



VIRGINIA OUTDOORS
FOUNDATION

2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

VOF easement at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County. Photo by Jim Anderson.

ABOUT US

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) is Virginia's leader in land conservation, protecting more than 860,000 acres in 111 counties and cities. Created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1966, today the foundation receives both public and private support for its work. VOF works with local, state, federal, and private partners to protect a wide variety of open spaces, from farms and forests to parks and historic landscapes.



OUR VISION AND MISSION



VOF easement at Carvins Cove in
Roanoke County. Photo by Shutterstock.

OUR VISION

Protect the quality of Virginia's
outdoors and make its resources
available to its people.

OUR MISSION

To promote the preservation of open-
space lands and to encourage private
gifts of money, securities, land or other
property to preserve the natural,
scenic, historic, scientific, open-space
and recreational areas of the
Commonwealth.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past year has been one of profound growth and achievement for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We launched our first round of grants from a new program, Get Outdoors, that provides safer and more equitable access to open space in Virginia cities and towns. And we continued to protect open space on public and private lands through easements and acquisitions. As we expand our relevance to new communities across Virginia, we look forward to cultivating new partnerships that will result in greater protection of our Commonwealth's natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

Brett Glymph, Executive Director

From left, VOF Trustee Viola Baskerville, Executive Director Brett Glymph, and Delegate Delores McQuinn at Historic Evergreen Cemetery in Richmond.

OUR WORK



CONSERVATION FUNDING

Though various programs, VOF provides grants to landowners, organizations, and government partners who protect open space for recreation, wildlife habitat, historic preservation, farming, forestry, scenic beauty, and water quality.

OPEN-SPACE EASEMENTS

Landowners who wish to protect their land from future intensive development may grant open-space easements to VOF in perpetuity. VOF is one of the largest easement holders in the nation, with more than 4,000 properties protected across the Commonwealth, many of them working farms and forests.

LAND ACQUISITION

VOF serves an important role for the Commonwealth by accepting gifts of land for public benefit, as well as by assisting other state agencies in acquiring properties to be used as state parks, wildlife management areas, and preserves. VOF itself owns and manages approximately 5,000 acres of open-space reserves.



CONSERVATION FUNDING

GET OUTDOORS

Established in 2020, the Get Outdoors (GO) program provides flexible, adaptable grants for projects that increase equitable access to safe open space in Virginia's communities.

PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

Established in 1997, the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) provides grants for acquisitions, easements, rights of way, and other methods of protecting open space for farming, forestry, recreation, wildlife, water quality, and more.

TERRA

Established by VOF to administer funds resulting from legal and regulatory actions involving Virginia's natural resources.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year 2021



Buena Vista Town Square

Turning an underutilized green space into a public gathering space in the heart of downtown Buena Vista.



OPEN SPACE FOR
COMMUNITY



Southside Neighbors Collaboration

A community greening plan for city-owned land in Richmond's Southside. Partners include Virginia Community Voices, the City Parks Department, and Southside ReLeaf.



OPEN SPACE FOR **HEALTH**



Capital Trail Outdoor Equity Fund

Support to community organizations through the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation with the goal of removing access barriers to the Capital Trail.

