



Forest CORE Fund (FCF) Application FY25

Applications for the FCF Program must be submitted via [VOF Grant Portal](https://vaoutdoors.webgrantscloud.com)
<https://vaoutdoors.webgrantscloud.com>.

Application Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m., January 22, 2025

Contact VOF at grants@vof.org with questions.

Response lengths are capped intentionally, but answers may be expanded upon in the supplemental material section. Character count includes spaces and punctuation. Unless requested by the question/prompt, do not include links to any outside sources. Any question marked with an asterisk is required for submission.

General Information

1. Organization*:

a. Organization Type*:

Non-Profit, Local Government, State Government, Federal Government, Tribal Government, Regional Organization, Political Subdivision of State Government, Other (if Other, please specify)

b. Organization Website*:

c. Address*:

d. Phone*:

e. Partner Organization:

2. Primary Contact*:

The primary contact is the individual in your organization who will be designated as the primary person responsible for this application from your organization. This individual will receive automated email notifications when your attention is needed on this application.

a. Title:

b. Email*:

c. Address*:

d. Phone*:

3. Additional Applicants:

List any additional contacts within your organization that will also work in this proposal or manage this grant.

Project Information

4. Project Title* (50 characters):

Please note this title will be shared with the public and replicated for press releases and grant documents should funding be awarded.

Project Summary

1. Provide a Summary of this Project*. (500 characters)

Please note this summary will be shared with the public and replicated for press releases and grant documents should funding be awarded.

Project Structure

All proposals must result in the permanent protection of forest through deed restrictions, including the Forest Management Provision, to be held or co-held by a public body.

2. Has the landowner agreed to the proposed project*? *Yes/No*
If the applicant is not the landowner, a letter of intent from the landowner is required. This document may be a non-binding agreement or indication of willingness in the form of a letter or email.
 - a. Attach letter of intent with application.
 - b. Please describe negotiations completed to date. (500 characters).
3. Planned method of land protection for this project*. (500 characters)
Easement, deed restrictions, natural area preserve dedication, federal designation of wilderness, or other land protection instrument. If other, please describe here and contact VOF at grants@vof.org to confirm project structure is eligible for funding before submitting application.
4. Identify the public body acting as the land protection partner*:
Locality, State Agency, Subdivision of State Government, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Other. If other, describe here. Non-profit applicants must have a public body partner as an easement holder or co-holder. If requesting VOF as holder of easement, please notify VOF at grants@vof.org before submitting the application.
5. Is documentation of land protection partner included with this application*? *Yes/No*
While not a requirement, proposals with a confirmed land protection partner are more competitive. If applicant is the public body which will hold deed restrictions, no letter is required.
 - a. Attach land protection partner letter with application.
6. Describe the capacity of the applicant to complete the project and protect the forest in perpetuity*. (500 characters).
Provide information on organizational and financial capacity, staffing, accreditation status, SCC status, history of success.

Project Location

7. Locality*:
8. Latitude & Longitude*: *Latitude (00.00000) Longitude (-00.00000)*
9. Street Address:
10. Tax Map Parcel Identification Number*:
11. Hydrologic Unit (8-digit HUC)*:
12. Proximity to pipeline (miles)*:
13. Proximity to conserved (miles)*:
 - a. Please specify type/location of conserved land:
Publicly-owned park, private land, recreational area, natural area, national forest, historic site, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge.

Project Characteristics

Submission of maps supporting site characteristics outlined below are required. The Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer (www.vanhde.org) is a public resource which applicants may use to determine many of the characteristics of the property being proposed for protection.

* Data research and application pre-screening by VOF staff is available and encouraged. Please contact VOF at grants@vof.org to initiate this process.

14. GIS Boundary of Property/Project Area is Required.*

Shapefile/geodatabase/KML/KMZ. Please upload a single compressed/zip file with all special data in it.

- a. Attach shapefile/geodatabase/KML/KMZ with application.

