

# Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund



## 2025 (FY'26) Grant Program Manual (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026)



Our mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources.

# INTRODUCTION

Established under Virginia Code Section 10.1-2202.4 and administered by the Department of Historic Resources (“DHR”), the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (“VBPF”) provides grants to private, nonprofit organizations for the permanent protection of Virginia battlefield lands. The primary goal of the VBPF is to support the fee-simple acquisition of, or purchase of an easement on, battlefield properties. To be eligible for the program, a property must be within the boundaries of a Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or Civil War battlefield designated in the *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* or the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*. DHR has established guidelines and criteria to facilitate the award and administration of grants made through the VBPF. Applications will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with Virginia Code Section 10.1-2202.4 and the eligibility and evaluation criteria contained in this manual.

## About the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

DHR is the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its mission is to foster and encourage the stewardship of Virginia's significant architectural, archaeological, and historic resources for the benefit of the Commonwealth. One of the DHR's main responsibilities is the administration of state and federal grant programs, including financial and programmatic compliance.

## CURRENT OPPORTUNITY

2025 VBPF GRANT ROUND CALENDAR	
DATE	ACTIVITY
June 2	Grant round opens; update application form and grant manual released
June 20	Deadline for easement application to be submitted for July 21 Easement Acceptance Committee meeting
July 21	Last EAC meeting before VBPF application deadline
August 1	Applications due by COB
August-September	Review and scoring of applications
October	Awards announced (tentative) and grant agreements signed

The amount of funding allocated for a VBPF grant cycle is determined by Virginia's annual state budget. The 2024-2026 Biennium State Budget appropriated up to \$5.25 million in VBPF funds for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Combined with \$1.3 million in remaining funds from the FY'25 grant round, the total amount available for the FY'26 grant cycle is up to \$6.55 million. Projects funded by the VBPF do not have a minimum or maximum dollar amount requirement. **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, 2025.**

**\*New for 2025:** DHR has implemented a new online grant management system called [WebGrants](#) for all its grant programs. This web-based system will enable DHR to more efficiently publish grant opportunities, administer projects, and process claims. **All applications for the VBPF 2025 Grant Round must be submitted through the WebGrants portal.** To submit an application form for the VBPF 2025 Grant Round, you must first [register](#) in WebGrants. Registrants must be approved by staff, so please allow up to 48 hours for this process to be completed.

## PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution (2026), DHR will prioritize VBPF projects that include the acquisition and protection of Revolutionary War battlefields and sites. This decision supports the mission of the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission ([va250.org](http://va250.org)), established by the General Assembly in 2020 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Additional points will be awarded in the scoring rubric to those projects that protect Revolutionary War battlefields and sites. The scoring criteria will also continue to place emphasis on projects that conserve large tracts of land, preserve significant viewsheds, protect historically significant resources not associated with a battle, and support ConserveVirginia, Virginia's land conservation strategy that identifies high value lands and conservation sites across the state.



## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants must be registered nonprofit charitable corporations declared exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Applicants must provide the following:

- Internal Revenue Service [Affirmation Letter](#) confirming tax exempt status, current within one year of the date of VBPF application submittal.
- Internal Revenue Service Form W-9.
- [Certificate of Good Standing](#) from the Virginia State Corporation Commission, current within one year of the date of VBPF application submittal.
- Organization's by-laws and articles of incorporation.



A successful application will show that historic battlefield preservation is part of the organization's purpose and is established by the organization's mission statement and/or by-laws.

The application will demonstrate that the organization has the capacity and expertise to manage historic properties, steward historic preservation and open-space easements, and conduct activities consistent with the purposes of the VBPF and/or professional historic preservation and land conservation practices.



## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects must be one of the following: (1) fee-simple acquisition of a Virginia battlefield property; or (2) purchase/acquisition of a historic preservation/open-space easement on a Virginia battlefield property. Applicants must demonstrate through a contract of sale or signed/dated letter from the landowner that the owner is willing to sell the subject property to the applicant or convey a perpetual historic preservation and open-space easement over the property.

