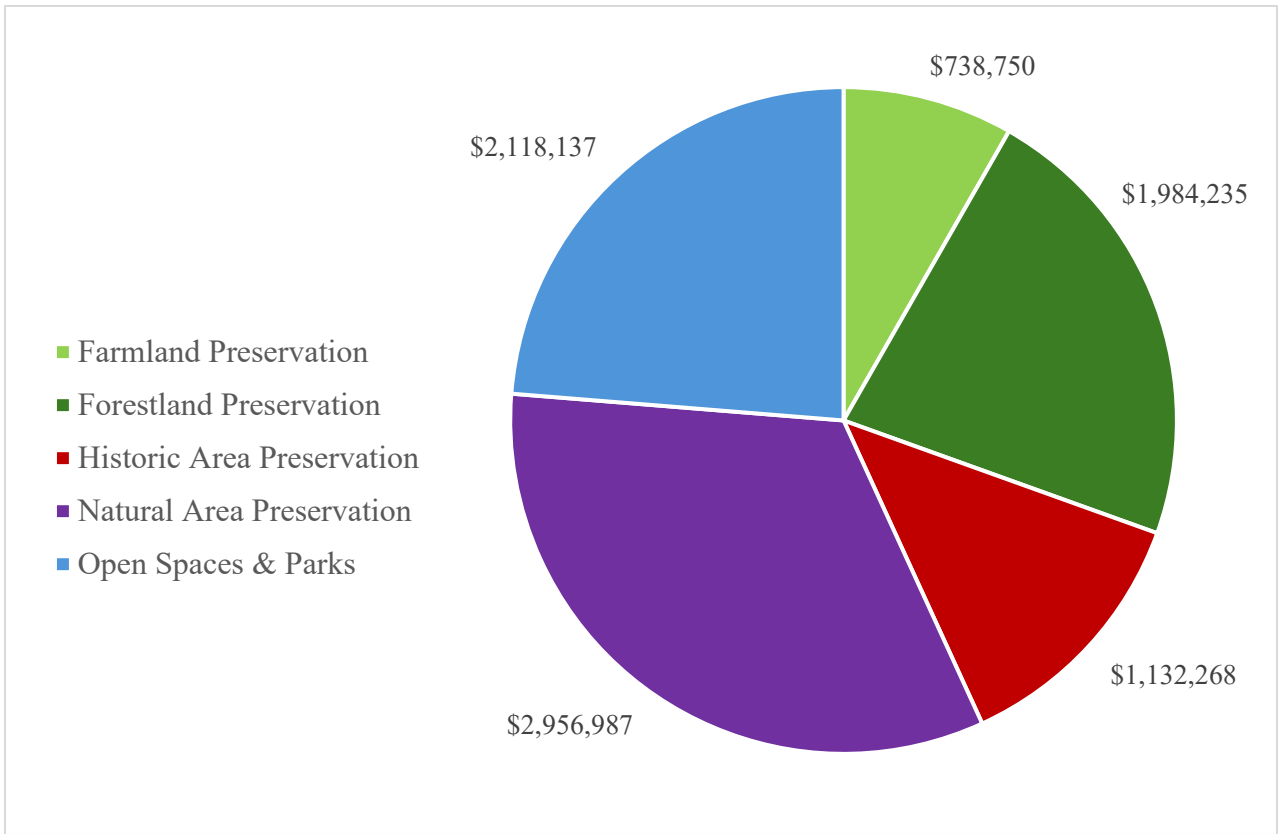
A total of 139 VLCF projects closed within those five years. Of the 139 projects, 35 were withdrawn (25.2% of all closed projects). The Natural Area Preservation category had the highest number of withdrawn projects (11) that accounted for 31.4% of all withdrawn projects, followed by Open Spaces & Parks (9) 25.7%, Forestland Preservation (7) 20.0%, and then Historic Area Preservation (4) 11.4% and Farmland Preservation (4) 11.4% (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of total number of withdrawn projects by category



A total of \$45,614,358 of VLCF grant funding was awarded for all closed projects between FY20 and FY24. Of that total, \$8,930,377 (19.6%) has been returned due to withdrawn projects. The Natural Area Preservation category had the largest amount of funding returned due to withdrawn projects with \$2,956,987 (33.1% of total returned funding), followed by Open Spaces & Parks with \$2,118,137 (23.7%), Forestland Preservation with \$1,984,235 (22.2%), Historic Area Preservation with \$1,132,268 (12.7%), and then Farmland Preservation with \$738,750 (8.3%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proportion of total withdrawn amount (\$) by category



Total Number and Amount (\$) of Under Expended Projects by Category

Part of this analysis considers projects that were under expended. That is, projects that closed under the proposed budget of the application resulting in grant funds being returned to the respective VLCF category for future grant rounds. Of the 139 closed projects, 25 were closed under budget (17.9% of all closed projects) with a total of \$1,320,735 being returned (2.9% of total grant awards). The Natural Area Preservation category had the highest number of under expended projects (18) that accounted for 72% of all under expended projects, followed by Open Spaces & Parks (3) and Historic Area Preservation (3), Forestland Preservation (1), and then Farmland Preservation (0).

The total under expended amount was \$1,320,735. The Natural Area Preservation category contributed 84.3% of the total under expended amount of \$1,113,614. Open Spaces & Parks category had a total of \$89,297 of under expended funds, Forestland Preservation had a total of \$88,236, Historic Area Preservation \$29,588, and \$0 from the Farmland Preservation category.

Analysis of Closed Projects Within Each Category

The following figures and tables analyze the number of projects and amount (\$) of grant awards for both withdrawn and under expended projects *within* each category, rather than total numbers relative to the other categories.

Number of Withdrawn Projects Within Each Category

The Natural Area Preservation category had the highest number of withdrawn projects (11) that accounted for 31.4% of all Natural Area Preservation projects, followed by Open Spaces & Parks (9) – 28.1% of all Open Spaces & Parks projects, Forestland Preservation (7) – 26.9% of all Forestland Preservation projects, the Historic Area Preservation (4) – 16.0% of all Historic Area Preservation projects and Farmland Preservation (4) – 19.0% of all Farmland Preservation projects (Figure 3; Table 1).

Figure 3: Percentage of withdrawn projects within each category for all closed projects

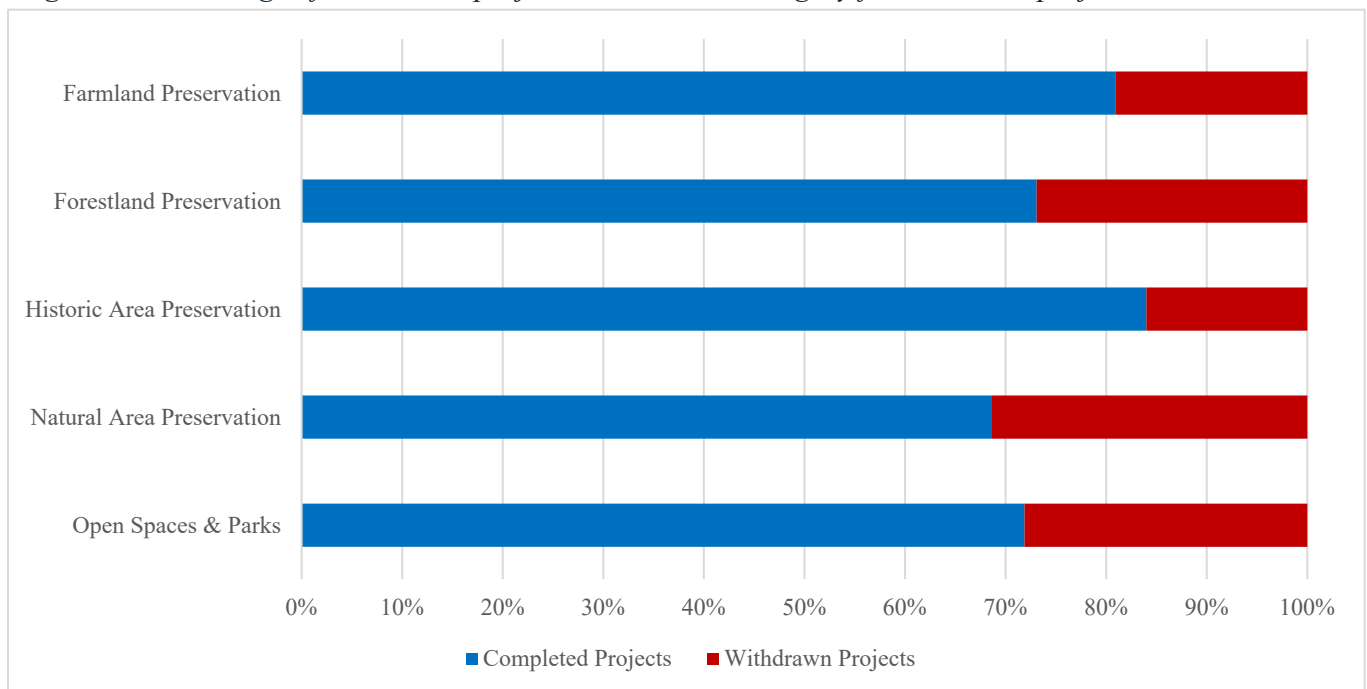


Table 1: Number of projects withdrawn and the relative percentage within each category for all closed

Category	Total # Closed Projects	# Withdrawn Projects	% Projects Withdrawn
Farmland Preservation	21	4	19.0%
Forestland Preservation	26	7	26.9%
Historic Area Preservation	25	4	16.0%
Natural Area Preservation	35	11	31.4%
Open Spaces & Parks	32	9	28.1%

Withdrawn Amount (\$) Within Each Category

The Natural Area Preservation category had the largest value of withdrawn funds, (\$2,956,987) that accounted for 23.9% of all Natural Area Preservation grant awards, followed by Open Spaces & Parks (\$2,118,137) – 22.5% of all Open Spaces & Parks funding, Forestland Preservation (\$1,984,235) – 25.7% of all Forestlands Preservation funding, Historic Area Preservation (\$1,132,268) – 12.6% of all Historic Area Preservation funding, and then Farmland Preservation (\$738,750) – 10.4% of all Farmland Preservation funding (Figure 4; Table 2).

