

Fiscal Year 2023
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
Interagency Taskforce
Grant Round Recommendations
to the
Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees

November 14, 2022

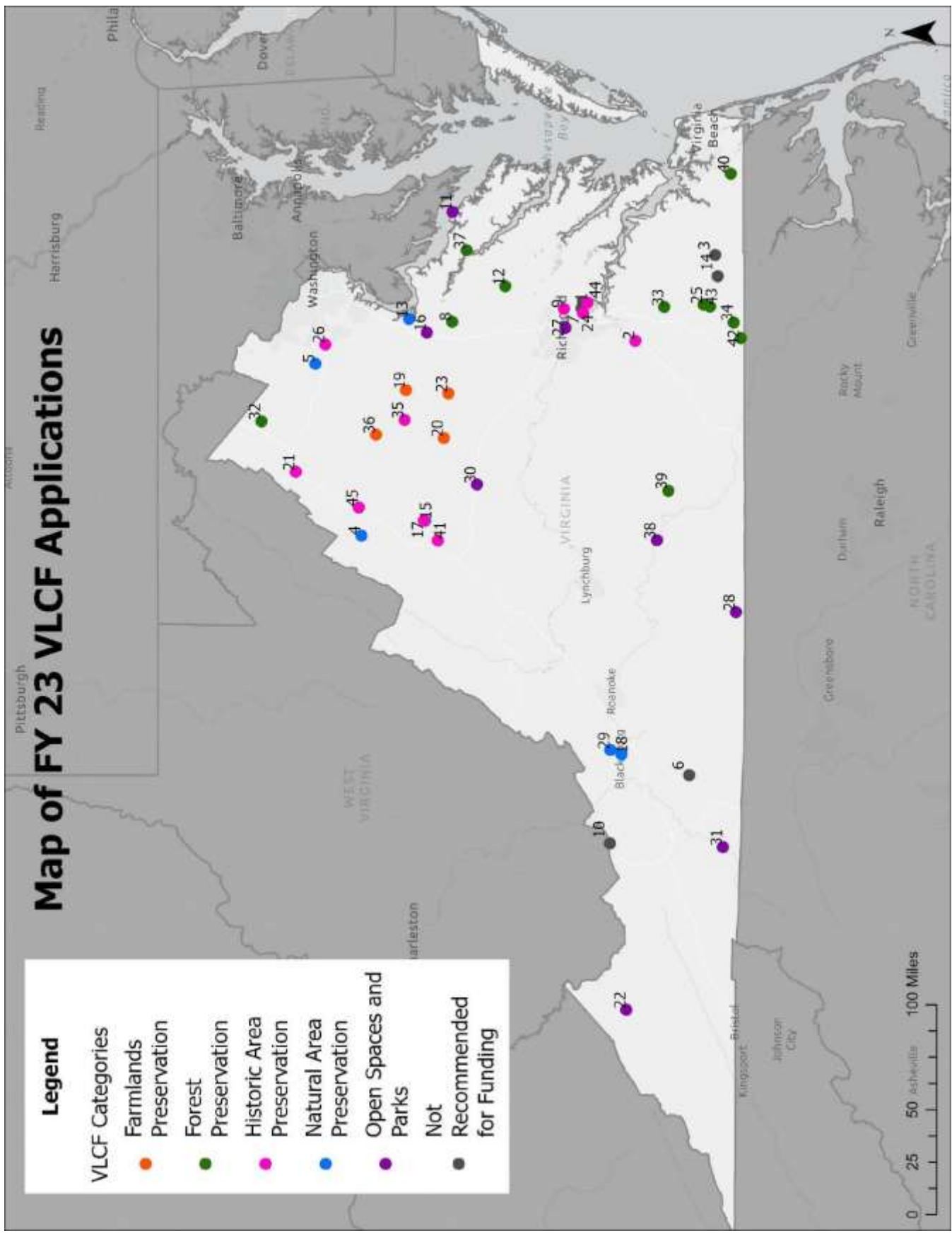


Map of FY 23 VLCF Applications

Legend

VLCF Categories

- Farmlands Preservation
- Forest Preservation
- Historic Area Preservation
- Natural Area Preservation
- Open Spaces and Parks
- Not Recommended for Funding



Project Number	Applicant	Project Name
1	Capital Region Land Conservancy	5270 New Market Road
2	American Battlefield Trust	Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boynton Plank Road Battlefield
3	Franklin Parks Foundation	Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract
4	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Brooks Gap Natural Area Preserve
5	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage & Virginia Outdoors Foundation	Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition - Eastern Overlook
6	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition
7	Capital Region Land Conservancy	Camp Holly Springs
8	Meadowview Biological Research Station	Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs
9	American Battlefield Trust	Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield
10	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve – Buckhorn Phase 1 Addition
11	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	Coles Point Boating Access
12	Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe	Conservation of Ancestral Lands – Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe's Return to River
13	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II
14	Franklin Parks Foundation	Cypress Bridge NAP Addition - Musser Tract
15	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield Addition tract
16	Downtown Greens Inc.	Downtown Greens Expansion Project
17	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	Edwards Tract at Port Republic Battlefield
18	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Eliett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve
19	Piedmont Environmental Council	Farmland Protection along Brook Run
20	Piedmont Environmental Council	Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville
21	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	French Tract at Fisher's Hill Battlefield
22	The Nature Conservancy	Gent Branch - Elk Conservation Area
23	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	Harris Farm

Project Number	Applicant	Project Name
24	Capital Region Land Conservancy	Haskins Farm at New Market Heights
25	Virginia Department of Forestry	Hornet Swamp
26	American Battlefield Trust	Mauler Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield
27	Capital Region Land Conservancy	Mayo Island
28	City of Danville, Parks and Recreation Department	Memorial Drive Recreation Area
29	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage	Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve Expansion
30	City of Charlottesville	Moore's Creek Land Acquisition
31	New River Soil and Water Conservation District	New River Hill Park
32	Clarke County	Newfound Farm
33	The Conservation Fund	Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area
34	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	Pierces Lowgrounds, Meherrin River Conservation Easement
35	American Battlefield Trust	Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield
36	Piedmont Environmental Council	Protection of Thornridge Farm
37	Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia	Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II
38	Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation	Red Hill
39	The Conservation Fund	Roanoke River Working Forest II
40	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"
41	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield
42	Virginia Department of Forestry	Taylor's Mill Farm
43	Virginia Department of Forestry	Three Creek Capron Phase II
44	American Battlefield Trust	TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield
45	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	Woodworth Cottage

FY23 GRANT ROUND OVERVIEW

The FY23 Grant Round was open to accept applications from July 12 through September 6, 2022.

Funding provided in state budget: \$16 million appropriation - \$4 million to VOF Preservation Trust Fund, per Va. Code = **\$12 million**

Returned grant funds: **\$2,927,440**

TOTAL available grant funding: \$14,927,440

- Grant round announcements were emailed to localities, land trusts, interest groups, conservation organizations and agencies.
- A virtual grant workshop was held on August 8, and posted to our webpage.
- The Interagency Taskforce met on October 6 and 14 to discuss applications and make recommendations for each category.

Applications received: 45

4 in Farmland Preservation

11 in Forestland Preservation

12 in Historic Area Preservation

9 in Natural Area Preservation

9 in Open Spaces and Parks

Total requested funding: \$20,150,050

Total requested acreage: 15,285

Recommendations for funding to Board: 39

4 in Farmland Preservation

11 in Forestland Preservation

10 in Historic Area Preservation

6 in Natural Area Preservation

8 in Open Spaces and Parks

Total recommended funding: \$14,927,440

Total recommended acreage: 13,843

ConserveVirginia: 90% (35) are within

VLCF Grant Requirements are met:

1. The state budget requires at least 50% of funds be used for projects that provide public access; and
2. The Code requires at least 1/3 of funds be used for projects that secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.
 - 33 of the recommended projects (87% of total funds) would provide public access
 - 27 of the recommended projects (65% of total funds) would have open-space easements

I. Farmland Preservation Applications

Amount of funding available: \$2,400,000

1. Piedmont Environmental Council; Farmland Protection along Brook Run; easement on 698 acres in Culpeper County; **total project cost: \$2,040,000; grant request: \$500,000; recommend: \$500,000**
2. Piedmont Environmental Council; Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville; easement on 360 acres in Orange County; **total project cost: \$990,000; grant request: \$237,500; recommend: \$237,500**
3. Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Harris Farm; easement on 327 acres in Spotsylvania County; **total project cost: \$1,035,000; grant request: \$400,000; recommend \$400,000**
4. Piedmont Environmental Council; Protection of Thornridge Farm; easement on 203 acres in Rappahannock County; **total project cost: \$676,300; grant request: \$160,000; recommend: \$160,000**

Farmland Preservation Totals: **acres: 1,589; project costs: \$4,741,300; recommend: \$1,297,500.**

Farmland Preservation remainder: \$1,102,500

1. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along Brook Run

PEC and the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District seek to conserve a 698-acre farm along the Rapidan River in Culpeper County. The farm is a cattle operation that runs 45 cow/calf pairs on average with 170 acres in pasture. Approximately 420 acres of cropland produces corn, soybeans, wheat and rye, and about 120 acres are forested. Productive soils cover 76% of the farm. This project encompasses over 189 acres of water quality-related conservation priorities according to ConserveVirginia. Buffering approximately 3.5 miles of the Rapidan River, Brook Run and other tributaries will help enhance water quality in the watershed, which provides drinking water to local communities, including Fredericksburg.

Total Project Cost: \$2,040,000. **Match:** NRCS, private funds, and landowner donation. **Grant Request:** \$500,000. **Recommended amount:** \$500,000.



Floodplain wetlands along Brook Run

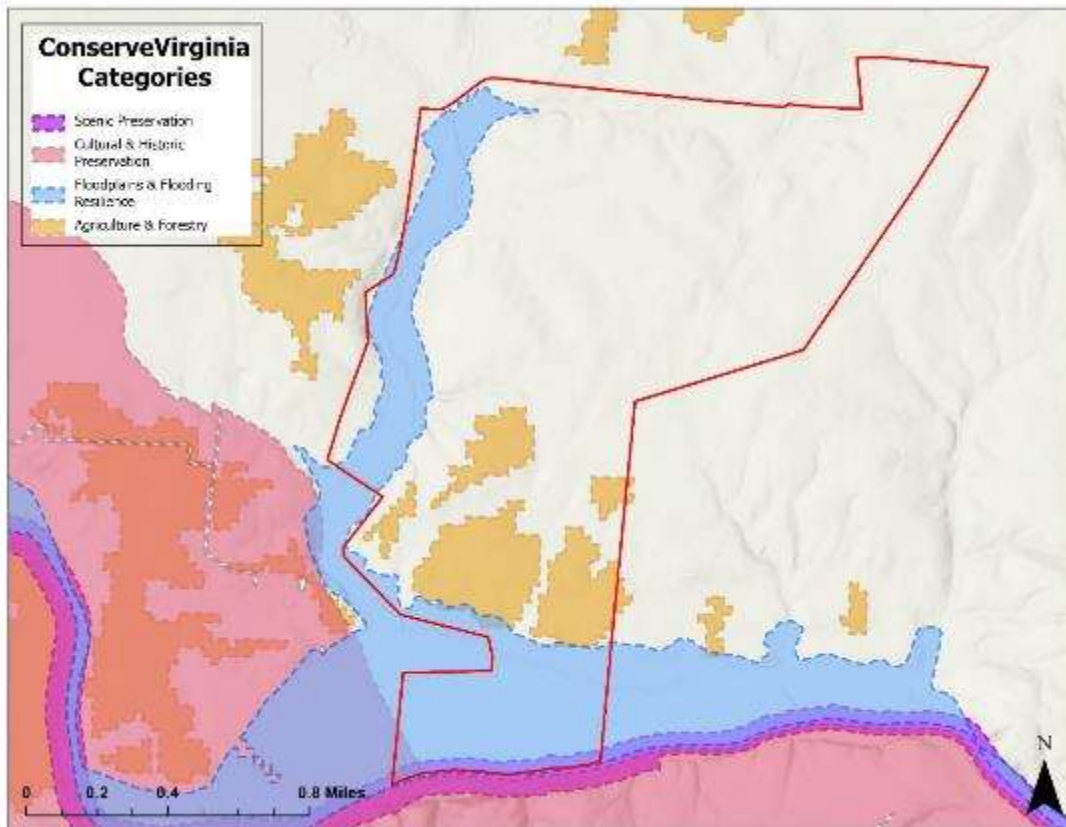


Soybean field and forest

Aerial: Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along Brook Run



ConserveVirginia: Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along Brook Run



2. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville

PEC together with Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District will conserve a 360-acre farm in Orange County with an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement, leveraging private, state 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 that currently runs 200 head on average with approximately 240 acres in pasture and 60 acres in forest. Productive soils cover 22% of the farm. Buffering the almost 3.2 miles of the Hen + Bacon Run, tributaries, ponds and wetlands will help enhance water quality to the Rapidan River-Blue, Cedar, Barbour Stream Conservation Unit and in the Rappahannock River watershed.

Total Project Cost: \$990,000. **Match:** \$475,000 NRCS grant, \$40,000 private funds, landowner donation. **Grant Request:** \$237,500. **Recommended amount:** \$237,500.



Forested entrance to Hilton Farm



Historic main house, a contributing structure to the rural historic district



Hen + Bacon Run in a designated stream conservation unit

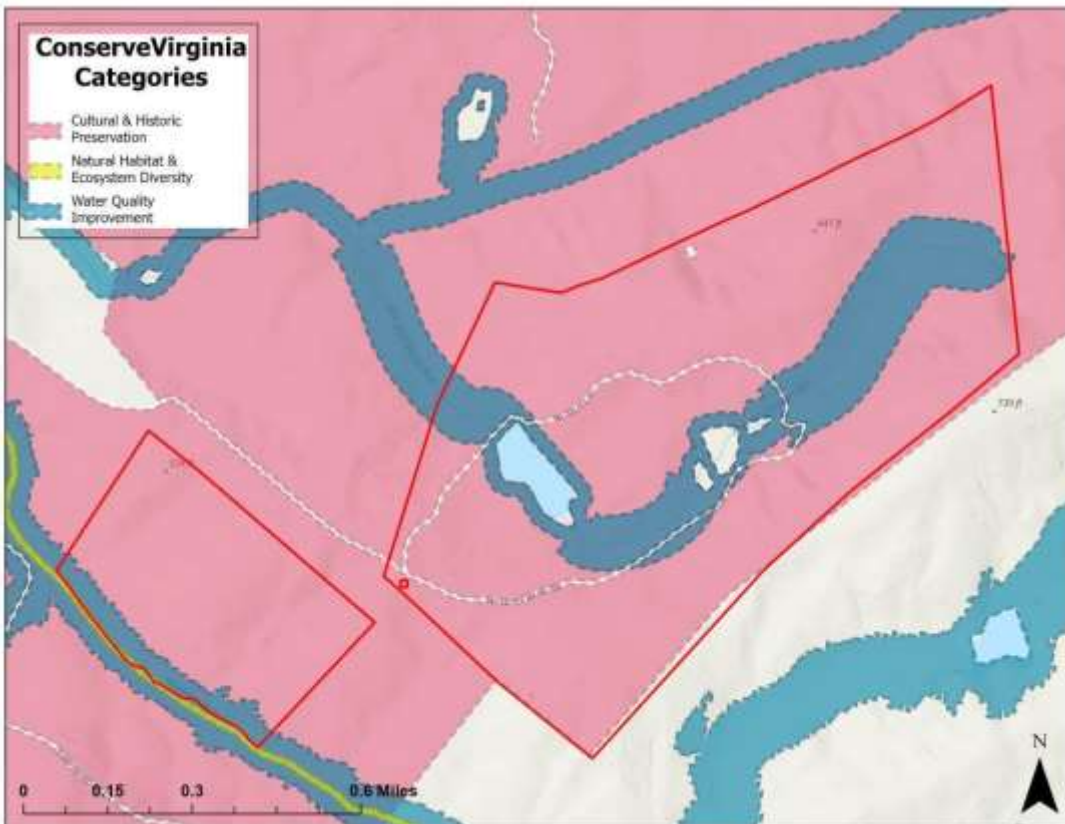


Historic school, a contributing structure to the rural historic district

Aerial: Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville



ConserveVirginia: Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville



3. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Harris Farm

VOF is requesting funding to support a bargain-purchase of an open-space easement on WD Harris’ farm. Located in Spotsylvania County at the headwaters of Lake Anna. The 327-acre farm is active cropland and part of a larger farm operation. The property is within an Agricultural and Forestal District, has good soils, and has an exceptional ranking by American Farmland Trust’s study on farms under threat. Protection of the farm also bolsters the agricultural viability and other conservation resources of the adjoining 275-acre Belmont farm, under easement with VOF. In addition, the property is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and protects ~3/4 mile of Beverly Run, which drains immediately into Lake Anna, which is open to the public for boating and fishing. The riparian corridors and wetland area in addition to the open space, provide wildlife corridors and additional habitat. As a life-long farmer, Mr. Harris is concerned about the rapid loss of farmland in this area and would like to see his land preserved for agriculture in the future.

Total Project Cost: \$1,035,000. **Match:** landowner donation. **Grant Request:** \$400,000.
Recommended amount: \$400,000.



