

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
FY2021 Round II Grant Round Application Descriptions
Applications Recommended for Funding by the Interagency Task Force
(Projects highlighted in gray are not recommended to be funded)

June 10, 2021

FARMLANDS PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy

Virginia Outdoors Foundation is seeking funds to protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County with an open-space easement on the 900-acre Forkland Dairy farm, a multi-generational Century farm, in the family since 1848. The farm lies on the Appomattox River with an area along the river of Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity in ConserveVirginia, and has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council's award. The dairy is an active 300-head operation with a consultant's plan recently developed for future expansion and three generations actively involved. Best management practices have been installed including CREP, cover crops, tree planting in buffer areas, and the Precision Phosphorus Feeding Program through VA Tech. The family also placed a 400-acre property near this farm under VOF easement in 2020. The property also intersects the Agricultural and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$2,041,000. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$813,800. **Recommended amount:** \$500,000.

2. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection at Montpelier Station

This project seeks to advance farmland protection in the Upper Rappahannock Basin, by conserving the 356-acre McConnell Angus Farm in Orange County, located along Constitution Highway, part of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway. McConnell Angus Farm is a cattle operation that runs 100 head on average with approximately 80 acres in hay. This project seeks to leverage state funding with federal funding to purchase a conservation easement and expand the block of conserved farmland within the Rappahannock-Rapidan watershed. In addition to quality soils covering up to 74 percent of the farm, unnamed tributaries of Blue Run bisect the property, which falls within the Rapidan River and Rappahannock River watersheds, two waterways that provide drinking water to the City of Fredericksburg and other communities. The entire farm falls within the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District, and a historic building on the property is said to have housed a school for African-American children. The property intersects the Agricultural, Cultural and Historic, Scenic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$950,000. **Match:** NRCS ACEP-ALE, PEC, and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$227,500. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

3. Piedmont Environmental Council – **Protected Farmland along the Rappahannock River – Culpeper County**

Piedmont Environmental Council seeks grant funds to help secure a conservation easement to protect Lakota Ranch, a 100% grass-fed Devon cattle family farm comprised of 732 acres in Culpeper County, zoned for agriculture with 652 acres containing prime and statewide important soils, and 286 acres of forestland. The Rappahannock River, a Virginia Scenic River, borders the property for 1.02 miles with a 100' livestock exclusion buffer along the river. There are 80 acres of core and 547 acres of study area for Rappahannock Station Battlefield. The property is viewable to the public from a State Scenic Byway that contributes to the Journey Through Hollowed Ground, another state-maintained road, and the Rappahannock River. PEC is partnering with the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District and securing funding through the NRCS Agricultural Land Easement program to leverage state and private funding to advance farmland protection in the Upper Rappahannock Basin. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,940,000. **Match:** NRCS ACEP-ALE, American Farmland Trust, and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$208,000. **Recommended amount:** \$208,000

4. Stafford County – **Kevin Jones Farm**

A grant is requested by Stafford County to place a conservation easement on the Kevin Jones Farm, which intersects both the Cultural and Historic Preservation and the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity categories of ConserveVirginia. The easement will be held by Stafford County, pursuant to their Purchase of Development Rights Program. The 70-acre property is located along Forest Land Road, a scenic, rural road providing visual access to the traveling public and is used for crop production and keeping of livestock. The easement will protect 36 acres of prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance; 15 acres of mixed forestland; and environmental features, including 2,430 feet of a forested perennial stream and 4.8 acres of high quality wetlands. The property falls within a DCR Natural Heritage ecological core, and contains an element occurrence of a threatened and endangered species. The property is adjacent to managed conserved lands under easement with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and is located 200 feet from another County PDR conservation easement. The property itself is associated with Civil War activity and will preserve on-site Civil War trenches.

Total Project Cost: \$333,000. **Match:** Stafford County. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$166,500. **Recommended amount:** \$46,250.

5. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Morse Brothers Farm**

Zachary and Daryl Morse, brothers and third-generation African American farmers in Nelson County, recently purchased 111 acres of clear-cut property adjacent to their family farm and wish to protect it with a conservation easement. They plan an agricultural enterprise combining cattle and hay production with a small vineyard and an event barn to draw people from the Capital region who would not normally have the opportunity to visit a working farm. They envision a retreat that welcomes families to a venue where they can enjoy a day in the country, picnic and walk along a trail system highlighting the streams and views of nearby Turner Mountain. The brothers are working with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish pastures and fence the

streams so that they can showcase livestock production best-management practices. A small area of the property would not be included in the easement for the event venue and parking area leaving approximately 106 acres to be protected by a VOF perpetual easement. This property does not intersect with ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$249,500. **Match:** NRCS ACEP-ALE, VOF Preservation Trust Fund, and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$70,750. **Recommended amount:** \$70,750.

