

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State & Local Assistance DCR Grant Round Webinar 2026 Application Process

Due 4 pm August 27, 2026

Kristal McKelvey

Chief Recreation Grants Manager

July 14, 2026

Main presentation will be recorded and posted to the DCR LWCF Website. Everyone will be muted during presentation.

Write general questions in Question Box and staff will pause to answer – do not enter in chat box.

A live unrecorded Q&A will occur at the end of the presentation for project specific questions you may have.



Schedule a meeting to discuss project details and eligibility:
Kristal.mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov

Important Note:

The current NPS LWCF Manual is v2026 published May 1, 2026
Available online: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/v2026.htm>

This webinar does not contain all the information and applicant responsibilities with the Land & Water Conservation Fund State & Local Assistance program (LWCF). The LWCF Act is now codified at 54 USC 200305(f) and regulations 36 CFR Part 59. Refer to 2 CFR part 200 for financial responsibilities. NEPA and Section 106 coordination and compliance is required. Final project award is at the discretion of the National Park Service (NPS).

Webinar Agenda:

- LWCF Program Overview
- Eligible Applicants and Project Types
- Funding
- 2026 Preapplication Process
- Forms
- Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Scoring Criteria
- Authorization/Award Process
- Post Award
- Other grant opportunities

LWCF Purpose:

The LWCF State Assistance Program was established by the LWCF Act of 1965.

to stimulate a nationwide action program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of present and future generations, and visitors, such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation; and to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. citizens. The program provides matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

LWCF Protection:

All LWCF funded park properties must be used and maintained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity (pursuant to 54 USC 200305(f)(3)).

If any part of property at any point in future were to be used for any purpose other than outdoor recreation, a conversion would be activated, which is a very long and arduous process requiring replacement property of at least equal fair market value and reasonably equivalent usefulness and location. Would require approval of DOI Secretary.



LWCF is a match reimbursement program

No funds are provided 'up front'.

- Must show that you have full available funding to pay for project while receiving periodic reimbursements.
- Reimbursements are made during the active project period, as requested and documented.
- Proof of invoice and payments are needed.
- Logs of work or volunteer hours must be provided if documenting.
- Final drawdown will be completed with NPS approved closeout documentation including final site visit, deed, and map.
- Guide and Forms on DCR PRR LWCF Website

Eligible Applicants:

- **Localities: cities, towns, counties**
- **Legally constituted Recreation Authorities**
- **State Agencies (DWR, DOF, DCR, etc.)**
- **Tribal Entities – Federally and/or State Recognized Tribes or Sovereign Nations**
- **Other public authorities that have proof of ability to hold and maintain property in perpetuity may be eligible****



Eligible LWCF Project Types:

The Program expectation is the entirety of the park or recreation area being acquired, developed, or expanded will be included within the LWCF boundary area.

- **Acquisition**
- **Combination:** acquisition + development
- **Development** – outdoor recreation activities and support facilities
- **Renovation:** standards of quality, safety, attractiveness, or for ecological factors

Acquisitions:

Value is determined by a UASFLA (“yellow book”) Appraisal and separate appraisal review.

The cost of appraisal and incidental costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

- Lands, wetlands, beaches, and waters
- New areas or additions to existing parks
- Forests, wildlife management areas
- Physical connections to parks
 - Trails, waterways, land between recreation areas, wildlife habitat corridors may be eligible
 - Natural areas and preserves may be acquired if the site will be open to the general public for outdoor recreation (including wildlife viewing, passive recreation, hiking, etc.)



Development Projects:

Basic outdoor facilities needed in the public interest for enjoyment of outdoor recreation in accordance with SCORP. The NPS LWCF manual has specific details of certain recreation types clarification and/or restrictions.

Do not begin construction until project is awarded!

- **Picnic Facilities**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Sports and playfields**
- **Splash Pads (BABA compliant)**
- **Restrooms**
- **Swimming Facilities**
- **Boating Facilities**
- **Fishing/Hunting**
- **Public Target Range Facilities**
- **Winter Sports**
- **Interpretive Centers***
- **Camping**
- **Maintenance Facilities**
- **Trails* (must have boundary)**

Eligible Support Facilities

Needed for the public use of an area. Read specifics in NPS LWCF Manual

- Roads, parking areas, utilities
- Sanitation systems and restroom buildings
- Visitor information centers, kiosks, wayfinding/signage
- Pavilions, spectator seating (amphitheaters)
- Operation and maintenance facilities – support the recreation (residences not eligible)
- Erosion control and shoreline stabilization*
- Beautification – landscaping, restoration, dredging
- Safety features & energy conservation elements

Creating wetlands*

INELIGIBLE Projects

Read specifics in NPS LWCF Manual

- Indoor Facilities including pools
- Gymnasiums
- Community and/or Senior Centers
- Semi/Professional Team arenas
- Historic restoration or preservation purposes only (recreation such as picnic areas, walkways, trails, and outdoor facilities may be eligible)
- Facilities needed to solely meet physical education and athletic program requirements of a school (areas/facilities for coordinated use for the public with public schools may be eligible)

Funding for 2026 Grant Round

Remaining funds \$3,877,359 + 2026 Apportionment \$7,264,631 =
\$11,141,990 available in Federal LWCF Funding of Virginia apportionment

50/50 match reimbursement

- Minimum request \$150,000
 - Total project cost of \$300,000
- Maximum award amount of \$2.5 million
 - Project of \$5M or more



Match Options

Variety of ways to maximum funding and resources



- Pre-award expenses – if later approved
 - Purposes of environmental review, site planning, design, preparation of cost estimates and construction drawings
 - Need NPS acknowledgement
- In-house administrative effort for project
 - Log sheets of work specific to park, proof of hourly salary + fringe
- Donations & volunteer work
 - Logs of volunteer work – Federal rate
- Existing government-owned property not currently used for recreational purposes **
- Donated property or bargain sale value

2026 Application Process:

READ THE DCR GRANT MANUAL

This is a 'preapplication' format;
less paperwork required than prior grant rounds!

We require basic information to know what your project is, where it is, how much it is, and how 'ready' it is.

Then we will guide you through the NEPA and Section 106 process.

Grant Application Documents:

Please see the following documents and forms for the 2026 LWCF Grant Round. Please read the manual prior to completing your application, budget and maps. The application, budget and timeline documents are required to be turned in by the end of the Grant Round. All application materials for the 2026 LWCF Grant Round must be received by at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026, to email address recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.

- [LWCF 2026 DCR Grant Round Manual](#) (PDF) **read first prior to completing application **
- [DCR Preapplication](#) (Word)
- [Project Budget Worksheet and Narrative](#) (Excel)
- [Project Timeline](#) (Word)
- [How to Reference the VOP](#) (PDF)
- [Maps and Property Documents Guidance](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF 2026 Scoring Criteria](#) (PDF)
- [Preapplication Environmental Guidance document](#) (PDF)

Checklist for Complete Preapplication

See Appendix A: Preapplication Checklist of the 2026 VA LWCF Application Manual for more detail on each of these items. Please submit as separate files, preferably in a zip folder. Please save all documents with Park Name to assist with filing. For example, Riverside Park- Preapplication Form, Riverside Park-Timeline.