Grants from the VBPF may be awarded for a property which the applicant has already acquired. For a prior acquisition to be eligible, the applicant must demonstrate:

- The closing on the property occurred on or after August 1, 2024 (no more than 12 months prior to the application deadline for this grant cycle).
- The specific identifiable threat to the property or compelling need for preservation that existed at the time of the purchase.
- The property is not publicly owned and is not protected for purposes consistent with the VBPF.
- The property is not already encumbered by a permanent protective easement for historic preservation and open-space purposes.

Applications for the acquisition of easements on lands already permanently protected for historic preservation and open-space purposes are not eligible for a VBPF grant unless, in DHR's sole discretion, the property can be further protected by a more restrictive easement. The value of the enhanced protections must be assessed by a qualified appraiser.

Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to, restoration of the landscape to day-of-battle conditions, demolition and removal of non-historic buildings or structures, interpretation or planning projects, or material stabilization of buildings and structures.

**Applicants may submit a VBPF application for the same property only twice.**

## ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

To be eligible for the VBPF grant program, the property must be within the boundaries of a Virginia battlefield identified with a priority rating in one of the following reports promulgated by the National Park Service ("NPS Reports"):

- [\*Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States\*](#) (2007, as amended).
- [\*Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields\*](#) (1993, as amended).

The NPS Reports are also available through DataStore on the National Park Service website.

At least 50% of the property's acreage must be within the boundaries of the battlefield as defined in the NPS Reports.

DHR maintains battlefield data from the NPS Reports in VCRIS, its electronic cultural resources GIS and database. *Please contact DHR's Archives Division at (804) 482-6440 to determine if a property falls within the boundaries of a specific battlefield.*

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following are eligible expenses under the VBPF grant program:

- Acquisition of land and any associated improvements.
- Acquisition of a perpetual easement.
- Costs associated with acquisition, including the cost of appraisals, environmental assessments, boundary surveys, archaeological surveys, title searches/title insurance, applicable easement program fees, closing costs, and legal services, including services obtained within 12 months prior to the application deadline for this grant cycle.

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, indirect costs such as staff time, overhead, work provided pro bono, or capacity building, as well as costs for maintenance, operation, development, rehabilitation, restoration, or interpretation of lands, or construction of improvements or facilities.

Grants from the VBPF shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the appraised value of the land (including any improvements thereon) or the permanent protective interest (easement). The reported value of any project must be substantiated by an Appraisal Report (see appraisal requirements below).

## REQUIREMENTS

### Matching Funds:

Applicants are required to provide \$1 in matching funds for each \$1 received from the VBPF for the proposed project. Eligible matching contributions are as follows:

- Cash or funds from sources other than VBPF. **Other state funds are not eligible to be used as match.**
- The value of any contribution due to a bargain sale or the donation of land or interest therein made by the landowner as part of the proposed project.

If the required 50% match is not determined at the time of the application, a letter confirming that the match will be met must be included with the application. A letter from the president or executive director may be used to meet this requirement. Such statement should specify the source of the funds to ensure only eligible monies are used as match. Applicants must also fully disclose and document the sources of all other funding in hand or anticipated, including any contributions such as bargain sales and donations.

Other state funds or indirect costs such as staff time, overhead, or work provided pro bono cannot be considered as match contribution and should be excluded from the total project costs.

### Perpetual Easement:

All projects, whether fee-simple or easement acquisitions, must be protected by a perpetual historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources ("Board") pursuant to Virginia Code Section 10.1-2202.4 or another holder approved by DHR (see page 10). Easements held by the Board are administered by DHR. The project property must meet the eligibility requirements for DHR's Historic Preservation and Open-Space Easement Program. **Grant applicants are required to submit a separate easement application form to DHR's Easement Program. The application must be reviewed at least once and deemed eligible for the program by the Easement Acceptance Committee prior to submittal of the VBPF grant application.**