Figure 4: Amount (\$) awarded and withdrawn within each category for all closed projects

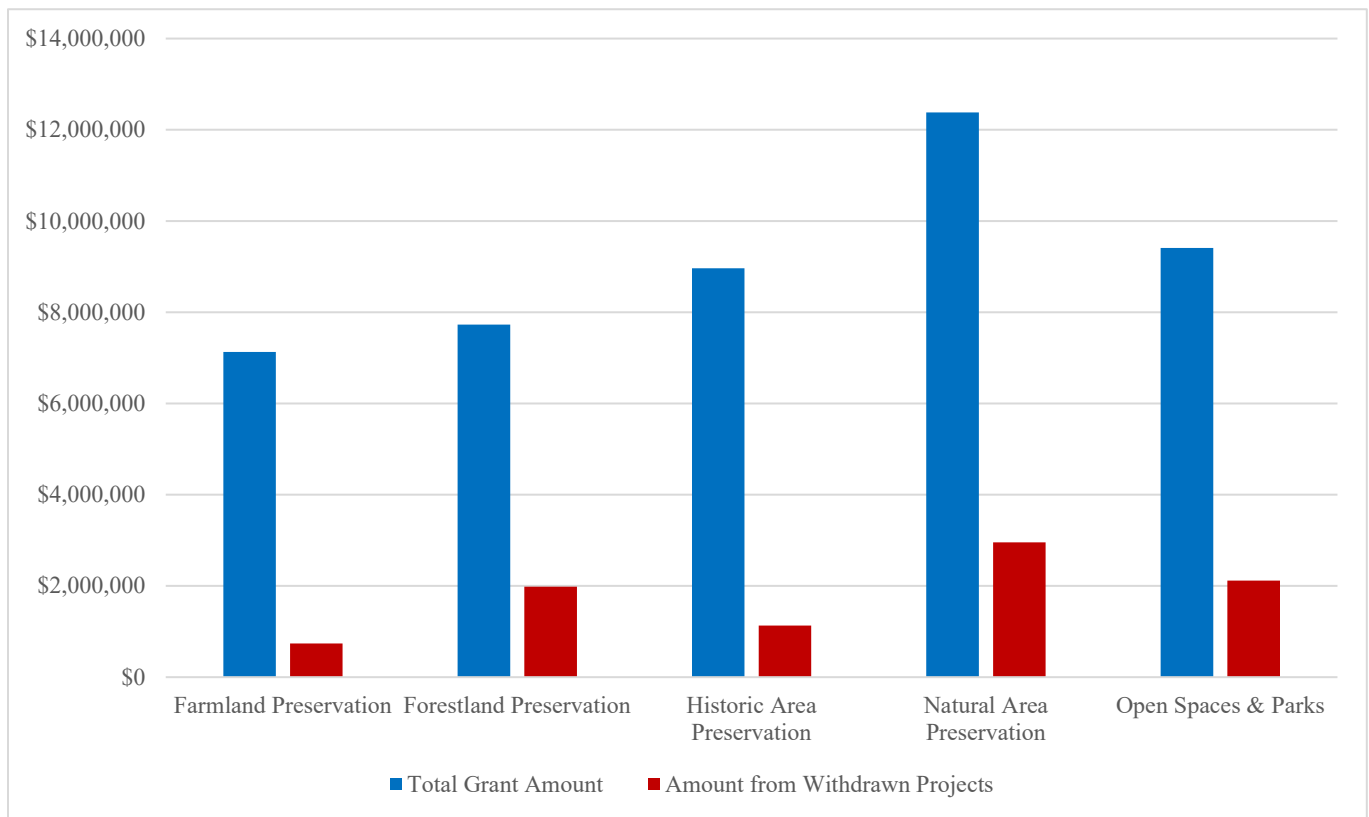


Table 2: Amount (\$) awarded and withdrawn and the relative percentage within each category for all closed projects

Category	Total Grant Amount	Amount from Withdrawn Projects	% Funding Withdrawn
Farmland Preservation	\$7,129,700	\$738,750	10.4%
Forestland Preservation	\$7,728,743	\$1,984,235	25.7%
Historic Area Preservation	\$8,965,326	\$1,132,268	12.6%
Natural Area Preservation	\$12,379,505	\$2,956,987	23.9%
Open Spaces & Parks	\$9,411,084	\$2,118,137	22.5%

Number of Under Expended Projects Within Each Category

The Natural Area Preservation category had the highest number of under expended projects (18) that accounted for 51.4% of all Natural Area Preservation projects, followed by Historic Area Preservation (3) – 12.0% of all Historic Area Preservation projects and Open Spaces & Parks (3) – 9.4% of all Open Spaces & Parks projects, Forestland Preservation (1) – 3.8% of all Forestland Preservation projects, and then Farmland Preservation (0) – 0.0% of all Farmland Preservation projects (Figure 5; Table 3).

Figure 5: Percentage of under expended projects within each category for all closed projects

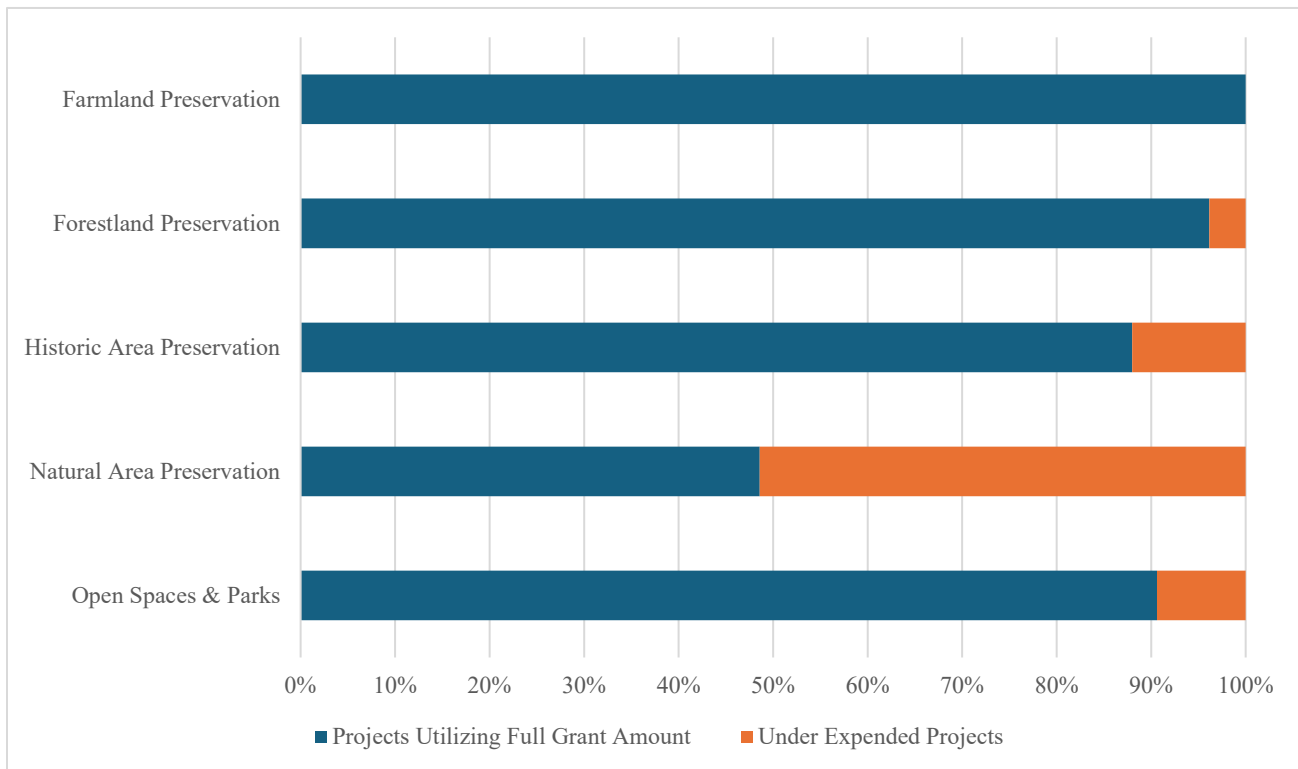


Table 3: Number of projects under expended and the relative percentage within each category for all closed projects

Category	Total # Closed Projects	# Under Expended Projects	% Projects Under Expended
Farmland Preservation	21	0	0.0%
Forestland Preservation	26	1	3.8%
Historic Area Preservation	25	3	12.0%
Natural Area Preservation	35	18	51.4%
Open Spaces & Parks	32	3	9.4%

Amount (\$) from Under Expended Projects Within Each Category

The Natural Area Preservation category had the largest value of under expended funds (\$1,113,614) that accounted for 9.0% of all Natural Area Preservation grant awards, followed by Open Spaces & Parks (\$89,297) – 0.9% of all Open Spaces & Parks funding, Forestland Preservation (\$88,236) – 1.1% of all Forestlands Preservation projects, Historic Area Preservation (\$29,588) – 0.3% of all Historic Area Preservation funding, and then Farmland Preservation (\$0) – 0% of all Farmland Preservation funding (Figure 6; Table 4).

Figure 6: Percentage of under expended funds relative to total grant payment within each category

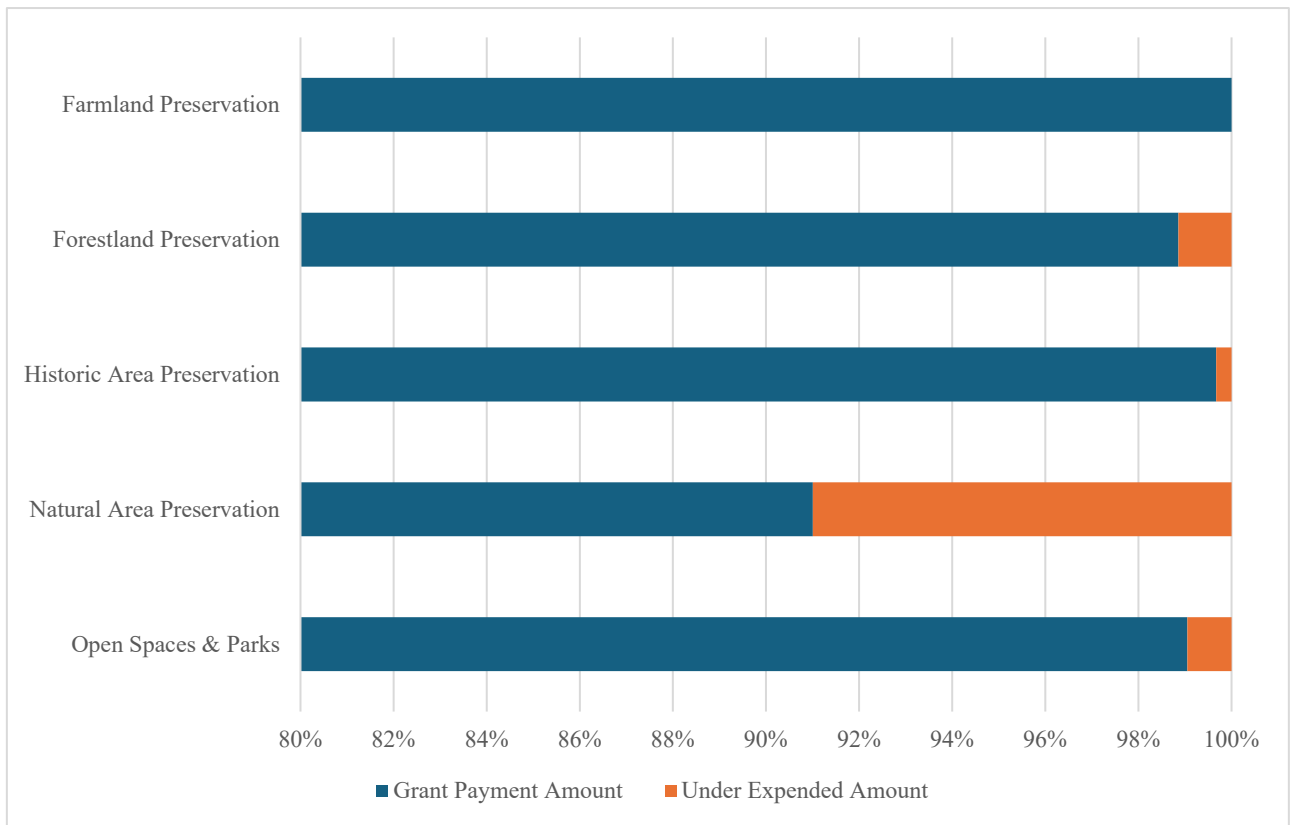


Table 4: Amount (\$) awarded and under expended and the relative percentage within each category for all closed projects