FOREST PRESERVATION CATEGORY

1. Department of Wildlife Resources – **Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II**

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is requesting funds to acquire, conserve and improve 749 acres of forestland in Accomack County through its Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II, which complements a current VLCF-funded initiative to purchase 8,800 acres on the Eastern Shore. This fee-simple acquisition presents opportunities to facilitate natural marsh migration, support coastal resiliency, provide new public lands for wildlife-related recreation, and, importantly, improve habitat for migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. The lack of sufficient food and shelter in the Virginia portion creates an energy deficit for birds attempting to cross the Chesapeake Bay and continue southward migration. The DWR's purchase of this property will allow for strategic and targeted habitat improvements to meet the needs of these migratory birds and other wildlife, providing critical foraging and stopover habitat for the birds. The addition of this acreage to the public land portfolio provides for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and more. The parcels are in private ownership with a willing seller. This project intersects the Forestry, Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,444,775. **Match:** USFWS Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Grant; DWR Game Protection Fund; DWR Nongame Cash Fund; DWR Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Fund. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$700,000. **Recommended amount:** \$400,000.

2. Department of Forestry – **Three Creek Capron**

The Virginia Department of Forestry is seeking to acquire an open-space easement over Three Creek – Capron to permanently protect riparian forest habitat and ensure continued use of upland acreage for commercial timber management. The 376-acre tract is fully forested with 1.8 miles of stream frontage on Three Creek, the largest blackwater 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. The tract's forest cover has a Forest Conservation Value of 5 (outstanding) and 45 percent of the tract is scored as class IV (high) Watershed Model Conservation Priority. Over 70 percent of the tract falls in a C3 (high) Ecological Core and is in the Forestry layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$530,000. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$240,000. **Recommended amount:** \$200,000.

3. Department of Forestry – Round Hill Swamp at Doles Farm

The Virginia Department of Forestry is seeking to acquire an open-space easement over a 705-acre farm in Southampton County to permanently protect forest habitat and ensure continued use of the upland acreage for agriculture and forest management. Round Hill includes 507 acres of exceptional forests and 150 acres of prime farmland. The Round Hill swamp is 200 acres with roughly 137 acres of that being blackwater swamp containing Cypress-Tupelo forests. The property represents a significant opportunity to protect water sources that drain directly into the Blackwater River at the Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve. The easement will place substantial limits on taking forest along the waterways including 100' riparian buffers and protections of the Cypress stand. This project intersects the Agriculture, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,294,000. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$275,000. **Recommended amount:** \$225,000.

4. Meadowview Biological Research Station – Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs

The Meadowview Biological Research Station seeks to acquire and protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog (G1S1) and surrounding oak barren uplands in Caroline County, by adding it to the adjacent existing 17-acre preserve. This property contains the northern-most native purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* L.) population in Virginia and one state threatened plant (*Juncus caesariensis* Coville). The preserve is managed and restored through mechanical clearing and prescribed fire to enhance indigenous rare plants found on the property. The site is used for guided tours, research, educational, and recreational purposes. The preserve plan envisions acquisition and preservation of a total of 134 acres on the Meadow Creek watershed, adjoining 76,000 protected acres on Fort A.P. Hill. The existing conservation easement co-held by Caroline County on the preserve protects the rare plants and allows for continued ecological restoration and reintroduction. This easement would be expanded to include the new acreage. This project intersects the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains and Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$683,900. **Match:** Applicant is seeking other funds including: Chaney Foundation, VOF Preservation Trust Fund, and private funding. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$341,950. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

HISTORIC RESOURCES CATEGORY

1. Belmead on the James, Inc. – Drexel-Morrell Center

The Drexel-Morrell Center project proposes to purchase the 56.48-acre Rosemont property in Powhatan that intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. With the financial assistance of a VLCF grant, Belmead on the James will conserve an historic home on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places; an original woodframe

barn; 40 acres of pristine wooded space and 16 acres of open space; and a permanent waterway that bisects the property. All of the property will be placed under conservation easement. Our partners will include among others the Capital Region Land Conservancy. The Drexel-Morrell project will create and preserve a safe-space museum for common stories, history, and cultural inter-enrichment. It will be a protected learning place of preserved natural life and of beauty and simple peace where conservation and conversations combine to address how one acts locally to contribute globally to a wiser story of/on our earth. The project will tell a crucially important story of African American life impacted by the Drexel and Morrell schools in Powhatan.