15. Total Acres to Be Protected*:

This is the number of acres that will be required to be protected in perpetuity. Parcels that are not primarily forested are not good candidates for the FCF program.

- a. Acres Forested*:
- b. Acres Not Forested*:
- c. Acres to be Planted*:
- d. Acres to be Enhanced*:

16. Adjacent Land*

Indicate if adjacent parcels are conserved, if they are wooded, open, or a mix of landcover type.

Protection Status	Primary Landcover	Additional Information
<i>Privately owned, not protected</i>	<i>forest</i>	<i>300 acres, timber at least 100 years old.</i>

17. Ecological Integrity*

Learn more about the Department of Conservation and Recreation-Natural Heritage Division’s Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvnl>

Access maps through the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer here: www.vanhde.org

Indicate the ecological integrity rating found on the property and adjacent properties:

Rating	Property	Adjacent Properties
C1	Yes/No	Yes/No
C2	Yes/No	Yes/No
C3	Yes/No	Yes/No
C4	Yes/No	Yes/No
C5	Yes/No	Yes/No

18. Forest Conservation*

Learn more about the Department of Forestry's Forest Conservation Value here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisforest>

Access maps through the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer here: www.vanhde.org

Indicate the forest conservation value found on the property and adjacent properties:

Rating	Property	Adjacent Properties
FCV1	Yes/No	Yes/No
FCV2	Yes/No	Yes/No
FCV3	Yes/No	Yes/No
FCV4	Yes/No	Yes/No
FCV5	Yes/No	Yes/No

19. Natural Heritage Biodiversity*

More information may be found here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/help>

Indicate the natural heritage biodiversity rating found on the property and adjacent properties:

Rating	Property	Adjacent Properties
B1	Yes/No	Yes/No
B2	Yes/No	Yes/No
B3	Yes/No	Yes/No
B4	Yes/No	Yes/No
B5	Yes/No	Yes/No

20. Natural Heritage Rare Communities*

More information may be found here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/info services>

Indicate if Natural Heritage Rare Communities are present on the site or adjacent properties:

Response	Property	Adjacent Properties
Yes	Yes/No	Yes/No
No	Yes/No	Yes/No

21. Threatened/Endangered Species, Tier I or II SGCN*

Access maps through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources here:

<https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/?Menu=Home.Geographic+Search>

Indicate if Threatened/Endangered Species or Tier I or II SGCN are present on the site or adjacent properties:

Response	Property	Adjacent Properties
Yes	Yes/No	Yes/No
No	Yes/No	Yes/No

22. Length (in feet) of intermittent and/or perennial streams on the property*:

Access an interactive map to measure streams on the property through the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer here: www.vanhde.org

- a. If present, describe attributes of waterways: (500 characters)

23. T&E Water or Wild Trout Streams*

Access maps through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources here:
<https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/?Menu=Home.Geographic+Search>

Indicate if T&E water or Wild Trout Streams are present on the site or adjacent properties:

Response	Property	Adjacent Properties
Yes	Yes/No	Yes/No
No	Yes/No	Yes/No

- a. If yes, please indicate linear feet
 - i. Property:
 - ii. Adjacent properties:

24. Indicate if the property has been identified as a wildlife corridor or a wildlife corridor buffer area as designated in the Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

Learn more about the Department of Wildlife Resources' 2023 Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, which identifies vital wildlife corridors, high quality habitat for priority species, and migration routes of native, game, and migratory species, n emphasizing the protection of these vital wildlife habitat corridors and their buffers, as well as reducing wildlife-vehicle conflicts, such as collisions, to promote driver safety. Learn more about the plan here:

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/corridors/>.