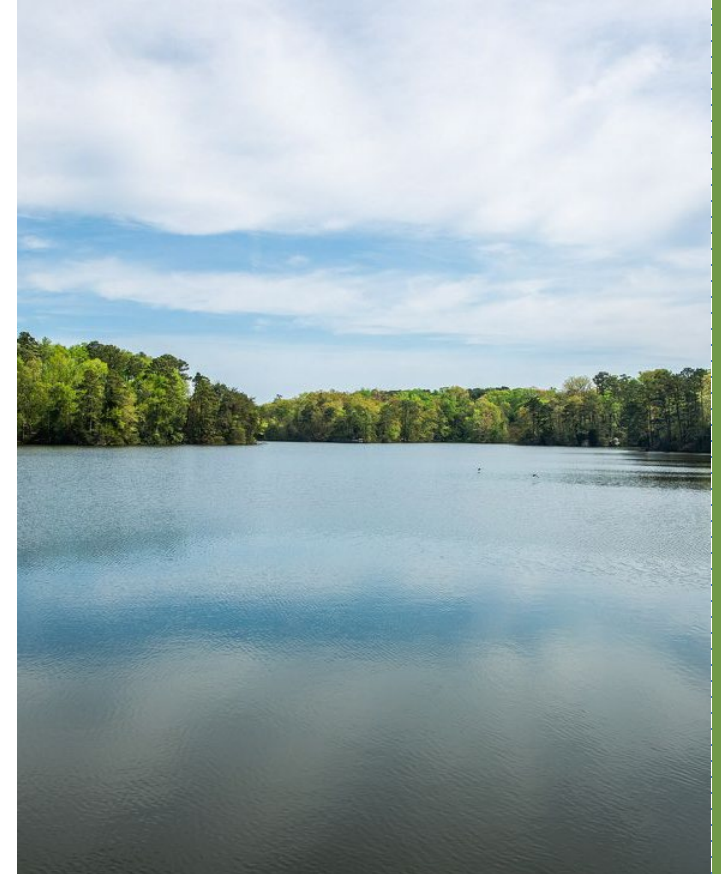
Hillside Court MicroFarm

Vegetable and flower gardens constructed by volunteers with Groundwork RVA in a Richmond City public housing community that lacks access to healthy food.

OPEN SPACE FOR **RECREATION**

Morningside Bike Park

An effort by the Roanoke Outside Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, and other partners to renovate a neglected city park in the City of Roanoke into a thriving space for bicycling for all ages and skills.



The Mariners' Museum and Park

Accessibility for all ages and abilities to the museum's lake for canoeing and kayaking in the City of Newport News.



OPEN SPACE FOR **WATER**



RioPalooza 2021

Annual on-the-water events organized by the Potomac Riverkeeper Network to encourage greater river stewardship by providing reduced price, organized paddle trips and other activities targeted toward minority communities.

Carvins Cove Shoreline Protection

Public acquisition of an unprotected 45-acre parcel on the shoreline of Carvins Cove Reservoir in Roanoke County, which is the region's main source of drinking water.





T.G. Howard Community Center

Multi-generational social, educational and cultural programs (such as health fairs, recreational events and support for Veterans) to residents of the New River Valley. The center, located in Pulaski, was built by African Americans in the community during segregation.

OPEN SPACE
FOR **HISTORY**

Historic Woodland Cemetery

Restoration efforts at a large historic African American Cemetery in western Henrico County, making it safer for visiting families, as well as for volunteers, researchers, and others who frequent the site.



Locality	Project	Program	Amount
Albemarle	West Downtown Scottsville Wetland Park	PTF	\$80,000
Brunswick	Alberta Tobacco Heritage Trail Extension	GO	\$8,718
Brunswick	Brodnax Park	GO	\$25,000
Buena Vista	Buena Vista Town Square	PTF	\$78,000
Charlotte	Charlotte State Forest	TERRA	\$1,000,000
Fauquier	Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve	PTF	\$100,000
Franklin	Celeste Park	PTF	\$100,000
Fredericksburg	Bankside Trail	PTF	\$145,000
Grayson	Restoring Community at Mount Rogers School	GO	\$25,000
Harrisonburg	Northend Greenway Connection	PTF	\$114,228
Henrico	Woodland Cemetery	GO	\$22,850
Lancaster	TriWay Trail	PTF	\$135,000
Lexington	Uncas Trail	GO	\$12,260
Lexington	Uncas Trail	PTF	\$6,451
Middlesex	The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation	PTF	\$140,000
Nelson	J. Hunter Rockfish River Boat Takeout	PTF	\$60,000
Newport News	Revitalizing Mariners' Lake	GO	\$25,000
Pittsylvania	Stokesland School	GO	\$25,000
Pulaski	T. G. Howard Community Center, Inc.	PTF	\$80,000
Pulaski	Pulaski Redevelopment & Housing Authority	PTF	\$80,000
Richmond City	Open Spaces, Open Doors, Open Minds	GO	\$20,000
Richmond City	Hillside Court MicroFarm and Outdoor Lab	GO	\$25,000
Richmond City	River Safety Within James River Park	GO	\$20,000
Richmond City	The Garden Labyrinth	GO	\$25,000
Roanoke	Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve	TERRA	\$452,500
Rockbridge	House Mountain Reserve	PTF	\$85,000
Warren	Riverpalooza	GO	\$20,000

FY21 Grants

VOF awarded \$2,910,007 in grants to 27 projects in 21 different counties and cities during Fiscal Year 2021. These projects created or expanded access to open space for thousands of Virginians.

To learn more about VOF's grant opportunities, and to read stories about grant projects and other VOF work, visit <https://vof.org>.



VOF EASEMENTS

Fiscal Year 2021





A working cattle farm in Tazewell County protected by a VOF easement in FY2021.

