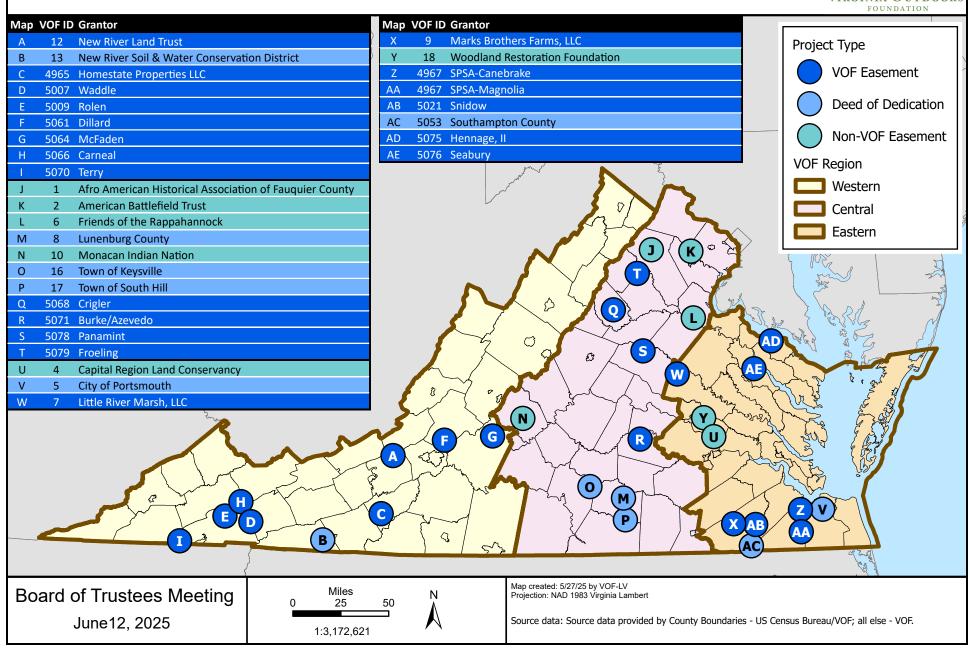
# **Proposed Conservation Projects**

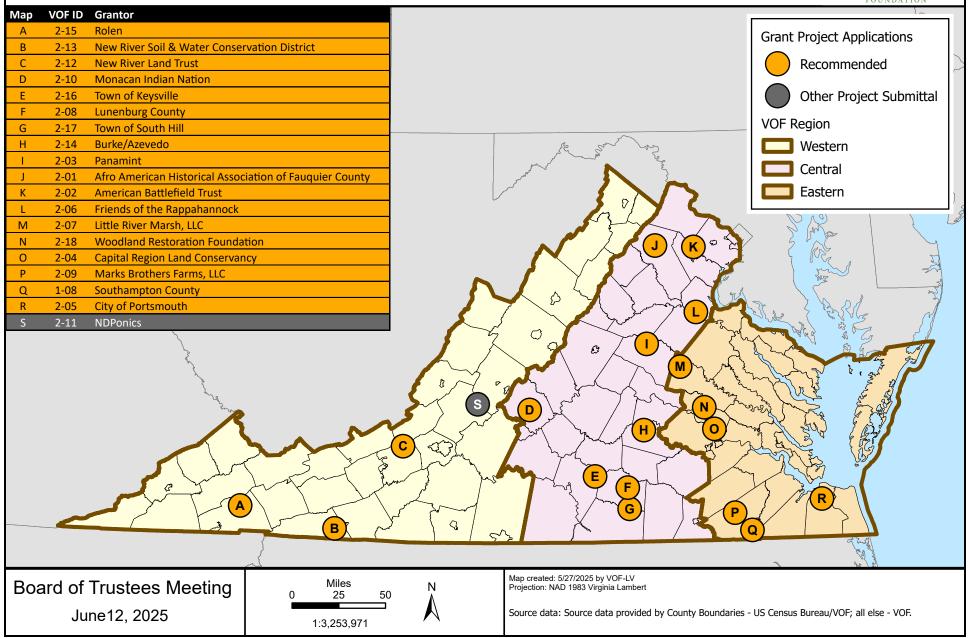




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# **PTF Grant Funding Applications**





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## **Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund**

### **Summary of Easement Assistance Awards FY25** YTD

Project	Locality	Project Type	Acres	Staff	VOF BDR Fee	Landowner Costs	Total Award
Franklin	Halifax	Farm/Forest	212.94	SB	\$3,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$14,500.00
Gardner	Carroll	Farm/Forest	169.46	RB	\$3,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$13,500.00
Tolley	Wythe	Farm/Forest	202	RB	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$12,000.00
Turner	Rockbridge	Farm/Forest	248.22	LT	\$3,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$11,000.00
Walters	Essex	Farm/Forest	75.56	ET	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Warehouse Crop & Cattle LLC	Nottoway	Farm/Forest	303	SB	\$3,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$15,000.00
Williams	Albemarle	Farm/Forest	124.46	LT	\$3,000.00	\$5,334.00	\$8,334.00
McFaden	Bedford	Farm/Forest	465.42	EY	\$3,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$16,000.00
Quaker Hill, LLC	Louisa	Farm/Forest	398	SB	\$3,500.00	\$12,000.00	\$15,500.00
Campbell	Nelson	Farm/Forest	335.6	PS	\$3,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$12,500.00
Carneal	Washington/Smyth	Farm/Forest	560	RB	\$3,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$11,000.00
Terry	Scott	Farm/Forest	97	EY	\$3,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$11,000.00

Total Acres: 3191.66 Total Awarded: \$143,834.00

Easement Assistance awards are granted early in the easement process. Landowners are reimbursed based on actual costs after an easement records.

#### **PTF Easement Assistance Financial Summary**

Beginning Balance, 7/1/2024: \$250,000.00

10/2024 \$69,500.00 3/2025 \$39,834.00 6/2025 \$34,500.00

Ending Balance, 6/2025: \$106,165.00 This remaining funding, after the approval of FY25 applications, will be shifted to the PTF grant round.



## Preservation Trust Fund Report Board of Trustees Meeting, June 12, 2025

#### Overview

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1997 and administered by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), 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.

### **PTF Program Report & Recommendations**

- 1. The Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) was funded in FY25, at \$4,340,301.
- 2. Due to project cancellations and excess easement assistance funds, there is \$2,859,944 available to allocate for projects in the Spring FY25 PTF grant round. Staff is recommending 18 new proposals and one award increase for a previously approved project, with total recommended funding of \$2,859,944. The recommended projects are listed on the agenda and project summary packets are provided in the board book. All submitted applications are provided in the online board meeting materials.
- 3. PTF is funded for FY26, with \$4 million.
  - a. Staff recommends the following guidance for the use of FY26 funding
    - i. Easement Assistance \$250,000
    - ii. Locality Assistance \$250,000
    - iii. Grant Program \$3,500,000

#### **Easement Assistance**

4. FY25 Report

\$250,000 was set aside for PTF-Easement Assistance (PTF-EA), which is an income-based cost-share program to offset landowner expenses associated with donating an easement such as surveys, legal and appraisal services, etc. To date, \$143,834 has been allocated to a total of 16 easement projects for the protection of 3,192 acres of farm and forestland. A summary chart of the PTF-Easement Assistance is included for review. Awards of \$20,000 or less are granted administratively on delegated authority. Awards above \$20,000 require Board review.

5. FY26 Updates and **Proposed changes - this change requires Board of Trustee action** In response to the increased cost of living and goods and services, VOF proposes the following updates to the easement assistance eligibility chart. This update will ensure that the cost of donating an easement is not a factor in advancing conservation.

- a. Update from using Virginia median income from US Census (\$90,974 in 2023) to using Virginia median income from US Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$118,800 in 2025).
- b. For landowners with income between \$125,000 and \$200,000, allow up to 50% costshare for survey work that has been determined by VOF staff to be necessary for the protection and stewardship of the conservation project.

Prior Landowner Annual Income	Proposed New Amount	Reimbursement Rate	Eligible Due Diligence	Assistance Limit
Up to \$70,000	Up to \$95,000	100%	All Due Diligence	\$20,000
Up to \$85,000	Up to \$110,000	75%	All Due Diligence	\$15,000
Up to \$105,000	Up to 125,000	50%	All Due Diligence	\$10,000
	Up to \$200,000	Up to 50%	Survey Work If determined by VOF staff to be necessary for the protection and stewardship of the conservation project	\$10,000
Over \$200,000	Not eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A