Category	Total Grant Amount	Under Expended Amount	% Funding Under Expended
Farmland Preservation	\$7,129,700	\$0	0.0%
Forestland Preservation	\$7,728,743	\$88,236	1.1%
Historic Area Preservation	\$8,965,326	\$29,588	0.3%
Natural Area Preservation	\$12,379,505	\$1,113,614	9.0%
Open Spaces & Parks	\$9,411,084	\$89,297	0.9%

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

June 9, 2026

TOPIC: Department of Wildlife Resources Request for VLCF Grant Extension Beyond Three Years to December 31, 2026

SUBJECT: VLCF Grant 296 (23) – Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

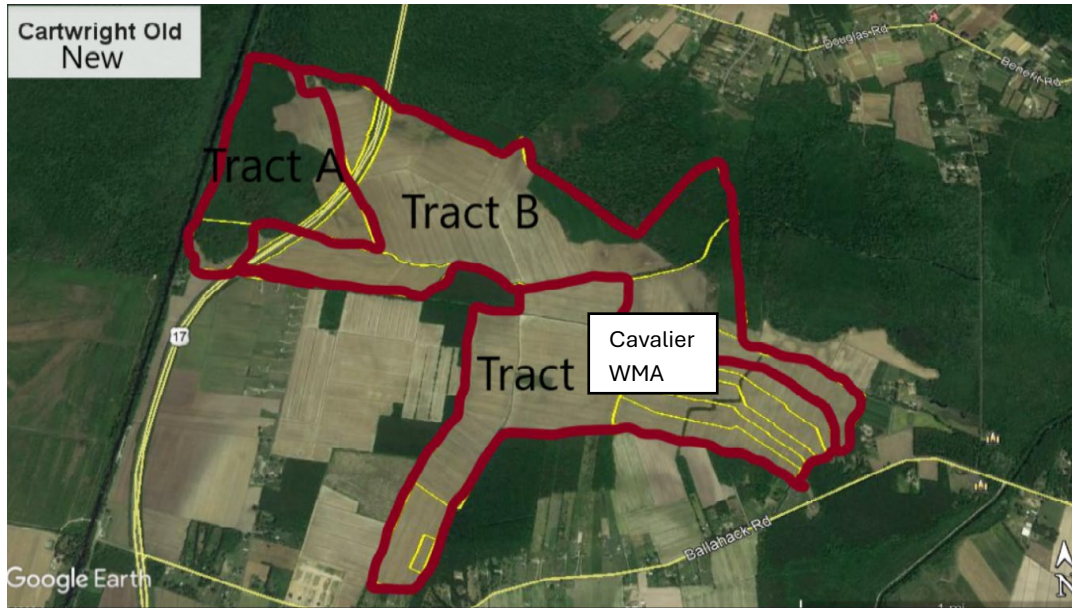
- The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) was awarded a VLCF FY23 grant for \$281,219 to contribute to the acquisition and conservation of 244 acres in the City of Chesapeake.
- The 244-acre parcel is part of a larger project to secure a conservation corridor made up of three parcels totaling 1,250 acres, connecting the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to the Cavalier Wildlife Management Area.
- Due to the need to move quickly to acquire the property when it came up for sale, Ducks Unlimited (DU) assisted DWR by purchasing the property as a conservation buyer, holding the property until DWR could secure all of the necessary funding.
- Due to the complexities of this project being a part of a larger, three-parcel 1,250-acre acquisition by DU on behalf of DWR and timing complications for DWR securing federal funds, the three-year VLCF deadline has passed.
- More time is requested by DWR to complete the acquisition now that all federal funding has been secured through USFWS and EPA.

SUMMARY:

In November 2022, the Department of Wildlife Resources was awarded a VLCF grant for \$281,219 to contribute to a total cost of \$1,125,000 to acquire and conserve 244 acres in the City of Chesapeake. The grant funds are needed to supplement a federal grant for \$844,000 that DWR obtained from USFWS Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration grant funds. The expected purchase price was \$1,075,000. The grants also cover due diligence costs.

This parcel is one of three totaling about 1,250 acres that expands efforts to build a corridor of conservation lands bridging the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Cavalier

Wildlife Management Area. Ducks Unlimited (DU) is serving as an intermediate conservation buyer to effect initial security of this acreage. Through this FY23 project, the DWR would acquire the first 244 acres of this larger property into public ownership (Tract A; see map below).



Ducks Unlimited was able to step in and purchase Tract A as timing was critical. The 4,000-acre farm immediately south of the property is being transformed into the Coastal Virginia Commerce Park, and the disruption to a host of natural systems is expected to be substantial. There is relatively limited access to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge on the east side of

the Refuge, and recurrent flooding on Ballahack Road that cuts off public access to the entrance of the DWR's Cavalier Wildlife Management Area. This parcel (and the two adjoining parcels not included in the VLCF grant) will provide ripe new opportunities for outdoor recreation, such as wildlife viewing, kayaking (the property is immediately adjacent to the Intercoastal Waterway), hiking, fishing, walking and hunting.

This project has been through a couple of complicated stages. DWR is purchasing the property from DU. The two other parcels, Tracts B and C in the above map, were also purchased by DU as a conservation buyer, and DWR hoped to purchase all three parcels from DU in one transaction to reduce related due diligence costs. However, the federal funds took longer than planned to secure, DU took longer than planned to acquire the other two parcels, and the consolidated approach proved to be more complex than anticipated.

Grants awarded by VLCF have two years to be completed, then if more time is needed grantees can request a one-year extension. At the end of those three years, staff either tells the grantee time is up due to lack of progress or allows the grantee a few more months until the next board meeting to complete their project. So far, that strategy has worked. However, this year, DWR has requested an extension beyond that three-year timeframe for this project to December 31, 2026.

If this grant extension is approved, everything will be in place for DWR to work through the state acquisition process for all three parcels in two separate phases. The first phase will be to acquire the original 244 acres using the VLCF grant and USFWS funds by December 31, 2026. The remaining two tracts (not part of the VLCF application) will be acquired by DWR in 2027 using 100% EPA funding.

BACKGROUND:

Staff is not aware of a request for a grant extension coming before the VLCF Board in the past. Typically, grantees get the project done or withdraw the grant. This situation may become more prevalent as federal funding has become more uncertain.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- DWR Fiscal Impact: DWR will need to reapply for VLCF funds as part of the next grant round to complete the acquisition of the property from DU. DWR does not currently have alternate funding in place to support the project. DWR could reapply for the same grant funding in the FY27 grant round. This, however, would set back the timing of the project even further, as the grant funding would not be secured until the VLCF Board potentially awarded a grant in the future.

- VLFC Fiscal Impact: Approval of the requested grant extension results in no fiscal impact to VLFC. The grant funds are already obligated for this project. If the grant extension is not approved, the grant funds will be included in the next grant round.

OPTIONS:

Deny Request and Cancel Grant: Denial of the requested extension would result in DWR losing the grant and cancelling the project in its entirety.

Approve Request: Authorize the grant extension as requested to allow for the property to be acquired and to utilize VLFC funds to acquire 244 acres.

RECOMMENDED ACTION AUTHORIZATION:

The request to extend VLFC Grant 296(23) to December 31, 2026, to allow DWR more time to acquire 244 acres in the City of Chesapeake is:

Denied ____

Approved ____

Date: _____

Signature

David Bulova, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and Chair, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

June 9, 2026

TOPIC: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) requests a change of scope to acquire less than fee simple title of 680 acres in Washington County

SUBJECT: VLCF Grant 332 (24) – Clinch Mountain, Pinnacle Rock

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

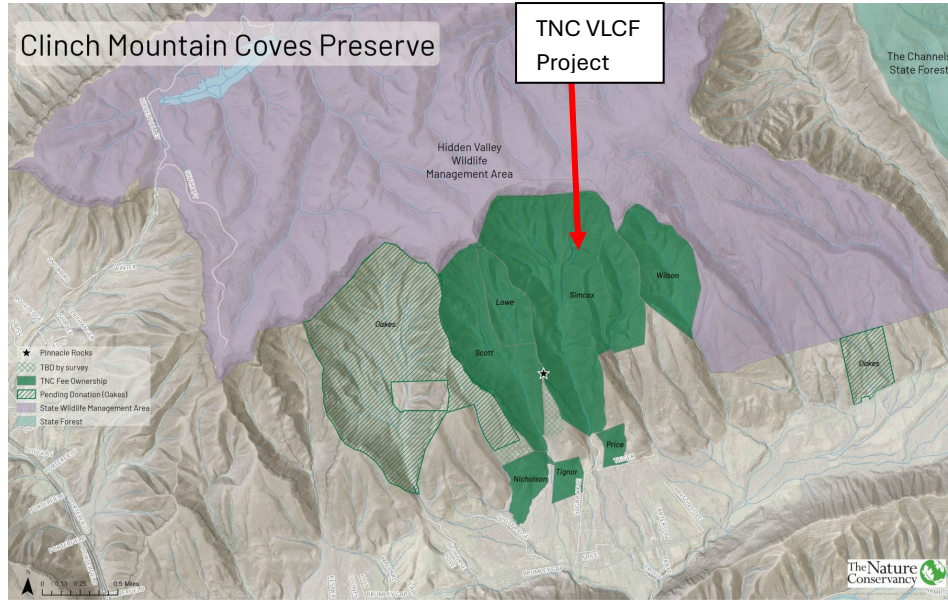
- TNC was awarded \$567,250 in November 2023, to acquire and conserve 680 acres in Washington County with an open space easement held by the Department of Forestry (DOF). TNC purchased the property in September 2024 for \$1M.
- TNC requested and was awarded a one-year grant extension to complete the open space easement with DOF by December 31, 2026. In March 2026, TNC sent VLCF staff a draft deed of easement that included language saying the mineral rights had been severed. The title policy they shared also included language excepting the severed mineral rights from coverage.
- TNC learned of the severed mineral rights before they purchased the property. The mineral rights were retained by Virginia Bright Timberlands, LLC in 2001. When asked by staff to contact the owner to purchase the mineral rights, TNC said they have done their due diligence and believe there is very low likelihood of mining occurring in that area.
- TNC is seeking a change of scope for their project to exclude acquiring the mineral rights.