OVERVIEW

Open-space easements are voluntary agreements between landowners and public bodies such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation that permanently limit future development on land to protect conservation values such as water quality, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat and more for public benefit.

Most VOF easements are on working farms and forests, which contribute food and fiber to our communities and collectively represent Virginia's largest industry.

In Fiscal Year 2021, VOF protected 12,371 acres of open space on new and amended easements in 36 localities.

FY21 EASEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Southampton County

Two easements totaling 1,135 acres protect more than 2.5 miles of streams, wetlands, and bottomland forest in Three Creek Swamp, a tributary of the Nottoway River.



Prince William County

An 11-acre property in Prince William County that is adjacent to VOF's Bull Run Mountains Preserve and contains headwaters of Bull Run.



Goochland County

A 312-acre property in a highly urbanizing area that adjoins Tuckahoe Plantation, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson and a National Historic Landmark.

FY21 EASEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Westmoreland County

A 212-acre property across from historic Stratford Hall that contains working forest in the Cat Point Creek watershed and is situated on a designated Virginia Byway.



Russell/Scott Counties

140 acres of mixed Appalachian hardwood forest on the border of Russell and Scott counties that overlies a karst geologic formation known as the Dungannon polje.



Amelia County

A 434-acre farm that has been used by Virginia Tech for experimental or demonstration agriculture in conjunction with the VT Agricultural Research Station at Blackstone.

FY21 EASEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



James City County

A 1,211-acre property that contains approximately 450 acres of seasonal wetlands, 230 acres of tidal marsh wetlands, and 40 acres of forested wetlands.



Shenandoah County

A 302-acre farm with a mile of frontage on the Shenandoah River and across the river from George Washington National Forest.



Isle of Wight County

A 221-acre property located on the scenic Blackwater River, and which supports numerous threatened and rare terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species.

FY21 EASEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Augusta County

A 1,009-acre property that contains more than 250 acres of USDA-designated prime farming soils.



Appomattox County

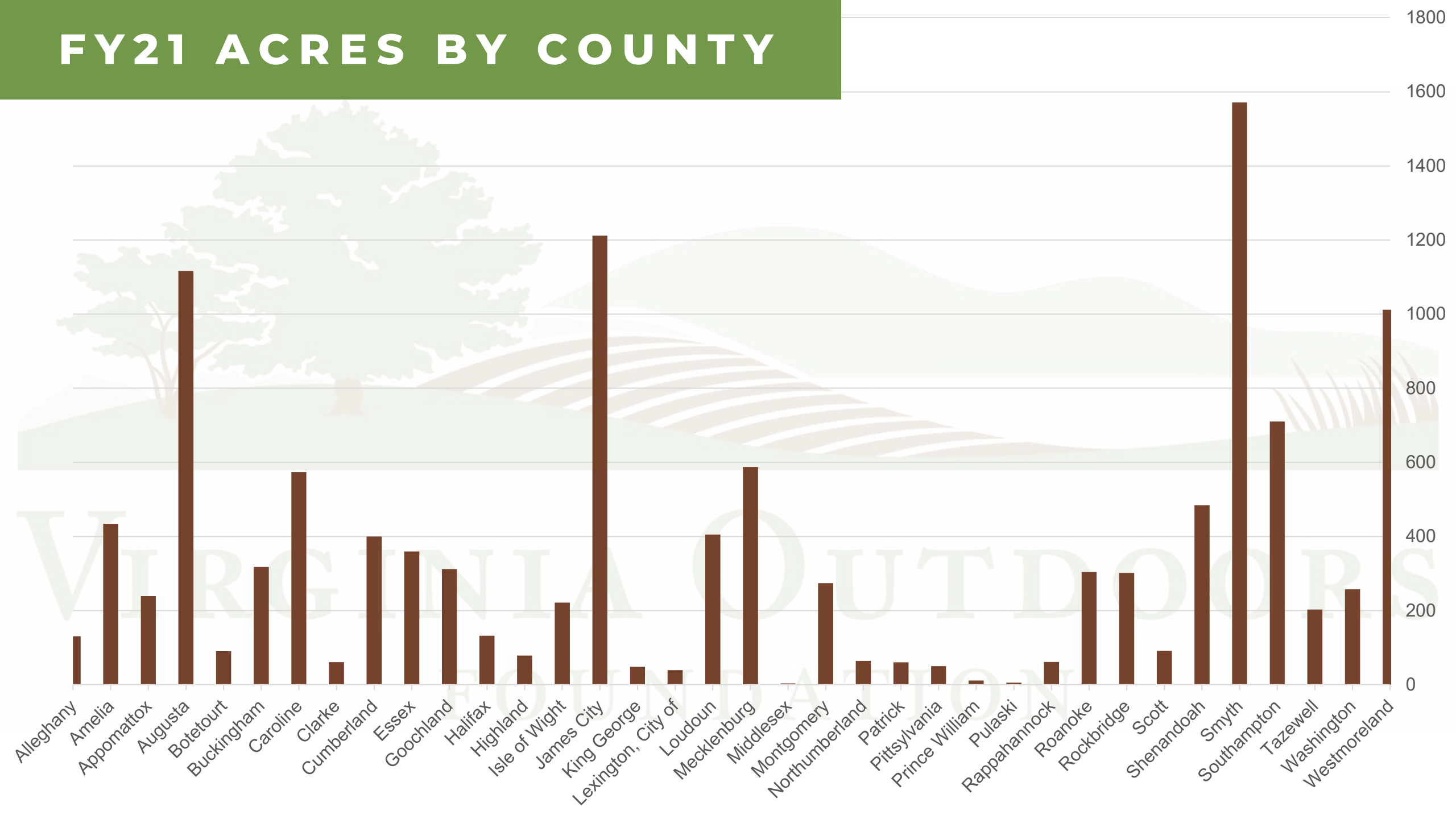
A 239-acre family farm with nearly a mile of protected streams and a portion of property within the Appomattox Station Civil War Battlefield Study Area.