## Perpetual Easement Continued

The easement shall follow the form of DHR's current template. Typical provisions include:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| * Review of all ground disturbing activities to protect archaeological sites or features  | * Review of all new construction to protect historic setting & character                               |
| * Professional archaeological survey required for certain ground disturbing activities  | * Review of alterations to all historic and non-historic buildings & structures                        |
| * Review of alterations to historic landscape, i.e. conversion from field to forest or forest to field                            | * Restrictions for certain uses and activities   |
| * Historic buildings & structures must be maintained; prohibits willful demolition or demolition by neglect                       | * Review of alterations to the exterior and interior of historic buildings and structures              |
| * Physical public access required a minimum of two days per calendar year, subject to reasonable restrictions                     | * Prohibits or limits subdivision and new construction   |
| * Required removal of non-historic buildings/structures and rehabilitation of the battlefield landscape through a management plan | * Forest Management, Agricultural Resource Management, and Riparian Buffer provisions (as applicable). |

DHR will request that a forested riparian buffer be maintained at least 35-feet in width along a perennial river, stream, or body of water as depicted on the [USGS National Hydrography Dataset](#) (National Map). Livestock must be excluded from the buffer and associated bodies of water.

For fee-simple acquisition projects, the required historic preservation easement must be recorded prior to any sale, conveyance, or transfer of the property. Encumbrances recorded prior to the easement must be reviewed and approved in advance by DHR.

The transfer or assignment by a state agency or other public holder or owner of any property interest acquired through the VBPF (pursuant to Virginia Code Section 10.1-2202.4) to the United States of America, to be incorporated into a national park, national forest, national wildlife refuge, or other national conservation area in accordance with 54 U.S.C. Section 100101, 16 U.S.C. Section 551, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. Section 742a *et seq.*), or 16 U.S.C. Section 1131, shall not be precluded.

Due to DHR's existing queue of new easement applications, recordation of the historic preservation easement takes on average 24 months to complete. *For additional information about DHR's Easement Program, please contact Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, at 804-482-6094 or [karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov) or visit the [Easement](#) section of DHR's website.*

## Compliance with Local Plans:

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 10.1-1701, applicants must submit documentation that conveyance of a perpetual open-space easement on the property is consistent with the official comprehensive plan for the area in which the property is located. Applicants must submit correspondence from the locality's planning department or equivalent agency indicating that use of the property for open-space land conforms to the official comprehensive plan. Projects that are not consistent with the comprehensive plan in effect at the time of the grant application will not be funded.

### Appraisal:

The value of a fee-simple or easement interest in the project property must be substantiated by an appraisal that meets the requirements of Va. Code Section 58.1-512.1, that conforms to the Universal Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (“USPAP”), and that is completed no more than six months prior to the disbursement of grant funds (“Appraisal Report”). A full Appraisal Report is not required at the time of submission of an application, but it is encouraged. A preliminary Appraisal Report may also be submitted with the application.

### Notification of Work:

Once the Grant Agreement is signed and until grant closeout, the award recipient shall notify the VBPF Grant Administrator prior to any of the following occurring on the project property: (i) ground disturbing activities; (ii) demolition of any buildings, structures, or other improvements; (iii) construction of new buildings, structures, or other improvements (such as sheds, signs, pull-offs, utilities, etc.); (iv) alterations or modifications to any historic resources; or (v) recording of any encumbrances on the property.

### Survey & Title:

Grant award recipients must also meet the requirements of DHR’s Easement Program. These requirements include obtaining a current boundary survey of the project property, title commitment, and title insurance policy insuring the *Commonwealth of Virginia, Board of Historic Resources* or other easement holder approved by DHR. VBPF applicants must disclose known title defects or issues, including any planned actions for correcting or addressing these issues. *For details on survey and title requirements, please see Part B (page 11) of DHR’s [Easement Application Form](#) or contact Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist at 804.482.6094 or [karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov).*

## PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

A project scoring sheet reflecting the value of review criteria will be used to evaluate each application. Evaluation of applications will be based on the content of, and materials submitted with, the application form. For the 2025 grant cycle, DHR is encouraging applications for “shovel-ready” projects that have a firm budget, clear objectives, set acquisition/closing date, and are prepared for the property protection requirements of the perpetual historic preservation and open-space easement. Additionally, the following criteria will be considered:

### **Primary Project Evaluation Criteria**

- Priority rating of the battlefield as contained in the (i) *Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields* or (ii) *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*.
- Percentage of the property that falls within the core and/or study areas of the primary battlefield. **Priority will be given to projects that protect Revolutionary War battlefields.**





## Primary Project Evaluation Criteria Continued

- Current identified threats to the property as a battlefield landscape. Priority will be given to properties where there is (i) an active and immediate threat to its integrity or preservation; (ii) potential to protect a property with a high level of integrity; or (iii) a unique preservation opportunity.
- Degree of integrity (degree or level of preservation) of the historic battlefield landscape. Properties which are compromised by modern improvements or other impacts, or which have had preservation potential limited by permanent encumbrances will be evaluated accordingly. The cumulative effect over time of certain natural and manmade forces on a site will be considered.
- Adjacency of or proximity to other protected or conserved lands and opportunities for viewshed protection. Consideration will be given to properties in designated heritage areas, those adjacent to scenic byways or rivers, trail systems, blueways, and/or properties that will provide green space in urban environments.
- Extent to which the project property and its resources will be made available to the public. For all projects, the associated easement must include a provision requiring a minimum of two days of physical public access on the property per year.
- Extent to which the project will support public interests in education, research, recreation, tourism and community development and extent to which the resource has special historic (>50 years old) significance to a specific group or community.
- Financial and administrative capacity of the applicant to complete the project by grant deadline and to maintain and manage the property in a manner that is consistent with battlefield preservation and public interests.
- Extent to which applicant will have the necessary funding and staffing to manage the project property in a manner that will achieve the goals described in the grant application.

## Secondary Project Evaluation Criteria

- Extent to which the project property meets the Department of Conservation and Recreation's seven ConserveVirginia priorities.
- Extent to which uses of the property and plans for its stewardship, treatment, and maintenance are consistent with historic preservation standards.
- The project has a compelling preservation purpose. For example, it fills a gap in preservation of a specific battlefield; protects a unique resource or location within a battlefield such as a headquarters or a hospital; or details Virginia's underrepresented history.
- Additional historical significance of the property as documented through a Virginia Landmarks Register/National Register of Historic Places nomination, or through documentation of historic significance submitted with application.
- Extent to which the project protects a large tract of land.
- Project Readiness: The project has a high likelihood of success shown via clear goals and objectives, landowner intent, status of easement application, and consistency with comprehensive plan.
- Progress Reports: The Applicant has submitted required progress reports by the deadlines and frequency identified in the Grant Agreement for other active VBPF grants.
- A qualitative analysis focusing on the benefit of the project to the Commonwealth, including consideration of factors such as public benefit, community impact, plans for long-term stewardship of historic resources, and the applicant's prior performance managing a VBPF grant.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications are due by 5:00 PM on August 1, 2025. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. **All applications for the VBPF 2025 Grant Round must be submitted through the WebGrants portal.** To submit an application form for the VBPF 2025 Grant Round, you must first register in WebGrants. Registrants must be approved by staff, so please allow up to 48 hours for this process to be completed. For a list of DHR's current grant funding opportunities and to register for the WebGrants system, please go to <https://vadhr.webgrantscloud.com/login.do>.

Only complete applications submitted through WebGrants will be considered. The WebGrants system will notify applicants that a completed application has been received. DHR's VBPF Grant Program Administrator will also review all application forms and provide applicants no more than two business days to correct technical errors through the WebGrants system.

For additional assistance with your application, please consider watching the recording of DHR's May 5, 2023 [Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund Virtual Grant Workshop](#). Or, contact Wendy Musumeci, VBPF Grant Program Administrator at [wendy.musumeci@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:wendy.musumeci@dhr.virginia.gov) or at 804-482-6096 with questions.