SUMMARY:

The Nature Conservancy was awarded a grant for \$567,250 in November 2023 to purchase 680 acres in Washington County and conserve it with an open space easement held by the Department of Forestry. This Clinch Mountain Pinnacle Rock project received the highest score in the Forest Preservation category because the application earned maximum points by pledging to maintain 95% of the property in forest cover in perpetuity, public access 365 days per year, and to protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and five layers of Conserve Virginia in perpetuity. As a result, TNC received the full amount of funding requested: \$567,250.

The property is a key addition to TNC assembling a flagship nature preserve in the Clinch Mountains, as it is flanked by other TNC owned land, creating the Clinch Mountain Coves

Preserve. The property is also adjacent to the Department of Wildlife Resources Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area.



TNC purchased the property in September 2024 for \$1M after learning through a title search that the mineral rights had been severed back in 2001. The owner of the mineral rights is still alive and resides in West Virginia.

In December 2025, TNC requested and was awarded a one-year grant extension by VLCF staff to complete the project by December 31, 2026. TNC worked with DOF on an open space easement. They shared that draft easement with VLCF staff in February 2026, which is when staff learned of the severed mineral rights. The title policy obtained by TNC includes language excepting the severed mineral rights from coverage.

TNC believes they have executed their due diligence and determined there is no coal or gas in that area. They conferred with the VA Department of Energy, who agreed there is low potential for minerals. The only mining prospect identified is gravel. TNC says the county comprehensive plan shows the area as conservation lands and therefore determined there is a low risk the area would be mined because there is no economically viable mineral resource present.

The open-space easement with DOF recognizes the third-party mineral interest and if mined, would require the reclamation plan to return the property to forest.

The TNC application promised:

- 100' forested riparian buffers on 24,800' of perennial streams.
- Protecting five layers of ConserveVirginia resources

- Public access 365 days per year
- Public access trails, connectivity to Hidden Valley WMA
- 95% of the property would remain in forest cover
- Protection of wildlife habitat and corridors, and
- Received extra points for public access in a high recreation needs area

The resources are not fully protected if there is a risk that mining could occur on the property.

BACKGROUND:

- This project scored the highest in the Forest Preservation category in 2023 for the extensive, significant natural resources and public access promised.
- That same year, the VLCF Board did approve funding the 44,000-acre Highlands-Lonesome Pine project with TNC and DWR. That project received \$1M under the Open Spaces and Parks category, knowing the mineral rights were severed and active mining was occurring in certain areas. TNC presented the project together with DWR to the Board and there was plenty of discussion about severed mineral rights, ongoing mining, and public access. Because it was such a large property it was determined that public access would not be significantly impeded. TNC and DWR would work with Virginia Department of Energy on all reclamation plans to ensure the mined areas would be remediated appropriately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- TNC Fiscal Impact: TNC does not currently have alternate funding in place to support the project. They have purchased the property relying on the VLCF grant for reimbursement of 50% of their costs.
- VLCF Fiscal Impact: Approval of the requested change of scope results in no fiscal impact to VLCF. The grant funds are already obligated for this project. If the grant extension is not approved, the funds will be included in the next grant round in the Forestland Preservation category

OPTIONS:

- Deny Request and Cancel Grant: Denial of the requested extension would result in TNC losing the grant.

- Approve Request: Authorize the grant extension as requested by TNC to allow for the less than fee simple property to be acquired and to utilize VLCF funds to acquire 680 acres. There is a risk that the conservation values and conditions promised in the VLCF application will not be protected or fulfilled.
- Require TNC to seek purchase of the mineral rights: The owner of the mineral rights is identified in the 2001 deed. He lives in West Virginia and could be contacted and requested to sell his mineral rights. Then TNC will own the property in fee and there will be no risk to the many resources to be protected in perpetuity with the DOF easement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION AUTHORIZATION:

The request to change the scope of VLCF Grant 296(23), to allow TNC to acquire less than fee simple title to 680 acres in Washington County is:

Denied ____

Approved ____

Conditionally Approved ____

Signature

Date: _____

David Bulova, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and Chair, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation



**TNC Clinch Mountain – Pinnacle Rock
VLCF Project Number: 332 (24)**

June 9, 2026

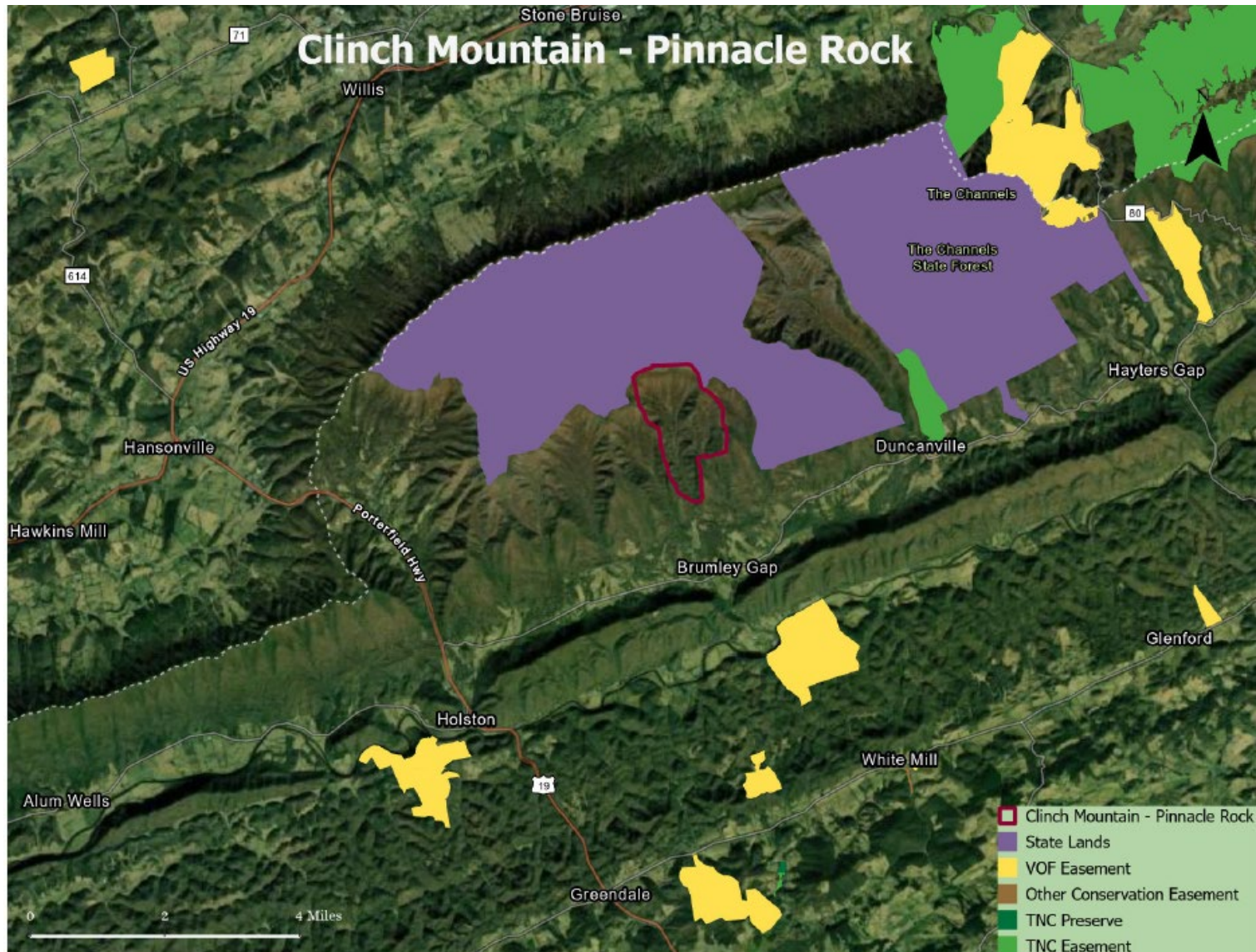


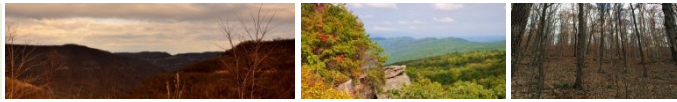


Presentation Outline

1. Pinnacle Rocks Property (VLCF Award) and TNC's Clinch Mountain Coves Preserve
2. Status of Current VLCF Award
3. Issue for Discussion: Mineral Severance on Tract 2 (Change in Scope)
4. TNC Due Diligence on Mineral Severance and Determination of Low Risk
5. Continued Alignment of Project with VLCF Forestland Preservation Category
6. Requesting VLCF Board Approval for Change in Scope
7. Questions/Discussion







Status of the VLCF Award For Clinch Mountain- Pinnacle Rocks :

Grant Agreement executed 1/15/24

Grant Award \$567,250

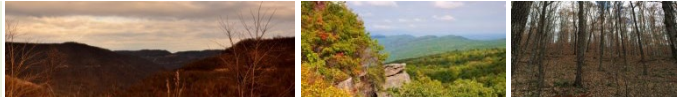
Land Acquired by TNC on 9/30/24
for purchase price of \$1M

DOF Conservation Easement in Draft
Final Form

Plan to seek VLCF Reimbursement
this Fall

Award ends 12/31/26





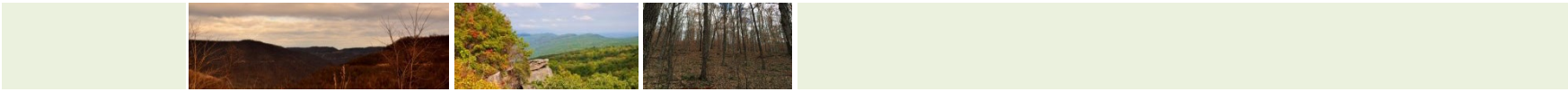
TNC Due Diligence on Mineral Severance Risk: *Remoteness Evaluation*

Based on research, TNC concludes that the risk presented by the mineral severance is very low



According to the VA Dept. of Energy:

- (1) The Pinnacle Rocks property is located outside of the Virginia coalfields.
- (2) There are no documented coal layers or geologic layers on Clinch Mountain that contain known gas reserves as per USGS geological maps.
- (3) There are no coal mining or natural gas well permits on Clinch Mountain in Washington County.
- (4) There are no permitted hard rock mines on Clinch Mountain in Washington County (or applications for permits).
- (5) There are no exploration permits on Clinch Mountain.



Additional Factors Contributing to Very Low Risk:

- (1) There is no indication that sub-surface mining of any kind is economically feasible in the vicinity of the property.