Total Project Cost: \$456,900. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$228,450. **Recommended amount:** \$228,450.

2. American Battlefield Trust - **Rollins Tract at Bristoe Station Battlefield**

The American Battlefield Trust seeks a VLCF grant to acquire the 22.35-acre Rollins Tract, located in Prince William County and record an open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Rollins Tract intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia and is located in the Core Areas of the Bristoe Station Battlefield and the Manassas Station Operations Battlefield. Preservation of this property is a high priority for the county and the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. In addition to its historic significance, the Rollins Tract includes 410 feet of a perennial stream, 0.49 acres of woods, and 0.41 acres of wetlands. The Trust plans to match the VLCF grant with additional grant funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program, and other state and local grants, and private funding. After protecting the property with an open-space easement, the Trust would transfer the parcel to the county for incorporation into the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

Total Project Cost: \$912,370. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, ABT, grant from Prince William Co. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$285,000. **Recommended amount:** \$285,000.

3. American Battlefield Trust – **Fussell’s Mill Tracts at Second Deep Bottom Battlefield**

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the 52-acre Fussell’s Mill Tracts, located in Henrico County, via a fee acquisition and recordation of an open-space easement to be held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tracts are in the Core and Study Areas as defined by the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields of the Second Deep Bottom, First Deep Bottom, Glendale, and Fair Oaks & Darbytown Road Battlefields. Two of those battlefields are documented United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) sites, an important facet of African American history. The property includes 106 feet of Bailey Creek, 0.23 acres of pond, 575 feet along the pond’s edge, 48 acres of woods, and 0.86 acres of wetlands. The property is mostly open space, with one single-family residence, swimming pool, deck, and storage structures and is located in the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$846,859. **Match:** American Battlefield Protection Program, Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, and private funding. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$282,000. **Recommended amount:** \$282,000.

4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – **Edwards**

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation seeks funding to protect the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County, a property that intersects the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. This property is part of the “The Coaling,” made famous by the roll this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. Although fighting raged across a mile wide and three-mile long battlefield, the eventual outcome of the battle was decided by the fighting on the Coaling. It was control of this high ground that determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic, but also the fate of Jackson’s entire 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 unpreserved land, which has been subdivided into 12 parcels. This project will preserve the remaining, unsold, ten parcels.

Total Project Cost: \$1,624,370. **Match:** SVBF, Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, and ABPP. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$400,000. **Recommended amount:** \$29,550.

NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY

1. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Pickett’s Harbor Maritime Forest & Migratory Bird Protection**

DCR’s Division of Natural Heritage seeks funding to support the fee-simple purchase of 4.5 acres, two bayside lots on the Eastern Shore in Northampton County. Although small in size, these lots support two globally-rare natural communities, a globally-rare beach dwelling insect, as well as high quality, internationally significant migratory bird habitat. The property adjoins Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve and provides important protective buffer and management access to the existing Preserve. The property also intersects five categories of ConserveVirginia: Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost: \$892,500. **Match:** Natural Area Preservation Fund, NOAA/CZM. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$642,500. **Recommended amount:** \$255,549.

2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve – Lake Allure Woods**

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks funding to support the purchase of a 44-acre open-space easement to protect high ecological value, mature maritime forests that adjoin Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve and the largest natural lake known on the Eastern Shore. This forest provides exceptional value for songbirds and lies within the mapped Delmarva Migratory Animal Stopover Habitat conservation site, which is Virginia’s only site mapped for a significant aggregation of fall migrating bird species. The area supports one of the largest concentrations of landbirds along the Atlantic Coast each fall, comprising nearly 200 different species (representing about 70 percent of all breeding bird species in North America). This project intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia

Total Project Cost: \$551,500. **Match:** NOAA/CZM. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$551,500. **Recommended amount:** \$142,298.

3. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve
Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks funds to purchase in fee 52 acres in Stafford County as an addition to Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve. The subject parcel is adjacent to the preserve and situated along Raven Road. Acquisition of this tract will enhance DCR’s ability to protect 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 extensive forested riparian buffers along Accokeek Creek that provide habitat for numerous species of greatest conservation need including songbird habitat. The tract falls within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Floodplains and Flooding Resilience.