Required: Phase I Pre-Application Items	
☐	DCR Preapplication form (this document)
☐	Site development plan (development projects) or conceptual design plan (acquisition projects)
☐	Budget worksheet and narrative (template provided) ←
☐	Timeline (template provided) ←
☐	Willingness to sell/ Letter from landowner (acquisition projects)
☐	Proposed LWCF property boundary map (instructions provided in <i>Maps and Property Documents Guidance</i>)
☐	Property tax card/s (instructions provided in <u><i>Maps and Property Documents Guidance</i></u>)
☐	Property deed/s (instructions provided in <u><i>Maps and Property Documents Guidance</i></u>)
☐	Most recent plat surveys. Recorded and unrecorded surveys acceptable. (instructions provided in <i>Maps and Property Documents Guidance</i>)
☐	Photos of project site (up to 10)
☐	EPA NEPA Assist report (instructions provided in <u><i>Preapplication Environmental Guidance</i></u>)
☐	ESA Section 7 USFWS <u>iPAC</u> species list (instructions provided in <u><i>Preapplication Environmental Guidance</i></u>)

Consistent Park and file names

Download and use DCR templates

Reference these two PDF Guidance Documents

Budget Worksheet & Narrative

Do not change any of the Category Names or numbers

- Narrative – Explain how estimates were derived, describe any pre-award requests, contingency calculation verification
- Funding Sources Itemized shows \$ available
- Funding Sources by Type
- Detailed Budget – use cost estimates to best enter by type
- Contingencies line only if necessary and must have narrative of how it was calculated and justified. This will be tracked in reimbursement documentation.

Make sure it all adds up and balances 50/50!
Use even numbers whenever possible.

1. Administrative and legal expenses	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
3. Relocation expenses and payments	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
4. Architectural and engineering fees	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
6. Project inspection fees	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
7. Site work	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
8. Demolition and removal	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
9. Construction	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
10. Equipment	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
11. Miscellaneous	
[Item 1]	
[Item 2, add additional as needed]	
12. Contingencies	

Timeline: from application to award is expected to be approximately 1 year

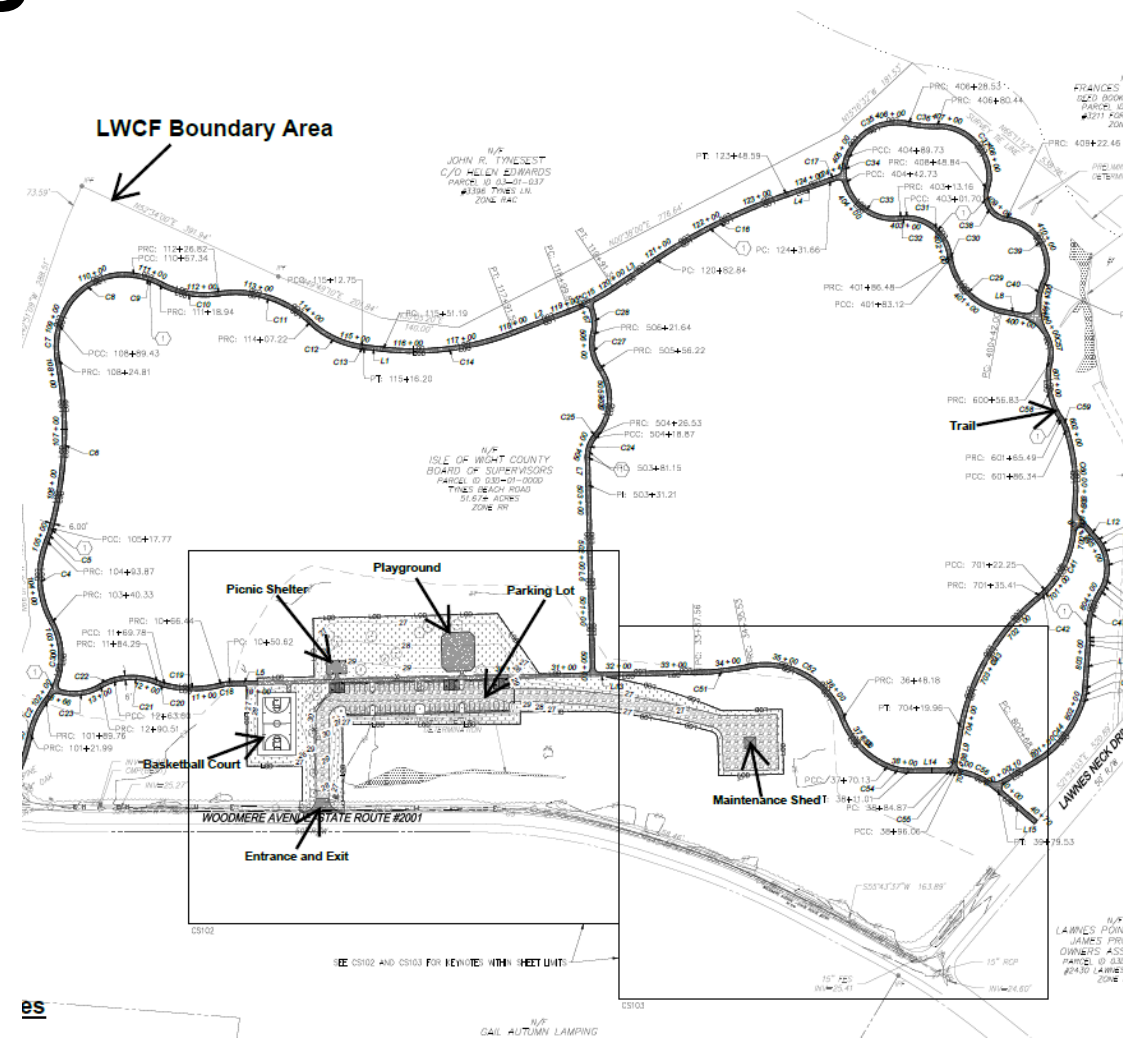
- Aug 27 – applications due
- September – Scoring Committee
- Early October – notify selected projects
- October-November – site visits
- October-December – 4-5 mandatory virtual information seminars
 - January-May – DCR communicates with NPS
 - June-August – NPS review and approval
 - September 2027 expected project awards
 - October 2027 – September 2030 project period



Preapplication Documents

- Acquisitions = willingness to sell letter
 - Conceptual design plan
 - Development = site design plan
- See 'Maps and Property Documents Guidance' PDF on DCR LWCF website**
- Proposed LWCF boundary map
 - Property tax card(s) & deed(s)
 - Locality GIS database
 - Most recent surveys
 - Photos of project site (up to 10)

- The property details are important!



Preapplication Environmental Guidance PDF

The PDF has step-by-step screenshot guidance to use

- NEPAAssist – tool for preview of potential environmental concerns
 - EPA website mapping tool
- IPaC Report – USFWS Planning and Conservation System
 - List of potential threatened, endangered, or proposed species
- Can also source environmental screening tools VOP Section 4

These external mappers and tools can help prepare the project for future assessments and regulatory reviews at both the state and federal levels

1. VA Wildlife Resources* VaFWIS - pre-screen your project area for monitored species. Screening Tool	2. VA Conservation and Recreation* NHDE - Pre-screen your project area for Natural Heritage resources. Mapper	3. VA Environmental Quality WetCAT - Pre-screen your project area for wetlands and hydric soils . Mapper
4. VA Conservation and Recreation VFRIS - Pre-screen your project area for flood risks. Mapper	5. VA Historic Resources* VCRIS - Pre-screen your project area for cultural and historic resources. Mapper	6. Tribal Directory Assessment Tool TDAT - Identifies tribes that will be consulted under Section 106. Mapper

*Complete registration to use mapper or tool

7. Hydric Soils
For projects that need hydric soils information to complete the review process, use the [USDA Web Soil Survey \(WSS\)](#) for authoritative soil survey data. The WetCAT mapper also includes a hydric soils layer. However, formal-level reviewers may be most familiar with the WSS data view. Hydric soils data requests are on a project-specific basis, and many projects do not require this level of review

8. NEPAAssist Project Screening Tool
This tool allows users to define the area of interest and access immediate screening of environmental assessment indicators used for federal-level project reviews. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earliest stages of project development. Users can draw or upload a polygon of the project area and generate a results report with a map.

Preapplication Environmental Guidance PDF

This is only preliminary information!