Hypothetically, if it ever became economically compelling to pursue mineral extraction in the future:

- (1) The conservation resources present on the Pinnacle Rocks tract and The Nature Conservancy as the surface owner would make state (and possibly federal) permitting process for mining quite challenging. Note: many of the adjacent tracts to the Pinnacle Rocks property are now owned by TNC and there are no mineral severances on these adjacent TNC tracts.

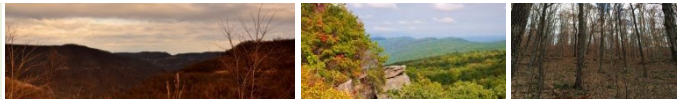
- (2) The County decision-making framework would present additional hurdles. The property is zoned as Conservation-Recreation (CR) by Washington County:

where protection of natural resources, open space, conservation, and recreation are the priorities

Washington County confirmed that TNC's preserve and the Clinch Mountain - Pinnacle Rock conservation easement comply with the Washington County Comprehensive Plan

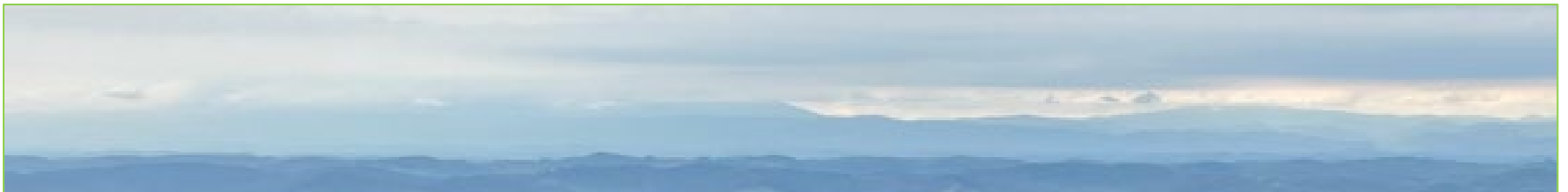
any proposed quarry in this zone would require a Special Use Permit approved by both the planning commission and the board of supervisors, with public meetings required.

- (3) Public use, enjoyment, and appreciation of the TNC preserve over time (including Pinnacle Rocks tract) will be a disincentive to mineral development.



FY 24 VLCF Application Information Remains Applicable

1. ~ 95% of the property has high conservation value forest (DOF 2020 Forest Conservation Value Model).
2. Protection of 4.7 miles of headwater streams to the North Fork Holston River (conservation easement terms include 100 ft stream buffers).
3. The pinnacle rock formation is an exceptional outdoor recreational feature.
4. Over 1-mile shared boundary with DWR's Hidden Valley WMA - connecting over 50,000 acres of forested land along Clinch Mountain.
5. Within TNC's Resilient and Connected Network – climate resilient sites designed to sustain biodiversity and ecological functions into the future.
6. Broad support from partner organizations remains (DOF, DWR, DCR, etc.).





Request for Continued Support of this VLCF Grant and Approval of the Scope of Work Change

TNC does not believe the mineral severance impairs or presents any significant risk to the conservation purposes or conservation outcomes of the project.

TNC believes the fee title to the property is good and marketable.

TNC has confirmed with an updated 3rd party appraisal that the mineral severance does not diminish the Fair Market Value of the Pinnacle Rocks tract.

We respectfully request the VLCF Board's approval for a change in scope for this project.



Thank you & Questions



VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 433

An Act to amend and reenact § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

[H 846]

Approved April 8, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-1020. Virginia Land Conservation Fund; purposes of Foundation.

A. The Foundation shall establish, administer, manage, including the creation of reserves, and make expenditures and allocations from a special, nonreverting fund in the state treasury to be known as the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund. The Foundation shall establish and administer the Fund solely for the purposes of:

1. Acquiring fee simple title or other rights, including the purchase of development rights, to interests or privileges in property 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 for conservation and restoration of homelands for state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes; and

2. Providing grants to state agencies, including the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes, and matching grants to other public bodies and holders for acquiring fee simple title or other rights, including the purchase of development rights, to interests or privileges in real property for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agricultural and forestal lands and open space. The Board shall establish criteria for making grants from the Fund, including procedures for determining the amount of each grant and the required match. The criteria shall include provisions for grants to localities for purchase of development rights programs.

Interests in land acquired as provided in subdivision 1 may be held by the Foundation, state agencies, state-recognized or federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes, other public bodies, and appropriate holders. Whenever a holder acquires any interest in land other than a fee simple interest as a result of a grant or transfer from the Foundation, such interest shall be held jointly by the holder and a public body. *However, the Board may waive such requirement if such holder is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission or meets a similar set of standards and practices adopted by the Board and the easement contains a third party right of enforcement as defined in § 10.1-1009 in favor of the Department or another public body.* Whenever a holder acquires a fee simple interest in land as a result of a grant or transfer from the Foundation, a public body shall hold an open space easement in such land.

B. The Fund shall consist of general fund moneys and gifts, endowments or grants from the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and funds from any other available sources, public or private. Such moneys, gifts, endowments, grants or funds from other sources may be either restricted or unrestricted. For the purposes of this chapter, "restricted funds" shall mean those funds received by the Board to which specific conditions apply; "restricted funds" shall include, but not be limited to, general obligation bond moneys and conditional gifts. "Unrestricted funds" shall mean those received by the Foundation to which no specific conditions apply; "unrestricted funds" shall include, but not be limited to, moneys appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly to which no specific conditions are attached and unconditional gifts.

C. In any fiscal year for which the Fund is appropriated less than \$10 million, and after an allocation for administrative expenses has been made as provided in subsection G, the remaining unrestricted funds in the Fund shall be allocated as follows:

1. Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund to be used as provided in § 10.1-1801.1; and

2. Seventy-five percent shall be divided equally among the following four grant uses: (i) natural area protection; (ii) open spaces and parks, including but not limited to, land for public hunting, fishing or wildlife watching; (iii) farmlands and forest preservation; and (iv) historic area preservation. Of the amount allocated as provided in this subdivision, at least one third shall be used to secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.

D. In any fiscal year for which the Fund is appropriated \$10 million or more, and after an allocation for administrative expenses has been made as provided in subsection G, the remaining unrestricted funds in the Fund shall be allocated as follows:

1. Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund to be used as provided in § 10.1-1801.1; and

2. The remaining funds shall be divided equally among the following five grant uses: (i) natural area protection; (ii) open spaces and parks, including but not limited to, land for public hunting, fishing, or wildlife watching; (iii) farmland preservation; (iv) forestland conservation; and (v) historic area preservation.

E. Any moneys remaining in the Fund at the end of a biennium shall remain in the Fund, and shall not revert to the general fund. Interest earned on moneys received by the Fund other than bond proceeds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any funds transferred to the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund pursuant to this section and not disbursed or committed to a project by the end of the fiscal year in which the funds were transferred shall be returned to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund and shall be redistributed among the authorized grant uses during the next grant cycle.

F. A portion of the Fund, not to exceed 20 percent of the annual balance of unrestricted funds, may be used to develop properties purchased in fee simple, or through the purchase of development rights, with the assets of the Fund for public use including, but not limited to, development of trails, parking areas, infrastructure, and interpretive projects or to conduct environmental assessments or other preliminary evaluations of properties prior to the acquisition of any property interest.

G. Up to \$250,000 per year of the interest generated by the Fund may be used for the Foundation's administrative expenses, including, but not limited to, the expenses of the Board and its members, development of the Foundation's strategic plan, development and maintenance of an inventory of properties as provided in subdivision 1 b of § 10.1-1021, development of a needs assessment for future expenditures as provided in subdivision 1 c of § 10.1-1021, and fulfillment of reporting requirements. All such expenditures shall be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

H. The Comptroller shall maintain the restricted funds and the unrestricted funds in separate accounts.

I. For the purposes of this section, "public body" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in § 10.1-1700, and "holder" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in § 10.1-1009.

Status Report on VLCF Grant Projects

June 9, 2026

Recently Completed Projects

The following 26 VLCF grant projects have successfully closed since the VLCF Board meeting on November 3, 2025. Four of the 26 projects received a second VLCF grant for supplemental funding to complete the projects, resulting in a total of 30 grants being closed since the last board meeting.

1. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville (FY2023) – Farmland Preservation

PEC together with Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District conserved a 365.59-acre farm in Orange County with an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement, leveraging private, state (VLCF) and federal funding. Located southeast of Montpelier and along Hen + Bacon Run, the property fronts the Blue Ridge Turnpike (Route 231), part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway. The farm has a cattle operation with 200 head of cattle, with 240 acres in pasture and 60 acres in forest. Buffering three miles of the Hen + Bacon Run, tributaries, ponds and wetlands with 50-to-100-foot vegetated riparian buffers will help enhance water quality in a Stream Conservation Unit and in the Rappahannock River watershed.

Grant Award: \$237,500; **Payment Amount:** \$237,500; **Match:** \$810,989 (NRCS ACEP-ALE and private funds); **Project Closed:** January 2026

2. The Conservation Fund – Roanoke River Working Forest II (FY2023) – Forestland Preservation

Phase II of The Conservation Fund's (TCF) Roanoke River Working Forest project protects 1,355 acres of working forestland in Charlotte County. This project consists of four separate tracts, one of which TCF has transferred in fee to the Department of Forestry (DOF), and the other three are protected via open-space easements held by DOF. The properties are located near the recently created Charlotte State Forest, also partly funded through VLCF. This project protects critical wildlife corridors and important habitat for threatened and endangered species, will maintain sustainable working forests in the timber-basket of Virginia, and helps safeguard clean drinking water.

Grant Award: \$395,000; **Payment Amount:** \$395,000; **Match:** \$2,710,766 (US Forest Legacy grant and landowner donations); **Project Closed:** May 2026

3. American Battlefield Trust – Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boydton Plank Road Battlefield (FY2023) - Historic Area Preservation

The American Battlefield Trust has preserved the 11-acre Amelia & Associates LLC Tract in Dinwiddie County through fee acquisition and recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The property is located within

the Boydton Plank Road Battlefield and the White Oak Road Battlefield. The tract is unimproved and divided into ten parcels that include 1.4 acres of freshwater forested/shrub wetland, nine acres of forest, and 226 feet of an unnamed intermittent stream. The Trust plans to steward the tract as open space available to the public year-round for educational purposes.

