

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) was established to promote the preservation of open-space lands and to encourage private gifts of money, securities, land or other property to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, scientific, open-space and recreational areas of the Commonwealth. VOF has worked to accomplish this mission primarily through our owned lands and conservation easement programs. Currently, VOF owns and manages over 3,000 acres in fee simple, and holds open-space easements that protect an additional 800,000 acres, or roughly 80% of the conservation easements held in the Commonwealth, with over 603,000 of that easement acreage located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In 1997, the General Assembly created the Open Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (OSLPTF) to assist landowners with the costs of conveying conservation easements, and in limited instances, to purchase a portion of the value of easements as funds are available. The fund has helped protect land by providing grants to reimburse the landowner costs of donation, providing grants for County Purchase of Development Rights programs, and by providing grants which purchase a portion of the value of an open space easement on significant conservation lands.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has historically worked in the rural areas of the Commonwealth. The VOF Board of Trustees, in support of Governor McAuliffe's goal to provide more public access to protected lands, has prioritized a portion of the OSLPTF funds for acquisition of easements that provide public access. The McAuliffe administration's "Treasures" initiative emphasizes high quality conservation with maximum public benefit and specifically water quality improvement and public access opportunities. VOF protects open-space lands in urban areas such as Hampton's Buckroe Beach and Norfolk's Hermitage Foundation, and is committed to providing public access to open space in additional urban areas. We have approximately \$600,000 in funding from the OSLPTF available in 2017/18 to work toward this goal.

GRANT ROUND FOR OSLPTF PROPOSALS for FY 2018 Easement Purchase Projects (Awards Expected March 2018 Board meeting)-

Proposals will be accepted through January 15, 2018. To be considered, please provide the following:

- completed VOFPTF summary sheet, maps, and description of public access and use
- any previous grant applications for the project, funding secured or committed, total project cost and amount needed/requested
- description of community and government support, landowner/locality letter with resolution if applicable
- conservation values to be protected, and how an easement component would be incorporated

Projects will be reviewed and ranked using the following criteria:

protection of conservation values, public access provided, community served, demonstrated existing community support (demonstrated funding and letters of support from community groups and local government entity(ies)), amount of leveraging of funds and support

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to call and discuss the proposed project with either Kristin Jones: 434-989-5900 or Leslie Grayson: 703-850-3924 prior to working on a submission. Grant recommendations will be reviewed by VOF Trustees and results are expected to be announced following March 2018 Board meeting.



PTF PURCHASE PROJECT WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

Owner Name/Property Name

Locality:

Acres:

Board Meeting Date: Spring 2018	Amount Requested to be allocated/committed:
Property Features/Public Access (Please provide a detailed description on a separate sheet)	
Summary:	

Further Discussion (include discussion on final use of the property, what type of public use, ownership, etc.) Please provide a detailed description on a separate sheet, with summary below
<p>General description:</p> <p>Public Access Type and Use:</p> <p>Local Government and/or Community Involvement (w/ resolution if applicable):</p> <p>Other Partners:</p> <p>Ownership:</p> <p>General budget parameters:</p>

Complies with Locality Comp Plan: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Tax Map or PIN	Locality Acreage	
Property Address		
Owner Address	Phone/Fax/Email	Additional Contact Info