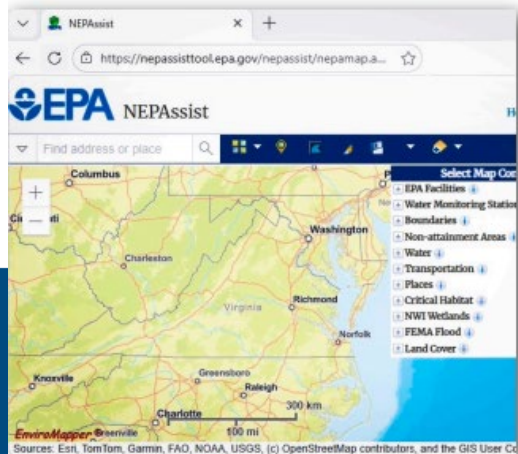
NEPAssist

NEPAssist is a tool that facilitates the environmental review process and project planning in relation to environmental considerations. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earliest stages of project development. **To begin either click on Get Started or go to the NEPAssist main page ([link here](#)) and click on 'Launch the NEPAssist Tool'.**

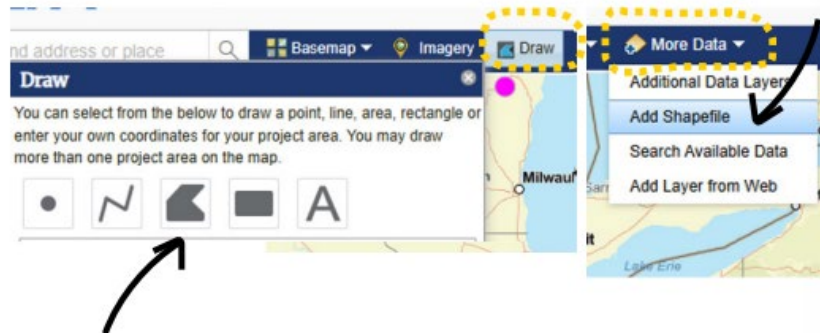
GET STARTED 

Follow along below to screen your project area and generate a NEPAssist Report

Step 1 - The NEPAssist tool is a Mapper. Open the map to begin.



Step 2 - Define your project area. Either draw the area manually using the **Draw** tool, or upload your polygon via the 'Add Shapefile' option in the **More Data** dropdown menu.

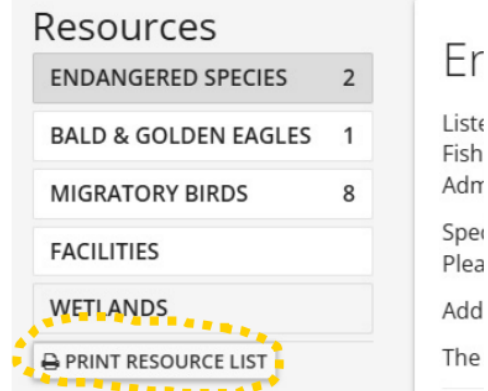


- NEPAssist – use the most accurate boundary as possible
 - Include NWI wetland analysis
- A more thorough USFWS review will be completed in full compliance review phase

IPaC REPORT



Step 7 - select **Print Resource List** from the left column options on the IPaC Report page.



Virginia Outdoors Plan: SCORP

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- The NPS LWCF Program requires every state has an active SCORP to participate and receive apportionment.
- **Recreation oriented and conservation focused**
- Leads the **priorities and recommendations** for local/regional planning and grant application goals
- **Dynamic and interactive** modern web-based platform on ESRI Hub
- Survey data and dashboards
- Maps and regional results



HOW TO REFERENCE THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN (VOP)



THERE ARE 4 SECTIONS OF THE VOP

Each section has topic-based subsections for citation in your grant application. We recommend using the Table of Contents to navigate the plan and identify the section citation.

1



Section 1 - Priorities,
Implementation, Recreation
Economy

2



Section 2 - Recreation

3



Section 3 - Land Conservation

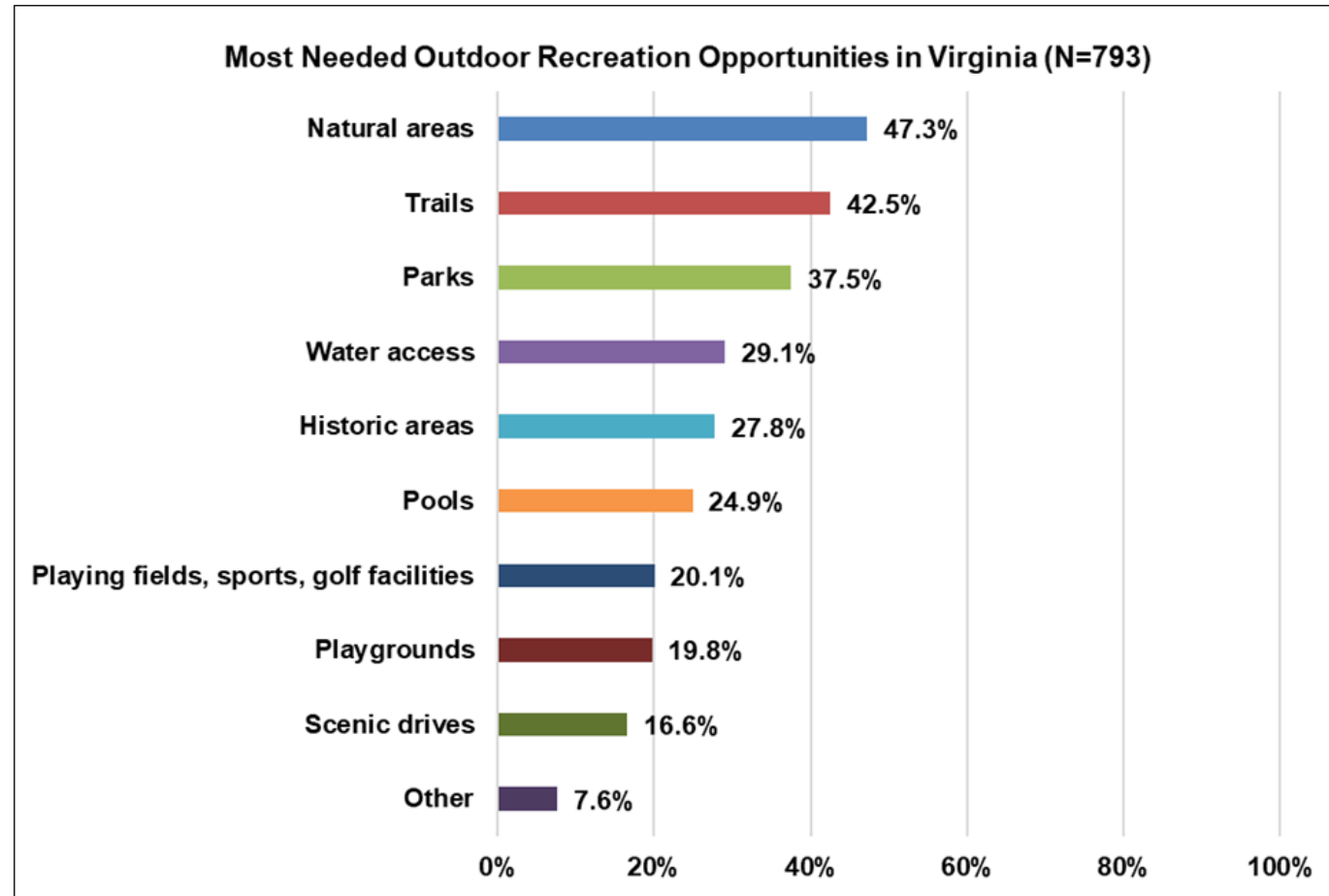
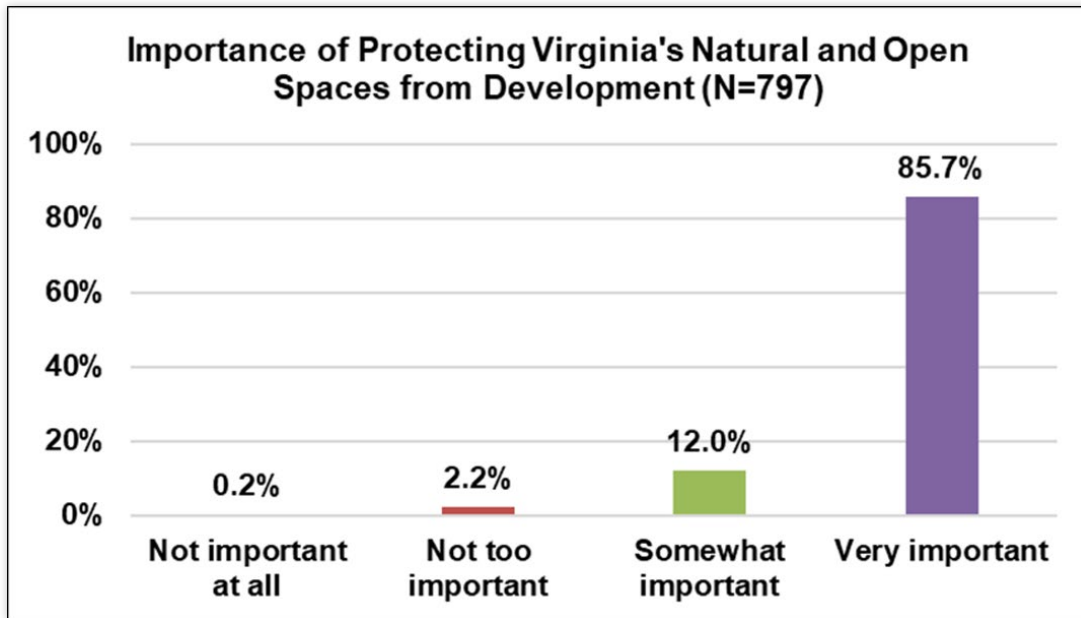
4