Don Rd entrance and house



Old road trace

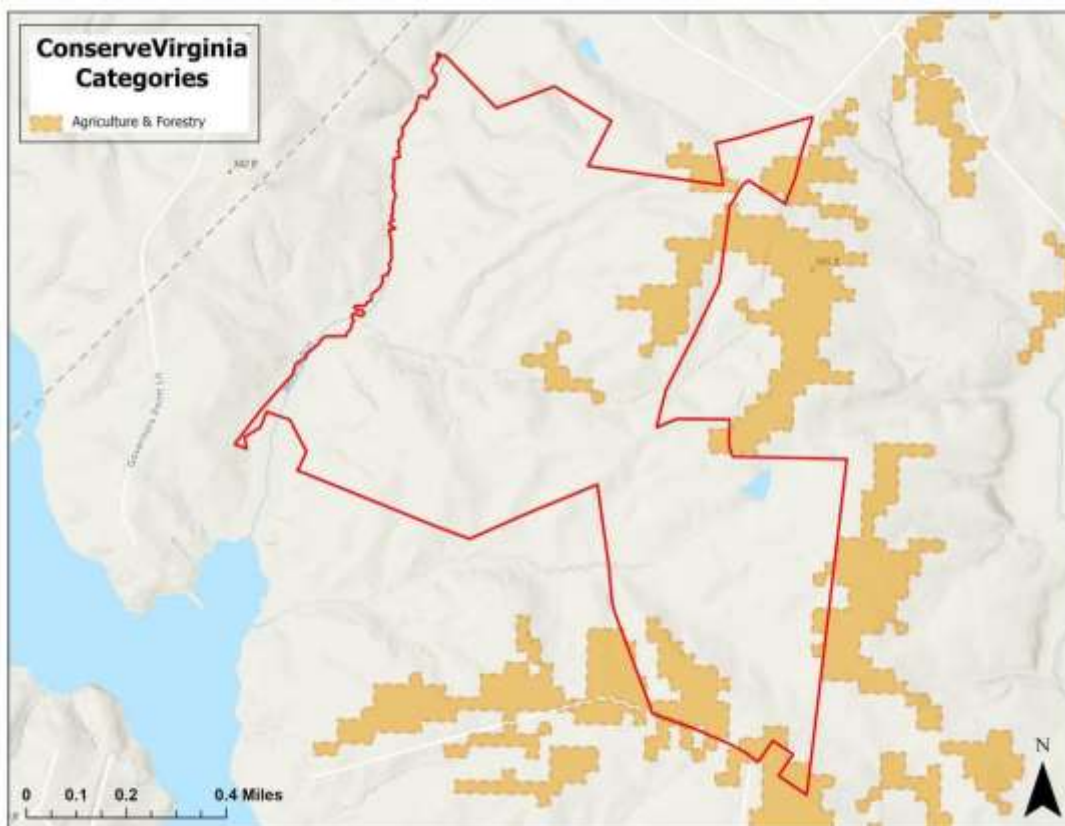


Bean field behind house on Don Rd showing water swale strips

Aerial: Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Harris Farm



ConserveVirginia: Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Harris Farm



4. Piedmont Environmental Council – Protection of Thornridge Farm

Thornridge Farm is a 203-acre working cattle and Century Farm located in Rappahannock County, a locality with a robust traditional farming community. Thornridge Farm has begun to implement Best Management Practices to protect the land’s conservation values such as the water quality of perennial and intermittent streams, forested steep slopes, prime, unique, and important soils, and wildlife habitat. Conserving Thornridge Farm will protect iconic scenic views from Old Rag Mountain, one of Shenandoah National Park’s most popular public hikes, and further partnerships between long standing farming families and the conservation community. Here, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is the public-body easement holder and the financial contribution of the Krebsner Fund for Rappahannock County Conservation will contribute to leveraging VLCF funds to protect the important conservation values of the land while ensuring the economic viability of future agricultural operations on the property.

Total Project Cost: \$676,300. **Match:** Krebsner Fund, PEC, landowner donation. **Grant Request:** \$160,000. **Recommended Amount:** \$160,000.



Aerial: Piedmont Environmental Council – Protection of Thornridge Farm



ConserveVirginia: Piedmont Environmental Council – Protection of Thornridge Farm

This property does not intersect any layers of ConserveVirginia.

II. Forestland Preservation Applications

Amount of funding available: \$2,800,000

1. The Conservation Fund, Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II, fee acquisition of 1,597 acres in Sussex County; **total project cost:** \$6,400,000; **grant request:** \$450,000; **recommend:** \$450,000.
2. Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Conservation of Ancestral Lands – Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe’s Return to the River; fee acquisition of 866 acres in King William County; **total project cost:** \$3,610,000; **grant request:** \$310,000; **recommend:** \$310,000.
3. Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia, Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II; fee acquisition of 703 acres in Richmond County; **total project cost:** \$4,769,912; **grant request:** \$500,000; **recommend:** \$500,000.
4. Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Pierces Lowgrounds, Meherrin River Conservation Easement II; easement on 2,860 acres in Greensville County; **total project cost:** \$2,954,000; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$300,000 (\$100,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$200,000 from Farmland Preservation funds).
5. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Taylors Mill Farm; easement on 1,145 acres in Greensville County; **total project cost:** \$1,192,500; **grant request:** \$450,000; **recommend:** \$450,000 (\$225,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$225,000 from Farmland Preservation funds).
6. The Conservation Fund, Roanoke River Working Forest II; easement on 1,347 acres in Charlotte County; **total project cost:** \$1,590,000; **grant request:** \$395,000; **recommend:** \$395,000.
7. Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"; fee acquisition on 244 acres in Chesapeake; **total project cost:** \$1,124,875; **grant request:** \$281,219; **recommend:** \$281,219.
8. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Three Creek Capron Phase II; easement on 376 acres in Southampton County; **total project cost:** \$36,054; **grant request:** \$36,054; **recommend:** \$36,054.
9. Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs II; fee acquisition of 96 acres in Caroline County; **total project cost:** \$800,400; **grant request:** \$139,200; **recommend:** \$131,935.
10. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Hornet Swamp; easement on 615 acres in Southampton and Sussex Counties; **total project cost:** \$775,000; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$400,000 (\$122,500 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$277,500 from Farmland Preservation funds).
11. Clarke County, Newfound Farm; easement on 59 acres in Clarke County; \$254,750; **total project cost:** \$254,750; **grant request:** \$125,000; **recommend:** \$100,150.

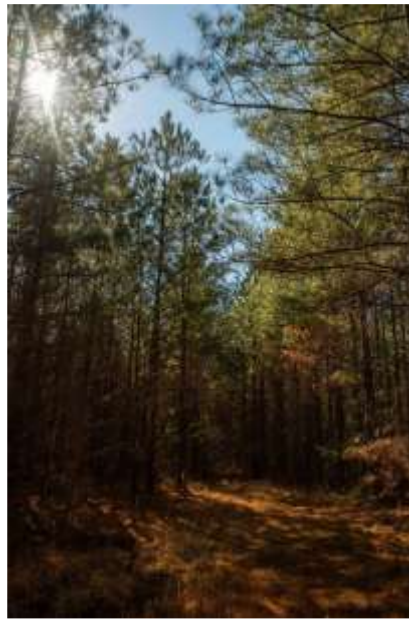
Forestland Preservation Totals: acres: 9,908; project costs: \$23,652,741; requested: \$3,486,473; recommend: \$2,651,858.

Forestland remainder: \$148,142

1. The Conservation Fund – Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II

The Conservation Fund (TCF) is working with the Va. Dept. of Wildlife Resources to acquire 1,597 acres in Sussex County for the creation of a new Wildlife Management Area. The property will be protected for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching, as well as providing public access to the Nottoway River. The property contains 2.5 miles of frontage on the Nottoway River, a designated Virginia Scenic River and 2.5 miles of Black Branch Swamp. There are 220 acres of forested wetlands and 400 acres of bottomland hardwoods. Once conserved, the property will be restored to native longleaf pine and hardwoods to better support water quality and critical habitat for endangered species, such as the federally threatened Red-cockaded woodpecker. This project received a VLCF FY21 Round II grant for \$264,500 in the Open Spaces and Parks Category.

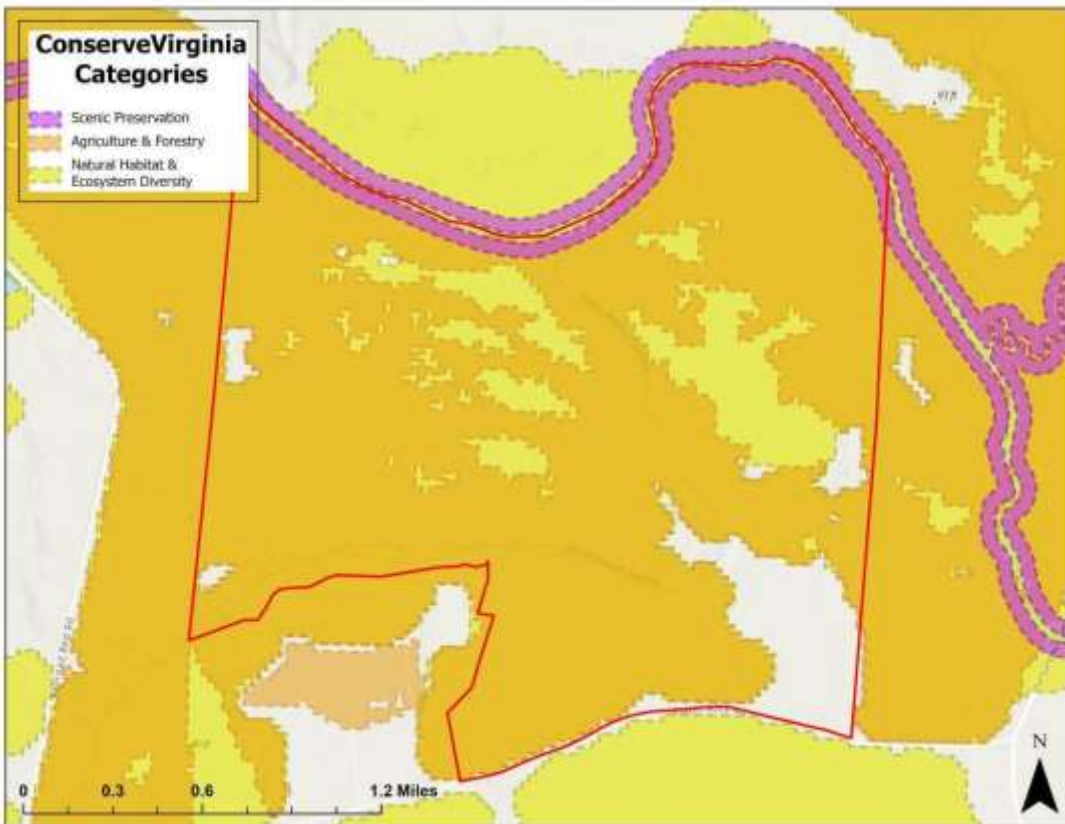
Total Project Cost: \$6,400,000. **Match:** DWR Pittman-Robertson, Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, TCF. The remaining match is donation of value by The Conservation Fund., \$2,980,000 NOAA CZM grant, \$15,000 from TPL. **Grant Request:** \$450,000. **Recommended amount:** \$450,000.



Aerial: The Conservation Fund – Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II



ConserveVirginia: The Conservation Fund – Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II



2. Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe – Conservation of Ancestral Lands – Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe’s Return to the River

The Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe is seeking to acquire an 866-acre property in King William County with more than 12,000 feet of shoreline along the Tribe’s namesake River, the Mattaponi. With assistance from Trust for Public Land and The Conservation Fund, the Tribe has secured a contract to purchase the property that includes a former sand & gravel mine. With the assistance of the Va. Dept. of Wildlife Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tribe is developing a comprehensive vision for restoring habitat of culturally significant fish, wildlife and plant populations and establishment of a fish hatchery. A forest stewardship plan will guide future restoration efforts and limited site development for a fish hatchery and nature-based public recreational opportunities, including access to the river and a trail network.

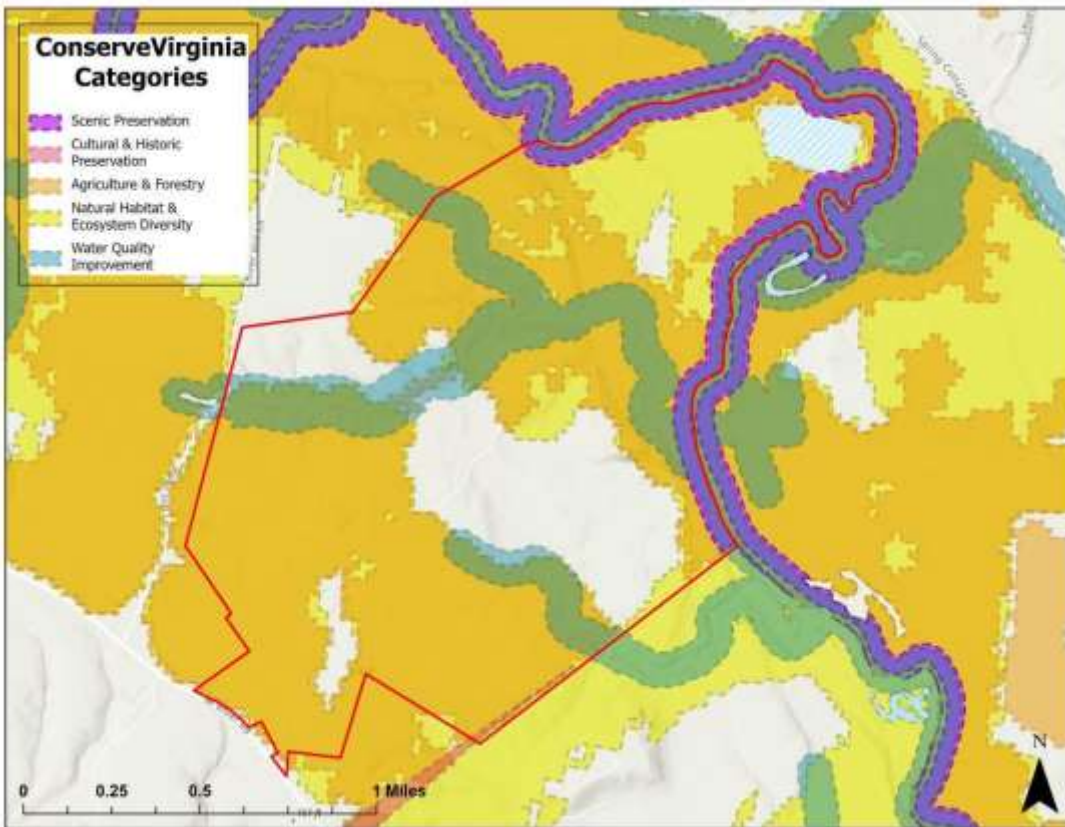
Total Project Cost: \$3,610,000. **Match:** \$5,000 UMIT, \$300,000 landowner donation, \$2,980,000 NOAA CZM grant, \$15,000 from TPL. **Grant Request:** \$310,000. **Recommended amount:** \$310,000.



Aerial: Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe – Conservation of Ancestral Lands



ConserveVirginia: Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe – Conservation of Ancestral Lands River



3. Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia – Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II

The Rappahannock Tribe is seeking to add 703 acres to 465 riverfront acres they acquired in 2022, to create 1,168 acres of contiguous lands to be under a perpetual conservation easement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project will protect irreplaceable archeological resources, protect migratory bird habitat, protect nesting, roosting, and migration habitat for bald eagles, and end commercial logging operations. The property is rich in cultural significance, having been mapped by John Smith in 1608 as a Rappahannock town called Pissacoack. It contains a northern coastal Mesic mixed hardwood forest, including loblolly pine, with a thriving population of breeding and migrating bald eagles, songbirds, and resident wildlife. Mature stands are found along the extensive, deep network of ravines that bisect the property and that protect the headwaters of Garlands Creek and Mud Hole Swamp. Conservation will expand the area of contiguous protected properties and link with two previously unconnected parcels owned in fee and protected by the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Total Project Cost: \$4,769,912. **Match:** Chesapeake Conservancy \$500,000; VOF grant \$250,000; private donors; federal grants. **Grant Request:** \$500,000. **Recommended amount:** \$500,000.

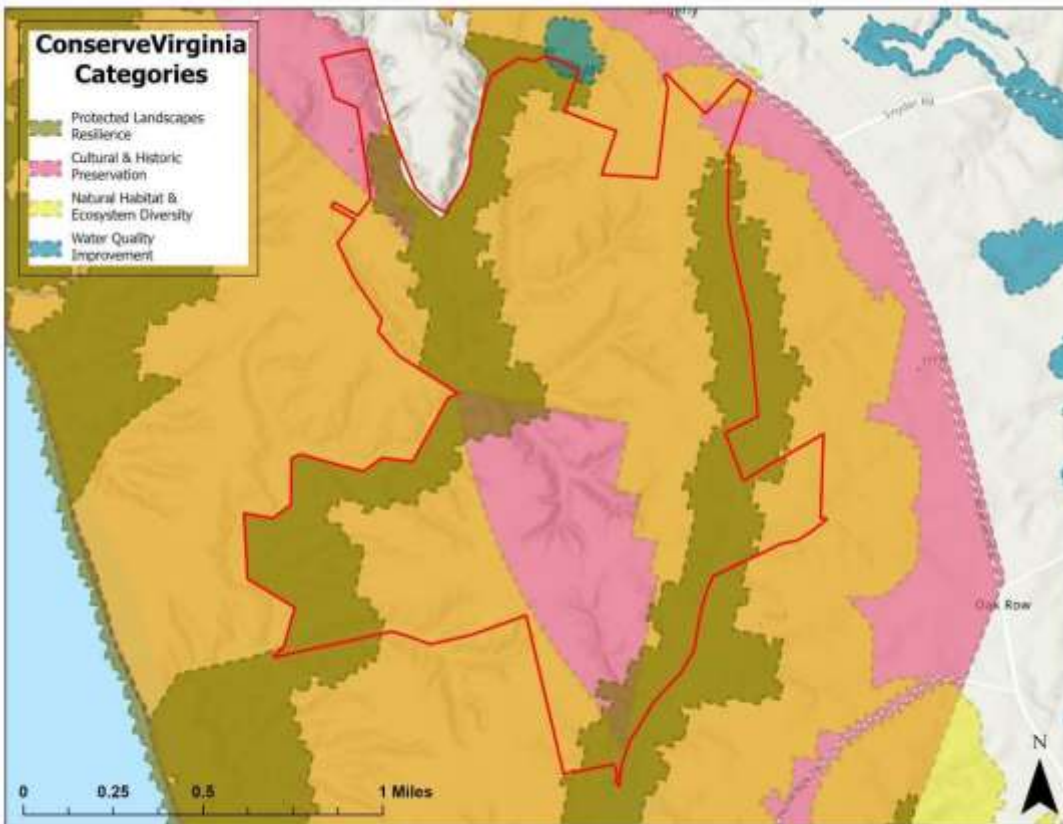


View north towards Beverly Marsh and Fones Cliffs from the Tribe's 465 acres, renamed as Pissacoack, the site of an ancestral tribal town. The 703-acre parcel they are purchasing is connected inland to the northeast of this site.

