# Logos for DEQ, DCR and Gov. Awards

# 2025 Governor’s Environmental Excellence AwardsVirginia Outdoors Plan Implementation Application

This award category is intended to recognize outdoor recreation accomplishments meeting the [2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop) goals and objectives.

## Please read these instructions carefully:

* Complete the entire application thoroughly. Information provided will be used to process your application and review your efforts.
* In addition to this application form, you are allowed to submit supporting documentation. Additional information must be limited to 10 pages.
* Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, December 12, 2024**. Send the application and all supporting documents to [Meghann.Quinn@DEQ.Virginia.gov](file://deqfile1/deecommon%24/P2/Governors%20Envtl%20Excellence%20Awards/2021/Meghann.Quinn%40DEQ.Virginia.gov). You will receive an email within 1 business day confirming that your application has been received.
* Questions about the application or submission process should be directed to Meghann Quinn at 804-774-9076 or [Meghann.Quinn@DEQ.Virginia.gov](file://deqfile1/deecommon%24/P2/Governors%20Envtl%20Excellence%20Awards/2021/Meghann.Quinn%40DEQ.Virginia.gov).

## Eligibility:

1. Entries in the Virginia Outdoors Plan category may be submitted for projects completed in Virginia by (a) Virginia businesses and industries, (b) government entities that own or manage land; (c) regional planning offices; (d) non-profits, or (e) individuals.
2. Projects must be complete prior to submission of the award application. If the project is a trail or water trail project, trail access and parking should be constructed and open to the public.
3. Complete the application and provide a 120-word or less executive summary (included in Section One).
4. Judges may not evaluate an application for an organization or individual with which they are associated.

| How many additional documents will you be submitting in support of your application? |
| --- |
|[ ]  0 |
|[ ]  1 |
|[ ]  2 |
|[ ]  3 |
|[ ]  Other |   |

# Section One: Application Information

| **Facility/Partnership Name** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parent Company (If applicable)** |  |
| **Physical Address** |  |
| **City, State Zip** |  |
| **Contact Name** |  |
| **Contact Title** |  |
| **Contact Phone Number** |  |
| **Contact Email Address** |  |
| **For clarification purposes, enter the name of the person who prepared this application if different from the contact listed above.** |
| Preparer name: |  |
| Preparer phone number: |  |
| Preparer email address: |  |

| **What is the name of the project, if applicable?** |
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| **In 300 or less, provide an executive summary of your project:** |
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| **Provide a brief description of the primary function and activities of the facility/entity/partnership:** |
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| **Type of Organization** |
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|[ ]  Manufacturing/Industrial |[ ]  Local Government |
|[ ]  Commercial Business |[ ]  State Government |
|[ ]  Partnership (Multiple Organizations) |[ ]  Federal Government |
|[ ]  Individual |[ ]  College or University |
| [ ]  | Other:  |

| **Number of employees at the organization:** |
| --- |
|[ ]  <100 |[ ]  100-499 |[ ]  500-4,999 |[ ]  5,000+ |

| **Recreation Region and County Planning District** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **County, town, or city** |  |

| **Has the project been completed or in place long enough to have resulted in significant accomplishments?**[Note: Judges will only consider those projects with results.] |
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|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |

| **If your facility/organization has won a previous Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award, please explain how****this project differs from your previous application.** |
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# Section Two: Meeting Needs in the Virginia Outdoors Plan

| **Is the project listed as a featured project in the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan?** |
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|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |

| **Is the project a developed park, natural area, greenway/trail, or water access?** |
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|[ ]  Developed park |[ ]  Natural area |[ ]  Both – Natural area and developed park facilities |
|[ ]  Greenway/Trail |
|[ ]  Water access |

| **Identify funding sources.** Check all that apply. |
| --- |
|[ ]  Land and Water Conservation Fund |[ ]  Recreational Trails |
|[ ]  Department of Wildlife Resources |[ ]  Coastal Zone Management |
|[ ]  Captain John Smith National Historic Trail – Public Access |[ ]  State funds |
|[ ]  Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) |[ ]  Local funds |
|[ ]  VDOT – FAST Act Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside |[ ]  Non-profit foundation funds |
|[ ]  Other: |  |

# Section Three: Virginia Outdoors Plan Project Evaluation

| **Community Goals** [15 points maximum]* How does this project meet regional outdoor recreation needs identified by the local community during public engagement, or by the locality’s comprehensive plan?
* In what ways did the local community participate with planning for this recreation resource?
* Does the project contribute to localized climate resiliency goals such as (but not limited to) flood mitigation, reduced heat-island effect, habitat protection, and biodiversity?
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| **Recreation Access and Experiences** [20 points maximum] * What kind of recreation is made possible by this project?
* Describe educational or outdoor skills programs that are associated with this public access.
* What are the key safety features that aim to improve recreation experiences by visitors?
* What is the involvement of your employees and the community in the management, enhancement, and educational outreach associated with this public access?
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| **Trails/Water Access** [9 points maximum] * Does this trail complete a needed connection to or between an existing trail system or recreation area?
* Does this water access site fulfill a geographic need in an area without water access opportunities?
* What is the involvement of your employees and the community in the management, enhancement and outdoor programming associated with the trail or water access site?
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| **Open Space and Resources Protection** [15 points maximum]* Is the project area permanently protected by 6(f) Land and Water Conservation, an open space easement, or a conservation easement?
* Is the project associated with a designated scenic resource or historic area such as a scenic river, scenic byway, historic district, battlefield study area, or other significant historic site for the local community?
* Does this project advance the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, and natural resources through specific management plans and site design (i.e. vegetated stream/river buffers, wetlands protection, invasive species management)?
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| **Leveraging funds and involving partners** [4 points maximum]* How were funds leveraged for implementation?
* How have partnerships advanced funding efforts?
* How was community support and awareness generated?
* How is long term maintenance addressed?
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| **Does this project feature any designs or modifications that improve accessibility or provide barrier-free recreation experiences?** [10 points] |
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# Section Four: Project Implementation & Results

| **Does this project add any new or renovate existing recreation facilities or amenities?** [9 points maximum]* If yes, how many new [water access sites, courts, miles of paved trails, miles of unpaved trails, etc.]?
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| **Technical value and transferability** [9 points maximum]* Describe how this project may help others implement outdoor recreation. Identify the types of groups, facilities, and/or entities that might duplicate all or some of your efforts.
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| **Economic benefits** [9 points maximum]* What are the economic benefits to your community resulting from this project?
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