Section 4 - Federal and State
Grants Guidance

Virginia Outdoors Plan: SCORP

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Virginia Outdoor Survey Results



Notes about the preapplication form..

- **Project Scope:** all recreation amenities to be included
- **Accessibility:** very important and think of all possibilities such as those described in VOP Section 2.2
- **Expanding Access:** outdoor recreation priorities, community needs, increasing types of recreation, etc.
- **Partnerships:** what type of communication and collaboration came together for park planning; is it in local/regional plans?
- **Resiliency:** long-term thinking in design, operation, and ecological factors
- **Design completeness:** do you have enough information?
- **Environmental Review:** how much have you researched? *not necessary to have NEPA/Section 106 completed*
- **Implementation:** are you able to proceed with review and commence construction w/in a year? Acquisition process..

Scoring Criteria/Committee

Review the scoring criteria to determine if you are fully answering the questions. Tell the story of how your project is unique, well thought out, and will provide meaningful recreation opportunities.

- Committee is 6 **inter-agency employees with expertise** in recreation planning, grant management, land conservation, ecological and biological conservation, and archeological/historic resource management.
- Project averages are ranked; highest to lowest are funded through available funding. Lowest ranking project(s) might not be funded. If more funding than projects, may be asked if more funding would be helpful (if can be matched).
- Committee **provides recommendations** for projects to move forward. Final project approval and award is discretion of National Park Service (NPS) LWCF Compliance and Program Officers and management.



2026 VA LWCF Preapplication Scoring Criteria

Category	Value	Reviewer Notes	Score
Project Need (Questions 23 and 24) • User demand or overcrowding • Threat of development, disrepair, or safety concerns • Protection of significant natural, scenic, and/or cultural resources • ConserveVA, DCR Recreation Access Models, and/or ParkServe need	0-10		
Expanding Access (Question 25) • Underserved geographic area and/or user group • Recreation for all • New types of recreation and/or programming	0-10		
Partnerships and Collaboration (Question 26) • Public input • Partnerships and community involvement • Local and regional plan alignment	0-10		
Long-Term Resiliency (Question 27) • Longevity and durability of design and materials • Ecological resilience features • Strength of operation and maintenance plans	0-10		
Project Readiness and Implementation (Questions 28-30) • Realistic and comprehensive budget • Matching fund availability • Feasible and detailed schedule • Design completeness • Project readiness and ability to meet grant timelines	0-20		
Application Preparation • Completeness, organization, and level of detail	0-5		

Grant Round Document Delivery

Must be emailed to recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov by 4 pm Aug 27.

Use proper file saving nomenclature: ParkName-Photos, Parkname-Timeline, -ParkName-NEPAssist, etc.

Save each as an individual document (do not do a full combined PDF) in original format (Word, Excel, etc.)

Please do not send a scanned PDF of application package if possible.

Can send a Zip File. If files are larger than 50 MB, contact DCR via email at least 2 business days prior to submission deadline to discuss using an alternative submission method.

LWCF Authorization Process:

- DCR PRR is the liaison to NPS.
- Project sponsors will work with DCR PRR to provide information for all NPS required documentation.
- DCR will use provided info to fill out Federal forms (SF424B or SF424D will have to be signed by project sponsor)
- Collaborate on NPS Application Form
- This list of documents are required for NPS review/approval



Attachments checklist

The following should be transmitted to NPS in a draft or final application:

All Projects	As applicable
☒ SF 424	☐ Intergovernmental review comments
☐ SF 424C	☐ Relevant NEPA/SEPA documents
☐ SF 424D	☐ Applicable federal law compliance
☐ Project narrative	☐ Proof of flood insurance
☒ Project budget	☐ Proof of cold climate criteria qualification
☐ NHPA <u>documentation</u> (SHPO correspondence, surveys, etc)	☒ Leases, Rights-of-Way, MOA's, MUA's, etc.
☐ Location map	☐ Use schedule (school parks)
☐ LWCF boundary area map (proposed)	☐ Dingell-Johnson certification
☐ Pre-award site inspection report	☐ Waiver of retroactivity approval
☐ Evidence of ownership or other site control	
☐ Description and Notification Form	
☐ Project abstract	
Acquisition & Combination Projects	
☒ SF 429 Cover sheet and Attachment B	☒ conceptual design plan
☐ parcel map for acquisition parcel(s)	☐ donation acknowledgement (if applicable)
☐ UASFLA-compliant appraisal summary and review*	* If not available, include other basis for grant value
Development & Combination Projects	Grants with Indirect Costs
☒ site development plan	☐ Current or proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
☐ building floor plan(s) if grant-funded	☐ SF 424A (optional - if costs not shown in 424C and budget narrative)

Phase II Compliance:

- DCR PRR will work with selected project sponsors through multiple mandatory virtual meetings
- Each of these steps will be discussed together – ensures correct entries and procedures for required documentation
- If some of this has already been completed, that's okay, provide that information to DCR in preapplication
- Each document saved individually as PDF

COMPLIANCE PHASE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE

To complete after you receive notice of selection

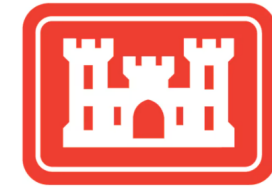
This guidance document guides you through all required compliance reviews pursuant to NEPA and Section 106. Use the same park name and assigned LWCF # in all agency correspondence.