Grant Award: \$121,985; **Payment Amount:** \$121,985; **Match:** \$123,000 (ABPP); **Project Closed:** March 2026

4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation – Woodworth Cottage (FY2023) - Historic Area Preservation

The Woodworth Cottage is located in the Town of New Market in Shenandoah County and is a contributing resource to the New Market Historic District. The property is a 0.26-acre lot with a 3,468 square foot building constructed between 1865 and 1867. The property was owned by Jessie Hainning Rupert, a teacher, who taught white children in the building during the day, and African American students at night. There was little support for her school, and the opposition of the school caused attendance to decrease. Eventually, due to the lack of funding and the establishment of Virginia’s free school system, Ms. Rupert closed the school in 1870. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation received VLCF reimbursement for the acquisition and conveyance of a historic preservation and open-space easement to the Va. Board of Historic Resources. The Foundation plans to use the first floor as a museum and exhibit on the role of women and African American’s during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Grant Award: \$135,000; **Payment Amount:** \$135,000; **Match:** \$178,000 (ABPP); **Project Closed:** May 2026

5. Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation – French Tract at Fisher’s Hill Battlefield (FY2023; FY2024) - Historic Area Preservation

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) received two grants from VLCF in FY23 and FY24 for a total of \$824,258 to purchase and conserve the 146-acre French Tract. The property is in Shenandoah County and within the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield and the study area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield. The property was part of the Confederate defensive position during the Battle of Fishers Hill and adjoins other property conserved by SVBF. The heavily forested tract is also used for agriculture and contains the ca.1810 Pifer House. The South Fork of Tumbling Run passes through the property, stretching over 4,000 feet and is protected with 35’ vegetated buffers.

Grant Award: \$474,258 (FY23), \$350,000 (FY24); **Payment Amount:** \$824,258; **Match:** \$904,000 (ABPP); **Project Closed:** April 2026

6. American Battlefield Trust – Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield (FY2023) - Historic Area Preservation

The American Battlefield Trust has preserved the 12-acre Carter Tract in eastern Henrico County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Carter Tract is located entirely within the Core

Area of the Seven Pines Battlefield. The tract includes a residence that was present at the time of the battle, a lofted barn, and several small outbuildings. The property is partially wooded with four acres of trees and 95 feet of frontage on an unnamed intermittent stream bed. The Trust intends to demolish the non-historic structures and offer periodic tours. Eventually, the Trust proposes to transfer the tract to a conservation buyer or a local entity for public use as a pocket park.

Grant Award: \$183,745; **Payment Amount:** \$183,745; **Match:** \$147,000 (ABPP) plus private funds; **Project Closed:** March 2026

7. American Battlefield Trust – Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield (FY2023) - Historic Area Preservation

The American Battlefield Trust preserved the 8-acre Proctor Tract in Culpeper County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is located entirely within the Core Area of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield. The property contains two single-family dwellings and outbuildings with two acres of thinly scattered forestland. The Trust will remove the non-historic structures and transfer the property to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for inclusion in the Culpeper Battlefields State Park.

Grant Award: \$217,835; **Payment Amount:** \$217,835; **Match:** \$831,000 (ABPP & landowner donation); **Project Closed:** October 2025

8. DCR-DNH – Brocks Gap NAP (FY2023) - Natural Area Preservation

DCR's Natural Heritage Division acquired and conserved 214 acres along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Rockingham County that fall within a significant ecological core. This project is within an essential conservation site and establishes a new Natural Area Preserve. The property features Virginia's largest example of globally rare Northern White Cedar Forest as well as a population of state threatened Wood Turtles. It lies along the North Mountain fault; a major geologic boundary defining the edge of the Shenandoah Valley. The property intersects four categories of ConserveVirginia and is the site of an October 6, 1864 battle between General George Custer's cavalry division and that of Confederate General Thomas Rosser, known as the Battle of Brock's Gap.

Grant Award: \$670,000; **Payment Amount:** \$669,897; **Amount Returning to Natural Areas Category:** \$103.41; **Project Closed:** December 2025

9. DCR-DNH – Ellett Escarpment NAP (Linzey & Jones Tracts) (FY2023; FY2025) - Natural Area Preservation

DCR-DNH received funding from two VLCF grant rounds to acquire and protect 34 acres in Montgomery County made up of two separate tracts under different ownership. 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. DNH's fee-simple purchase of the properties protected a significantly rare natural

heritage resource, along with mature calcareous forests surrounding the karst feature and a narrow ecological buffer. This project established the newest Natural Area Preserve, located in one of Virginia's Essential Conservation Sites and overlapping two categories of Conserve Virginia.

Grant Award: \$293,500 (FY23), \$165,254 (FY25); **Payment Amount:** \$393,477; **Amount Returning to Natural Areas Category:** \$65,277; **Project Closed:** December 2025

10. City of Danville – Memorial Drive Recreation Area (FY2023) - Open Spaces & Parks

VLCF funds assisted with the acquisition of nearly seven acres of land along the Dan River that surrounds the White Mill and is part of a 19-acre tract on Memorial Drive within the City of Danville. The property is also listed in the Virginia Landmarks Registry (VDHR 108-0123). The Industrial Development Authority sold the property to Danville's Parks and Recreation Department to develop a recreation area. The site contains an 1816 waterpower canal that will be repurposed for a recreation amenity for rafters and kayakers as well as a training facility for professional swift water rescue teams. On the northern edge of the property a covered 925-foot-long pedestrian bridge built in 1920 spans the Dan River, serving as a connector from the city's trail system on the south side of Virginia's Scenic Dan River to the north side trail system.

Grant Award: \$500,000; **Payment Amount:** \$500,000; **Match:** \$861,052 (City of Danville, Danville Regional Foundation, and Brownfields Grant); **Project Closed:** January 2026

11. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Coles Point Boating Access (FY2023) - Open Spaces & Parks

The DWR acquired three acres in Westmoreland County for the development of a boat ramp and two hand-launch sites for public access to Branson Cove and the Potomac River, as well as an ADA-accessible fishing pier, and a gravel parking area. This project provides new access to the Potomac River Water Trail, Potomac River Long-Distance Water Trail, and Westmoreland County Water Trail, addressing both county and regional priorities for additional sites that provide public access to Virginia's water resources. The property is also included on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, providing access to public and private sites for wildlife viewing.

Grant Award: \$532,025; **Payment Amount:** \$532,025; **Match:** \$504,037 (Virginia Marine Resources Commission grant); **Project Closed:** April 2026

12. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection Along the Rapidan River Tributaries (FY2024) - Farmland Preservation

The Piedmont Environmental Council and Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District were awarded a VLCF grant in FY24, leveraging significant federal and private funding to protect farmland and improve water quality in the Rappahannock Basin. This pioneering project includes American Farmland Trust who facilitated the transfer of the farm to the next generation by providing bridge financing to a young farmer, so he could buy his aunt's share of the subject property and use the easement proceeds for loan repayment. The young farmer runs a cow-calf operation on the farm within a matrix of pasture, hayfields and forest. This project: conserves

229 acres of farmland and forestland, including 161 acres of prime and statewide significant soils and 135 acres of forest; and protects water quality by maintaining 35 to 50-foot forested riparian buffers along one mile of Rapidan River tributaries.

Grant Award: \$282,500; **Payment Amount:** \$282,500; **Match:** \$745,193 (NRCS ACEP-ALE); **Project Closed:** April 2026

13. Land Trust of Virginia – Huff Rock (FY2024; FY2025) - Forestland Preservation

Land Trust of Virginia (LTV) received two VLCF grants (FY24 and FY25) to assist with placing a conservation easement on the 663-acre Huff Rock property in Wise County. The property is east of Big Stone Gap on Powell Mountain, which forms the eastern border of the Powell River Valley and is part of the High Knob Massif. Huff Rock is mostly forested and contains numerous conservation values including: "Outstanding" Forest Conservation Value, sensitive mountainside soils, two miles of perennial streams, "Outstanding" ecological cores, and potential endangered and threatened species. The property is contiguous to the Big Cherry Reservoir, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, and a property conserved by the Cave Conservancy of Virginia. The property contains cave portals that connect to the cave system of the adjacent protected property and mountain top rock formations, such as the one known as "Huff Rock." The conservation easement is co-held by LTV and the Lonesome Pine SWCD.

Grant Award: \$182,000 (FY24), \$45,000 (FY25); **Payment Amount:** \$227,000; **Match:** \$263,719 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** December 2025

14. DCR-DNH – Buffalo Mountain NAP – LCI Addition (FY2024) - Natural Area Preservation

DCR-DNH acquired a 975-acre addition to the Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County that provides daily public access. The property falls within multiple categories of ConserveVirginia and lies within one of the Commonwealth's Essential Conservation Sites and most significant biodiversity hotspots. The site supports 29 documented natural heritage resources, including three found nowhere else in the Commonwealth, and four that are extant at only two locations in Virginia. This property has been a long-standing protection priority for over 25 years and is now protected through public and private partnership with The Conservation Fund and the largest VLCF grant award to date.

Grant Award: \$3,617,677; **Payment Amount:** \$3,232,179; **Amount Returning to Natural Areas Category:** \$385,498; **Project Closed:** April 2026

15. DCR-DNH – Grassy Hill NAP – Anderson Addition (FY2024) - Natural Area Preservation

DCR-DNH received VLCF funding to support the acquisition of 48 acres in Franklin County as an addition to Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve. This tract falls within four categories of ConserveVirginia, is located in one of Virginia's essential conservation sites, supports several natural heritage resources, and has been identified as a resiliency parcel needed to complete the overall Preserve design. This acquisition more fully protects one of Virginia's Essential

Conservation Sites and protects a globally rare natural community and a globally imperiled plant species. The property is forested with a globally rare forest type, the Central Appalachian Basic Ash-Hickory Woodland.

Grant Award: \$250,000; **Payment Amount:** \$181,373; **Amount Returning to Natural Areas Category:** \$68,627; **Project Closed:** December 2025

16. Washington County – Abrams Creek Addition to Mendota Trail (FY2024) – Open Spaces and Parks

Washington County acquired and conserved 217 acres as a county park open to the public near the Mendota Trail. This project helps protect the nearby Mendota Trail ridgeline viewshed and will enhance recreational opportunities in this underserved area. The Property is just downstream of Abrams Falls, a majestic 75-foot freefall waterfall and includes over 4,200 feet of Abrams Creek. The Property consists primarily of Appalachian hardwoods with ridgetops over 2,000 feet in elevation. Partners include Washington County Government, Mendota Trail Conservancy, Washington County Park Authority, City of Bristol, and local support.

Grant Award: \$241,100; **Payment Amount:** \$241,100; **Match:** \$320,500 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** May 2026

17. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Jatt Farm ~ Musapatike (FY2025) - Farmland Preservation

Jatt Farm is a 354-acre farm located in Mecklenburg County now protected with a Virginia Outdoors Foundation open space easement. The farm produces cattle, hay, and timber. More than half of the property includes prime soils, and 87 acres are considered farmland of statewide importance. The property also contains 90 acres of Ecological Cores within the 135 acres of forest. The property fronts on a designated VA Byway and adjoins property also under easement with VOF. Finneywood Creek runs along the farm's northern boundary. The property lies within the Agriculture and the Scenic categories of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$480,715; **Payment Amount:** \$480,715; **Match:** \$782,830 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** October 2025

18. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Greg & Kylie Waddle Property (FY2025) - Farmland Preservation

The Greg and Kyli Waddle Property, 823 acres of working farmland in Smyth and Washington Counties, is now protected via open space easement held by Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The farm is a working cow and calf operation, with land in pasture, hay, and corn production. The project not only protects the farmland, but also protects karst geology, as the property contains nearly 200 mapped sinkholes within a few hundred feet of the Middle Fork Holston River, which is a potential State Scenic River and contains designated Conservation Sites. The property supports Loggerhead Shrike (a state threatened bird) and habitat for Bobolink (a rare bird). The VOF easement on this property contributes to a contiguous block of more than 2,000 acres of

conserved working farmland.