Total Project Cost: \$450,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$450,000. **Recommended amount:** \$450,000.

4. Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Kinzer Hollow Cave

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division seeks funding for the fee-simple acquisition of 77 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The subject property supports several rare plants, foraging habitat for endangered Gray Bats, and Kinzer Hollow Cave, home to the globally rare Powell Valley Terrestrial Cave Isopod (*Amerigoniscus henroti*). An underground stream within the cave drains to the Powell River, which supports a host of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Acquisition of the property will also provide long needed management access in support of prescribed burning efforts on the adjoining Dry Creek Barrens. There is no other place in Virginia that includes such a diverse and significant array of terrestrial, aquatic, and cave and karst resources. For over 25 years, DCR has been stitching together small parcels to protect these resources and build a functional and resilient natural area. The tract falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Total Project Cost: \$204,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$204,000. **Recommended amount:** \$204,000.

5. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Southside Virginia Conservation & Recreation Complex

The DCR Natural Heritage Division requests funds to complete Phase I of the Southside Virginia Conservation & Recreation Complex (SVCRC) in Halifax County near Scottsburg, Virginia. This funding request supplements existing VLCF and LWCF grant funds. When completed, Phase 1 will result in fee simple acquisition of approximately 2,010 acres adjacent to Staunton River State Park that support numerous natural heritage resources, abundant wildlife, and noteworthy cultural resources. The property will create significant opportunities to protect and restore rare Piedmont natural communities and expand recreational opportunities for visitors to the state park. Phase 1 sets the stage to achieve the overall goal of acquiring 7,400 acres that will unite the state park,

Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve, and federal Kerr Reservoir lands into one of the largest contiguous public land complexes in the Piedmont region (from Maryland to Alabama). When complete, ecological restoration of natural habitats can occur at an unprecedented scale while supporting the local economy through expanded recreational trails, interpretive programs, and water access. The tract falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience. This project received \$843,750 from VLCF in the FY21 grant round.

Total Project Cost: \$3,223,648. **Match:** LWCF. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$876,250. **Recommended amount:** \$0. **PROJECT WITHDRAWN**

6. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **The Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Division seeks funds for the fee-simple acquisition of 63 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The tract supports several rare plants, caves, and groundwater quality of the Powell River and was one of the first identified conservation priorities in the 1990s. For over 25 years, DCR has been stitching together small parcels to protect these resources and build a functional and resilient natural area. These lands also harbor a rich cultural heritage dating back to Native Americans and later, frontiersmen such as Daniel Boone and the waves of pioneers that traveled the Wilderness Road on their way west through Cumberland Gap. The tract falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Total Project Cost: \$164,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$164,000. **Recommended amount:** \$164,000.

7. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition**

The DCR Division of Natural Heritage seeks funds to support fee simple acquisition of approximately 77 forested acres that adjoin the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County. The Preserve, established in 1991, is designed to protect the world's largest population of a globally imperiled plant species and the pine-oak heath habitats it occupies. This habitat is subject to natural fires that are difficult to control and tend to burn across large areas making contiguous, unfragmented managed areas critical. The subject tract not only supports individuals of the globally-rare Pirate Bush, it provides significant buffer on the northeastern flank of the Preserve and would effectively complete the Preserve design in this direction. The tract falls within the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience categories of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$346,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$346,000. **Recommended amount:** \$109,153.

OPEN SPACE AND PARKS CATEGORY

1. City of Franklin – **Blackwater Conservation Acquisition**

The City of Franklin, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), requests grant funds to acquire 203 acres of prime river frontage on the state scenic Blackwater River to create a trailhead on the Blue Water Trail that terminates at the River Park in downtown Franklin. This property intersects four layers of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement. It contains old growth hardwood bottomlands and forestlands categorized as Forest Conservation Value 4 (50 acres) and 5 (70 acres). The tract sits at the intersection of two Natural Heritage sites, the Blackwater River Main Stem Conservation site, and the Antioch Swamp Stream Conservation unit, as well as within the TNC Chowan Sandridge/Blackwater River Terrestrial Portfolio. This project supports several rare species and significant natural communities including anadromous fish and colonial water birds (Audubon). The City of Franklin and VOF have been awarded federal funding for the purchase of this tract to create a new public park with access to the Blackwater River. This project also received a grant award of \$375,000 from VLCF in FY21.