The table below shows the overview of each compliance phase step. The following pages provide instructions for each step. **Steps 2-4 can be done concurrently.**

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
VA Department of Historic Resources Obtain Archives Report (Allow for 30 days)	VA Department of Historic Resources Submit to ePIX (Allow for 30 + days)	US Fish and Wildlife Service Submit to USFWS with Species List and Section 7 Determination Table	VA Department of Conservation & Recreation Floodplains Screen with VFRIS (no waiting period/self-serve)
US Army Corps of Engineers/VA Department of Environmental Quality Screen with WetCAT Mapper Tool (No waiting period/self-serve)	US Army Corps of Engineers Submit to Regulatory Request System (RRS) (Allow for 30 + days)	VA Department of Conservation & Recreation Natural Heritage Submit to Information Services (Allow for 30 days)	VA Department of Environmental Quality Complete Intergovernmental Review Submission Form
		VA Department of Wildlife Resources Submit to Project Review	

Review Tips:

- **Map** – be consistent and inclusive through the review process with project boundary, area of potential effect, current land conditions.
- **Project description** – include depth of disturbance and the scope of LWCF proposed work; full construction area
- Include it is for consideration for **Federal LWCF Grant Funding & NEPA/Section 106**
- **Allow for 30 (to 60) days** at minimum per agency, plus more for correspondence
 - **Surveys or further information** might be requested
 - **Communication** is key!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Award Process:



- **NPS Notice of Award (NOA)**
- **Project start date set by NPS**
- DCR/Project Sponsor signed Subagreement
 - Describes requirements and conditions of Federal award
- 3-year project period
 - up to 2-year amendment with justification and NPS approval
- In special circumstances, conditional awards may be needed pending NPS

Post-Award Process:

- Follow Federal and State procurement procedures (2 CFR 200)
- Obtain and comply with all required permits and time of year restrictions
- Quarterly Reports – can schedule regular calls with ASLO
- Drawdown request anytime, with required documentation – see guide
- Closeout procedure – prepare for 6 months prior to project end date
- Deed update w/LWCF language
- Site visit & LWCF Sign

LWCF Project Administration

For all active LWCF Project Sponsors, please review the following guidance documents during administration of your project. There are example documents for drawdown procedures as well as templates to use. They can be downloaded below or contact you are not able to download them.

- [2025 LWCF Drawdown Request and Closeout Guide](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-Daily Equipment Record](#) (Word)
- [LWCF-Data Sheet Summarizing Employee Labor](#) (Word)
- [LWCF-Data Sheet Summarizing Invoices](#) (Word)
- [LWCF-Data Sheet Summarizing Volunteer Labor](#) (Word)
- [LWCF-Drawdown Certification Form](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-Drawdown Certification Form](#) (Excel)
- [LWCF-Example Drawdown Package](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-Procurement Procedures Briefed](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-Quarterly Report Template](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-VA W9 Form](#) (PDF)
- [LWCF-Volunteer Daily Timesheet](#) (Word)
- [NPS LWCF Logo and Guidelines for Acknowledgment Signs](#).

Important things to consider

- Project Readiness
 - Are you beyond concept?
 - Are you willing to 'invest' time and money?
- Can you be prepared for a Phase I Archeological/Architectural Survey, if requested?
 - Can you and the community be patient?
- One year for award, proper procedures prior to construction, permitting..
- Do you have a dedicated person to serve as DCR contact and organize responses for NPS? They will have to organize many files, coordinate internal staff and provide email correspondence with agencies.

LWCF Contact Information:

Chief Recreation Grants Manager

VA LWCF Associate State Liaison Officer (ASLO)

Kristal McKelvey – Kristal.mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov

804-508-8896

Schedule a virtual meeting with me if you have eligibility questions or clarification of preapplication requirements



Other Grant Opportunities:

- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) – national
- Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI) - national
- Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) – State funding

Other Grant Opportunities:

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)

- Sub-program of LWCF
- National competition w/ its own scoring criteria
- Must be in qualifying area
- 1:1 match, awards up to \$15 million
- 2026 DCR preapplication period July 14 - September 10

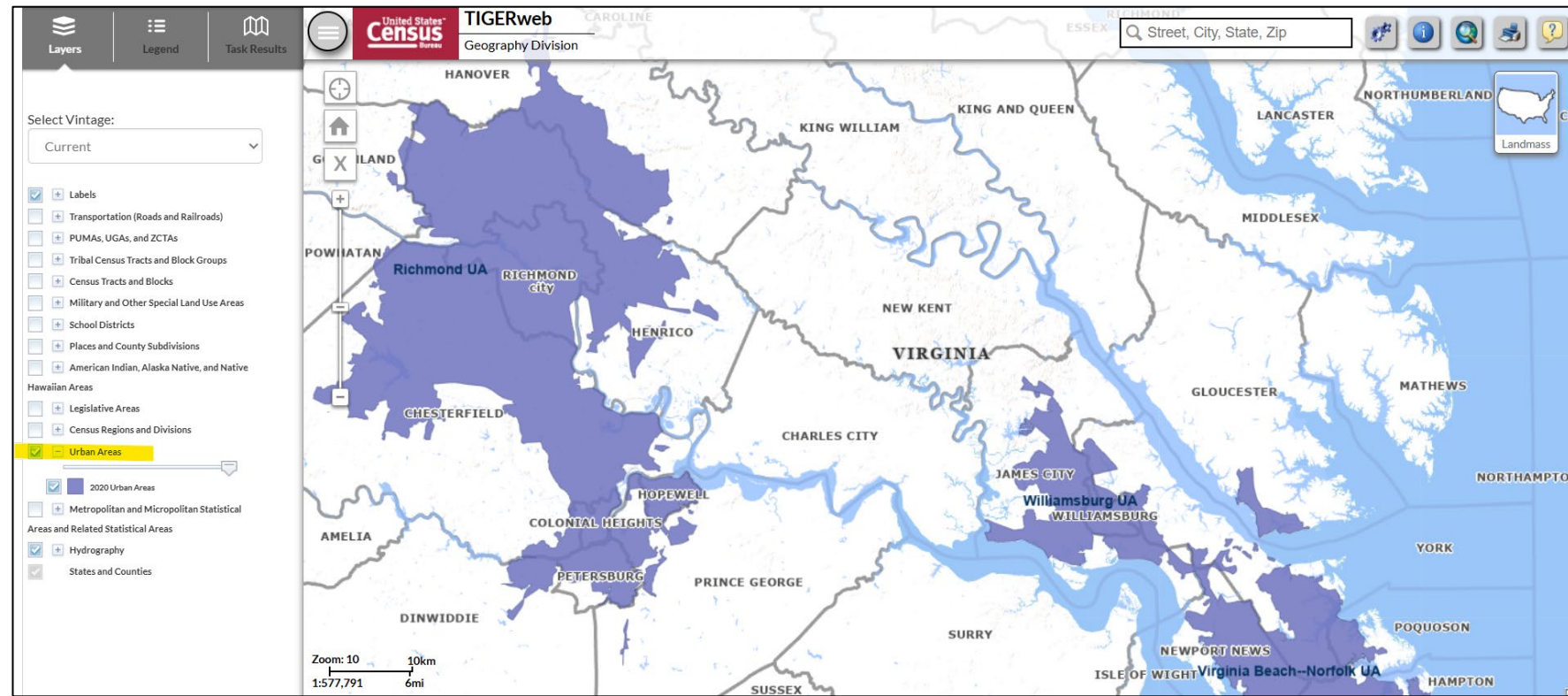
ORLP qualifying areas:

- An urban area with a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census,
- Two or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of 25,000 or more, or
- An area administered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe*

**Federally recognized Indian Tribes can apply directly to NPS w/out DCR pass-through*

Census Designated Urban Areas ≥ 25,000 in VA

- Blacksburg-Christiansburg, VA
- Bluefield, WV-VA
- Bristol, TN-VA
- Charlottesville, VA
- Danville, VA–NC
- Fredericksburg, VA
- Hagerstown, MD-WV-PA-VA
- Harrisonburg, VA
- Kingsport, TN-VA
- Lynchburg, VA
- Martinsville, VA
- Richmond, VA
- Roanoke, VA
- Staunton–Waynesboro, VA
- Suffolk, VA
- Virginia Beach–Norfolk, VA
- Washington–Arlington, DC–VA–MD
- Williamsburg, VA
- Winchester, VA



- Urban area boundary is often different/larger than named city
- Map available on U.S. Census TigerWEB platform
<https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/>
 - use identify (i) icon to see population

ORLP vs. LWCF State and Local Assistance

- *Cannot* have active application to NPS for both programs; but can submit both preapplications to DCR.
- A competitive ORLP application will also compete well for LWCF, which historically has not been as competitive.
- Different eligibility for Tribal applicants:
 - ORLP – Federally Recognized tribes
 - Can apply directly to NPS or apply through DCR
 - LWCF – State or Federally Recognized tribes
 - All apply through DCR

Reasons to consider applying to ORLP instead of LWCF (if project is in qualifying area) and:

- Request > \$2.5 million
- Not necessarily ready to begin environmental by September
- ORLP pre-award schedule works with your project schedule
 - Notice of selection in May 2027, environmental compliance beginning May 2027, award by May 2028, grant period May 2028-2031.
- Still investigating matching fund sources
- Project *strongly* meets ORLP priorities
 - Benefits low income community
 - High collaboration and community involvement

ORLP

More Information

Preapplication guidance, documents, and links to program resources at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/orlp>

Contact Kellie Seaton at recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov or 804-786-1119.