Aerial: Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II



ConserveVirginia: Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II



4. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Pierces Lowgrounds, Meherrin River Cons. Easement II

The Pierces Low Grounds tract lies on the Meherrin River in Greensville County. This is a family owned and operated farm that has been in the same family for multiple generations. A VOF conservation easement will protect sensitive bottomlands, 15 miles of riparian buffers along the Meherrin River and perennial streams, and ensure that future generations may continue to own and manage its forests in perpetuity. This property contains 2,860 acres in forestal use mostly designated as high forest conservation value. Approximately 450 acres are in tillable farmland, all of which are Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Additionally, an Ecological Core ranked - C1 Outstanding, the highest possible score, blankets the tract stretching from the river to the road. This project was awarded an FY22 grant for \$300,000 by VLCF.

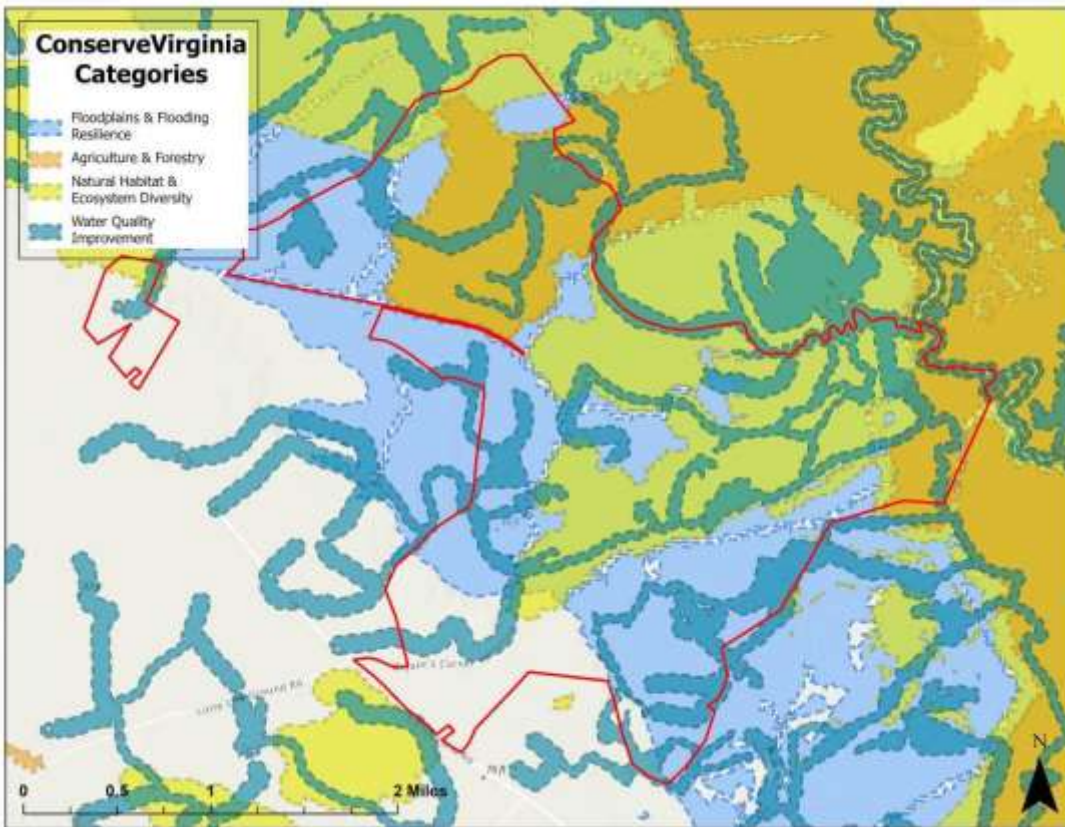
Total Project Cost: \$2,954,000; **Match:** NAWCA \$500,000, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$400,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$300,000 (\$100,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$200,000 from Farmland Preservation funds)



Aerial: Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Pierces Lowgrounds II



ConserveVirginia: Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Pierces Lowgrounds II



5. Virginia Dept. of Forestry - Taylors Mill Farm

The 1,145-acre Taylors Mill Farm tract in Greensville County contains 860 acres of high conservation value forest, with 6.8 miles of perennial and intermittent streams and 640 acres of wetlands. The remaining 285 acres are tillable cropland, and found to be Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. An ecological core found on the property is ranked - C1 Outstanding, the highest possible score. This is a family-owned farm that has been in the same family for three generations. A Dept. of Forestry easement will protect sensitive bottomlands, require riparian buffers on perennial streams, and ensure that future generations may continue to own and manage its farmlands and forests in perpetuity.

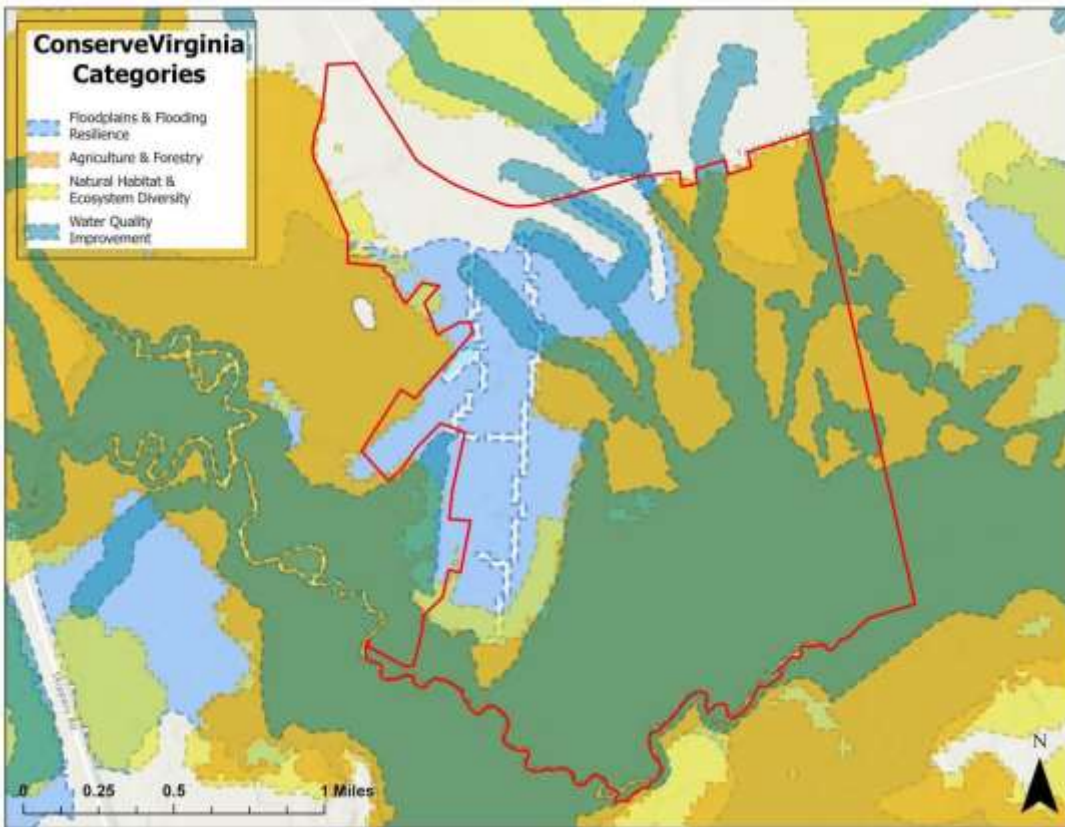
Total Project Cost: \$1,192,500; **Match:** landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$450,000;
Recommended Amount: \$450,000 (\$225,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$225,000 from Farmland Preservation funds)



Aerial: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Taylors Mill Farm



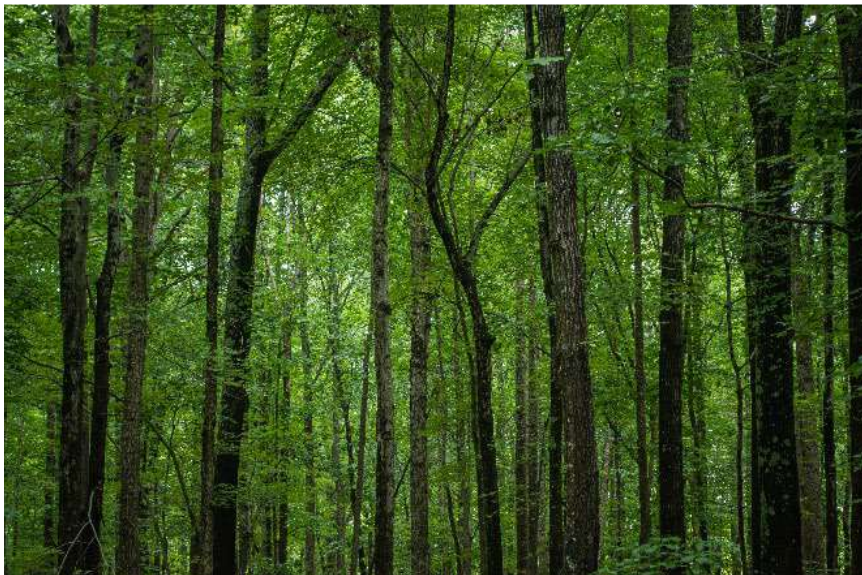
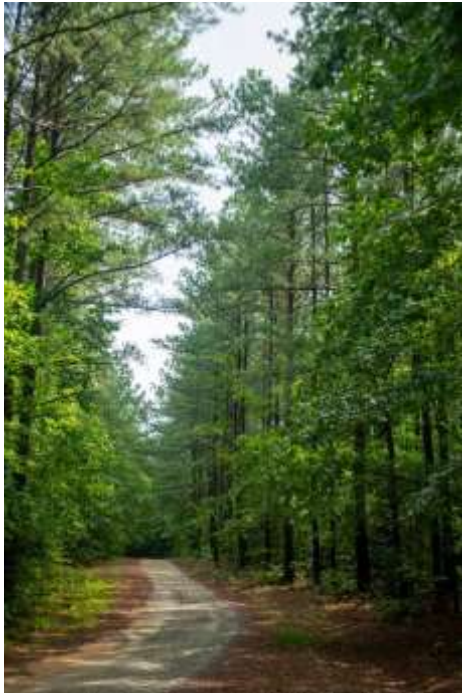
ConserveVirginia: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Taylors Mill Farm



6. The Conservation Fun – Roanoke River Working Forest II

Phase II of The Conservation Fund’s Roanoke River Working Forest project, will protect 1,347 acres of working forestland with a Dept. of Forestry open-space easement. The property is located in Charlotte County, near the recently created Charlotte State Forest, established in 2020 and 2021, partly funded through VLCF. This project will protect a critical wildlife corridor and important habitat for threatened and endangered species, maintain sustainable working forests in the timber-basket of Virginia; and help safeguard clean drinking water. Additional benefits include augmenting the conservation and economic impacts of the new state forest by supporting a sustainable timber supply, contributing to a larger protected landscape, and increasing habitat connectivity and resilience.

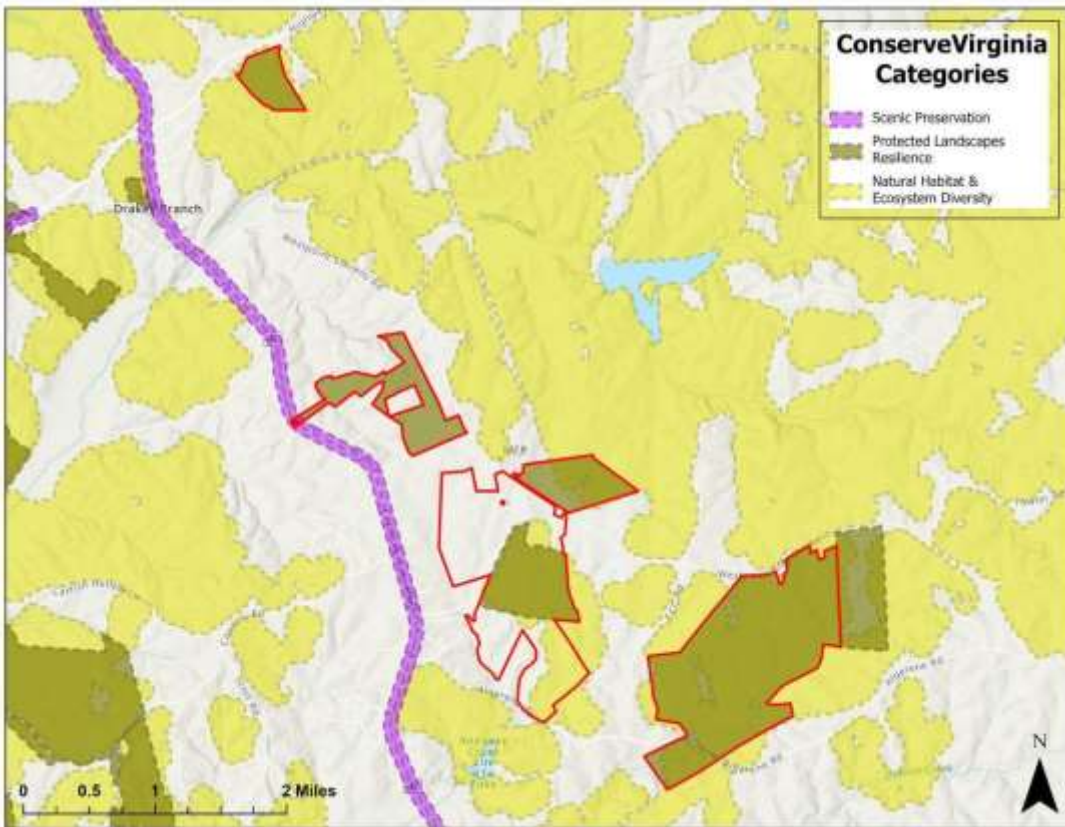
Total Project Cost: \$1,590,000; **Match:** \$1,195,000 FY22 Forest Legacy Grant; **Grant Request:** \$395,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$395,000.



Aerial: The Conservation Fund, Roanoke River Working Forest II



ConserveVirginia: The Conservation Fund, Roanoke River Working Forest II



7. Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources – Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"

The Va. Dept. of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in partnership with Ducks Unlimited is seeking to purchase 224 acres in the rapidly developing City of Chesapeake to build a conservation corridor bridging the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and DWR’s Cavalier Wildlife Management Area. The parcel has significant forests (80% of the tract), and actively farmed cropland, and includes 155 acres of freshwater wooded wetlands. Soils data indicates that 90% of the property contains hydric soils, and prior to being converted to farmland, this land would have been forested wetlands as part of the Great Dismal Swamp, the “Green Sea.” The project partners intend to restore the forested wetlands, with a focus on of Atlantic White Cedar, a globally rare community type. This project provides an exciting opportunity to invest in an ecologically significant property that provides conservation connectivity, public access, climate resilience, ground water recharge, water and air quality benefits, and supports ecosystem conservation for priority wildlife species. Also, timing is critical, as 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.

Total Project Cost: \$1,124,875; **Match:** USFWS Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration grant (\$843,656); **Grant Request:** \$281,219; **Recommended Amount:** \$281,219.



Trail through hardwood forest area



Bridge over canal to access hardwood forest area

Aerial: Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Conservation in the "Green Sea"



ConserveVirginia: Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Conservation in the "Green Sea"



8. Virginia Dept. of Forestry – Three Creek Capron Phase II

This application is the second to VLCF to support conservation of the Three Creek Capron project in Southampton County. The first application was awarded \$200,000 of a requested \$240,000 in FY21 Round II. This application requests an additional \$36,054 to cover the final costs needed to complete the project. Dept. of Forestry is seeking to hold an open-space easement on 376 acres of forestland with 1.8 miles of stream frontage on Three Creek, a tributary of the Nottoway River. The tract is comprised of roughly 300 acres of forested wetlands and 75 acres of upland pine forest. Forest cover in the expansive Three Creek riparian corridor, a central feature of Southampton County’s working forest and agriculture landscape, provides important terrestrial wildlife habitat and helps regulate water flows and water quality critical for aquatic system health of Three Creek and downstream reaches of the Nottoway River.

Total Project Cost: \$436,054; **Match:** landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$36,054; **Recommended Amount:** \$36,054.



Aerial: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Three Creek Capron Phase II



ConserveVirginia: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Three Creek Capron Phase II

This property does not intersect any layers of ConserveVirginia.

9. Meadowview Biological Research Station – Caroline Diamonds, The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs

This application is the second to VLCF to support conservation of the Meadowview Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs in Caroline County. The first application was awarded \$161,000 of a requested \$400,200 in FY22. This project will protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog and oak barren uplands and add it to the existing adjacent 17-acre preserve in the Meadow Creek watershed. The property contains the northern-most native purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* L.) population in Virginia and one state threatened plant (*Juncus caesariensis* Coville). A cool water gravel spring emerges from an old white-cedar lined barrel casing at the head of the watershed and the uplands contain an oak-barrens on the impoverished soil. To enhance indigenous rare plant habitat, the preserve is managed and restored through mechanical clearing and prescribed fire. The preserve provides guided tours, and research, education and recreation opportunities. A conservation easement held by Caroline County will protect the rare plants and allow for continued ecological restoration and reintroduction.

Total Project Cost: \$800,400; **Match:** VOF \$100,000, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$139,200; **Recommended Amount:** \$131,935.



Globally rare gravel bog with indigenous rare native pitcher plants on cool water spring.