## GRANT AWARD TIMELINE & CONTRACT INFORMATION

Grant awards will tentatively be announced in October 2025 (date subject to change). All applicants will be notified of their status regardless of result. Notice of grant award letters will be distributed through email, with Grant Agreements to follow within one month of award announcement. Grant Agreements must be signed and returned to the VBPF Program Administrator within 60 days of receipt, though extensions may be considered upon request. **Projects that have been awarded grant funds must be completed, including recordation of the required easement, within three years from the date of the Grant Agreement or the recipient may be required to return the funds.** One twelve-month administrative extension may be granted, provided there is adequate justification for the delay and reasonable assurances provided that the project will be completed as approved.



## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All grant recipients must report the status of the project twice per year as noted in the Grant Agreement. All reporting must be completed through the WebGrants system and reports must be submitted until closeout of the grant. Recipients will receive email notifications through WebGrants about pending reporting deadlines. A final report must also be submitted through WebGrants as part of the project closeout. Failure to submit the required reports may result in nullification of the Grant Agreement or funds recapture.

## FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

All applicants must submit a Commonwealth of Virginia W-9 form for their organization when they register. Funded awardees already registered as a payable entity with the Commonwealth of Virginia and that have an active [eVA vendor ID](#) may only be asked to ensure their record is current. Awardees will have the option to set up an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to receive funds electronically. Information on the EDI payment application process will be sent to awardees.

Grant payments made as a reimbursement cannot exceed the amount expended by the grant recipient or the amount of the grant award. An itemized list of expenses documenting known or expended costs must be provided prior to disbursement of grant funds. The awardee must also provide estimates for anticipated costs not yet incurred but that will be expended prior to grant closeout.

In the case of prospective purchases, grant payments from the VBPF must be requested no earlier than three weeks prior to closing on the purchase of the property by the applicant.

VBPF monies will not be disbursed until all the following documents and items have been provided to, reviewed, and approved by the Program Administrator:

1. Grant Agreement signed by both awardee and DHR.
2. For prior fee-simple acquisition projects, a copy of the recorded deed or other confirmation that closing occurred no more than twelve months before the 2025 application deadline (i.e., acquisition must have occurred on or after August 1, 2024).
3. Appraisal Report and any appraisal reviews/updates (as applicable).
4. Confirmation by DHR that the grant award will not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the appraised value of the land or easement interest.
5. Documentation of match sources provided and confirmed by DHR.
6. Itemized list of expenses documenting actual eligible costs paid and an itemized list with anticipated costs not yet incurred, but that will be expended prior to grant closeout.
7. Letter detailing the Board of Historic Resources approval of the historic preservation easement offer for the project property. Where an alternate easement holder is requested, correspondence from the DHR Director approving the terms and conditions of the draft easement and confirming the holder's capacity and expertise to manage and enforce the terms of the easement.
8. Resolution of any issues with the easement application or draft easement raised by DHR.



## REQUIRED DELIVERABLES FOR GRANT CLOSEOUT

- Appraisal Report.
- Biannual progress reports.
- An itemized list of all costs expended with copies of applicable receipts or invoices as applicable.
- Copy of deed of acquisition for fee-simple projects.
- Copy of the recorded easement deed for all projects.
- Per the requirements of DHR's Easement Program, copies of (i) the title insurance policy insuring the Board of Historic Resources' interest (or other easement holder approved by DHR) in the property, and (ii) boundary survey of the project property.
- Final report outlining what was accomplished with the grant funding and plans for future maintenance.