Total Project Cost: \$1,268,500. **Match:** USFWS via Ducks Unlimited, Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$168,500. **Recommended amount:** \$168,500.

2. Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – **Haskins Creek Waterfront Land Acquisition in Tappahannock**

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) proposes, on behalf of the Town of Tappahannock, to acquire seven acres on Haskins Creek at the Rt. 17 Bridge in Tappahannock. The project will provide additional public access to Haskins Creek and the nearby Rappahannock River, increase passive outdoor recreation opportunities (i.e. hiking/walking, fishing and swimming, wildlife viewing and bird watching), conserve a pristine coastal environment, and protect a wetland marsh. Plans are in place to construct a car-top boat launch with parking and part of the property will be set aside as a family outdoor gathering area. The property intersects the Floodplains and Flooding Resilience category of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$549,000. **Match:** Town of Tappahannock. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$219,500. **Recommended amount:** \$200,000.

3. Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – **South Garden International LLC Public Access Land Expansion**

MPCBPAA proposes to acquire and conserve 125.59 acres in Naxeria, Gloucester County that will double the size of public access to state waters of the Middle Peninsula region for residents and visitors. This fee-simple acquisition is adjacent to 96.81 acres of existing MPCBPAA recreational resources and will expand recreational interests and conserved land. For the last 10 years, under the ownership of South Garden International, the land has been positioned for conservation and educational purposes. In part, the landowner provided a space for scientific research and nature observation to encourage preservation of pristine landscape; ultimately this coincides with MPCBPAA efforts and interests to acquire land and to advance the mission of the MPCBPAA. Once the land is acquired by the MPCBPAA, this property will be open daily for public waterfront access. The property is in the Floodplains and Flooding Resilience category of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$787,400. **Match:** MPCBPAA and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$391,200. **Recommended amount:** \$312,000.

4. The Conservation Fund – **Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area**

With the help of a grant from VLCF, this 1,597 acre property in Sussex County will one day provide public access to the Nottoway River and protect land for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. The property contains nearly 2.5 miles of frontage on the Nottoway River, a designated Virginia Scenic River and 2.5 miles of Black Branch Swamp. There are more than 220 acres of forested wetlands and more than 400 acres of bottomland hardwoods. The Conservation Fund is working with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to acquire this property for the creation of a new Wildlife Management Area. Over 90 percent of the property is identified as a priority in ConserveVirginia, with rankings in three different categories: Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Scenic. Once conserved, the property can be restored to native longleaf pine and hardwoods to better support water quality and habitat for endangered species, such as the federally threatened Red-cockaded woodpecker. Federally endangered Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) and Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) are found in this section of the Nottoway.

Total Project Cost: \$2,550,000. **Match:** Forest Legacy and landowner (TCF) donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$637,500. **Recommended amount:** \$264,500.

5. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia**

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond propose an innovative partnership that will allow the Museum to convert a surface parking lot at its historic Broad Street Station into an urban park. The proposed 5.2-acres will be protected in perpetuity as open space providing recreational and environmental benefits. The proposed project will incorporate and demonstrate science-based, natural solutions to the effects of climate change while addressing the growing need for open green space in an area under intense development pressure. Transferring control of the parcel to VOF under the Open Space Land Act will protect it in perpetuity from the threat of future development and will provide necessary capital for its transformation into a high-quality public park and sustainable landscape. With a ready audience of Museum visitors, public transit passengers, and a growing number of residents and workers within a 10-minute walk, bike, or bus ride, the site is highly accessible and visible with the promise of becoming a signature park for both the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$21,540,000. **Match:** LWCF and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$90,000.

6. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, Inc.**

Camp Kum Ba Yah, Inc. (KBY) seeks to purchase and enter into a conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), on the 44-acre urban forest in Lynchburg, upon which it has facilitated outdoor nature programming for the past 70 years. KBY entered into a Lease and Option Agreement with the current owner in 2018, agreeing to purchase the \$1.1 million property by September, 2021. If KBY is unable to purchase the property, land development poses an imminent threat, and the community would lose a forest and nature education program treasured by

generations of citizens. VOF, as the easement holder, will permanently protect the property, providing inclusive outdoor nature education and public recreational opportunities. The mature forest contributes to climate resilience and provides habitat space to wildlife, and its streams and pond contribute to a healthier watershed. Additionally, KBY has a rich civil rights history, encouraging use by diverse populations over its 70-year history. Today, KBY offers scholarships to nearly 50% of campers, fulfilling a core value that no child is denied the gift of camp due to financial need. It continues to expand its year-round programming to school groups, families, and partner organizations. KBY has provided formative outdoor and intercultural experiences to generations of Central Virginians, and the forest is a beloved nature space to many. The property does not intersect with ConserveVirginia. A FY20 VLCF grant of \$201,134 was awarded for this project in 2019, and a FY21 award was made for \$79,807 in 2021.

Total Project Cost: \$1,040,950. **Match:** PTF, VLCF, and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$251,330. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

7. Department of Wildlife Resources – **Copper Creek Conservation Initiative**

The Copper Creek Conservation Initiative seeks to acquire and conserve 8 acres at the confluence of Copper Creek and the Clinch River in Scott County. DWR would provide new public fishing and boating access along the Clinch River shoreline. Companion public boating access sites are located 2.5 miles upstream and 9.5 miles downstream. The site is easily accessible, located 0.6 miles from a four-lane highway. Speaking to the value of this parcel as a natural area, the parcel also contains approximately ¼-mile of Copper Creek on both sides. This proposal presents an outstanding opportunity to protect the shoreline of Copper Creek, removing threats of sedimentation and nutrient-loading. Many rare and endangered fish are known near the mouth of Copper Creek, including several Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Copper Creek has been a refuge for many species during, and as a source of replenishment after, pollution events in the Clinch River. Twenty-eight mussel species, including 19 federally endangered, have been reported from Copper Creek. This is by far the most of any tributary on the Virginia side of the Clinch River. This property intersects three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

Total Project Cost: \$100,000. **Match:** None needed. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

8. Amherst County – **Riveredge Park – James River Heritage Trail Connection**

Amherst County is seeking funds to purchase three acres of property adjacent to the James River. This project will provide a public access point to the river and a trail corridor for the final 2,000 feet needed to connect Riveredge Trail to the existing James River Heritage Trail. This property intersects the Scenic Preservation category of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$119,330. **Match:** Amherst County. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$59,665. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

9. Town of Colonial Beach – **Eleanor Park Conservation Easement**

Eleanor Park has been threatened by development for almost a decade. A conservation easement will protect this unique 1.9 acres of waterfront property along the Potomac River, an American

Heritage River, in perpetuity. The property is located in a residential neighborhood on “The Point” in the small Town of Colonial Beach. Surrounded on three sides by local streets (one of which runs along the Potomac River), the property is easily accessible and has been used as a park for over 130 years. Dotted with large, mature hardwood trees, it provides a sanctuary for osprey, eagles, and other wildlife. A historical property survey by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources stated that Eleanor Park provides green space and is a contributing resource to historic designation of the town. Without the conservation easement, this unique natural resource deeded as a park in 1882, will remain in jeopardy of being sold, subdivided and developed for residential housing. With this application the town, with full support of the current Council, seeks to protect the park for enhanced recreational use, and to increase its scenic, cultural/historic, flood resilient, and water quality conservation values. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$927,000. **Match:** Cash and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$463,500. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

10. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Dock Street

In the 1730’s William Byrd gave the City of Richmond its name due to the distinct appearance of the city along the James River, reminiscent of Richmond on the Thames in England. The City of Richmond purchased Libby Hill Park in 1851 to preserve open space and public access to this important view, which has remained largely unimpeded. The 5.2-acre Dock Street property, intended recently for an intensive development that would harm one of the most recognizable viewsheds in Virginia, is proposed for conservation with the help of a VLCF grant. The plan is for DCR to hold an easement on the property, which is situated in between two city-owned parks, and CRLC would ultimately transfer ownership to the City of Richmond. CRLC received a VLCF FY20 grant for \$500,000 in 2019. Since then CRLC has gotten a second appraisal and a ratified contract. CRLC is seeking \$750,000 to purchase the Dock Street property to complete the Richmond Riverfront Plan and connect these parks, provide access to the river, protect the view from Libby Hill Park, and allow for the buildout of the Virginia Capital Trail, as well as other public amenities that support outdoor recreation. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation categories of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$5,220,000. **Match:** Cash, LWCF. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$750,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