Grant Award: \$914,017; **Payment Amount:** \$914,017; **Match:** \$1,705,480 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** October 2025

19. Stafford County – William Long Farm (FY2025) - Farmland Preservation

An open-space easement protecting the William Long Farm is now held by Stafford County, with the assistance of VLCF and the county’s Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program. The property is 72 acres of primarily forestland. The easement protects 60 acres of mixed hardwood forestland, five acres of farmland, four acres of wetlands, 5,000 linear feet of forested perennial streams, and important wildlife habitat. The property falls within an ecological core and has predictive suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species and is located within a wildlife biodiversity resilience corridor in DWR's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. Additionally, the property is adjacent to managed conserved lands also under easement with Stafford County through the county’s PDR Program.

Grant Award: \$254,000; **Payment Amount:** \$254,000; **Match:** \$281,798 (Stafford County PDR and landowner donation); **Project Closed:** April 2026

20. Southern Virginia Land Conservancy – Shooting Creek (FY2025) - Forestland Preservation

Located along the border of Patrick and Franklin Counties, this property contains 716 acres of mountainous forestland. With 98.6% forest coverage, this property boasts 82.9% “Very High” Forest Conservation Values and 9.7% “High” Forest Conservation Value. Almost the entire property lies within the “C1: Outstanding” ecological core distinction. Further, the Agriculture and Forestry Category of the ConserveVirginia layer covers almost the entire property. The Shooting Creek property contains tributaries that feed the DCR-designated Smith River North Stream Conservation Site, classified as B2: High Priority, due to the state and federally endangered occurrences of the Roanoke Logperch. Used primarily for hunting, the landowner wished to forever protect this property that can be traced back in the family to the early 1700s. The landowners are very proud of the history of this property and the inhabitants that have lived here throughout the centuries. The protection of this property via conservation easement co-held by SVLC and the Blue Ridge and Patrick SWCDs further protects the ecological and historical integrity of the region and the headwaters that feed Philpott Lake.

Grant Award: \$286,875; **Payment Amount:** \$286,875; **Match:** \$305,625 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** March 2026

21. Virginia Department of Forestry – Working Forests Between Battlefields (FY2025) - Forestland Preservation

The name of this project, Working Forestland Between Battlefields, reflects the conservation easement preserving 816 acres of timber lands flanked by three Civil War battlefields in Dinwiddie County. The rural landscape also supports water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic views from the East Coast Greenway. The landowners have owned this property since 2004 and

manage it according to a professional forest management plan. The landowners have turned down a solar company's offer to buy the property in order to keep stewarding this forestland, which is now under easement with the Virginia Department of Forestry. The project aligns with the locality's comprehensive plan, the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation's efforts to protect the flight path between Fort Barfoot and Fortt Gregg-Adams.

Grant Award: \$775,000; **Payment Amount:** \$775,000; **Match:** \$1,227,069 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** November 2025

22. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Richard Rolan Property (FY2025) - Forestland Preservation

Located along the North Fork Holston River in Washington County, this property contains nearly 700 acres, 600 of which are prime forestland. The forest conservation values on this property are outstanding and cover almost 90% of the property. With numerous ponds and streams, the water resources support many species of fish and insects, including the Virginia Springfly. The ecological cores on the property support the bountiful wildlife within and protects the river-life with over seven miles of river frontage on the North Fork Holston River. The love of the land and its inhabitants is reflected in the performance of maintenance already at work on this property. Among many conserved lands in the vicinity, the Richard Rolan property is now protected by a Virginia Outdoors Foundation open space easement, is adjacent to another property under easement, and within one mile of The Channels State Forest.

Grant Award: \$354,875; **Payment Amount:** \$354,875; **Match:** \$699,102 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** December 2025

23. Monacan Indian Nation – Daisy Adcock Property (FY2025) - Forestland Preservation

The Monacan Indian Nation is a federally recognized tribe with over 2,600 citizens. 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. This VLCF grant assisted the Monacan Indian Nation to acquire and protect 100 forested acres of their historic homeland, adjacent to the Monacan Museum and Culture Center. The subject property contains an Outstanding Forest Conservation Value hardwood forest. 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. The Monacan Indian Nation purchased the land with assistance from a conservation buyer, The Conservation Fund, and then recorded an open-space easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Grant Award: \$285,367; **Payment Amount:** \$285,367; **Match:** \$195,489 (VOF PTF); **Project Closed:** December 2025

24. DCR-DNH – South Quay Sandhills NAP – Biodiversity, Climate Resilience & Public Access in Chowan River Basin (FY2025; FY2026) - Natural Area Preservation

DCR's Natural Heritage Division received two VLCF grants and funding from a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant to acquire 869 acres in the City of Suffolk. Originally receiving grant funds for the acquisition of a contiguous 1,900 acres, this project underwent a change of scope to be divided into two phases. This first phase includes protecting key acreage within one of the world's documented biodiversity hotspots, including four miles of streams and 100 acres of freshwater wetlands. This project enhances one of the state's longleaf pine habitat restoration projects and meets an identified need in Virginia's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The project also creates opportunities for both water and hiking trail access in a socially disadvantaged and economically underserved region and provides the impetus for tribal engagement.

Grant Award: \$1,300,000 (FY25), \$1,482,454 (FY26); **Payment Amount:** \$1,300,000; **Amount Returning to Natural Areas Category:** \$1,482,454; **Project Closed:** May 2026

25. Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia – Patawomeck Tribe Land Grant (FY2025) - Open Spaces & Parks

The Patawomeck Tribe acquired 14 acres on the state scenic Rappahannock River in Stafford County and conserved it with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation holding the open space easement. The Patawomeck Tribe was formally recognized by Virginia in 2010 and is one of eleven state recognized tribes. The Patawomeck community is centered in southern Stafford County and operates a museum and tribal center across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg at Little Falls. The project property is located just downriver from the tribal center as well as McDuff Park, which is owned by Stafford County. The Patawomeck Tribe intends to create a public access trail from McDuff Park to the property, as well as create a small boat loading area along the river.

Grant Award: \$390,932; **Payment Amount:** \$390,932; **Match:** \$239,357 (VOF PTF); **Project Closed:** December 2025

26. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Henry W. Carneal (FY2026) - Forestland Preservation

The 564-acre Carneal property is in the Town of Saltville, lying in both Smyth and Washington counties. The property is now protected via open-space easement held by VOF. The property contains high forest value, with approximately 350 acres ranked as "outstanding" by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The southern portion of the property lies within the Saltville Battlefield Historic District with a series of well-preserved and historically significant Civil War fortifications. In addition to its forestal and historic values, the property contains frontage on the North Fork Holston River and nearly two miles of perennial tributaries to the river. The western two-thirds of the property fall within an Ecological Core ranked C1 ("outstanding") and the property provides habitat for multiple natural heritage species. In addition, it shares its western boundary with the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

Grant Award: \$281,150; **Payment Amount:** \$281,150; **Match:** \$595,604 (landowner donation); **Project Closed:** May 2026

Withdrawn VLCF Grant Projects

Three VLCF grant projects have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting.

1. Piedmont Environmental Council – Protection of Thornridge Farm (FY2023)

A resolution of a required right of way agreement between the landowner and the adjacent landowner could not be reached by the grant's expiration date.

Grant Award: \$160,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Farmland Preservation Category

2. Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission – Bushy Park Farm Acquisition (FY2024)

The Middlesex County Board of Supervisors decided to pursue a public park in a different location due unforeseen challenges with the cost and location of this subject property.

Grant Award: \$750,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Open Spaces & Parks Category.

3. City of Virginia Beach – Gum Swamp Warren Property (FY2026)

City leadership chose to prioritize other goals and not conserve the subject property.

Grant Award: \$1,200,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Open Spaces & Parks Category

Summary of Open VLCF Grants

- For the FY23 grant round, 1 of the 40 grants awarded remains open.
- For the FY24 grant round, 9 of the 29 grants awarded remain open.
- For the FY25 grant round, 13 of the 28 grants awarded remain open.
- For the FY26 grant round, 25 of the 28 grants awarded remain open.
- Currently, we are managing a total of 48 open grants with a total value of \$23,222,442.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

June 9, 2026

Proposed Changes to the FY27 VLCF Grant Manual

1. Updated language throughout the manual for readability and clarity, as well as for current grant round deadlines and 2026 dates.
2. Retitled the “Additional Scoring Criteria” to “Statewide Priority Scoring.” This is a more accurate descriptor of those criteria that apply to all applications regardless of which of the five categories the applicant chooses to apply for.
3. Language was added referencing the resolution adopted by the Board in November, establishing a protocol for applicants seeking a change of scope where projects deliver less acreage than pledged in an application and the grant agreement.
4. In the Farmland Preservation category, two points were removed for a designated Century Farm. This would allow for scoring to focus on the conservation values of a project, rather than on ownership of the property. **One public comment** was made on this change – requesting that this be reinstated.
5. The property acreage ranges were adjusted in the Forestland Preservation Category to better reflect actual projects received over the years. Also, language was added to require a current forest stewardship plan (less than 10 years old) to receive five points.
6. The Natural Area Preservation category was amended for clarification and use of consistent terminology to parallel the Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) public database. The NHDE is heavily utilized for scoring in this category.
7. Under the newly titled Statewide Priority Scoring, the following changes are proposed:
 - a. Public access is better defined to differentiate between projects that provide unfettered public access and those that require special permission for the public to access the property.
 - b. The Virginia Outdoors Plan points are increased from three to six and updated to reflect the 2024 VOP.
 - c. The three points available for intersecting the Nature-Based Recreation Access Model are increased to four points.
 - d. Points for the Protection of Cultural Resources are decreased from 10 to five points. This category hasn’t been utilized successfully by most applicants, so it was agreed by the IAT to lower the points, with four additional points going to the VOP and recreational access need. The overall Statewide Priority Scoring would be lowered by one point to be 90 points maximum.