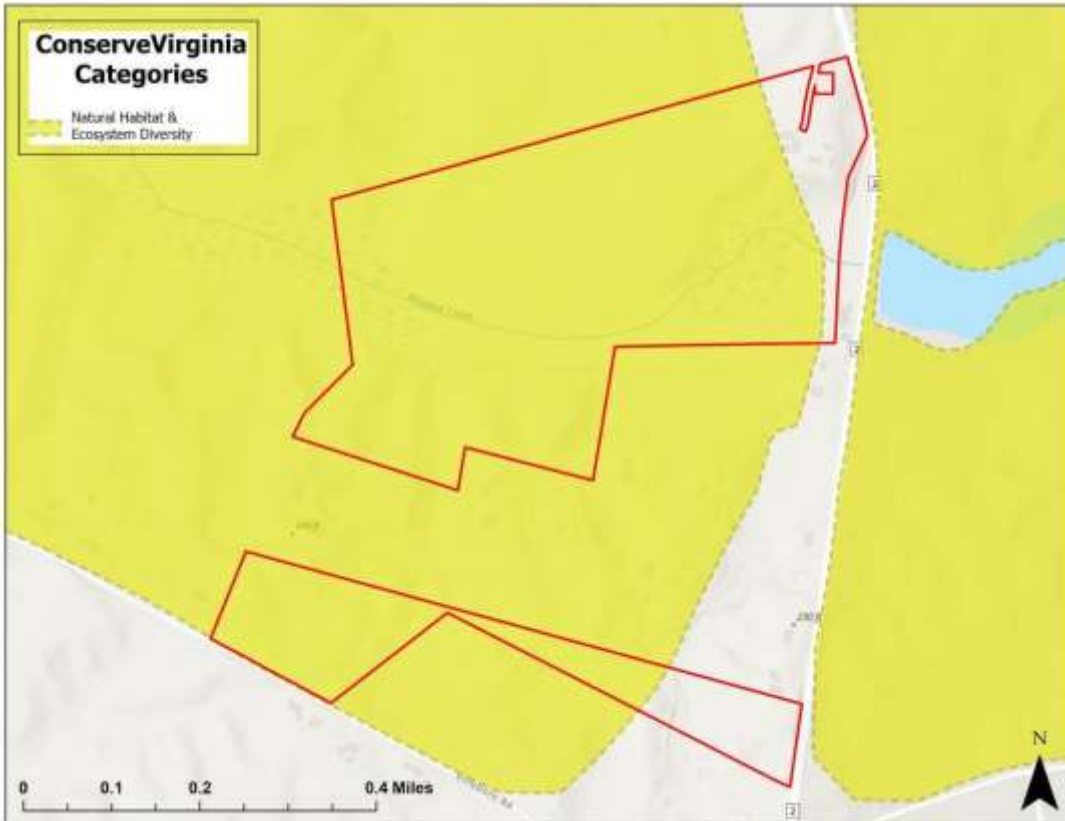


Wood duck and wildlife habitat on Meadow Creek

Aerial: Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds



ConserveVirginia: Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds



10. Virginia Dept. of Forestry – Hornet Swamp

The Dept. of Forestry (DOF) is seeking a VLCF grant to acquire an open-space easement on two parcels in Southampton and Sussex Counties with two miles of frontage on Hornet Swamp. The property includes a total of 615 acres, of which approximately 526 is forested and the remainder is in agricultural use. The property owner has been recognized by DOF for solid stewardship and Long Leaf Pine restoration on the property. The DOF easement will protect sensitive bottomlands and more than 20,000 feet of forested buffers along Hornet Swamp and the perennial streams.

Total Project Cost: \$775,000; **Match:** landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$400,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$400,000 (\$122,500 from Forestland Preservation and \$277,500 from Farmland Preservation funds).



Long Leaf established 2013



Hornet Swamp Bottomlands



Hardwoods mixed uplands

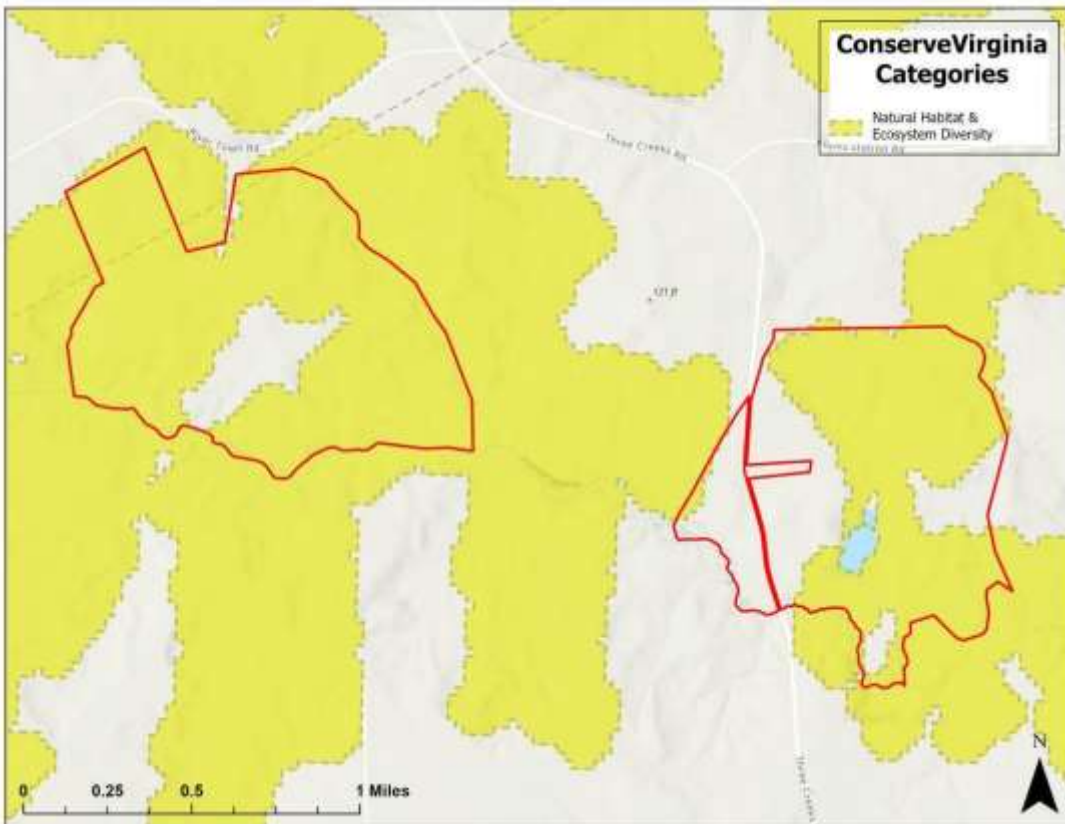


Croplands with pine plantation background

Aerial: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Hornet Swamp



ConserveVirginia: Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Hornet Swamp



11. Clarke County – Newfound Farm

Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority is seeking funds to acquire a conservation easement on 59 acres of primarily forested land in Clarke County with more than ½ mile of frontage on Opequon Creek, a designated impaired waterway. The dominant forest stand on the property is oak/hickory. The primary forestlands, which encompass 95% of the property, will be preserved. Forested riparian buffers of 100 feet in width along Opequon Creek will help protect water quality. Approximately 5 acres in the floodplain has historically been open and the landowner is in the process of removing invasive species including autumn olive and Ailanthus from the area. The parcel is adjacent to the 3rd Battle of Winchester and the property played a significant role in the Civil War during the Battles of Winchester and the Opequon Creek.

Total Project Cost: \$254,750; **Match:** Clarke Co, VDACS \$62,500, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$125,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$100,150.



Aerial: Clarke County, Newfound Farm



ConserveVirginia: Clarke County, Newfound Farm

This property does not intersect any layers of ConserveVirginia.

III. Historic Area Preservation Applications

Amount of funding available: \$3,000,000

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy; Haskins Farm at New Market Heights; fee acquisition of 50 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost: \$1,349,000; grant request: \$600,000; recommend: \$600,000.**
2. Capital Region Land Conservancy; 5270 New Market Road; fee acquisition of 40 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost: \$1,201,500; grant request: \$588,250; recommend: \$588,250.**
3. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield; an easement on 141 acres in Augusta County; **total project cost: \$906,866; grant request: \$253,433; recommend: \$253,433.**
4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Edwards Tract at Port Republic Battlefield; an easement on 107 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost: \$1,662,571; grant request: \$172,058; recommend: \$172,058.**
5. American Battlefield Trust; Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boynton Plank Road Battlefield; fee acquisition of 12 acres in Dinwiddie County; **total project cost: \$277,908; grant request: \$121,982; recommend: \$121,982.**
6. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Woodworth Cottage; fee acquisition of 0.26 acres in Shenandoah County; **total project cost: \$270,000; grant request: \$135,000; recommend: \$135,000.**
7. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; French Tract at Fisher's Hill Battlefield; an easement on 146 acres in Shenandoah County; **total project cost: \$1,648,517; grant request: \$474,258; recommend: \$474,258.**
8. American Battlefield Trust; Mauller Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield; a fee acquisition of three acres in Prince William County; **total project cost: \$535,828; grant request: \$253,439; recommend: \$253,439.**
9. American Battlefield Trust; Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield; fee acquisition of 12 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost: \$430,191; grant request: \$183,745; recommend: \$183,745.**
10. Capital Region Land Conservancy; Camp Holly Springs; an easement on 145 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost: \$2,488,000; grant request: \$750,000; recommend: \$0.**
11. American Battlefield Trust; Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield; a fee acquisition of seven acres in Culpeper County; **total project cost: \$848,138; grant request: \$420,469; recommend: \$217,835.**
12. American Battlefield Trust; TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield; fee acquisition of 11 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost: \$187,128; grant request: \$82,734; recommend: \$0.**

Historic Area Preservation Totals: acres: 675; project costs: \$11,805,647; recommend: \$3,000,000.

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Haskins Farm at New Market Heights

Capital Region Land Conservancy is seeking to acquire 50 acres of critically threatened battlefield land in the core area of the 1864 Battle of New Market Heights in Henrico County. An historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Va. Board of Historic Resources will protect the property’s 650 linear feet of the “New Market Line” earthworks that the US Colored Troops (USCT) seized in their victory for which 14 Medal of Honors were awarded. The county’s comprehensive plan identifies the property as future “concentrated commercial” use and Preservation Virginia noted that this battlefield is one of the most threatened historic sites in Virginia. CRLC is working with local and national partners to establish an area of approximately 350 acres within the New Market Heights Battlefield to be interpreted and open for public access. Many have placed an even greater emphasis on preserving the few sites pertinent to the USCT. Several descendants of USCT enlisted men are also engaged in these preservation efforts.

Total Project Cost: \$1,349,000; **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program; **Grant Request:** \$600,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$600,000.



Aerial: Capital Region Land Conservancy – Haskins Farm at New Market Heights



ConserveVirginia: 1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Haskins Farm at New Market Heights



2. Capital Region Land Conservancy – 5270 New Market Road

Capital Region Land Conservancy is requesting VLCF funding to acquire 40 acres at Willis Church and New Market Roads in Henrico County. Conservation of this property with an historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Board of Historic Resources will allow for the restoration of the landscape to its agricultural uses and prior battlefield conditions. The property is adjacent to National Park Service land and has significant road frontage along scenic Route 5 at a very visible intersection. This project will preserve the approaches to the Richmond National Battlefield Park, and allow for an interpretation of the fighting that occurred on June 30 and July 1, 1862, when Major General Holmes arrived to cut off the Union Army’s approach to Richmond.

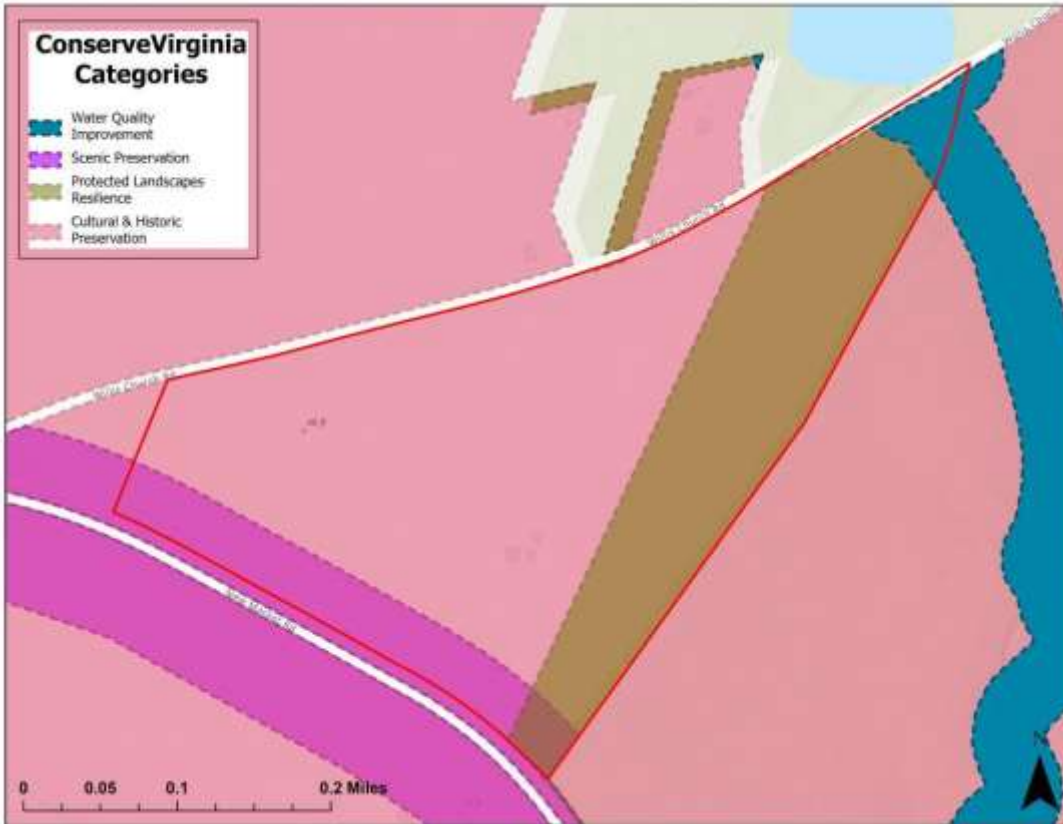
Total Project Cost: \$1,201,500; **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program; **Grant Request:** \$588,250; **Recommended Amount:** \$588,250.



Aerial: Capital Region Land Conservancy – 5270 New Market Road



ConserveVirginia: Capital Region Land Conservancy – 5270 New Market Road



3. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is requesting VLCF funding to acquire a historic preservation and open-space easement on the 141-acre Shiflett Tract in Augusta County. SVBF will convey the easement to the Va. Board of Historic Resources. The property makes up the heart of the Piedmont Battlefield along the Middle River south of Grottoes. The Union victory at the Battle of Piedmont led to the fall of Staunton and the burning of the Virginia Military Institute. This project marks SVBF's first opportunity to preserve a large tract of battlefield land in Augusta County and on the Piedmont Battlefield. Currently, the site is a farm with crops and cattle grazing as it has been since the Civil War. The farm has 2,700 feet of river frontage and a small intermittent stream that feeds into the Middle River. If the project is successful, the owner has agreed to discuss conserving his adjoining properties that total nearly 400 acres.

Total Project Cost: \$906,866; **Match:** Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and American Battlefield Protection Program; **Grant Request:** \$253,433; **Recommended Amount:** \$253,433.



Aerial: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Shiflett Tract



4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards Tract at Port Republic Battlefield

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation seeks funding to complete protection of the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County with an historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Board of Historic Resources. This property is part of the “The Coaling,” made famous by the role this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. Control of this high ground determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic, but also the fate of the 1862 Valley campaign. Today, nine acres of The Coaling are owned by SVBF but the vast majority of the site is still unprotected. The Edwards property makes up most of that unreserved land, which has been subdivided into 12 parcels. This project will preserve the remaining 10 parcels and open them as parkland with trails and historic interpretive markers. This project received two prior VLCF grants totaling \$188,229 (FY21 Round II \$29,550; FY22 \$158,679).

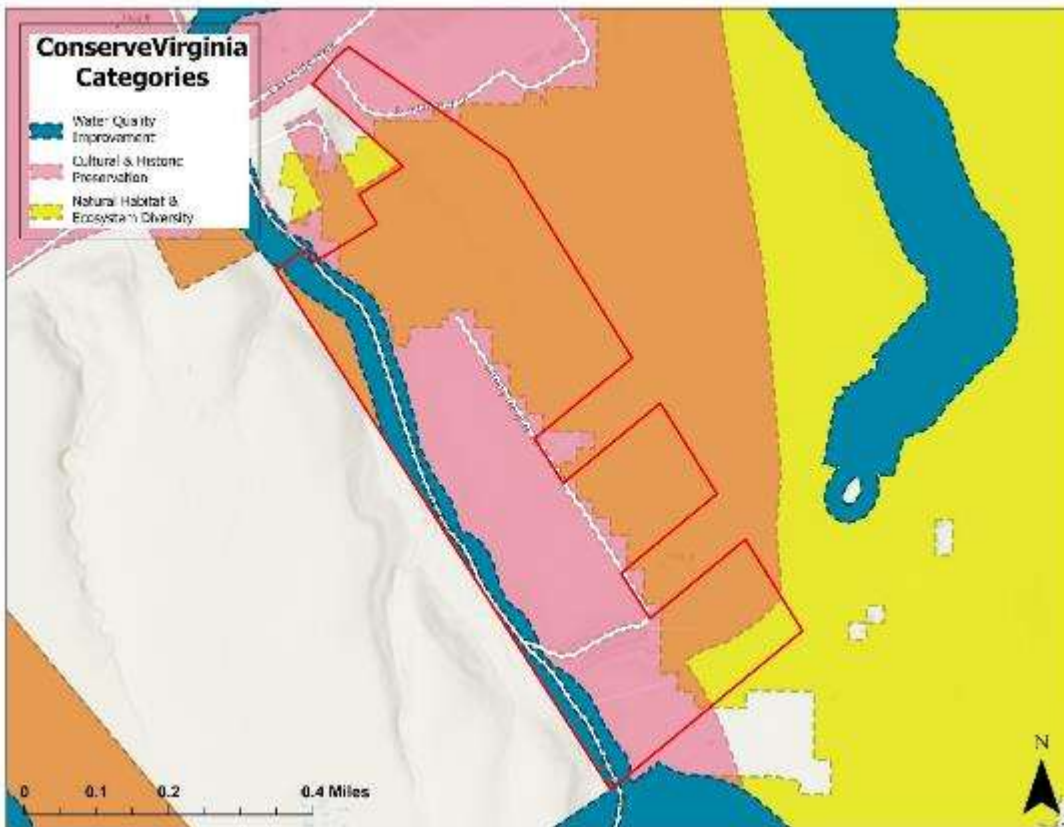
Total Project Cost: \$1,662,571. **Match:** Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, American Battlefield Protection Program, SVBF. **Grant Request:** \$172,058. **Recommended amount:** \$172,058.