Access maps through the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer here: www.vanhde.org

Resource	Property	Adjacent Properties
Wildlife Corridor	Yes/No	Yes/No
Wildlife Corridor Buffer	Yes/No	Yes/No

- a. If present, describe how the project will protect the associated wildlife corridor or corridor buffer in perpetuity: (500 characters)

25. Area (in acres) of wetland on or adjacent to the property*:

Access the National Wetlands Inventory as an interactive map through the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer here:
www.vanhde.org

- a. If present, describe the wetlands found on or adjacent to the property: (500 characters)

26. Indicate if there are any cultural, historic, or archeological resources known on the property/project area. These do not need to be included in existing models or databases to be considered, but as much information about their presence should be provided as possible.* Yes/No

If yes,

- a. If present, describe any resources on the property and include any evidence or documentation that may support their presence. (500 characters):

Project Type

In each category, select all components included in the forest protection project*.

All projects require permanent forest protection including the forest management provision deed terms.

27. Forest Protection* (check all that apply)

- Fee-simple acquisition of property
- Purchase of easement
- Addition of timber conversion restriction on existing easement
- Other Please describe here and contact VOF at grants@vof.org before completing this application to confirm an alternative project structure is eligible. (300 characters):

28. Describe the condition of the property and specifically the forest to be protected*(2,000 characters):
Include information such as natural features, species composition, age of forest, and management including date of last timber harvest.
29. Forest Restoration* (check all that apply)
 Afforestation
 Other (300 characters):
 Not Applicable
30. Describe the forest restoration work*: (1,000 characters)
Include information such as plan of work, methodology, planting list, and schedule. Additional information may be submitted in the supplemental section.
31. Forest Enhancement*(check all that apply)
 Controlled Burning
 Removal/control of invasive species
 Other (300 characters):
 Not Applicable
32. Describe the forest enhancement work*: (1,000 characters)
Include information such as plan of work, methodology, planting list, and schedule. Additional information may be submitted in the supplemental section.
33. Describe how the property will be managed in the future, including how management will align with the Forest Management Provision requirements*: (2,000 characters)
34. Describe any additional deed restrictions the landowner would consider implementing to protect the natural and cultural resources on the property*. (1,000 characters)

Community Impact

35. Describe the level of planned public access on the property*.
Public access is defined as the availability of land for public use. Activities may include hunting, fishing, hiking, or wildlife watching. Visual access does not meet this definition. The proposed use must not degrade the forest ecosystem.
- Public access will be allowed year-round.
 Public access will be allowed at least 75% of the year.
 Public access will be allowed between 50 and 75% of the year.
 Public access will be allowed between 25 and 50% of the year.
 Public access will be allowed less than 25% of the year.
 There will be no public access provided.
- a. If public access will be allowed, please describe the level and type of planned access allowed on the property and address the compatibility of the allowed access with the protection of the forest ecosystem.* (500 characters)

36. Is this property part of a scenic or locally significant viewshed visible from*: (*check all that apply*)

- A federally designated Wild and Scenic River
- An American Heritage River
- A designated Virginia Scenic River
- A designated Virginia Scenic Road or Byway
- A recreational area
- Other:

37. Describe any significance the property may have for the surrounding community*. (500 characters)

38. Describe any plans for research or educational resources that may result from this project or on this land*. (500 characters).

Project Deliverables, Objectives and Outcomes

- Deliverables are the concrete items to be installed or established through project implementation.
- An objective is a specific measurable action toward a goal or outcome.
- An outcome is a broad, long-term, overall result.

*Example: Project X consists of purchasing a piece of property to permanently protect C1 forest, protect an endangered plant, and manage invasive exotic plant population. The **deliverables** may be the land acquisition, the creation of a management plan for the area, and the reduction of invasive species by 80% in 3 years. **Objectives** may include recruiting volunteers to assist with the planting. **Outcomes** may be permanent protection of C1 forest, prevention of further forest fragmentation, the preservation of an endangered species, and improved forest health and habitat.*

39. List the planned deliverables of the project*. (1,000 characters)

Deliverables are the concrete items to be installed or established through project implementation.

40. List the proposed objectives*. (1,000 characters)

An objective is a specific measurable action toward a goal or outcome.