## MEDIA & PUBLICITY

Following the announcement of awardees, the grant recipient may release information to the media informing the community of the grant award and acknowledging that it has received funding from DHR. All press releases and other printed materials and publications, audiovisuals, and signs pertaining to the project should reference the VBPF and DHR. Please contact the VBPF Program Administrator for use of agency logos. DHR staff can also assist with drafting and distributing press releases by request. Photos or other material submitted with the application or progress reports may be used by DHR to promote the grant program. Any publications will cite the source of the reprinted material. These materials will also be deemed public records and subject to Virginia's Freedom of Information Act.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

The DHR Director has absolute discretion to evaluate proposals and determine which applications receive funding and the amount that will be allocated to a particular project. DHR may award less than the amount requested based on the Director's assessment of the application when total requests exceed available funds and/or to achieve the maximum benefit for the use of VBPF in his or her sole discretion.

## CONTRACT TERMINATION & FUNDS RECAPTURE:

DHR reserves the right to reclaim grant funds or to nullify the Grant Agreement in its sole discretion for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Information contained in the VBPF application is later found to be inaccurate or inapplicable to the project property.
- Failure to meet deadlines, provide required documentation or submit biannual progress reports.
- Required historic preservation easement is not feasible or approved by the Board of Historic Resources or by DHR in cases of an alternate holder.
- Failure to comply with the terms of the Grant Agreement.
- Inadequate financial management or oversight.
- Undertaking work on the property before grant closeout without notification to DHR and/or such work is not consistent with [The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) (as promulgated by the National Park Service), the Grant Agreement, or required easement.

## APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Below is a list of website and resources to assist with the Additional Conservation Values section of the application form. This list is not comprehensive and is for informational purposes only.

### Conserve Virginia:

[ConserveVirginia](#) is a tool to guide conservation investments. It provides a map of Virginia's highest conservation value lands that are unprotected in seven different categories: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

### National/State/Local Heritage Areas:

#### [Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District](#)

An eight-county region in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia designated by Congress in the 1996 "Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act" (P.L. 104-333). Includes Augusta, Clark, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.

#### [Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area](#)

180-mile long, 75-mile-wide region that stretches from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia.



#### [Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area](#)

1,800 square mile area includes all or parts of five counties in the northern Virginia Piedmont and lower Shenandoah Valley: Loudoun, Fauquier, Clarke, Prince William, and Warren Counties.

### Trail Systems:

#### [Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail](#)

680 miles in length and comprises a network of roads and waterways used by French forces under Rochambeau and American forces under General George Washington in Yorktown Campaign.

#### [Road to Revolution Heritage Trail](#)

State heritage trail established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2007 (§ 1 of Chapter 852 of the Acts of Assembly of 2007, approved March 7, 2012).

#### [Tobacco Heritage Trail](#)

Tobacco Heritage Trail (THT), operated by the nonprofit Roanoke Rails-to-Trails corporation. The THT is a system of multi-use trails along abandoned railroad beds in the counties of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Halifax, Charlotte and Lunenburg.



## APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Trail Systems Continued:

#### [Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail](#)

Organized network of outdoor sites highlighting the best places to see birds and wildlife in the Commonwealth; Established and maintained by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

#### [Virginia Capital Trail](#)

Paved pedestrian & bicycle trail from Richmond to Williamsburg Virginia.

### Water Trails or Blueways

#### [The Upper James River Water Trail](#)

Covers the uppermost 64 miles of the James and 10 miles of the Maury River. It runs through Rockbridge and Botetourt counties.

#### [James River Heritage Trail](#)

Developing braided trail network that follows the James River from the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. Trail segments follow the old Kanawha Canal towpath, park trails, scenic riverside roadways and urban riverfront trails deep into the commonwealth.

#### [Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail](#)

Series of water routes extending approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and in Maryland and Virginia

#### [Appomattox River Trail](#)

Winds through 6 communities in South Central Virginia: Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Prince George County, and Hopewell.

### Scenic Byways

#### [Virginia's Scenic Byways Program](#) (Virginia Code §§ 33.2-400 *et seq.*)

Road designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) as having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance.

#### [America's Byways Designation](#)

Includes National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads, maintained by the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

### Scenic Rivers

#### [Virginia Scenic Rivers Program](#) (Virginia Code §10.1-400)

Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations.