- e. **One public comment** requested the Water Quality points be amended by adding language to provide two points for projects that protect areas for migrating wetlands. The overall criterion cap for 20 points would not change.
- f. Points for Ratio of Match (three points) would be replaced with awarding points for applicants who can provide a title commitment. This will help ensure that all landowners are identified and the project can proceed without unexpected title issues.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation FY27 Grant Manual Public Comments

- Posted on Virginia Town Hall 4/10/26 to 5/11/26
- Six comments received

	Commenter	Page	Summary of comment
1	Elizabeth Andrews VLCF Board Member	39	Add two points for projects that protect areas for migrating wetlands
2	Fauquier Co	25	Keep points for projects that protect Century Farms
3	Lisa Biever Northern Neck Land Conservancy	5, bullet 3	Incorporate provisions of HB842
4	Lisa Biever	5, bullet 5	Incorporate provisions of HB842
5	Lisa Biever	22	Incorporate provisions of HB842
6	Patrick Fanning Chesapeake Bay Foundation	39, 45	Supports existing language requiring riparian buffers and awarding points for water quality benefits

1. **Commenter:** Elizabeth Andrews, Member, VLCF Board of Trustees, 4/28/26

Proposed Grant Manual Amendments to Support Protection of Migrating Wetlands

As the Commonwealth faces sea level rise at an accelerating rate, we need to proactively plan for upland migration of wetlands to avoid losing them to inundation. Wetlands provide important water quality benefits, as well as habitat, shoreline erosion control, and flood buffering. In light of this risk of losing the significant water quality benefits provided by wetlands - and in order to help protect the investment of public funds in wetlands that now face a new threat of loss due to changing conditions - it would be helpful if additional points could be awarded to proposed projects that preserve land that a) is upland of wetlands that are projected to be inundated, and b) provides a path for upland migration because it is undeveloped and of acceptable slope to allow such migration.

Specifically, I suggest that on pp. 39-40 of the Grants Manual, the following be added [with many thanks to DCR and VIMS staff for their expertise and assistance in composing this language]:

7. Water Quality Benefit

Points may be given to a project that protects water quality by requiring permanent vegetated riparian buffers exceeding a width of 35-feet along perennial waters and wetlands. 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 and habitat protections beyond the required 35-foot vegetated riparian buffer in perpetuity.

Wetlands provide invaluable protection for water quality, as well as habitat, shoreline stabilization, and flood resilience. In response to rising sea levels, tidal wetlands are naturally moving slowly inland. Man-made barriers including buildings, homes, and roads can prevent these tidal wetlands from migrating inland, resulting in loss of important marsh ecosystems. To help protect areas identified as potential future migration pathways for tidal wetlands, an additional two points will be awarded to those projects that intersect the Wetland Potential 2050 layer of the AdaptVA interactive map (https://cmap22.vims.edu/AdaptVA/AdaptVA_viewer.html); do not have bulkheads, riprap, buildings, paved roads or other infrastructure and impervious cover that would block upland migration of the adjacent wetlands; and prohibit construction or placement of buildings, paved roads, and other impervious surfaces in those areas. The landowner must agree to these protections that will be included in the final recorded legal documents to receive these two points.

Maximum 20 points

2 points if the project provides protections for migrating wetlands as stated above, PLUS

Riparian buffer points

2. **Commenter:** Fauquier County, 5/4/26

Agricultural Criteria

Keep Century Farm as a part of the scoring. See paragraph suggestion below.

"Current and historical use of property. Priority will be given to any property that is currently being farmed and/or is a designated Century Farm. Information about this program can be found at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/conservation-and-environmentalvirginia-century-farms.shtml"

-Thank you

3. **Commenter:** Lisa Biever, 5/11/26

Update requirements to reflect HB846 VLCF; purposes of Foundation, easements

HB846 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation; purposes of Foundation, easements takes effect July 1, 2026. It allows the Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees to “waive the requirement for a holder of a conservation easement to have such easement jointly held with a public body whenever such holder acquires any interest in land other than a fee simple interest from a grant or transfer from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, provided that such holder is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission or meets a similar set of standards and practices adopted by the Board of Trustees and the easement contains a third

party right of enforcement, as defined in relevant law, in favor of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or another public body.”

Grant Manual page 5, Project Requirements, bullet 3 states: "All nonprofit organization projects, whether fee simple or easement, must be protected by an open-space easement held by a public body (e.g., a state agency or local governmental entity), in perpetuity pursuant to Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (A)(2). An acknowledgement letter from the public body stating that it is willing to consider holding the easement or owning the property in fee must be included with the application."

Please revise with the following or other language deemed appropriate:

All nonprofit organization projects, whether fee simple or easement, must be protected by an perpetual open-space easement held by a public body (e.g., a state agency or local governmental entity), in perpetuity pursuant to Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (A)(2). **Conservation easements shall either (i) be jointly held with a public body, or (ii) the Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees may waive the co-holder requirement provided that a) the nonprofit holder is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission or meets a similar set of standards and practices adopted by the Board of Trustees and b) the easement contains a third party right of enforcement held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation or another public body.** An acknowledgement letter from the public body stating that it is willing to consider holding the easement, owning the property in fee, **or reserving a third party right to enforcement** must be included with the application. **Applications proposing sole nonprofit easement holding must include documentation demonstrating eligibility under these requirements.**

4. **Commenter:** Lisa Biever5/11/26

Additional comment - Update requirements to reflect HB846 VLCF; purposes of Foundation, easements

Grant Manual page 5, Project Requirements, bullet 5 states: "For projects awarded funding, the requisite public body holder shall include language in the fee-simple deed or in the easement deed that states that the property will be taken under the Open-Space Land Act, Va. Code §§ 10.1-1700 through 10.1-1705, and that the protection is perpetual in nature and not extinguishable except pursuant to the provisions of the Open-Space Land Act.”

Please revise to clarify that, when the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation waives the requirement for a qualified nonprofit organization to co-hold a conservation easement with a public body, then the conservation easement will be enabled by, and the public body third party enforcement will be pursuant to the Virginia Conservation Easement Act.

5. **Commenter:** Lisa Biever, 5/11/26

Additional comment - Update requirements to reflect HB846 VLCF; purposes of Foundation, easements

Grant Manual page 22, Appendix A – VLCF Grant Specifications, item I.6. states:

“For nonprofit applicants:

- a. an acknowledgement letter from the public body willing to: hold or co-hold an easement on the property; or hold the property in fee simple, and
- b. evidence that the nonprofit meets the holder requirements found in Va. Code §§ 10.1-1009 to 10.1-1017.”

Please revise to reflect changes indicated in HB846 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation; purposes of Foundation, easements which takes effect July 1, 2026, such as – for applicants requesting nonprofit sole holder easement project grant support – documentation that the land trust is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission or meets a similar set of standards and practices adopted by the Board of Trustees and documentation that the Department of Conservation and Recreation or another public body is willing to serve as third party enforcer.

6. **Commenter:** Patrick J Fanning 5/11/26

CBF Comments Re VLCF Manual

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc., (“CBF”) I am submitting comments regarding the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (“DCR”) proposed revisions to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Manual (“Grant Manual”).

CBF is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 and is devoted to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. We are the largest independent conservation organization dedicated solely to the fight for effective, science-based solutions to the pollution degrading the Bay and its rivers and streams within the 64,000-square-mile-watershed. CBF boasts more than 60,000 members in Virginia and conducts restoration activities through advocacy, education, and litigation. The Grant Manual includes important provisions that impact the natural resources protections of conserved properties in the Bay watershed, prompting our interest in weighing in on the proposed revisions.

We appreciate that the proposed changes to the Grant Manual retain the important elevations recently made for water quality-related scoring. We support the retention of points for water quality benefits in the Additional Scoring Criteria. Specifically, we support the retention of the additional point afforded to riparian buffers that are forested and protected in perpetuity as well as the additional points for projects with buffers greater than 35 feet in width. CBF also supports

the retention of the prior addition in Appendix D, Subsection 5 of wetlands protection language requiring vegetated riparian buffers and livestock exclusion adjacent to such wetlands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revisions to the Grant Manual. Please reach out to PFanning@cbf.org or (804) 258-1481 with any questions regarding our comments.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Proposed FY27 GRANT FUNDING PLAN

June 9, 2026

Due to the uncertain status of the state budget, the FY27 grant round will have a minimum of \$5,211,768 from accrued interest and returned grant funds, to a maximum of \$17,211,768 including general funds proposed in the Budget Bill, HB30.

FUNDING CATEGORIES	<i>PROPOSED</i> FY27 Budget Bill Item 360 A.1. \$16,000,000	Virginia Land Conservation Fund Interest \$1,000,000	Unspent Grant Funds to be Reallocated	<i>PROPOSED</i> TOTALS Available
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$4,000,000	\$250,000	N/A	VOF PTF: \$4,250,000
II. Grant Program				VLCF Grant Round
(i) Farmland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$2,710,000
(ii) Forestland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$2,550,000
(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$2,550,000
(iv) Natural Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$2,001,959	\$4,551,959
(v) Open Spaces and Parks	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$2,299,809	\$4,849,809
TOTAL for Grant Round	\$12,000,000	\$750,000	\$4,461,768	\$17,211,768

<i>Summary of Unspent Grant Funds</i>		
Farmland Preservation	\$160,000	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY23 Piedmont Environmental Council, Protection of Thornridge Farm \$160,000 .
Forestland Preservation	\$0	
Historic Area Preservation	\$0	
Natural Area Preservation	\$2,001,959	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY26 DCR-DNH, South Quay Sandhills NAP Supplemental Funding \$1,482,454 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY23 DCR-DNH, Brock’s Gap NAP Showalter Addition \$103 . FY24 DCR-DNH, Buffalo Mountain NAP LCI Addition \$385,498 . FY24 DCR-DNH, Grassy Hill NAP Anderson Addition \$68,627 . FY25 DCR-DNH, Ellett Escarpment NAP \$65,277 .
Open Spaces and Parks	\$2,299,809	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY24 Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Bushy Farm \$750,000 . FY26 City of Virginia Beach, Gum Swamp Warren Property \$1,200,000 . <u>Unexpended Grant Funds from FY26:</u> \$349,809

***PROPOSED* Item 363 of the Budget Bill, 2026**

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$16,000,000 the first year and \$16,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia. [Grant Funds]

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

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
***Proposed* GRANT TIMELINES**
for VLCF FY27 and Surry-Skiffes Creek 2026
June 9, 2026

FY27 VLCF Grant Timeline for Grant Rounds	
March 2026	VLCF Interagency Task Force meetings to discuss draft grant manuals.
April 10 to May 11, 2026	Public comment period for the VLCF draft grant manual.
June 9, 2026	VLCF Board meeting to approve the VLCF and Surry-Skiffes Creek grant manuals and initiate the grant round requests for proposals (RFP).
Week of June 9th	Announce official opening of both grant rounds (update website and send emails).
June 18 and 24, 2026	Virtual Grant Workshops provide orientation and program information to grant applicants. Surry-Skiffes Creek on June 18 at 10:00 am and VLCF on June 24 at 1:30 pm.
August 21, 2026	Deadline for VLCF application submittal. (<i>9 weeks</i>)
September 4, 2026	Deadline for Surry-Skiffes Creek application submittal. (<i>11 weeks</i>)
Weeks of September 14 and October 5	Interagency Task Force meetings to score projects and finalize recommendations – usually takes two meetings.
Late October 2026	SNHR and Director's review of applications and recommendations of IAT for both grant rounds.
November 2026	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of both grant awards.
December 2026	Grant agreements sent to grant recipients for both grant rounds. Projects have two years to close.