Mecklenburg County

A 204-acre family farm that adjoins and helps to protect the John H. Kerr Reservoir.

FY21 ACRES BY COUNTY





VOF RESERVES

Fiscal Year 2021



OVERVIEW

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation manages six open-space reserves across the Commonwealth: Bull Run Mountains in Prince William & Fauquier counties, House Mountain in Rockbridge County, Hayfields in Highland County, Rockfish in Nelson County, Kohls Island in Northumberland County, and Blue Ball Mountain in Clarke County. Together, these reserves protect roughly 5,000 acres of open space for future generations, much of which is accessible for hiking, wildlife watching, and scientific study. Learn more about each reserve at <https://www.vof.org/protect/reserves/>.

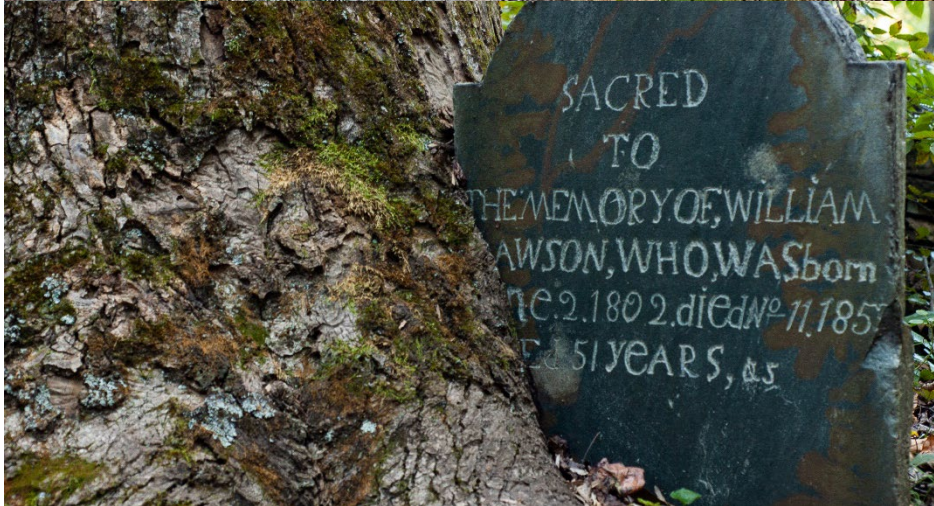


VOF's House Mountain Reserve
in Rockbridge County.

RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Peopled Past of Bull Run Mountains

Much of the year was devoted to researching and sharing the stories of the many people who inhabited land that is now part of Bull Run Mountains Preserve, from Virginia Indian tribes through modern times. VOF led hikes and public archeology days focusing on the site's ties to African American history. We worked with descendants of key families to acquire a parcel essential to the full Bull Run Mountains story.



RECREATION AT THE **RESERVES**

House Mountain Loops

VOF updated trail signs and maps at House Mountain this year, improving navigation and safety on the existing trail system. Trails were also improved to address erosion, and work has begun on identifying new trail opportunities.