Aerial: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards Tract



ConserveVirginia: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards Tract



5. American Battlefield Trust – Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boydton Plank Road Battlefield

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the 11.72-acre Amelia & Associates LLC Tract in Dinwiddie County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The property is located entirely within the Boydton Plank Road Battlefield and the White Oak Road Battlefield. The property is unimproved and divided into ten parcels. The property includes 1.39 acres of freshwater forested/shrub wetland, 9.06 acres of woods, and 225.9 feet of unnamed intermittent stream. The Trust plans to steward the tract as open space available to the public year-round for educational purposes.

Total Project Cost: \$277,908. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, private donations.
Grant Request: \$121,982. **Recommended amount:** \$121,982.



Aerial: American Battlefield Trust – Amelia & Associates LLC Tract



ConserveVirginia: American Battlefield Trust – Amelia & Associates LLC Tract



6. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Woodworth Cottage

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 Hanning Rupert, a teacher, who taught white children in the building during the day in what was called the “Cottage Institute,” and African American students at night in what was called the “Woodworth Cottage.” A Union sympathizer and abolitionist during the war, Jessie was not well liked in New Market and few in town would associate with her. There was very little support for her school and the opposition of the school from the whites in town caused attendance to decrease. Eventually, due to the lack of funding and the establishment of Virginia’s free school system, Jessie closed the school in 1870. Today, the property is vacant and will soon be listed for sale. The Foundation is requesting VLCHF funds to acquire the property, and will convey 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.

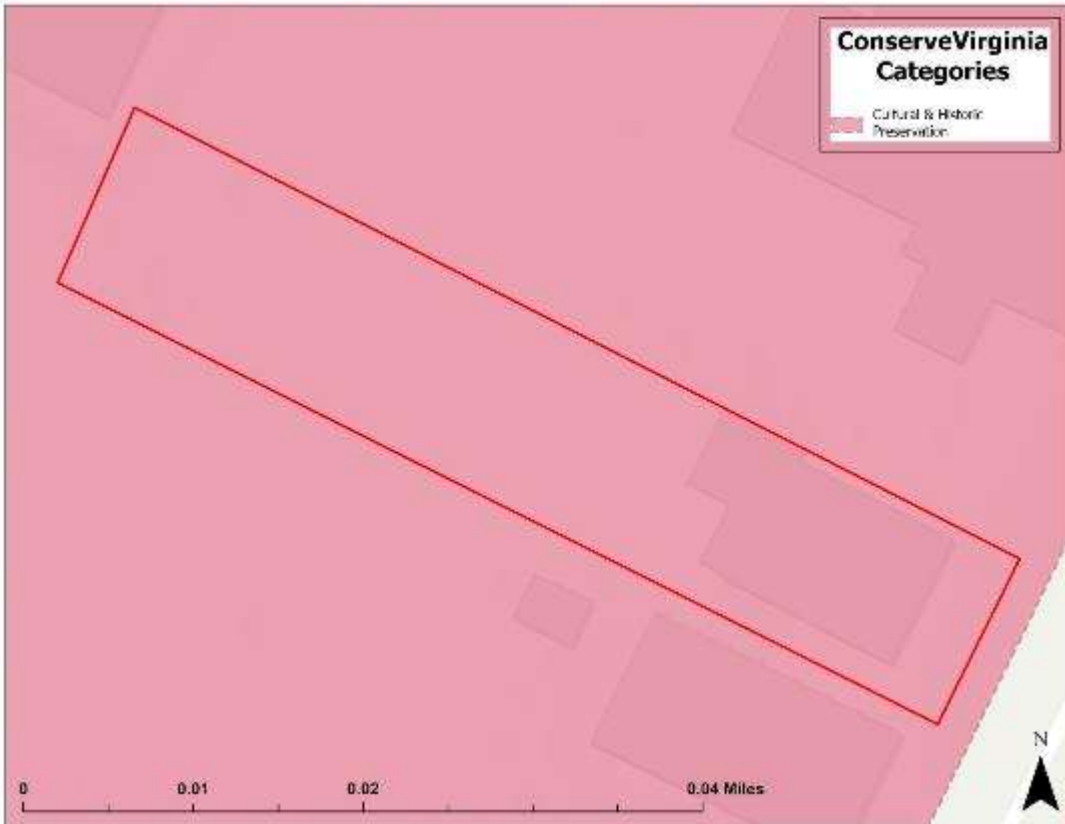
Total Project Cost: \$270,000. **Match:** SVBF. **Grant Request:** \$135,000. **Recommended amount:** \$135,000.



Aerial: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Woodworth Cottage



ConserveVirginia: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Woodworth Cottage



7. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – French Tract at Fisher’s Hill Battlefield

The 146-acre French Tract, in Shenandoah County near Strasburg, is within the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield and the study area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield. The tract was part of the Confederate defensive position during the Battle of Fishers Hill. It was here that Union forces met their stiffest resistance as they attacked the left flank of the Confederate infantry line atop what is now known as “Ramseur’s Hill”. The tract saw the heaviest sustained combat of the entire battle. The property also includes the ca. 1810 Pifer House (pictured below). The French Tract is currently used for agricultural purposes and is also heavily forested. The South Fork of Tumbling Run passes through the property, stretching over 4,000 feet. The Foundation seeks funding to complete protection of the French Tract and will convey a historic preservation and open-space easement to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources.

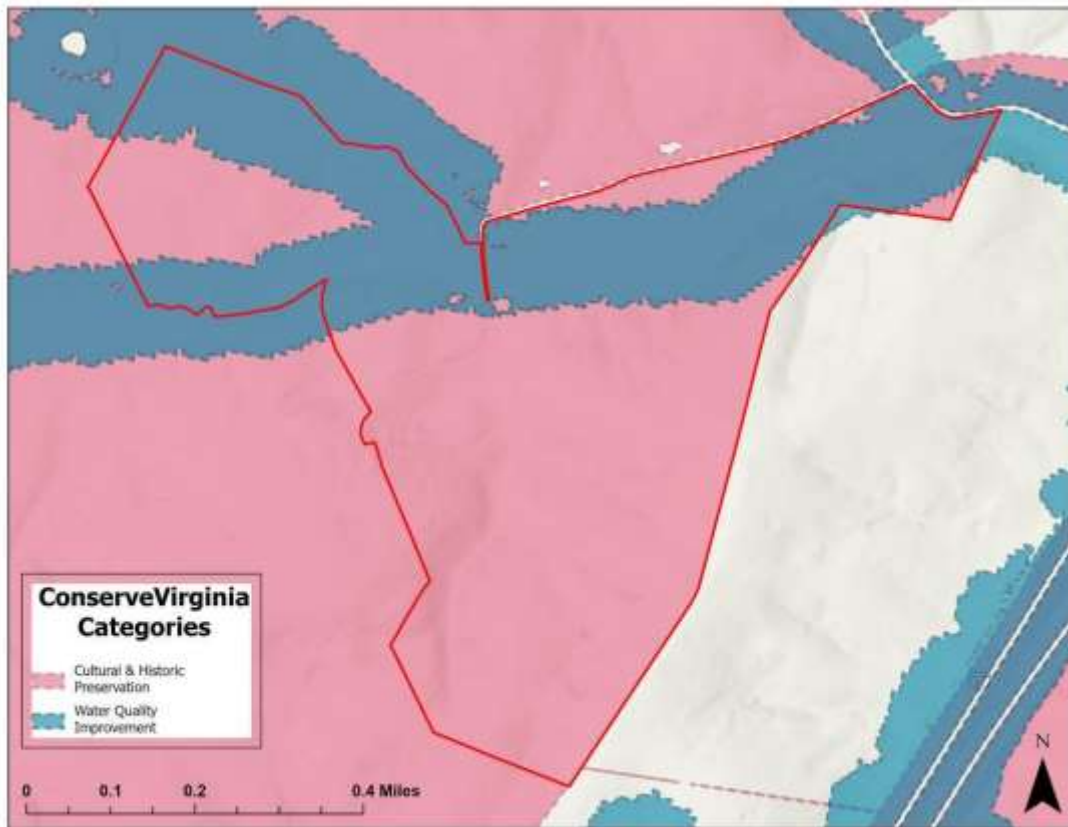
Total Project Cost: \$1,648,517. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program. **Grant Request:** \$474,258. **Recommended amount:** \$474,258.



Aerial: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – French Tract at Fisher’s Hill Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – French Tract at Fisher’s Hill



Battlefield

8. American Battlefield Trust – Mauller Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the three-acre Mauller Tract near Manassas in Prince William County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is located entirely within the Core Area of the Second Manassas Battlefield and is improved with a small single-family residence and two outbuildings. The property is mostly open with scattered trees and includes 423 feet of unnamed intermittent stream bed. The Trust intends to restore the tract to a natural state by demolishing the existing structures and offer periodic tours.

Total Project Cost: \$535,828. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, private funding.
Grant Request: \$253,439. **Recommended amount:** \$253,439.



Aerial: American Battlefield Trust – Mauler Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: American Battlefield Trust – Mauler Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield



9. American Battlefield Trust – Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the twelve-acre Carter Tract in Henrico County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement to be 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 is improved with a residence that was present at the time of the battle, a lofted barn, and several small outbuildings. The property is partially wooded with 4.55 acres of trees and includes 95 feet of frontage on an unnamed intermittent stream bed. The Trust intends to demolish the non-historic structures (if required by DHR) 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.

Total Project Cost: \$430,191. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, Private funds. **Grant Request:** \$183,745. **Recommended amount:** \$183,745.



Aerial: American Battlefield Trust - Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: American Battlefield Trust - Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield



10. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Camp Holly Springs

The Capital Region Land Conservancy requests funding to conserve the 140-acre tract, Camp Holly Springs in Henrico County with a historic preservation and open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The property is associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the American Civil War. Camp Holly Springs was not just a strategic defense on a natural elevation overlooking the river, it is on top of an aquifer of clean drinking spring water. It was easier to bring the troops to the water than to bring water to the troops, so Camp Holly was a longstanding important encampment. In 1864, Union troops, including the US Colored Troops (USCT), attacked the fortifications on three offenses (Deep Bottom I, Deep Bottom II, and New Market Heights). It was finally on the third attempt that the USCT were able to break through the Confederate line and Union troops captured the heights. Today, the property is part of local water quality concerns (due to the aquifer), forestry and agriculture concerns, threatened species, migratory birds of conservation concern, and scenic preservation issues that are common to the Route 5 corridor in Henrico County.

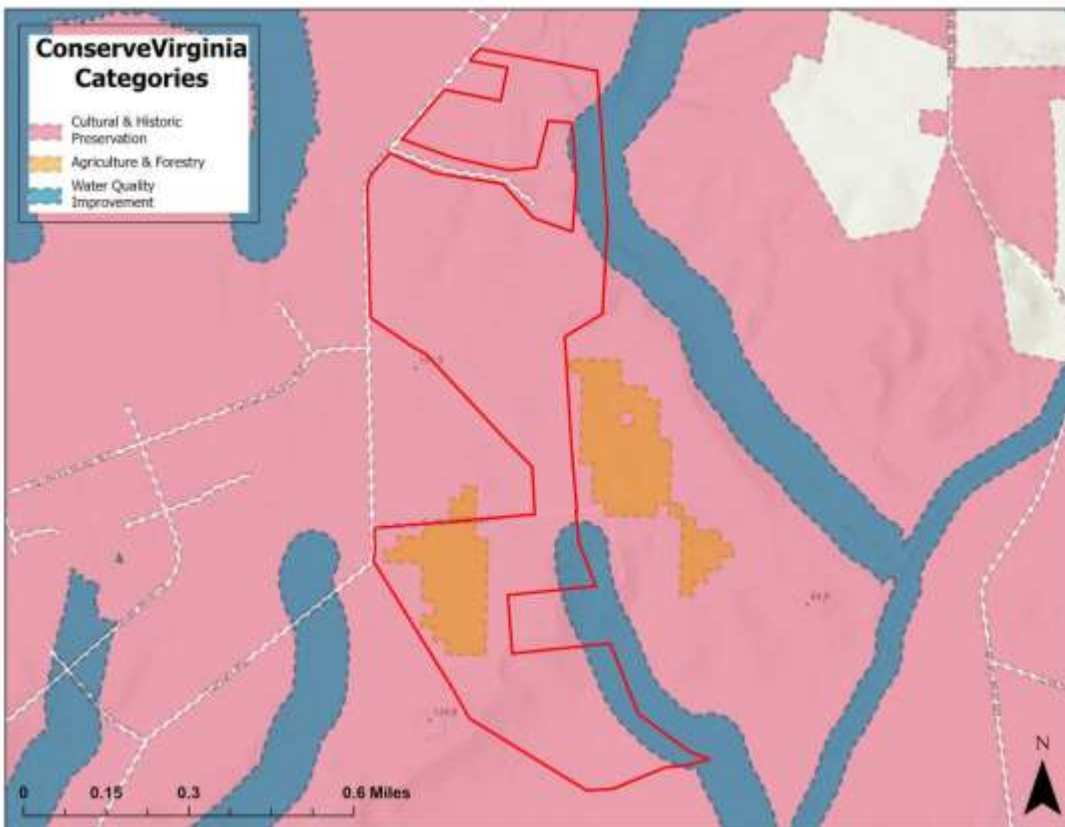
Total Project Cost: \$2,488,000. **Match:** Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, American Battlefield Protection Program. **Grant Request:** \$750,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.



Aerial: Capital Region Land Conservancy – Camp Holly Springs



ConserveVirginia: Capital Region Land Conservancy – Camp Holly Springs



11. American Battlefield Trust – Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the seven-acre Proctor Tract in Culpeper County via fee acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is located entirely within the Core Area of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield. The property is improved and composed of two parcels, each with a single-family dwelling and outbuildings. The property also includes two acres of thinly scattered woods. The Trust will remove the non-historic structures (if required by DHR and DCR) and transfer the property to the DCR for inclusion in the Culpeper Battlefields State Park.

Total Project Cost: \$848,138. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, private funds. **Grant Request:** \$420,469. **Recommended amount:** \$217,835.



Aerial: American Battlefield Trust – Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: American Battlefield Trust – Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield



12. American Battlefield Trust – TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the 11-acre TRPF Tract in Henrico County via acquisition and the recordation of a historic preservation and open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is located entirely within the Core Area of the Glendale Battlefield and the Core Area of the First Deep Bottom Battlefield. The unimproved tract is fully wooded with new growth since timbering in 2016. The property is currently subject to certain deed restrictions that preserve the property in perpetuity; however, retained rights include the right to construct residential dwellings, farm structures, and alternative energy structures. The Trust intends to record a more restrictive conservation easement to eliminate these rights, and to steward the tract and create a connection with other preserved lands on the Glendale, First Deep Bottom, and Malvern Hill battlefields.

Total Project Cost: \$187,128. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, Private funds. **Grant Request:** \$82,734. **Recommended amount:** \$0.



Aerial: American Battlefield Trust – TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield



ConserveVirginia: American Battlefield Trust – TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield



IV. Natural Area Preservation Applications

Amount of funding available: \$3,337,440

1. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Div. of Natural Heritage (DCR - DNH), Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II, fee acquisition of 222 acres in Stafford County; **total project cost: \$390,000; grant request: \$390,000; recommend: \$390,000.**
2. DCR – DNH, Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve, fee acquisition of 244 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost: \$670,000; grant request: \$670,000; recommend: \$670,000.**
3. DCR – DNH, Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve – Buckhorn Phase 1 Addition, fee acquisition of 1009 acres in Bland and Giles Counties; **total project cost: \$1,285,000; grant request: \$1,285,000; recommend: \$0.**
4. DCR – DNH, Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve Expansion, fee acquisition of 318 acres in Montgomery County; **total project cost: \$1,285,000; grant request: \$1,285,000; recommend: \$1,030,140.**
5. DCR – DNH, Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield Addition tract, fee acquisition of 110 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost: \$453,800; grant request: \$453,800; recommend: \$453,800.**
6. DCR – DNH, Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve, fee acquisition of 33 acres in Montgomery County; **total project cost: \$293,500; grant request: \$293,500; recommend: \$293,500.**
7. DCR - DNH/ Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition - Eastern Overlook, fee acquisition of 10 acres in Prince William County; **total project cost: \$525,000; grant request: \$500,000; recommend: \$500,000.**
8. DCR – DNH, Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition, fee acquisition of 56 acres in Floyd County; **total project cost: \$365,000; grant request: \$365,000; recommend: \$0.**
9. Franklin Parks Foundation, Cypress Bridge NAP Addition - Musser Tract, easement on 69 acres in the City of Franklin; **total project cost: \$223,500; grant request: \$111,750; recommend: \$0.**

Natural Area Preservation Totals: acres: 2,072; project costs: \$5,490,800; requested: \$5,354,050; recommend: \$3,337,440.

1. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$390,000 to support fee-simple purchase of three key parcel additions to Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve in Stafford County, totalling 222 acres. These tracts enhance DCR’s ability to protect natural heritage resources and key visual and ecological buffers along the main public access corridor into the Preserve and prevent incompatible development. The majority of the property includes forested wetlands and riparian areas along Accokeek Creek and one of the parcels supports the state endangered and federally threatened Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*). All of the parcels are located in one of Virginia’s “essential conservation sites” as well as a mapped “ecological core” with the third highest ranking possible in Virginia.

Total Project Cost: \$390,000; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$390,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$390,000.



