



VIRGINIA OUTDOORS
FOUNDATION



FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunset over VOF-conserved land
in Gloucester County.

ABOUT US

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) is Virginia's leader in land conservation, protecting nearly 900,000 acres across the Commonwealth. 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

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.

Fog settling over VOF-conserved
land along the Blue Ridge
Parkway in Nelson County.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During fiscal year 2023, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation conserved more than 11,000 acres of farmland, forestland, and other open space across 30 localities. VOF also provided more than \$3.27 million in grants to local governments, schools, nonprofit, and other organizations to protect open space and make the outdoors more accessible to Virginians throughout the Commonwealth. Whether funding community gardens, trails, playgrounds, and other amenities in neighborhoods, or protecting family farms for future generations, we are proudly helping to connect thousands of Virginians to the outdoors and to each other.



Brett Glymph, Executive Director



OUR TOOLS

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 a national leader in land conservation, with more than 4,000 properties protected across the Commonwealth, many of them working farms and forests.

LAND ACQUISITION

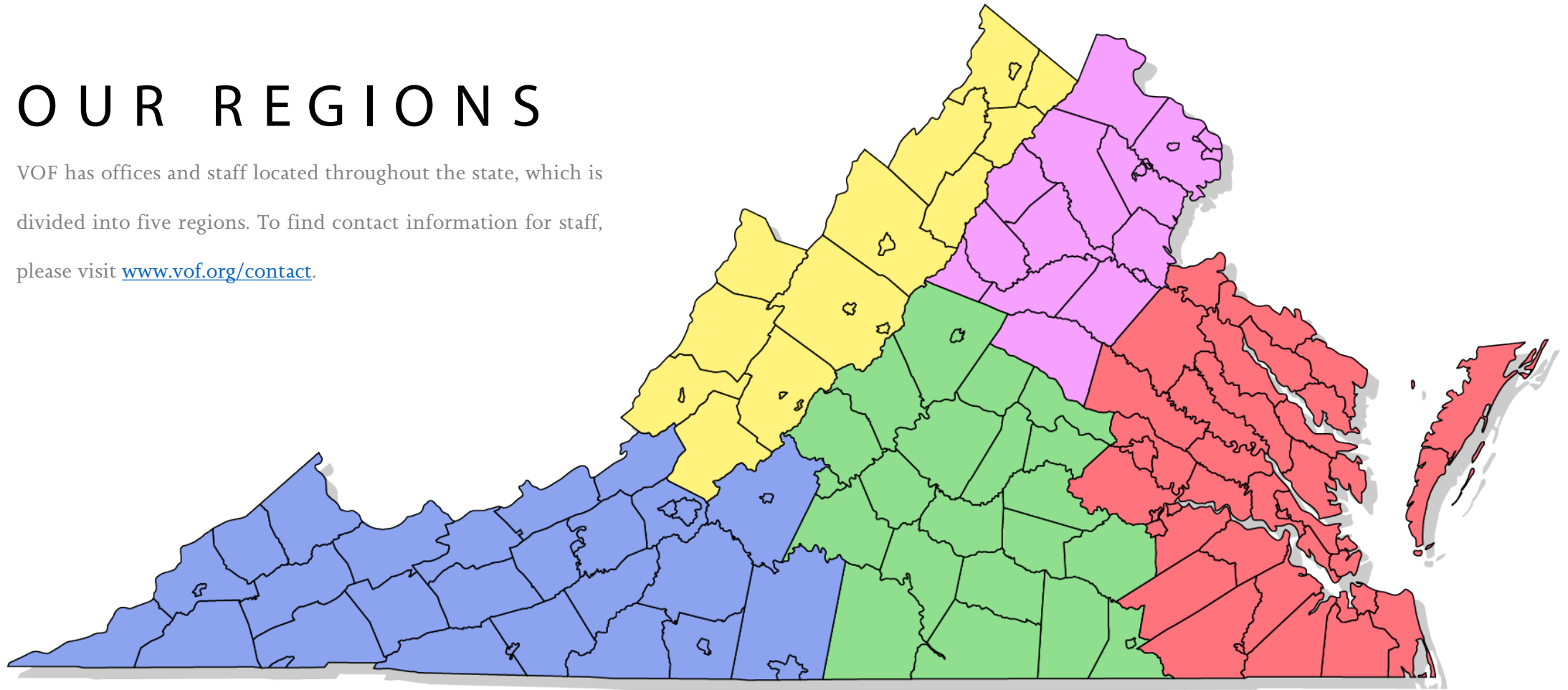
VOF serves an important role for the Commonwealth by accepting gifts of land for public benefit, as well as by assisting other state agencies in acquiring properties to be used as state parks, wildlife management areas, and preserves. VOF itself owns and manages approximately 4,000 acres of open-space reserves.