Outreach Events at Hayfields Reserve

In June, VOF held its second free family fishing event at Hayfields, building on pre-pandemic activities that included an artists' plein air weekend and a dark skies stargazing event.





Connecting Students & Nature

From our Sprouts hike series to our work with local students who raise and release brook trout through the Trout in the Classroom program, VOF hosted scores of field trips and workshops in our “living laboratory” at Bull Run Mountains Preserve.

Fellowship Programs

VOF hosts a fellowship program at our Bull Run Mountains Preserve. In FY21 the fellows contributed a wealth of research, from studying our diverse insect life to documenting former homesteads, historic cemeteries, and family genealogies.

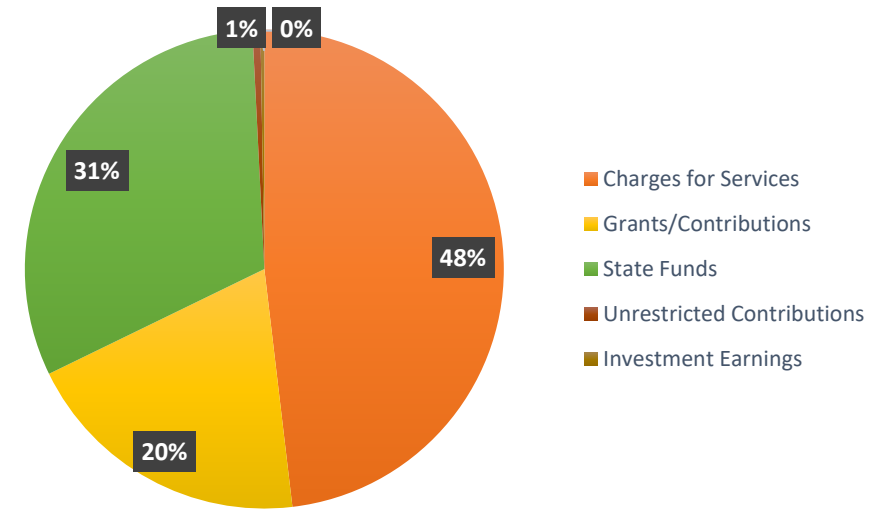
CITIZEN
SCIENCE



FINANCIALS

REVENUE SUMMARY

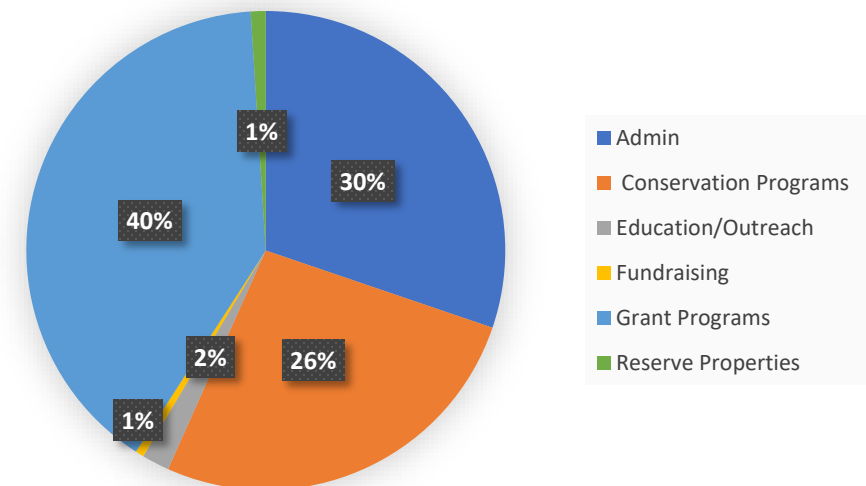
Charges for Services*	\$6,516,633
Grants/Contributions	\$2,662,785
State Funds	\$4,252,750
Unrestricted Contributions	\$72,622
Investment Earnings	\$35,290
TOTAL	\$13,540,08



**Charges for Services include Land Preservation Tax Credit transfer fees (Va. Code § 58.1-513.C.2) and fees for open-space preservation (Va. Code 58.1-817).*

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Admin	\$2,910,492
Conservation Programs	\$2,548,239
Education/Outreach	\$178,924
Fundraising	\$55,405
Grant Programs	\$3,838,841
Reserve Properties	\$97,023
TOTAL	\$9,628,924



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As of June 30, 2021

Eleanor Weston Brown (Chair)

Viola O. Baskerville

Raul Garcia

Elizabeth Obenshain

Stephanie Ridder

Thomas G. Slater, Jr.

Brent Thompson

Executive Director: Brett Christina Glymph



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