

NRCS Tribal Summit

March 16-17, 2022

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Office of Land Conservation

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DCR's Land Conservation Grant Programs

- Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
- Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Federal Recreational Trails Program



Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-land-conservation-foundation/

- ❖ Established in 1999 to award grants for the permanent protection of:
 - Farmlands
 - Forestlands
 - Natural areas
 - Lands of historic or cultural significance
 - Open spaces and parklands

- ❖ Funding varies from year to year, with grants awarded to cover up to 50% of total land conservation costs pursuant to specific criteria defined in each category.

- ❖ Eligible to apply: state agencies, local governments & other public bodies, nonprofit land trusts.

VLCF Requirements

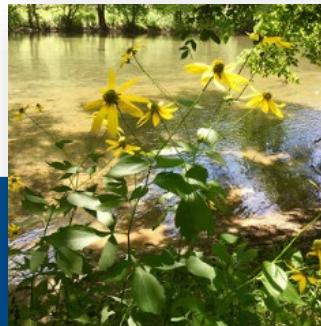
- Projects have two years to be completed
- Land must be protected in perpetuity
- A public body must hold an open-space easement on the property



Land & Water Conservation Fund

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/lwcf>

- ❖ Established in 1965 by the federal gov't to help fund acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas.
- ❖ DCR administers the grant program on behalf of the National Park Service, with funding varying from year to year.
- ❖ The LWCF is a 50% matching reimbursement grant program. The applicant must be able to fund 100% of the project, while seeking periodic reimbursements.
- ❖ Eligible entities: state agencies, localities; park and recreation authorities; and tribal governments.





LWCF Requirements

- Projects must be open & maintained as public outdoor recreation areas in perpetuity, ensuring their use for future generations
- Federal compliance for appraisals and NEPA must be completed by applicants
- Projects must be completed within three years

Recreational Trails Program

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/trailfnd>

- ❖ Established under federal law to provide matching grants for the creation of recreational trails. Funds can also be used for engineering, building, expanding, and rehabilitating of trails and for trail facilities.
- ❖ U.S. DOT– Federal Highway Administration provides funding, which is split among three categories: 40% diverse use; 30% non-motorized single use; 30% motorized use.
- ❖ The applicant must be able to finance the project, while requesting periodic reimbursements up to 80% of eligible project costs. A 20% match is the responsibility of the applicant.
- ❖ Eligible entities: state agencies, localities, public recreation authorities, tribal governments, and nonprofits with local support.

RTP Requirements

- Projects must provide daily public access & access for people with disabilities
- Must have right-of-way access established prior to applying
- Projects can include preliminary engineering expenses to complete the required NEPA process, design plans, & permitting
- Construction must be complete within three years of project authorization





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