CONSERVATION FUNDING

Through 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.

OUR REGIONS

VOF has offices and staff located throughout the state, which is divided into five regions. To find contact information for staff, please visit www.vof.org/contact.



■ Region 1 ■ Region 2 ■ Region 3 ■ Region 4 ■ Region 5



A view of the New River from a VOF easement in Grayson County.

OPEN-SPACE EASEMENTS

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 2023, VOF protected approximately 11,100 acres of open space on new and amended easements in 30 localities.

FY23 EASEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 1



Orange County

A 348-acre farm located along a scenic byway and in a historic district. More than half of the property contains Prime Soils and Farmland of Statewide Importance as designated by the USDA.



Rappahannock County

A 101-acre forested property that contains a tributary of the Hazel River, fronts a scenic byway, and lies within the historic boundaries of Belle Ridge Farm, eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register.



Fauquier County

A 330-acre easement first recorded in 1977 was amended to remove all remaining division rights, limit impervious surfaces, and add a 50-foot riparian buffer along more than a mile of the Little River and its tributaries.

FY23 EASEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 2



Highland County

A 680-acre farm called Dividing Waters that contains the headwaters of the Jackson River and the South Fork of the Potomac River. The working cattle farm is enrolled in cost-share programs to fence livestock out of the waterways.



Augusta County

A 150-acre cattle farm with extensive protections for waterways and soils. The farm is used as an outdoor classroom for students from James Madison University and for seminars by employees of the Department of Conservation and Recreation



Bath County

Three neighboring forested properties totaling 778 acres that are near the Highland Wildlife Management Area and contain sinkholes, caves, and tributaries of the Bullpasture River.

FY23 EASEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 3



Hanover County

A 215-acre designated Virginia Century Farm that includes the historic home "Airwell," which has been in the same family for more than 300 years. The farm is visible from a public road that is part of a regional cycling trail.



Sussex County

A 555-acre farm with more than two miles of frontage along the Nottoway River. Areas of the property provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and plant species in a natural, undeveloped state.



Westmoreland County

A 442-acre property bordering Westmoreland State Park. The easement was acquired with a grant from the U.S. Navy and helps to prevent development encroachment of the Naval Support Facility in nearby Dahlgren.

FY23 EASEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 4



Bedford County

A 381-acre farm that has been in the same family for six generations. Approximately 200 acres of the farm soils are designated as "Prime Farmland" or "Soils of Statewide Importance" by the USDA.



Amherst County

A 274-acre cattle farm that lies within the Pedlars Mills Rural Historic District and fronts the Pedlar River, which is part of the state-designated Pedlar River-Pedlar Mills-Browns Creek Stream Conservation Unit.



Halifax County

A 744-acre farm that fronts the Dan River for about 1.5 miles and contains the 18th-century house known as Riverside, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

FY23 EASEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 5



Russell County

A 71-acre forested property that lies on the north side of the Clinch Mountain Range, is located near Channels State Forest, and flanks the west side of Route 80, which is designated as the “Trans-America Bike Trail.”