Small Whorled Pogonia – a state and federally listed plant occurs on the property

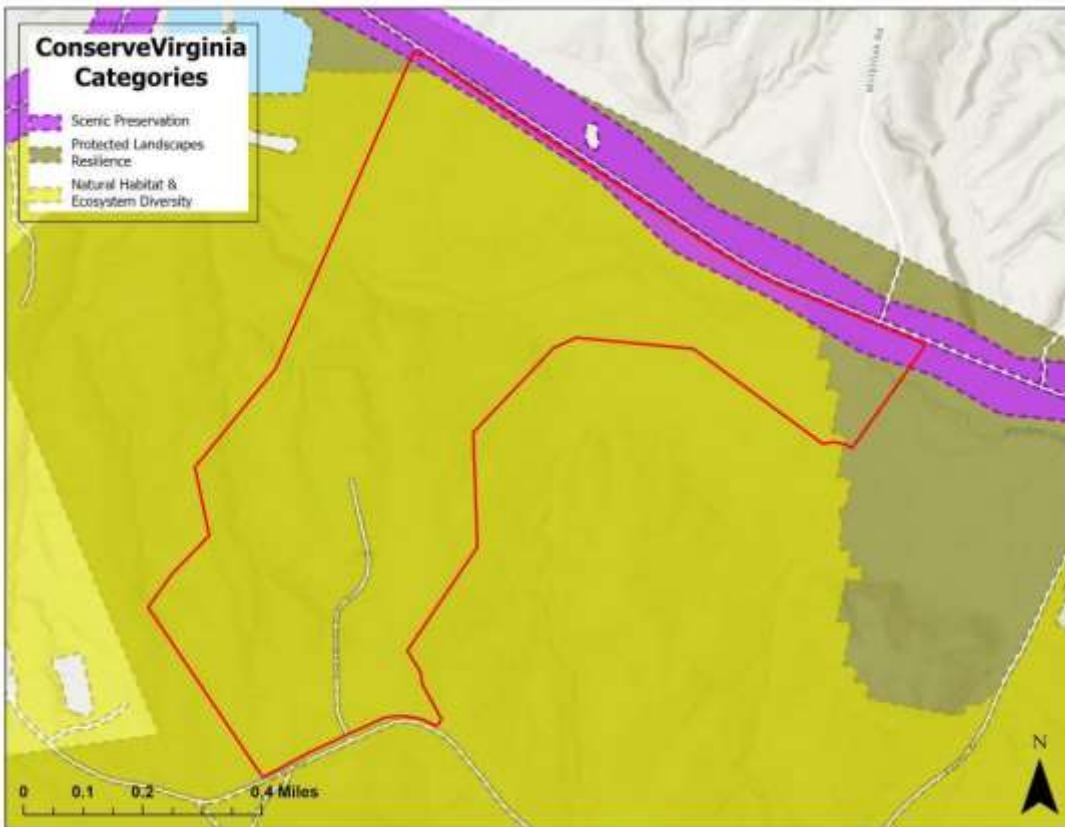


Basic mesic forest on the property

Aerial: DCR – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition- Accokeek II



DCR – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition- Accokeek II



2. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$670,000 to protect 244 contiguous acres along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Rockingham County that falls within one of the state’s most significant ecological cores. This project is located in one of Virginia’s essential conservation sites and will establish a new Natural Area Preserve. The property features Virginia’s largest and best example of globally rare Northern White Cedar Forest, as well as a population of state threatened Wood Turtles. The site lies along the North Mountain fault; a major geologic boundary defining the edge of the Shenandoah Valley. The tracts intersect four categories of ConserveVirginia and although the Cultural and Historic layer is not one of these, a pitched battle took place here on October 6, 1864, between General George Custer’s cavalry division and that of Confederate General Thomas Rosser, known as the Battle of Brock’s Gap.

Total Project Cost: \$670,000; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$670,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$670,000.

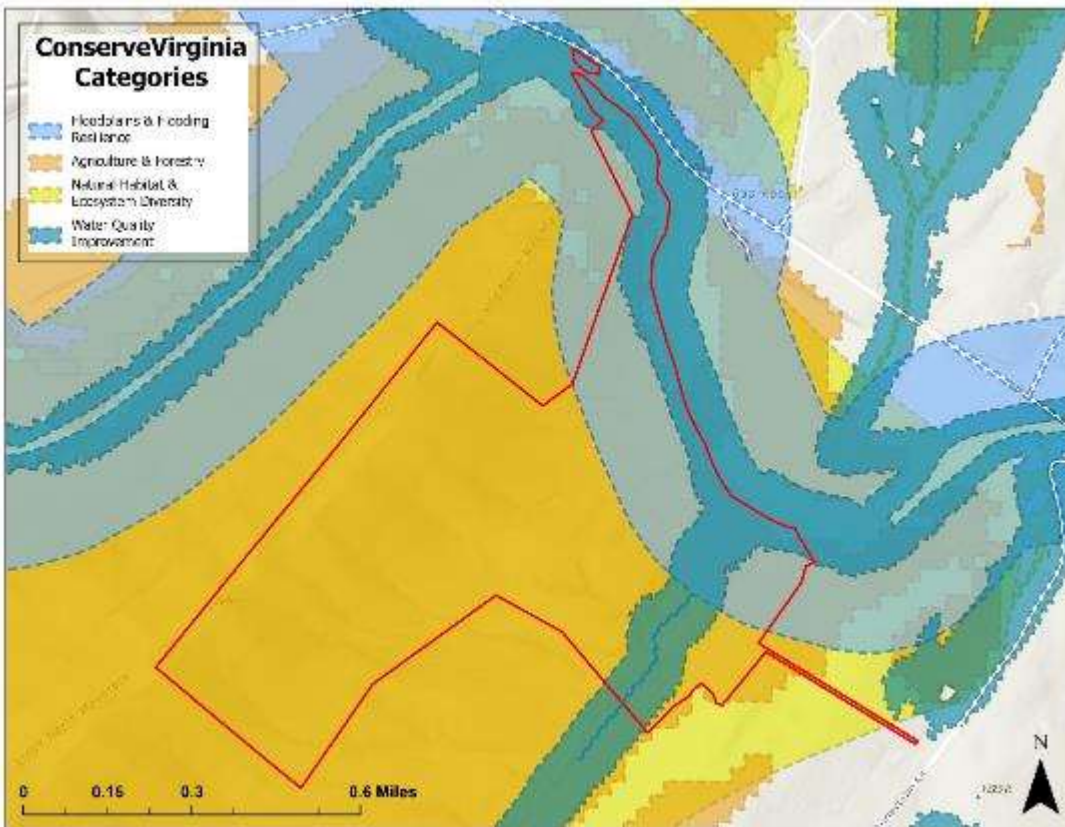
North Fork Shenandoah River is the boundary of the project area, subject parcels are located on the right side of this image; note White Cedar trees on a bluff along the center of the image background



Aerial: DCR – Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve



3. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve – Buckhorn Phase 1 Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$1,285,000 to support fee-simple purchase of two key parcel additions to Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve in Bland and Giles counties totaling 1,009 acres. Acquisition of these tracts would nearly quadruple the size of the Preserve and enhance the long-term resiliency and functionality of the existing Preserve by preventing incompatible development. This project represents a significant expansion of protected area around existing old growth forests in the second largest ecological core in the state. The parcels are located in one of Natural Heritage Program’s designated “essential conservation sites,” a significant block of land designated as part of the Natural Land Network, and areas designated as “Outstanding” in terms of forest conservation value by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Total Project Cost: \$1,285,000; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$1,285,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$0.



Central Appalachian Dry-Mesic Chestnut Oak - Northern Red Oak Forest, This community type is one of the many that are present on the property. Harsh site conditions equate to low site productivity as indicated by the open conditions and stunted trees.

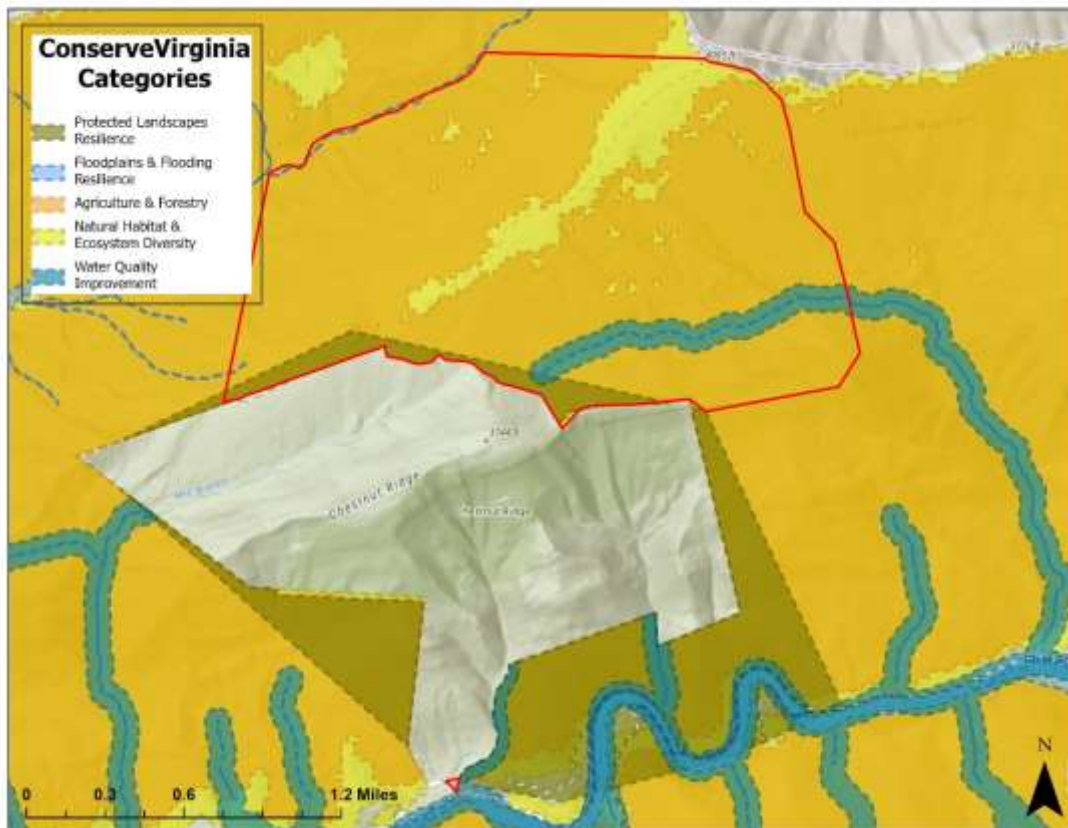


Central Appalachian Montane Rich Boulderfield Forest, another of the communities

Aerial: DCR – Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve



4. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve Expansion

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$1,285,000 in funding from VLCF to support fee-simple purchase of a key addition to Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve (MCSNAP) in Montgomery County. This tract, 318 acres, enhances DCR’s ability to protect additional natural heritage resources, key ecological buffers for the existing Preserve, and prevent incompatible development activities that could result from an imminent sale. The property supports karst topography, including sinkholes, cave entrances, and sinking streams that are linked to the significant cave and karst related resources on MCSNAP. The subject parcel also supports the one of Virginia’s best example of the Appalachian Sugar Maple - Chinquapin Oak Dry Calcareous Forest.

Total Project Cost: \$1,285,000; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$1,285,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$1,030,140.

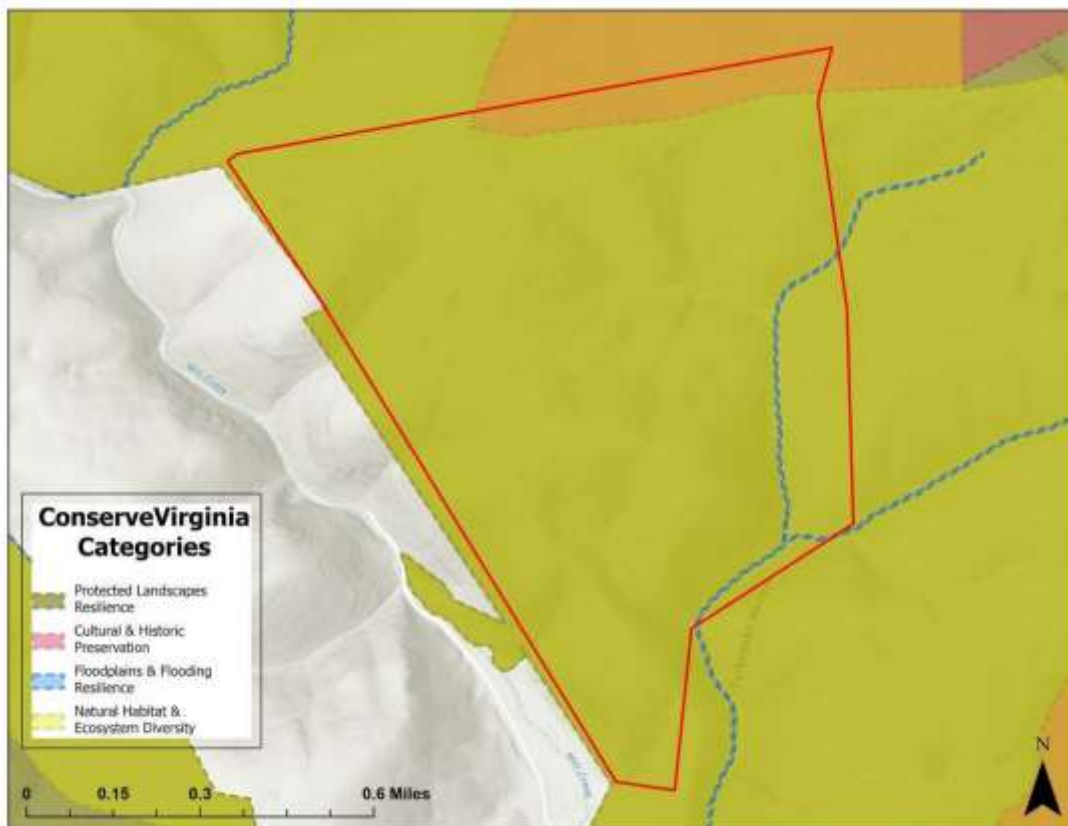


Appalachian Sugar Maple - Chinquapin Oak Dry Calcareous Forest occurs on the subject property, photo courtesy of Gary Fleming (DCR)

Aerial: DCR – Mill Creek Springs NAP Expansion



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Mill Creek Springs NAP Expansion



5. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield Addition tract

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks \$453,800 in VLCF funds to support the Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield addition tract acquisition. The purchase of 100 acres that adjoin the Preserve and overlap the core area of the Port Republic Civil War Battlefield will also support two globally rare natural communities and four rare plant species – two of which are state and federally listed as threatened or endangered. Although partially protected by an easement, the acquisition of this acreage will substantially improve long-term protections by removing a building footprint, expanding wetland buffers, restricting incompatible forest management practices, and creating opportunities for ecological restoration. This acquisition will improve the long-term resiliency of one of Virginia’s most outstanding B1-ranked conservation sites and protect a globally significant National Audubon Society Important Bird Area.

Total Project Cost: \$453,800; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$453,800; **Recommended Amount:** \$453,800.



Shenandoah Valley sinkhole Pond; a globally rare wetland present on the subject property

Aerial: DCR – Deep Run Ponds NAP – Battlefield Addition tract



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Deep Run Ponds NAP – Battlefield Addition tract



6. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$293,500 from VLCF to establish the Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. This new preserve will protect the most at-risk cave adapted species in Virginia. The Ellett Valley Millipede is found in only three sites worldwide, all located near Blacksburg. Fee-simple purchase of two adjacent parcels will enable DCR to protect the entrance to the globally significant cave, home to both the Millipede as well as another significantly rare Virginia endemic, the Ellett Valley Cave Beetle. The 33 acres include mature, mostly deciduous, calcareous forests immediately surrounding the cave entrance and a narrow ecological buffer.

Total Project Cost: \$293,500; **Match:** \$0; **Grant Request:** \$293,500; **Recommended Amount:** \$293,500.



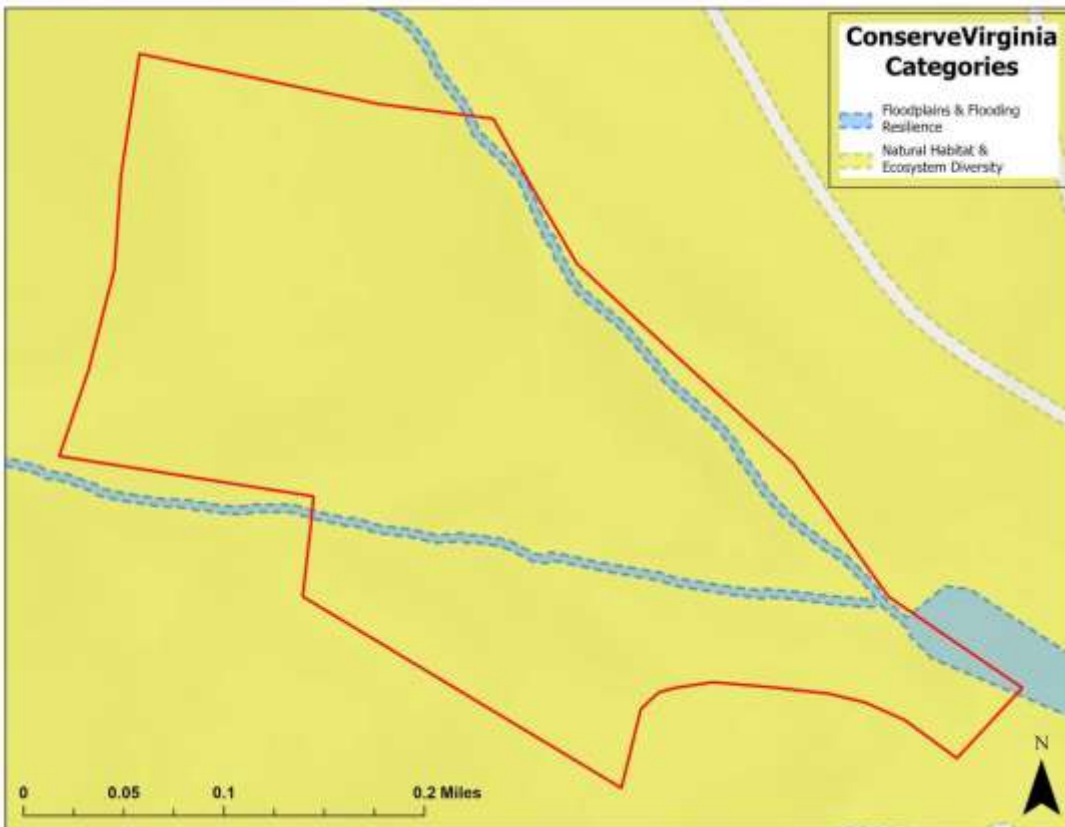
Inside of significant cave on subject property

Ellett Valley Pseudotremia Millipede – a state listed invertebrate occurs on the subject property

Aerial: DCR – Ellett Escarpment NAP



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Ellett Escarpment NAP



7. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition - Eastern Overlook

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation, in collaboration with DCR’s Division of Natural Heritage, seeks \$500,000 to support a fee-simple purchase of an adjoining 10.13 acres as an addition to Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve (BRMNAP) in Prince William County. This tract enhances VOF and DCR’s protection of key visual and ecological buffers overlooking the heavily developed Piedmont towards Washington, DC and protects critical habitat above BRMNAP’s biodiversity hotspot, brook trout reintroduction sites, and wetlands. The property includes an upland forest dominated by chestnut oak and blackjack oak with an ericaceous understory that includes highbush blueberry, lowbush blueberry, and black huckleberry providing critical food and habitat for numerous species of conservation concern. Lastly, the site contains one of the last den sites of the threatened timber rattlesnake population not already protected by BRMNAP and is located in one of Virginia’s “essential conservation sites” as well as a third-highest-ranked “ecological core”.