41. List the anticipated outcomes of the project*. (1,000 characters)

An outcome is a broad, long-term, overall result.

Plan and Policy Alignment

Indicate which of the following plan goals the project supports:

42. Virginia Outdoors Plan*:

Date of Plan:

Page #:

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one: (200 characters)

43. Virginia Natural Heritage Plan*:

Date of Plan:

Page #:

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one: (200 characters)

44. Virginia Wildlife Action Plan*:

Date of Plan:

Page #:

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one: (200 characters)

45. Local Comprehensive Plan or Master Plan*:

- a. Date of Plan:
- b. Page #:
- c. Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one: (200 characters)
- d. If not included in the comprehensive plan, is the planned activity in conformance with the plan?
Yes/No

46. Does this project contribute to landscape resilience*? *Yes/No*

Executive Order Number Twenty-Four (2018) addressed the need to increase Virginia’s resilience to sea level rise and natural hazards and resulted in the creation of the DCR Coastal Resilience Master Plan. Check The Nature Conservancy Resilient Land Mapping Tool (<https://www.maps.tnc.org/resilientland/#/explore>) to see if the project may contribute to resilience.

If Yes:

- a. Please provide support documentation
Examples: plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.

47. Does this project meet any other federal or state-defined policy goals such as public drinking water, carbon sequestration, nutrient mitigation, impaired streams, etc.*? *Yes/No*

If Yes:

- a. Policy Goal:
Please provide support documentation:
Examples: plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.
- b. Additional Policy Goal:
Please provide support documentation:
Examples: plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.

48. Briefly describe any other plans that support this project, including relevant excerpts. (500 characters)

Partnerships

49. List any partners or partnerships related to this project. These do not have to be groups that are financially invested in the project, just those that participate or help with any aspect of the project. Please briefly describe their involvement*.

Partner	Type of Support/Involvement

Additional Information

50. Is there additional information to be shared about this project*? *Yes/No*

If Yes:

- a. Provide any other information about this project that makes it unique. (2,000 characters)
Additional information may be included in the supplemental material.

Estimated Timeline/Plan of Work

- 51. Anticipated land acquisition date*: (could be N/A)
- 52. Anticipated land protection date*:
Date of recordation of easement, deed restrictions, federal designation of wilderness, or other land protection instrument.
- 53. If applicable, anticipated commencement date for forest activity*: (could be N/A)
Afforestation, enhancement, restoration.
- 54. Anticipated project completion date*:
If requesting greater than thirty-month standard contract length, please provide justification below (200 characters).
- 55. Describe any time-sensitivity issues with this project. (500 characters)
Examples include pending contracts, development pressure. DCR’s vulnerability index may show sensitivity of project.
- 56. Provide a timeline of activities for all major events related to this project*.
Work that has already been completed toward the project should be mentioned here.

Start Date	Completion Date	Project Category	Activity	Status	Responsible Party
		<i>Acquisition, protection, restoration, or enhancement</i>		<i>underway, completed, not yet started</i>	

Funding

- 57. While the budget section of this application must be completed, which includes documentation of any matching funds, please describe any details about the budget or funding that could not be captured in a chart format*. (500 characters)
- 58. Explain if the grant funding is a critical component to getting the project started or completed*. (500 characters)
- 59. Address how reduced funding would impact the scope of the project*. (1,600 characters)
Please address viability and scope at 75% and 50% of the requested funding.

Budget

Applicants are encouraged to request the amount of funding that would allow the project to be fully implemented. Partial funding is possible. The general budget is a guide for expenditure. Only enter those items for which FCF grant funding is being requested, and only include the portion of the total cost for which FCF funding is being requested. Administrative funds are capped at 5% of the total requested amount.

For example, if the proposal is for acquisition of a property which is listed for \$1,000,000 but the FCF grant funding requested is only \$100,000, include only the \$100,000 in the budget, not the full listing price of the property. In addition, please indicate if these expense values are an estimated or actual (verified) cost. Any match funding or in-kind donations should be entered in the next section of the application, Other Fund Sources.

General Budget

60. List the costs associated with the project for which FCF funds are being requested*.

Please review FCF program requirements to ensure adequate funds have been requested for all required due diligence.

Item	Cost	Estimated or Actual	Related Activity
		<i>estimated or actual</i>	<i>acquisition, protection, restoration, or enhancement</i>

Other Funding Sources

While match funding is not required, projects which leverage additional funding may be prioritized. Match funding also indicates readiness and community support for a project. Match funding does not have to be cash, in-kind donation of services, volunteer hours, and organizational staff time all may be considered as match.

61. Describe any matching funding for the project*.

Match Source	Funding Status	Match Type	Related Activity	Match Amount
<i>applicant's organizational budget, staff time, other grant program, locality support</i>	<i>secured or requested</i>	<i>cash, in-kind materials, in kind donation of services, volunteer hours</i>	<i>acquisition, protection, restoration, or enhancement</i>	

Supplemental Material

Supplemental material is capped at 20 pages. These 20 pages must include the required information below, but it may also include any additional information about the project including expansion upon responses to previous questions.

- Letters may be addressed (but not mailed or emailed) to Emily Nelson White, VOF Grant Program Director.
- If possible, please provide photo images in jpeg format.
- Do not include links to any outside sources in this section.
- Do not provide full copies of local, state, or regional plans, organizational financial reports, tax returns, etc.
- An audio/video file may be submitted only if it is less than two minutes in length. If a link is needed to access the file online, please contact grant staff at grants@vof.org.

62. Required Supplemental Material*

Refer to FCF Supplemental Material List document for guidance, page 11 of application packet

- a. Maps, including:
 - i. Aerial photograph with property boundary shown.
 - ii. Locality tax map with parcel highlighted.
 - iii. Location map showing proximity to pipeline.
 - iv. Location map showing proximity to conserved lands.
 - v. Topography map (USGS 7.5-minute).
 - vi. Ecological Core or Forest Conservation Values
 - vii. Conserve Virginia
 - viii. Waterways & Wetlands on Property
 - ix. Aerial photographs showing landcover including adjacent properties
- b. Photographs showcasing the property and/or project (JPEG format preferred).
- c. If enhancement or restoration is included in proposal:
 - i. A detailed plan of work
 - ii. A detailed planting plan

The following materials are required uploads within the body of the application. They do not need to be included in the supplemental section unless not applying through the grant portal:

- a. Documentation of Land Protection Partner
 - i. Letter from the public body partner (if applicant is not a public body) indicating willingness to hold easement or deed restrictions.
- b. Landowner letter of interest/intent.
- c. GIS Shapefile of property



Supplemental Material Additional Guidance

The twenty (20) page maximum includes required and optional information.

REQUIRED:

- Maps:
 - Aerial photograph with property boundary shown.
 - Locality tax map with parcel highlighted.
 - Location map showing proximity to pipeline.
 - Location map showing proximity to conserved lands.
 - Topography map (USGS 7.5-minute).
 - Core or Forest Conservation Values
 - Conserve Virginia
 - Waterways & Wetlands on Property
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- Landowner letter of interest/intent.
- GIS Shapefile of property

OPTIONAL:

- Letters, such as:
 - Partner letters indicating support.
 - Community member letters or signed petition showing desire/need for project outcome.
 - Locality letters showing land-use support.
 - Any additional letters not previously listed.
- Documentation of good standing with State Corporation Commission (for non-profits).
- Documentation of organizational or financial capacity to ensure project success.
- Land acquisition materials, if applicable, such as:
 - Substantiation of the value of the property to be protected if appropriate
 - Appraisal
 - Title report
 - ALTA Boundary survey
 - Environmental Site Assessment, Phase I
- Any additional material that showcases the unique qualities of the property and project.