11. City of Waynesboro – Basic Park Extension – Natural Area

The City of Waynesboro seeks to acquire 44 acres adjacent to the city’s Basic Park and the newly designated Scenic South River. The city wishes to expand the existing Basic Park to include an extension of the South River Greenway, provide additional access to the Waynesboro Water Trail, and create nature trails for hiking and wildlife watching. Acquiring this property would double the shoreline of the park and allow for additional public access to the river for fishing and paddling. This acquisition would safeguard the current vegetative forested buffer along the shoreline and prevent the property from being developed as it is a Class V (Most Vulnerable) on the Development Vulnerability Model of the Virginia Conservation Vision map. Instead, it will provide additional public access to the river for fishing, paddling, and bank swimming/wading and

increase accessibility to naturalized areas for residents and visitors to recharge and learn about their natural surroundings. The tract intersects the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$175,000. **Match:** City of Waynesboro. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$87,500. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

12. Town of Culpeper – **MRC Trail**

The MRC Trail project seeks grant funding to secure and improve approximately 19 acres of unimproved natural area in the Town of Culpeper. The town intends to acquire the proposed MRC Trail property to create connector trails. Completing this gap in the town's greenway trail network will create continuous trail linkage between the town's two largest parks, Rockwater Park and Yowell Meadow Park. The proposed trail will run adjacent to a stream corridor, locally known as Metlocks Branch, ensuring the protection of this ConserveVirginia Water Quality Improvement asset. The proposed trail is supported by the Town of Culpeper Comprehensive Plan, the Culpeper County Comprehensive Plan and other town planning documents, and fulfills several of the public needs promoted in the Virginia Outdoors Plan including trails and interest in walking for pleasure. Conserving this land for recreational access supports a high quality of life while protecting the land from development.

Total Project Cost: \$352,550. **Match:** Town of Culpeper. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$120,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

13. Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism – **Roanoke River Greenway and Blueway at Niagara Dam – Joining Explore Park**

Roanoke County is proposing the acquisition of 46.56 acres of forested land to provide connectivity among Roanoke River Greenway, Roanoke River Blueway, Explore Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Acquisition of this property will allow construction of an important segment of Roanoke River Greenway, a regional bicycle/pedestrian path across the Roanoke Valley. The property is in the Blue Ridge Parkway viewshed from a major overlook. Acquisition will also support improvements to the Blueway and implementation of the Explore Park Adventure Plan. This property along the Roanoke River, a qualified and partially designated DCR Scenic River, will serve as a key take-out point for boaters, upstream of Niagara Dam. A partnership between Roanoke County and American Electric Power will enable blueway improvements such as access and parking that are currently not available in this area due to dam security. This project is supported financially by greenway partners and will also provide recreational opportunities, such as equestrian trails, bird watching, and environmental education. The property intersects the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$272,500. **Match:** Pathfinders for Greenways and Roanoke County. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$136,250. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

14. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Berry Plains Landing**

Berry Plains Landing is a combination public access and conservation easement project located on the State Scenic Rappahannock River in King George County. The property consists of 390 acres and is traversed by a large creek and marsh area running along the Rappahannock River. The property is exceptional in its condition and includes multiple ConserveVirginia attributes including

Agriculture, Floodplains Resilience, Cultural and Historic layers, and almost 1.8 miles of frontage on the State Scenic Rappahannock River. The property includes 170 acres of marsh, including scrub shrub and palustrine forested wetlands. The subject property is across the river from an easement held by VOF. In addition to placing the property under easement and eliminating future development on this tract along the river, prohibiting future divisions, or timbering the wetland areas, the owner has committed to create a public access (waterfowl hunting during the season) hunting location on the river. Access is to be facilitated by the DWR boat ramp located 7 minutes upstream from the property. VOF will hold the easement and will coordinate with DWR to manage the hunting opportunity.

Total Project Cost: \$1,805,000. **Match:** NAWCA and PTF. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$150,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

15. James City County Department of Parks and Recreation – Grove Community Park

James City County is seeking funding to create Grove Community Park. The county will purchase two adjacent parcels that total 7.75 acres in the lower end of the county. One parcel is overgrown and contains an old, abandoned dwelling, and the adjacent property is owned by two churches and contains an old community building and playground. The Grove community is historically underserved with recreational amenities, and also has the highest concentration of poverty level households in James City County. It currently lacks a community open space and park, and this project would fulfill an identified need in the James City County Comprehensive Plan. The property does not intersect with ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$218,800. **Match:** Cash. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$109,400. **Recommended amount:** \$0.