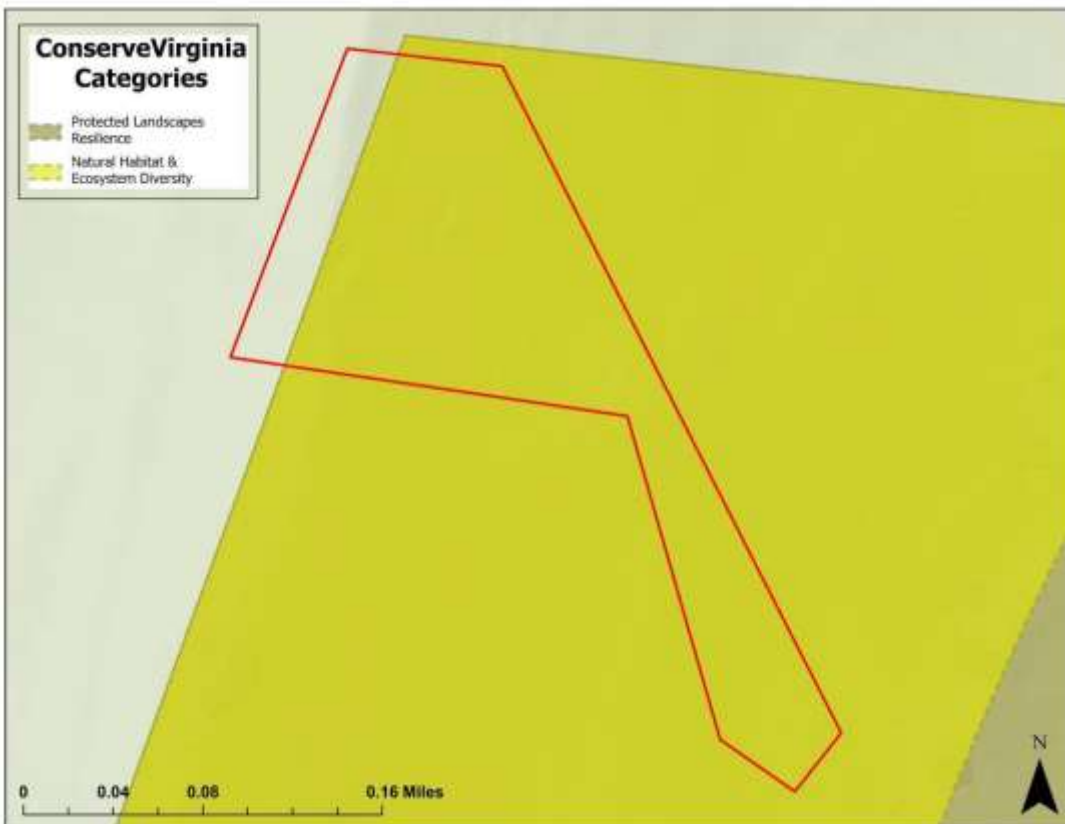
Total Project Cost: \$525,000; **Match:** VOF \$25,000; **Grant Request:** \$500,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$500,000.



Aerial: DCR – Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition



8. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Natural Heritage – Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks \$365,000 to support fee-simple purchase of 56 acres adjoining Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County. The subject tract includes forested wetlands and riparian areas along Camp Branch as well as habitat for numerous species of greatest conservation need, and two significant natural heritage resources, including a Tier 1 (Critical Conservation Need) species. The entire natural Virginia range of this species is restricted to an approximately 10-mile radius in Floyd County, where it requires very specialized habitat conditions and active management. Additionally, the property shares a long boundary with the existing preserve and creates a contiguous connected stream corridor.

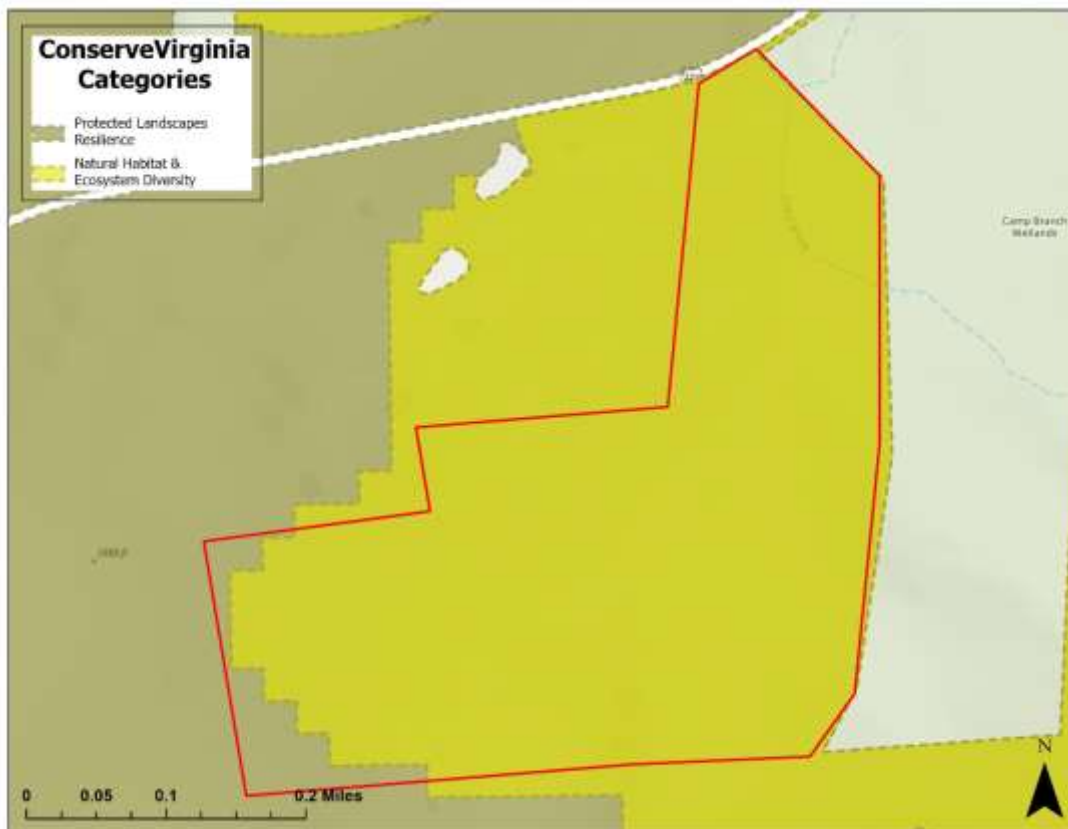
Total Project Cost: \$365,000; Match: \$0; Grant Request: \$365,000; Recommended Amount: \$0.



Aerial: DCR – Camp Branch Wetlands NAP



ConserveVirginia: DCR – Camp Branch Wetlands NAP



9. Franklin Parks Foundation – Cypress Bridge NAP Addition – Musser Tract

The Musser tract lies in Southampton County and is adjacent to both US 58 and the Nottoway River, a State Scenic River. It is highly visible to westbound traffic on the roadway and to river users. The properties to the east and south are both under conservation easement. The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian tract of Cypress Bridge State Natural Area Preserve, as well as portions of the preserve itself are directly across the river from this property. DCR’s Natural Heritage Division has identified five Natural Heritage occurrences on site. The Nature Conservancy has submitted a NAWCA grant to match this application and DCR has agreed to hold a perpetual easement on the property.

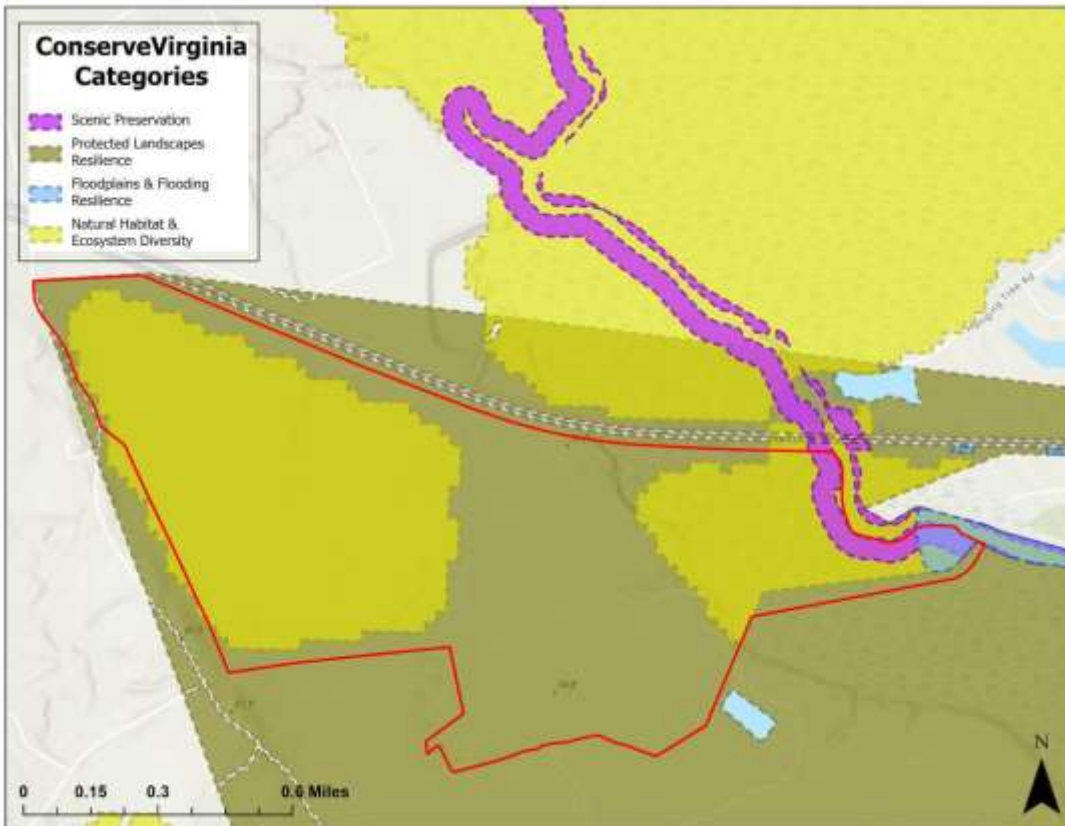
Total Project Cost: \$223,500; **Match:** NAWCA \$107,500, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$111,750; **Recommended Amount:** \$0.



Aerial: Franklin Parks Foundation – Cypress Bridge NAP Addition – Musser Tract



ConserveVirginia: Franklin Parks Foundation – Cypress Bridge NAP Addition – Musser Tract



V. **Open Spaces and Parks Applications**

Amount of funding available: \$3,390,000

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy, Mayo Island, a fee acquisition of 14.50 acres in the City of Richmond; **total project cost:** \$11,882,000; **grant request:** \$2,000,000; **recommend:** \$1,500,000.
2. Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Red Hill, an easement on 596 acres in Charlotte and Campbell Counties; **total project cost:** \$1,245,500; **grant request:** \$622,750; **recommend:** \$602,830.
3. City of Danville Parks and Recreation Department, Memorial Drive Recreation Area, a fee acquisition of 7 acres in the City of Danville; **total project cost:** \$3,029,050; **grant request:** \$1,500,000; **recommend:** \$500,000.
4. Downtown Greens Inc., Downtown Greens Expansion Project, an easement on 56 acres in the City of Fredericksburg; **total project cost:** \$1,267,800; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$400,000 from Farmland Preservation.
5. The Nature Conservancy, Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area, a fee acquisition of 179 acres in Buchanan County; **total project cost:** \$143,875; **grant request:** \$71,937; **recommend:** \$71,937.
6. Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Coles Point Boating Access, fee acquisition of 3 acres in Westmoreland County; **total project cost:** \$1,032,025; **grant request:** \$532,025; **recommend:** \$532,025
7. New River Soil and Water Conservation District, New River Hill Park, a fee acquisition of 82 acres in Grayson County; **total project cost:** \$312,700; **grant request:** \$156,350; **recommend:** \$156,350 (\$8,208 from Open Spaces and Parks and \$148,142 from Forestland Preservation).
8. City of Charlottesville, Moores Creek Land Acquisition, fee acquisition of nine acres in Albemarle County; **total project cost:** \$368,300; **grant request:** \$175,00; **recommend:** \$175,000.
9. Franklin Parks Foundation, Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract, a fee acquisition of 96 acres in the City of Franklin; **total project cost:** \$868,800; **grant request:** \$404,000; **recommend:** \$0.

Open Spaces & Parks totals: acres: 1,041.57; **project costs:** \$20,150,050; **requested:** \$5,862,062; **recommend:** \$3,938,142 (\$3,390,000 from Open Spaces and Parks plus \$548,142 from Farmland and Forest Preservation)

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Mayo Island

Capital Region Land Conservancy seeks \$2 million from VLCF to purchase the 14-acre Mayo Island property, located in the James River in Richmond. Since the 1980s, the City has sought this property for a park. CRLC has negotiated a purchase agreement with the owners and satisfied many of the contingences that previously were hurdles. Combined funding between the Community Flood Preparedness Fund, VLCF, and the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund will allow this most important component of the Richmond Riverfront Plan to be completed. Together, these funding sources will leverage a significant investment into the outdoor recreation economy in downtown Richmond.

Total Project Cost: \$11,882,000; **Match:** Community Flood Preparedness Fund, Virginia State Clean Water Revolving Fund, private foundations (Cabell Foundation, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation); **Grant Request:** \$2,000,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$1,500,000.



Aerial: Capital Region Land Conservancy – Mayo Island



ConserveVirginia: Capital Region Land Conservancy – Mayo Island



2. Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation – Red Hill

The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation is seeking a grant to place an open-space easement on 596 acres at Red Hill, located in Brookneal, VA. Red Hill, the home of Patrick Henry, first Governor of the Commonwealth, is open to the public year round, provides substantial outreach and education to both youth and adults, and is the site of an annual US Naturalization ceremony held on May 29th, the birthday of Patrick Henry. Additionally, the property includes Prime Farmland, first generation hardwoods, and a recently acquired/identified enslaved cemetery containing 147 identified graves. Red Hill includes numerous structures that are typical of what would have been present at the time of Patrick Henry’s death. It fronts on the State Scenic Staunton River as well as the Falling River. Red Hill was named a National Memorial in 1986 by then President Ronald W. Reagan.

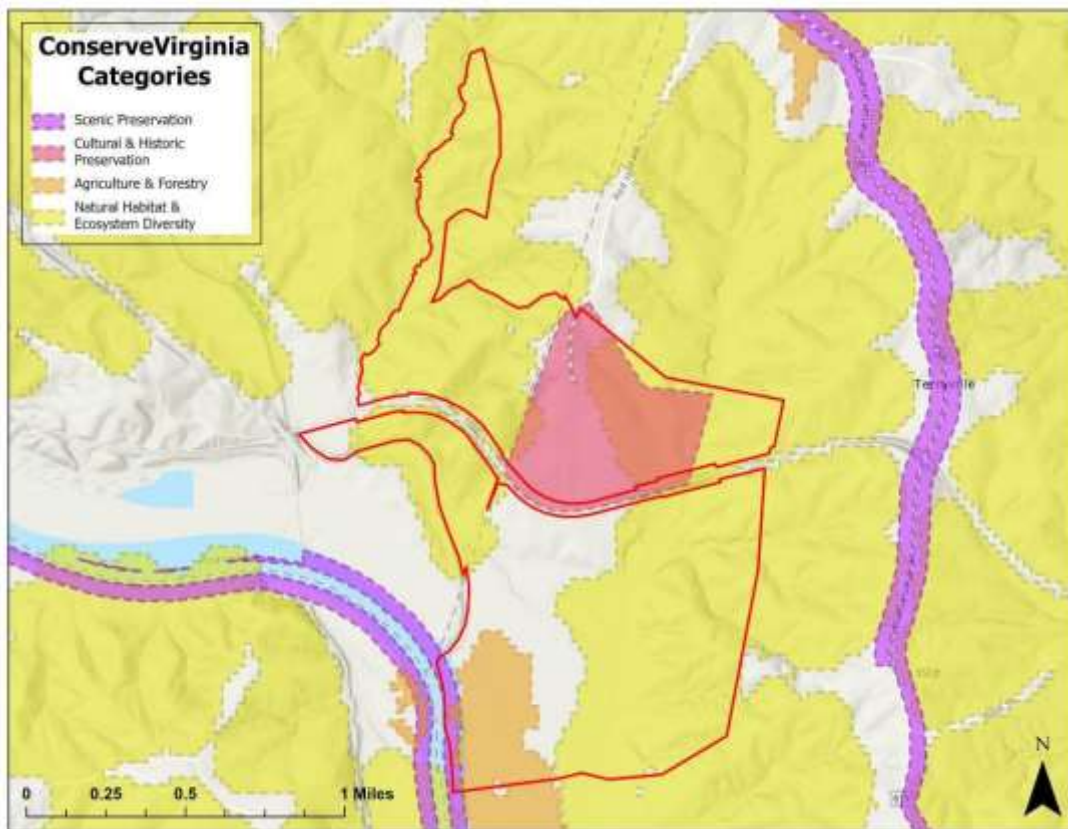
Total Project Cost: \$1,245,500; **Match:** VOF PTF \$150,000, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$622,750; **Recommended Amount:** \$602,830.