Other Grant Opportunities:

Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI)

- Sub-program of LWCF
- Match funds with DOW Readiness and Preparedness Initiative (REPI) Funding = project could be 100% funded!
- National competition w/ its own scoring criteria
- 1:1 match, \$9M available, min \$250,000 & max \$3M
- 2026 DCR preapplication pending
- NPS opportunity rolling for 5 years

RARI qualifying area & Conditions:

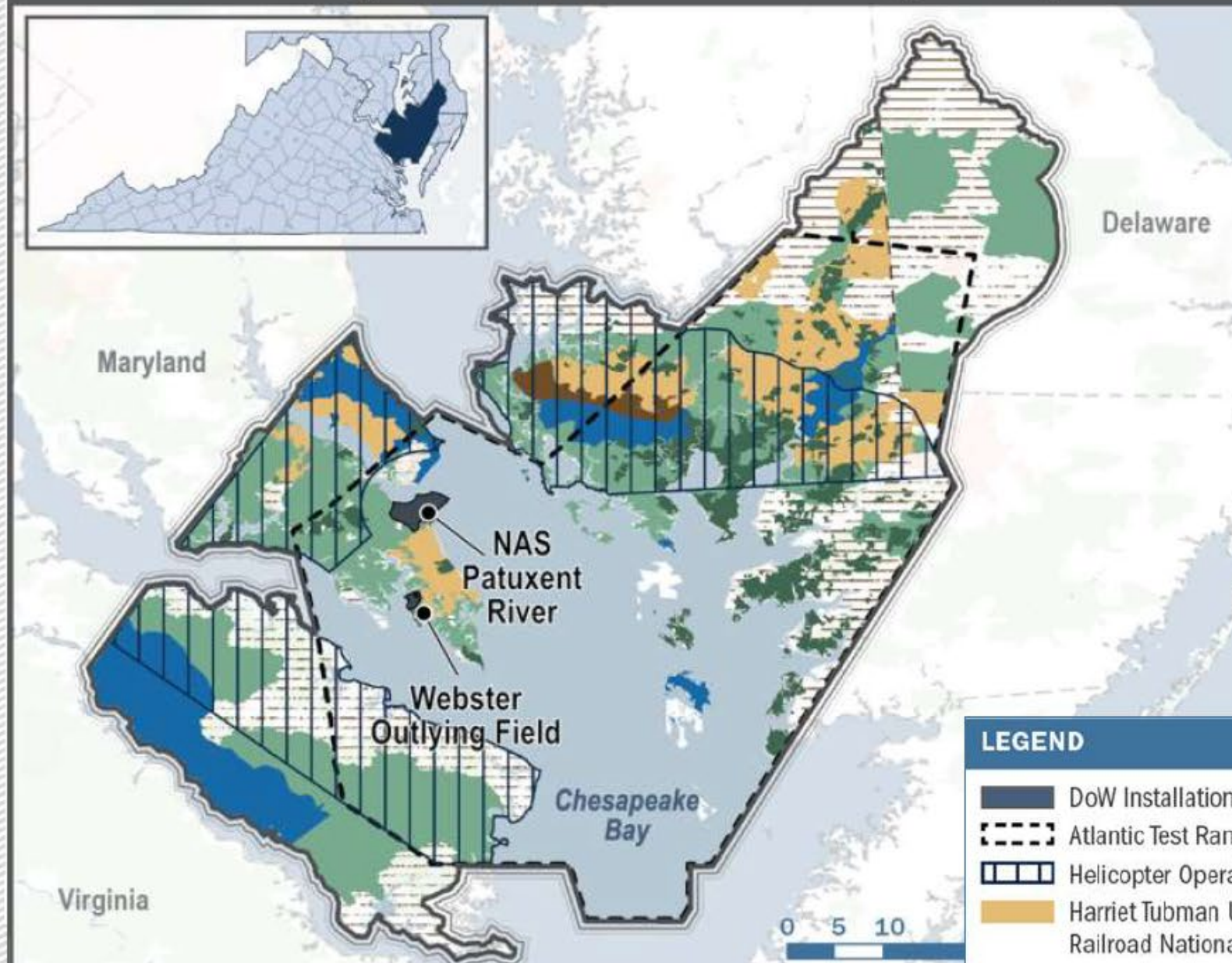
<https://repi.osd.mil/map/>

- Must be within a Sentinel Landscape, or
- Active REPI Partnership Opportunity Area
- Must be an acquisition (or combination project)
- Must have letter of support from associated military installation commander

RARI Program Goals:

- 1) Provide outdoor recreation opportunities**
 - 2) Promote or support compatible land uses and avoid incompatible development in areas in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, a military installation or airspace, and/or to maintain or enhance disaster resilience.**
- Expand access to outdoor recreation for military communities and the general public;
 - Establish or preserve compatible land use buffers around military installations that support military readiness and operations
 - Preserve natural resources and improve community disaster resilience.
 - Leverage resources across partners (military installations, governments, non-profit organizations, private sector, etc.) to further readiness and recreation.
 - Address the unique needs of military communities and stimulate local economies.

Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape Map

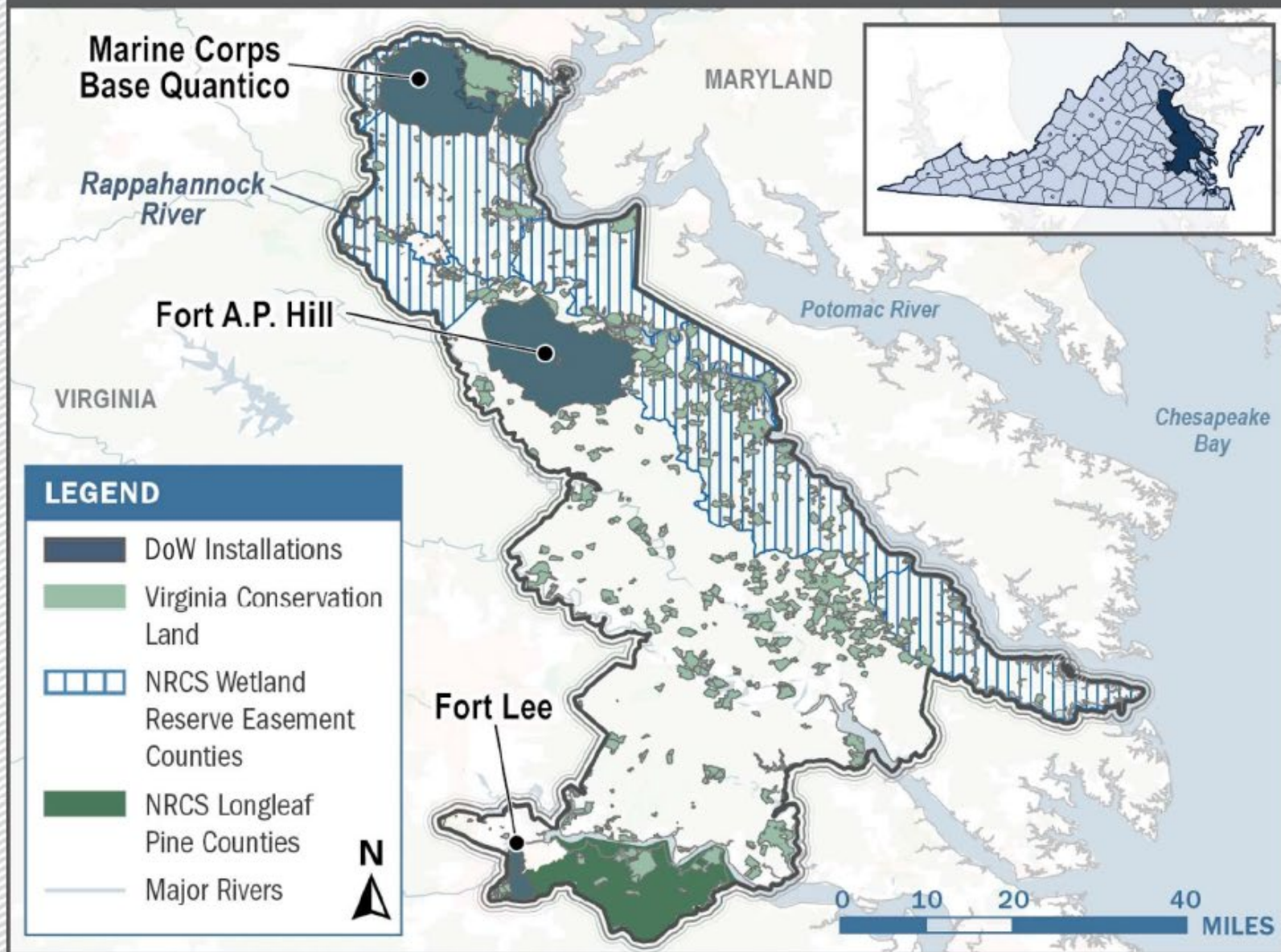


LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| DoW Installations | Protected Lands |
| Atlantic Test Ranges | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands |
| Helicopter Operating Areas | |
| Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park | |