Washington County

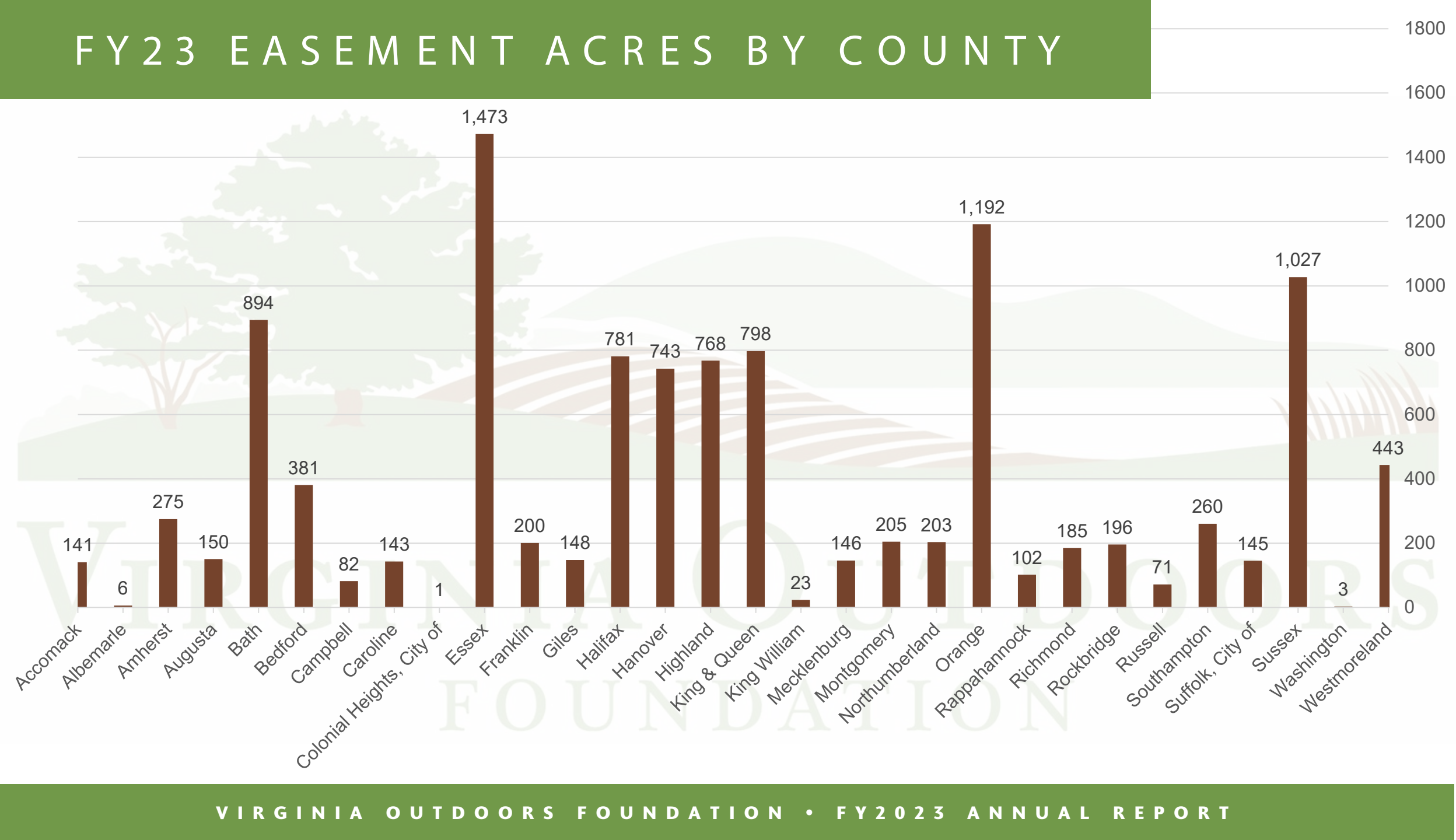
A 2.78-acre easement on White's Mill, one of the few remaining operational watermills in Virginia and an asset of significant historical value to the communities of southwest Virginia. The property is open to the public.



Montgomery County

One of three parcels that comprise Brush Mountain Park, a 635-acre recreational property managed by the Town of Blacksburg. The park contains 18 miles of multi-use trails and connects to the vast and heavily utilized Poverty Creek Trail system.

FY23 EASEMENT ACRES BY COUNTY





CONSERVATION FUNDING

PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

Established in 1997, the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund 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 / FOREST CORE

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

GET OUTDOORS

Established in 2020, the Get Outdoors Fund provides flexible, adaptable grants for projects that increase access to safe open space for all Virginians.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 1

Keep Prince William Beautiful, Prince William County ▼

\$10,000 to renovate a trail and outdoor classroom used by Dale City Elementary School along Neabsco Creek.



Friends of the Rappahannock, Stafford County ▼

\$15,000 to provide bilingual river safety programs and outreach materials to schools, recreation programs, and first responders around the Rappahannock River.



INMED Partnerships for Children, Loudoun County ▲

\$25,000 to teach aquaponics, gardening, and environmental education to low-income residents of the Leesburg Mobile Home Park.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 2

Town of Clifton Forge, Alleghany County ▼

\$10,000 to convert an existing playground into an all-abilities playground with safe surfacing and specialized play equipment, to allow children of all abilities to play together.



North Fork Access Shenandoah County ▼

\$300,000 to purchase 14 acres along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River that will improve access to Seven Bends State Park, including new boat ramps and parking.

Downtown Riverfront, City of Buena Vista ▲

\$50,000 for a new path and boat ramp that will link the downtown's brewery, restaurants, and shops directly with outdoor recreation on the Maury River.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 3

Larchmont Trailhead, City of Norfolk ▼

\$404,625 to establish the Larchmont Trailhead for the Elizabeth River Trail. The trailhead will include accessibility improvements, new signage, and a kayak launch.



Franklin Parks Foundation, City of Franklin ▼

\$200,000 to acquire two parcels for the creation of Blackwater Park, a new city park on the State Scenic Blackwater River.



OpenSpace Education, City of Richmond ▲

\$25,000 to provide tuition-free access to art education, safe outdoor time, and alternative modes of learning in partnership with Richmond Public Schools.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 4

Town of Kenbridge, Lunenburg County ▼

\$79,750 to create a paved connector trail from the existing 0.5-mile loop trail around Kenbridge Town Park to the sidewalk at the front of the property.



Perrymont Park, City of Lynchburg ▼

\$169,000 to develop a park in an underserved neighborhood with a walking loop, restored wetlands, ball fields, an outdoor classroom, and nature paths.



Wildrock, City of Charlottesville ▲

\$2,500 for Wildrock's Outdoor Explorers Program to bring children from a Title 1 elementary school to a local park where staff facilitate nature play.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS – REGION 5

Star City Cycling, City of Roanoke ▼

\$15,000 to develop a transportation program that takes disadvantaged kids to supervised mountain biking and hiking activities offered by Star City Cycling and Humble Hustle.



Ivanhoe Civic League, Carroll County ▼

\$25,000 to improve facilities and camping sites and add a new fitness trail and playground area at Jubilee Park and Horse Show Grounds.

Town of Dungannon, Scott County ▲

\$150,000 for the creation of a community-owned river research and learning center on the Clinch River that will partner with local high schools, colleges and civic groups.



Grantee	Project	Locality	Amount
Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation	Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation	Campbell County	\$150,000
Capital Regional Land Conservancy (CRLC)	Burton Family Farm	Chesterfield County	\$150,000
Capital Regional Land Conservancy (CRLC)	Burton Family Farm: Brown Parcel	Chesterfield County	\$360,000
City of Buena Vista	Buena Vista Downtown Riverfront	City of Buena Vista	\$50,000
Franklin Parks Foundation	Deer Creek Addition - Blackwater Park	City of Franklin	\$100,000
Franklin Parks Foundation	Deer Creek Addition to Blackwater Park, Pt 2	City of Franklin	\$100,000
City of Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Dept.	Perrymont Park Improvements	City of Lynchburg	\$169,000
City of Norfolk	Elizabeth River Trail Larchmont Trailhead	City of Norfolk	\$404,625
Agrarian Trust	Central Virginia Agrarian Commons	City of Petersburg	\$278,500
City of Suffolk	Hobson Park Project	City of Suffolk	\$44,550
Town of Culpeper	MCR Trail Application	Culpeper County	\$294,750
Lancaster County	Carter Cove County Park Creation	Lancaster County	\$150,000
Town of Kenbridge	Kenbridge Connector Trail	Lunenburg County	\$79,750
Rappahannock Tribe of VA	Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II	Richmond County	\$250,000
Town of Vinton	Vinton's Multi-Generational Park	Roanoke County	\$218,295
Town of Honaker	Town of Honaker Outdoor Recreation Expansion	Russell County	\$148,000
Town of Dungannon	On the Clinch to Learn, Discover, Enjoy	Scott County	\$150,000
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	Bowman Property (Tom's Brook)	Shenandoah County	\$28,000
County of Shenandoah	Shenandoah County Conservation and Public River	Shenandoah County	\$300,000
Friends of Southwest Virginia	Big Cherry Lake, Big Stone Gap, VA	Wise County	\$150,000

FY23 PTF Grants

VOF awarded \$3,575,470 in grants from its Preservation Trust Fund to 20 projects in 17 different localities during Fiscal Year 2023.

To learn more about VOF's Preservation Trust Fund, visit <https://vof.org/ptf>.

Grantee	Project	Locality	Amount
Onley Recreation Association	ORA Teen Swim Camp	Accomack County	\$14,665
Autism Sanctuary, Inc.	Autism Sanctuary, Inc.	Albemarle County	\$25,000
Botanical Garden of the Piedmont	Equitable Access to World Water Week Programming	Albemarle County	\$15,000
Town of Clifton Forge	Clifton Forge All-Abilities Playground Project	Alleghany County	\$10,000
Ivanhoe Civic League	Ivanhoe Civic League Park & Horse Show Grounds	Carroll County	\$25,000
Virginia Capital Trail Foundation	Multilingual Junior Trail Ambassador Program	Charles City County	\$3,800
Wildrock	Wildrock's Outdoor Explorers Program	City of Charlottesville	\$2,500
City of Danville	Danville Resident-Led Neighborhood Park Planning	City of Danville	\$6,454
Youth Sailing Virginia Inc.	Start Sailing Early at Youth Sailing Virginia!	City of Hampton	\$25,000
Beyond Boundaries	Outdoor Adventures	City of Richmond	\$20,000
Blue Sky Fund	Blue Sky Fund Explorers Program	City of Richmond	\$5,000
OpenSpace Education	Nature-Based Arts Programming	City of Richmond	\$25,000
Verdant Richmond	Cultivating City Green Spaces	City of Richmond	\$20,095
Friends of Fonticello Park	The Native Meadow Project:	City of Richmond	\$20,000
Greater Richmond Fit4Kids	Fit4Kids Game On, Girl! Field Trips	City of Richmond	\$10,000
Star City Cycling	Star City Kids Outdoors	City of Roanoke	\$15,000
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA)	MP-PAA Trail Blazer Initiative	Gloucester County	\$25,000
Independence Volunteer Fire Department	New River Connected	Grayson County	\$25,000
INMED Partnerships for Children	Community-Led Food Production Through Aquaponics	Loudoun County	\$25,000
Keep Prince William Beautiful	Dale City Elementary Trail & Outdoor Classroom	Prince William County	\$10,000
White House Farm Foundation	Accessible Bird Watching at Leopold's Preserve	Prince William County	\$25,000
Sperryville Community Alliance	Sperryville Trail Forest Canopy Restoration	Rappahannock County	\$15,000
Dungannon Elementary School	Get Up & Go Playground Project	Scott County	\$25,000
Friends of the Rappahannock	Respect the Rappahannock-Expanding River Safety	Stafford County	\$15,000

FY23 GO Grants

VOF awarded \$407,514 in grants from its Get Outdoors Fund to 24 projects in 17 different localities during Fiscal Year 2023.

To learn more about VOF's Get Outdoors Fund, visit

<https://vof.org/go>.

OPEN-SPACE RESERVES

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation manages five open-space reserves across the Commonwealth: Bull Run Mountains in Prince William & Fauquier counties, House Mountain in Rockbridge County, Rockfish in Nelson County, Kohls Island in Northumberland County, and Blue Ball Mountain in Clarke County. Together, these reserves protect about 4,000 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 Bull Run Mountains Preserve in Fauquier & Prince William counties.

RESERVE HIGHLIGHTS



News & Partnerships

- VOF received a \$70,000 grant to further research the history of human settlement in the Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve in Northern Virginia, as well as a \$500,000 grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to acquire a threatened parcel adjacent to the Jackson Hollow section of the preserve.
- VOF hosted numerous guided hikes and other activities for local schools, Girl Scouts, Master Naturalists, and more at Bull Run Mountains to connect users to the area's cultural history and rich ecology, from wildflowers and fungi to insects and amphibians.
- VOF hosted groups from the Virginia Military Institute and the Environment Virginia Symposium for hiking events at our House Mountain Reserve in Rockbridge County.
- VOF transferred our Hayfields Reserve property in Highland County to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for future use as a state park.



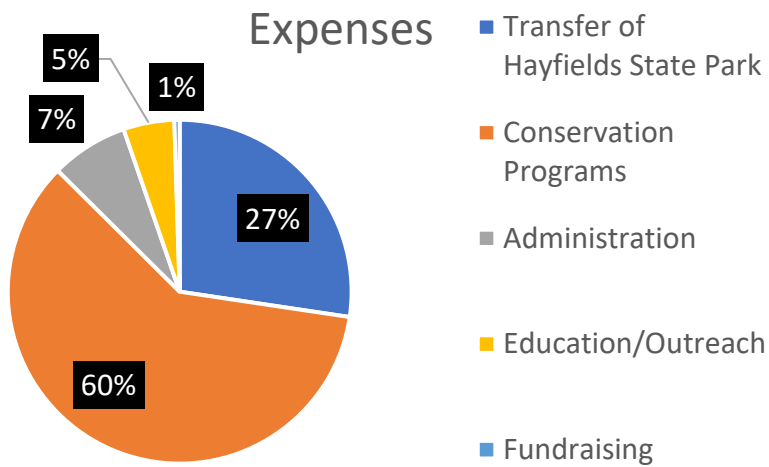
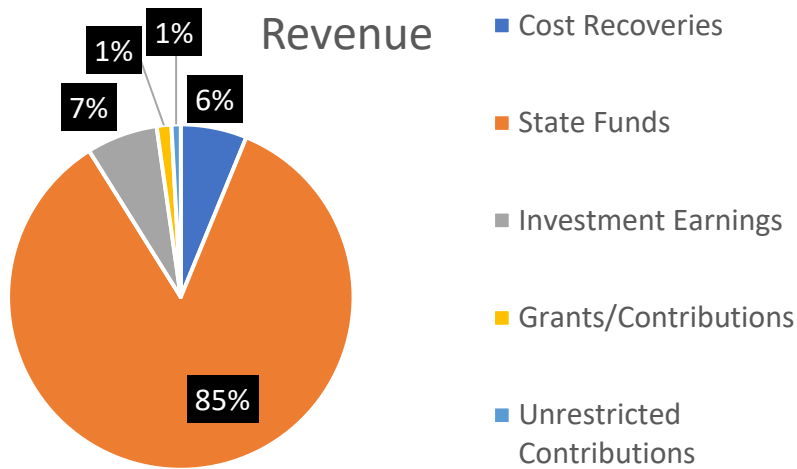
REVENUE SUMMARY

Cost Recoveries	\$643,371
Grants/Contributions	\$142,500
State Funds	\$8,817,025
Unrestricted Contributions	\$90,623
Investment Earnings	\$692,521
TOTAL	\$10,895,578

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Administration	\$946,490
Conservation Programs	\$7,828,727
Education/Outreach	\$624,683
Fundraising	\$65,000
Transfer of Hayfields State Park	\$3,564,650
TOTAL	\$13,029,551

FINANCIALS



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As of June 30, 2023

Elizabeth “Sissy” Crowther (Chair)

Adetokunboh O. “Ali” Afonja

Viola O. Baskerville

Eleanor Weston Brown

Elizabeth Copeland

V.B. “Tack” Richardson, III

Elsie Delva

Executive Director: Brett Christina Glymph



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