Aerial: Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation – Red Hill



ConserveVirginia: Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation – Red Hill



3. City of Danville, Parks and Recreation Department – Memorial Drive Recreation Area

The VLCF funds requested will assist with the purchase of nearly seven acres of a 19-acre tract on Memorial Drive within the city, a property that is individually listed in the Virginia Landmarks Registry (VDHR 108-0123). The Industrial Development Authority has agreed to transfer the property to Danville's Parks and Recreation Department for \$3 million to repurpose and develop a Memorial Drive Recreation Area. Recreational repurpose of the site will include unique amenities open for year-round public access and scenic views. 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 is a covered 925-foot-long pedestrian bridge that spans the Dan River built in 1920. This bridge will serve as a connector to the city's trail system on the south side of Virginia's Scenic Dan River to the north side trail system (a statewide connecting trail).

Total Project Cost: \$3,029,050; **Match:** City of Danville, Danville Regional Foundation, Brownfields grant, private corporation; **Grant Request:** \$1,500,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$500,000.



Covered Pedestrian Bridge
Photo Credit: Register and Bee

Aerial: City of Danville, Parks and Recreation Department – Memorial Drive Recreation Area



ConserveVirginia: City of Danville – Memorial Drive Recreation Area



4. Downtown Greens – Downtown Greens Expansion Project

Downtown Greens, Fredericksburg’s oldest community garden, has embarked on an effort to conserve 56 acres of open space adjacent to Braehead Farm, the last working farm in the City of Fredericksburg. Although small in acreage, its 23 acres of active, prime farmland provide significant community benefits that include addressing the mission of Downtown Greens to produce local food that enhances nutritional security for the City’s underserved communities. The parcel shares a 1,200-foot boundary with the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, helping buffer both Braehead Farm and the adjacent Lee Drive from encroaching industrial development. Its 30 acres of bottomland forest, wetland and vernal pool habitat help generate clean water for the nearby lower Rappahannock River, a state scenic river.

Total Project Cost: \$1,267,800; **Match:** VOF PTF, \$150,000, individual and business donors, \$1,000,000, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$400,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$400,000 (from Farmland Preservation funds).

Belman Rd – Downtown Green – August 13, 2022



Aerial: Downtown Greens – Downtown Greens Expansion Project



ConserveVirginia: Downtown Greens – Downtown Greens Expansion Project

This property does not intersect any layers of ConserveVirginia.

5. The Nature Conservancy – Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking \$71,937 from the VLCF to accomplish the fee simple purchase of approximately 179 acres in the Leemaster Community of Buchanan County. This project is supported by many partners including the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the Southwest Virginia Sportsmen, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) – both at the national and local chapter levels. Securing this property, located about one mile from the 2012-2014 DWR elk release site, will provide protection for important elk habitat and provide public access for elk viewing and elk hunting. The land also provides habitat for a variety of other wildlife species, offers wildlife-related recreational opportunities, and features remarkable scenic vistas. This property is recognized by TNC and the Commonwealth of Virginia as an important area for biodiversity and climate resilience and in addition, will serve to support the local, growing ecotourism industry.

Total Project Cost: \$143,875; **Match:** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, TNC; **Grant Request:** \$71,937; **Recommended Amount:** \$71,937.

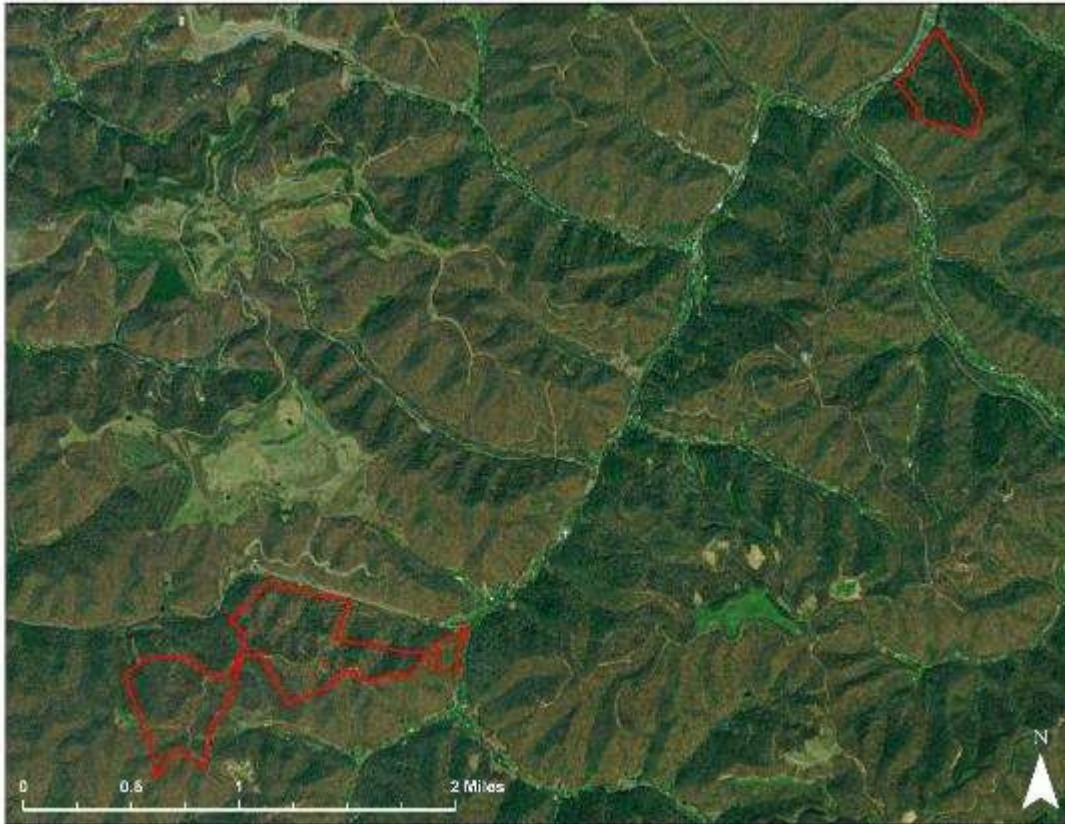


View of Gent Branch Property taken from TNC Owned Property. The fire tower, a local cultural resource, is shown in the center of photo.

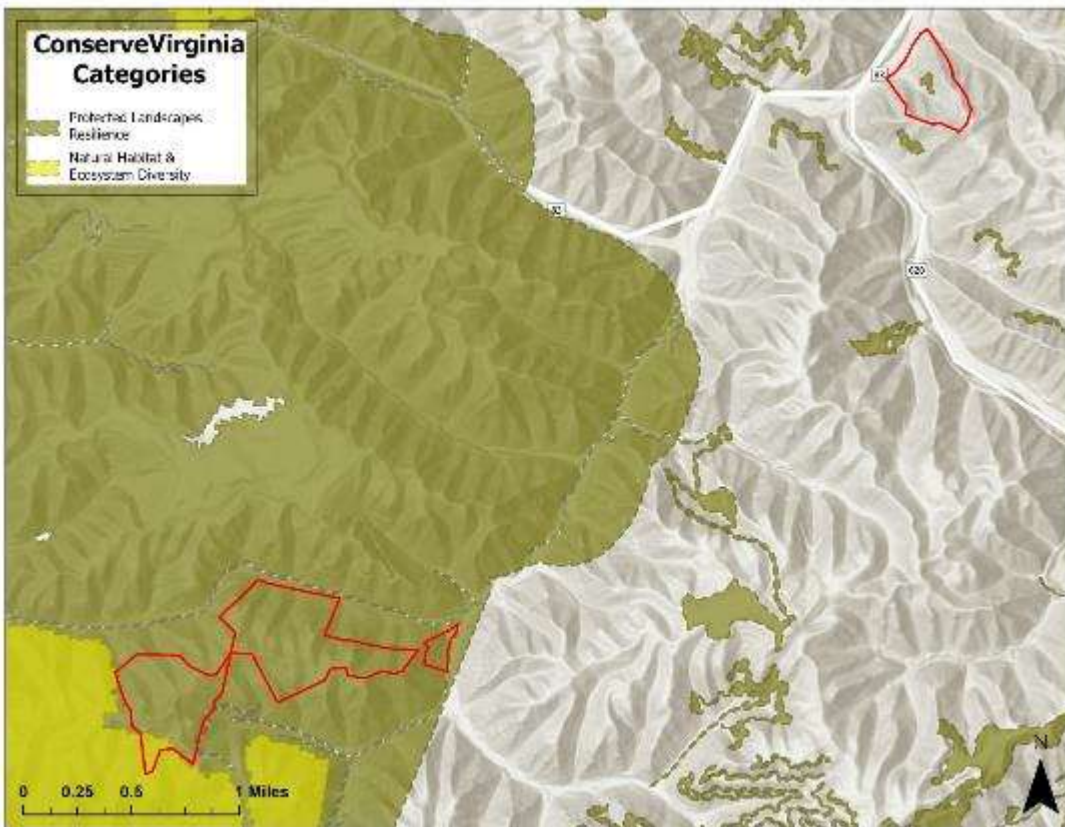
View showing forested area of Gent Branch Property taken from TNC Owned Property.



Aerial: The Nature Conservancy – Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area



ConserveVirginia: The Nature Conservancy – Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area



6. Dept. of Wildlife Resources – Coles Point Boating Access

The DWR proposes to purchase 2.6 acres for future development of public access (a boat ramp, two hand-launch sites) to Branson Cove and the Potomac River, a public ADA-accessible fishing pier, and a gravel parking area. Acquisitions that provide public water access are consistent with the DWR’s mission to connect people to the outdoors, and the intended future uses for boating access, pier-based fishing and wildlife viewing are integral components of that mission. Access to the Potomac River has been identified as a user priority in the DWR’s 2019 Boating Access Site and Facility Management Plan. The acquisition will provide 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 public water access. It would also be included on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, providing access to public and private sites for wildlife viewing.

Total Project Cost: \$1,032,025; **Match:** LWCF, DWR funds; **Grant Request:** \$532,025; **Recommended Amount:** \$532,025.



Existing boat ramp.

Aerial: Dept. of Wildlife Resources – Coles Point Boating Access



ConserveVirginia: Dept. of Wildlife Resources – Coles Point Boating Access



7. New River Soil and Water Conservation District – New River Hill Park

New River Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting funding to purchase 82 acres in Grayson County to create New River Hill Park. The project borders the New River, an American Heritage River and will protect water quality along its 4,800 feet of streams and the diverse habitat of the area. This project will protect approximately 1,700 feet from ridgetop development and protect the scenic viewshed for river users and those traversing the New River Blueway. The planned New River Hill Park will provide a natural area for public use and passive recreation, hiking, biking, environmental education, enjoyment of diverse wildlife, fishing and water activities.

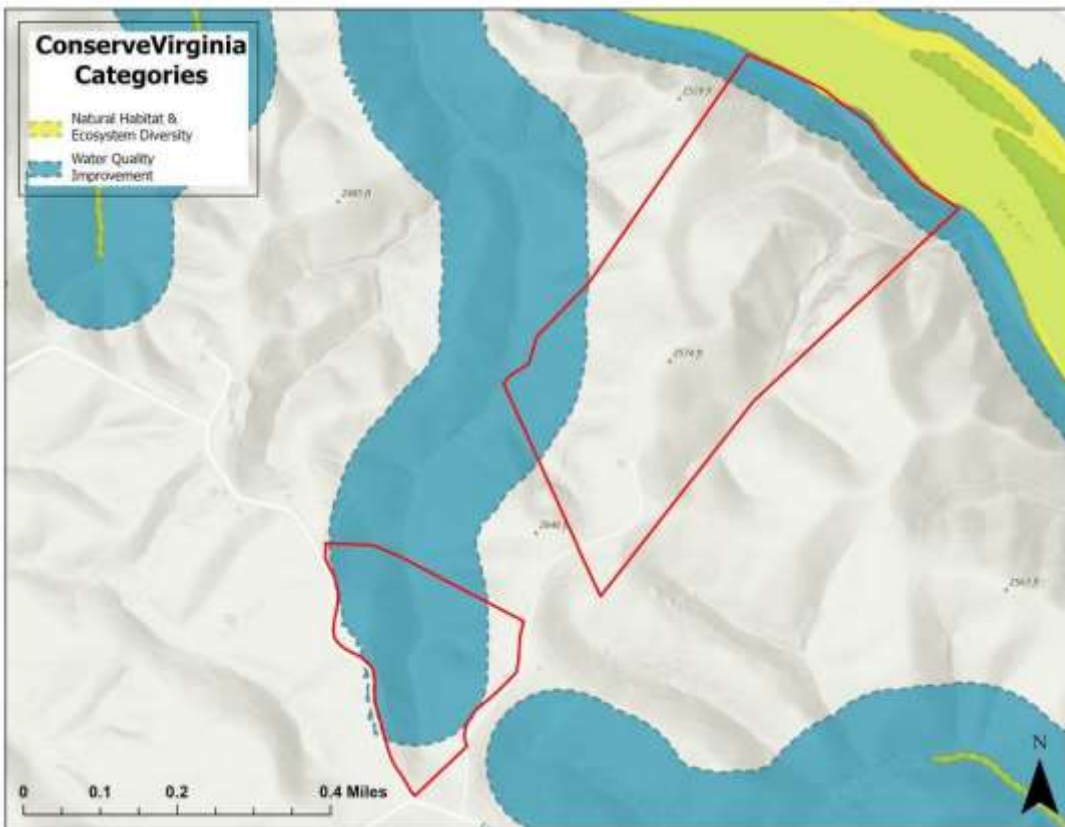
Total Project Cost: \$312,700; **Match:** SWCD resources; **Grant Request:** \$156,350; **Recommended Amount:** \$156,350 (\$8,208 from Open Spaces and Parks funds and \$148,142 from Forestland Preservation funds).



Aerial: New River Soil and Water Conservation District – New River Hill Park



ConserveVirginia: New River Soil and Water Conservation District – New River Hill Park



8. City of Charlottesville – Moores Creek Land Acquisition

The 8.6 acres of land to be purchased with a VLCF grant would become a City of Charlottesville Park and be open daily. The property is across Moores Creek from Azalea Park, and purchase would protect the site from development, thus retaining the scenic view of open space/natural area from Azalea Park. The property also helps complete the greenbelt around the City as a buffer from County development. The property is currently being used as a community garden, and the City will work to continue that use as well as incorporating a bicycle pump track and trails and bridges on the property. Plans are also in place along Moores Creek for stream restoration, improved public fishing and swimming access, and wildlife viewing.

Total Project Cost: \$368,300; **Match:** LWCF, \$175,000, City of Charlottesville; **Grant Request:** \$175,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$175,000.

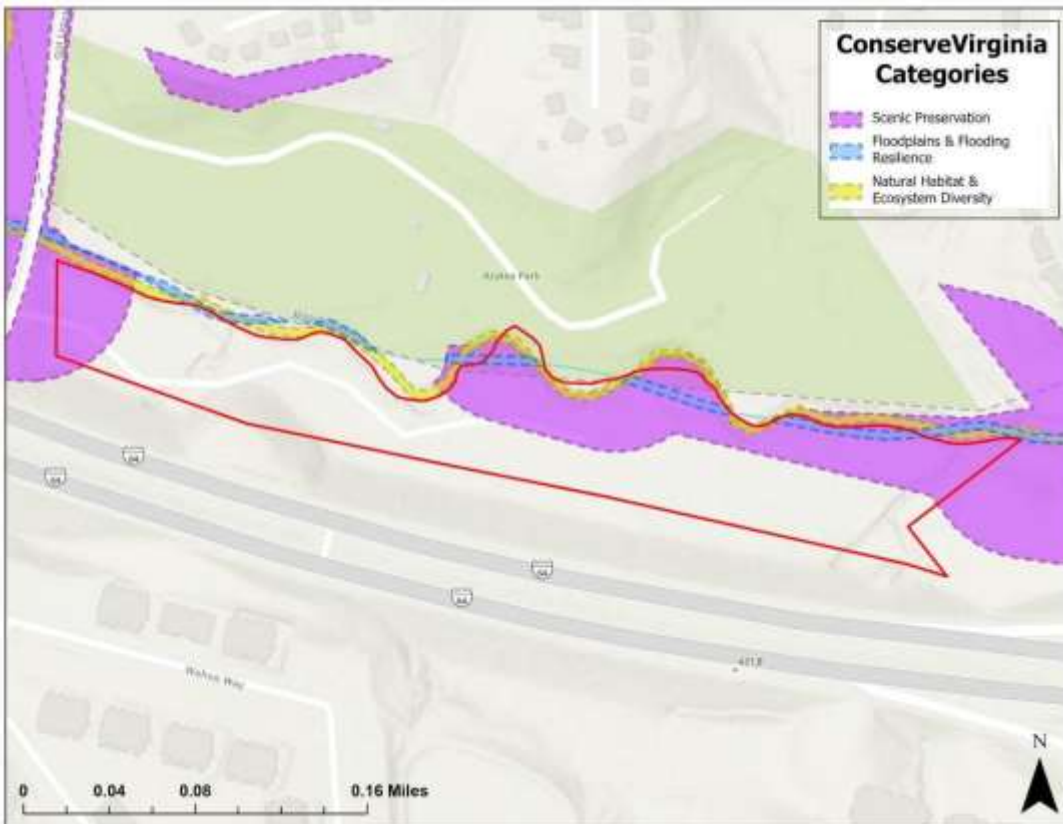


Moores Creek along north border, with Azalea Park on left side of photo

Aerial: City of Charlottesville – Moores Creek Land Acquisition



ConserveVirginia: City of Charlottesville – Moores Creek Land Acquisition



9. Franklin Parks Foundation – Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract

The Franklin Parks Foundation, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, seeks VLCF funding to acquire 96 acres of prime river frontage on the State Scenic Blackwater River for the creation of additional parkland and a primitive campsite. This property contains old growth hardwood bottomlands and contains 60 acres of forest highly ranked by the Dept. of Forestry. The tract sits at the intersection of two important Natural Heritage sites, the Blackwater River Main Stem Conservation site, and the Antioch Swamp Stream Conservation unit, and falls within the TNC Chowan Sandridge/Blackwater River Terrestrial Portfolio. It supports several rare species and significant natural communities including anadromous fish and colonial water birds (Audubon). The upland portion of the property is ranked Class V, the most vulnerable to development.

Total Project Cost: \$868,800; **Match:** VOF PTF \$100,000, Obici Foundation \$60,000, landowner donation; **Grant Request:** \$404,000; **Recommended Amount:** \$0.



Blackwater Swamp at Deer Creek



Aerial: Franklin Parks Foundation – Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract



ConserveVirginia: Franklin Parks Foundation – Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract