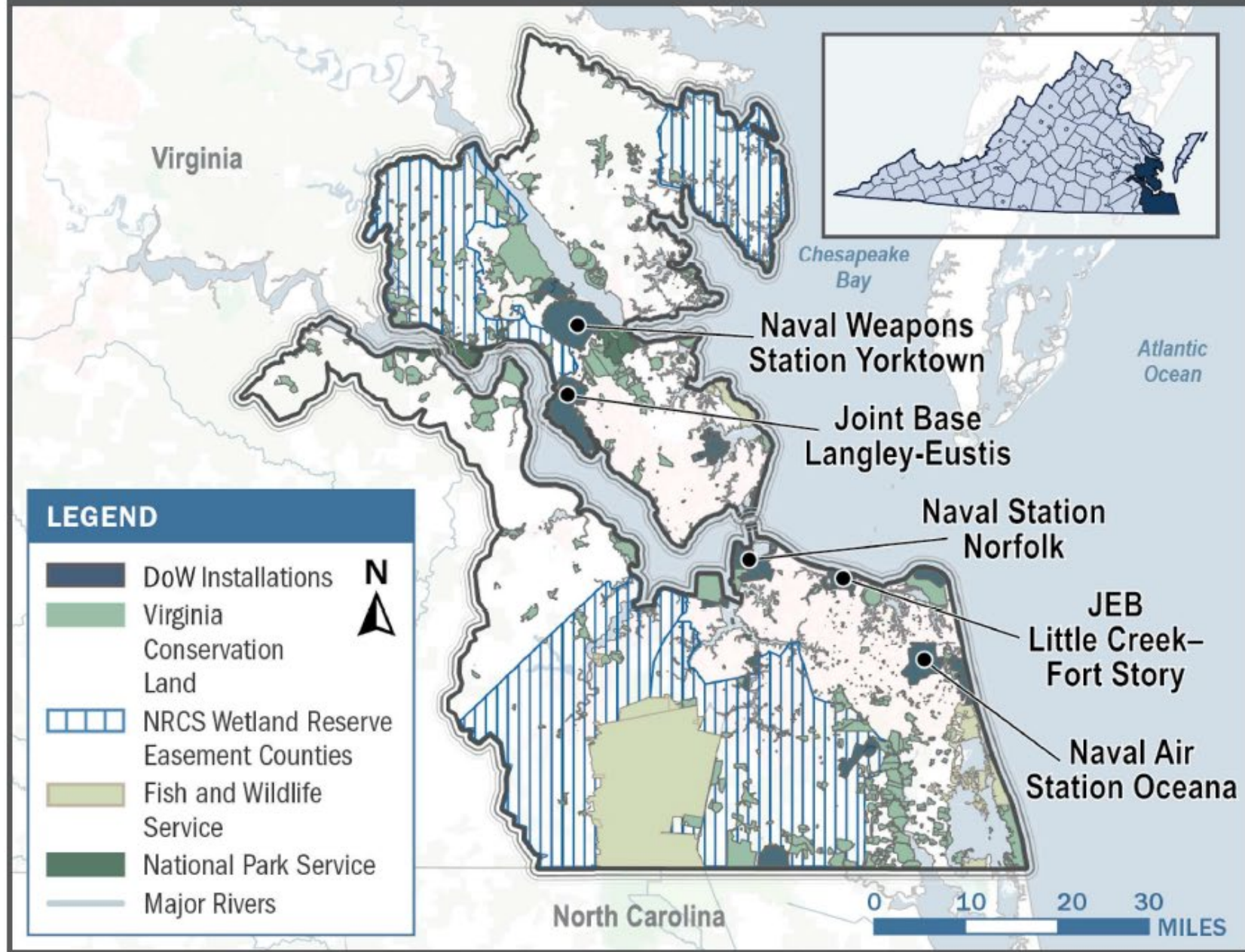


Potomac Sentinel Landscape Map





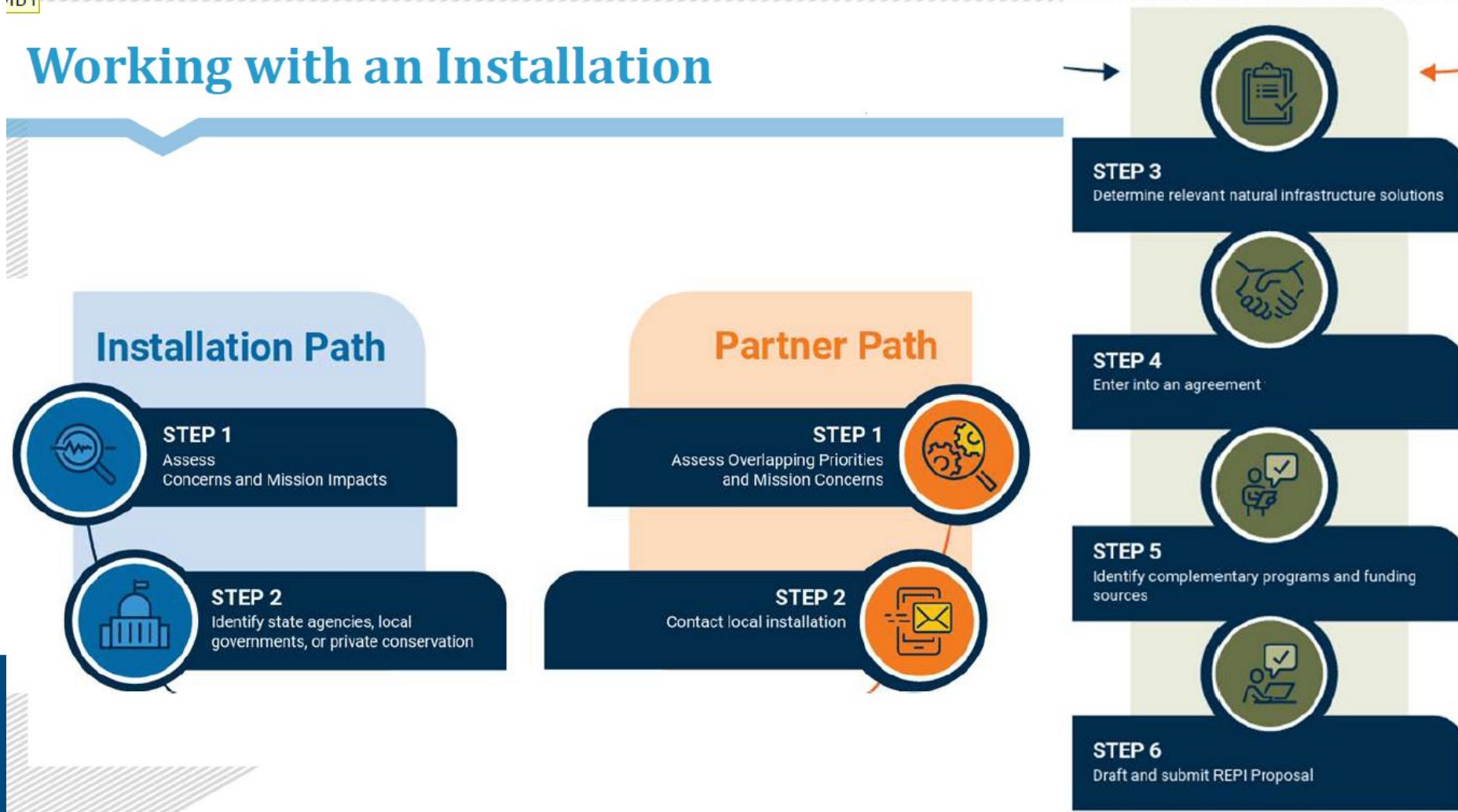
Tidewater Sentinel Landscape Map



Local & Military collaboration (REPI & RARI)

101

Working with an Installation



Letter or Support required.

DOW partner can cover some expenses RARI cannot.

Overlapping compatible priorities.

Figure 1. Steps to Secure Funding for the Readiness & Recreation Initiative



1 - Apply

- Eligible applicants submit application in accordance with the NOFO and posted deadlines.

2 - Application Review

- An independent panel of outdoor recreation professionals review all applications.
- Projects are scored based on their alignment with RARI goals and merit review criteria.

3 - Selections Announcement (Up to 6 months after application)

- The Secretary of the Department of the Interior announces selections.
- Applicants then have one year to finalize a grant agreement with the NPS.

4 - Financial Award (Up to 1 year after selection)

- Funds are accessible upon completion of the grant agreement.
- Project work can begin and draw downs are accepted.



RARI/REPI - More Information

This is a pre-application process. DCR accepts the applications and sends to NPS. NPS does the merit review and selection. Upon selection, applicant must complete NEPA, Section 106, appraisals, etc. for project award.

- [Readiness and Recreation Initiative - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\)](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/rari.htm) www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/rari.htm
- [Technical Assistance for ORLP Applications - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/orlp-technical-assistance.htm) <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/orlp-technical-assistance.htm>
- [Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration, U.S. Department of Defense](https://www.repi.mil/) <https://www.repi.mil/>

REPI Sentinel Landscape Coordinator Contacts Mary Bennett
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(Christopher.Moi@dof.virginia.gov)

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation FY27 Grant Round



VLCF Program Information

- The FY27 grant round has a record \$17.2M available for land conservation grants
\$12M budget + \$750K interest + \$4.4M in returned grants
- **Five categories of funding:**
 - \$2.71M for Farmland Preservation
 - \$2.55M for Forestland Preservation
 - \$2.55M for Historic Resources Preservation
 - \$4.55M for Natural Area Preservation
 - \$4.85M for Open Spaces & Parks



Program Information

- Who can apply?
 - State & local governmental bodies, Virginia Indian Tribes, and qualified nonprofits (“holder” VA Cons. Easement Act).
- Match Requirement:
 - Applicants can seek up to 50% of the purchase price + due diligence costs, unless a state agency or Virginia Indian Tribe (100%).
 - Eligible expenses are listed in Appendix A of the grant manual.
 - A list of additional potential grant sources: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/federal-state-grants>

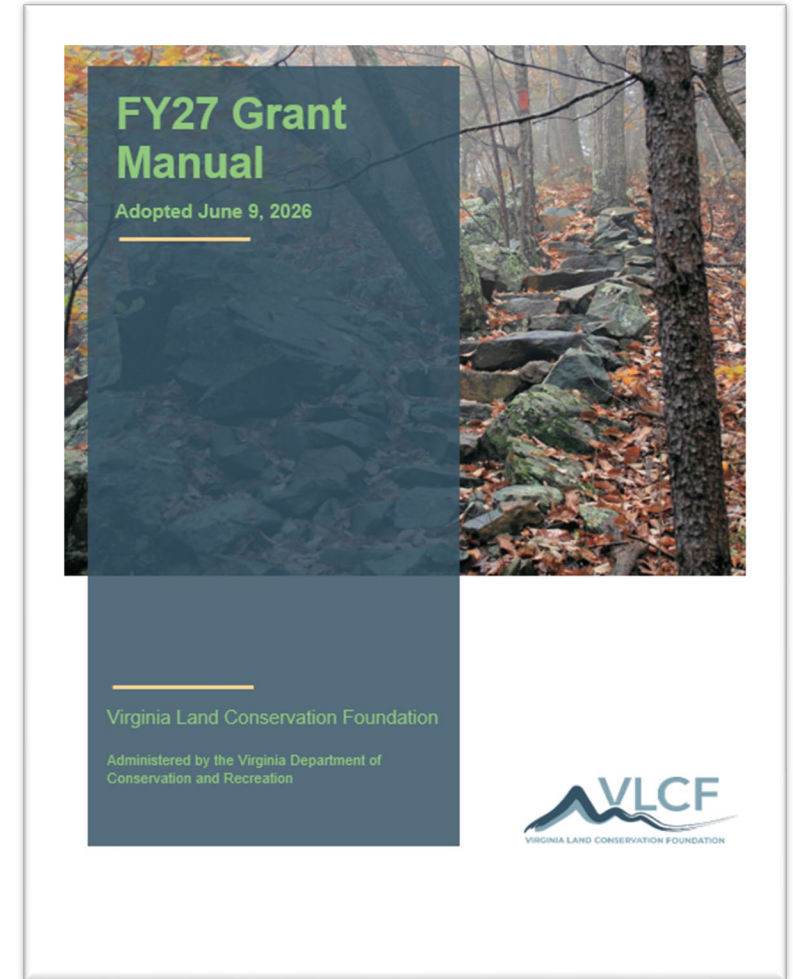


General Program Requirements

- Project must protect a specific site, with the boundaries clearly identified in the application.
- Projects by nonprofits must have an open-space easement held by a public body.
- Project should be completed within two years; a one-year extension may be granted.
- Grant payments made as a reimbursement at closing, or afterwards; land must be conserved prior to grant payment.

More About the Program

- All program information is in the Grant Manual, including links to helpful websites and databases.
- Note the important information in the Appendices:
 - A. Required application information, eligible expenses, and required due diligence documents
 - B. Scoring sheets for the five categories and the Statewide Priority Scoring
 - Category: 100 points; Statewide Priority Scoring: 90 points
 - C. Example match letter if 100% of funds are not yet identified
 - D. Required resource protections for all projects



Online Application: WebGrants

- Register for an account and fill out your application:
<https://vadcr.webgrantscloud.com/index.do>
- Follow application directions, attach requested files and adhere to page limitations, then submit your application
- See VLCF webpage for instructions and guides:
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf>
- Contact us and the experts listed in each category with questions!

VLCF Grant Manual & Application:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf>

<https://vadcr.webgrantscloud.com/index.do>

Questions?

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LWCF Contact Information:

Chief Recreation Grants Manager

VA LWCF Associate State Liaison Officer (ASLO)

Kristal McKelvey – Kristal.mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov

804-508-8896

Schedule a virtual meeting with me if you have eligibility questions or clarification of preapplication requirements

