# 2025 Governor’s Environmental Excellence AwardsLand Conservation Application

This category is intended to recognize exemplary land conservation work within the commonwealth supporting ConserveVirginia and land conservation. Examples range from outstanding land conservation easements and fee simple acquisition projects that permanently protect lands with high conservation values to the development of an integrated prioritized land conservation plan for an organization or agency’s region of coverage.

## 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:

[ConserveVirginia](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/) is the Commonwealth’s data driven land conservation strategy. The strategy prioritizes the most important lands from a statewide perspective, targets limited resources toward those areas, and measures the progress made toward achieving multiple conservation goals. Using more than 20 mapped data inputs in seven categories, ConserveVirginia identifies approximately 7.8 million acres of priority lands for conservation. **To be eligible for this award, a land conservation project or program must support ConserveVirginia’s efforts.**

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

# Section One: Nominee Information

| **What is the title of the land conservation program?** |
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| **Name of Company, Organization or Individual:** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mailing 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: |  |
| **Are you submitting more than one application?** |
|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |  |
| If yes above, what number is this application (e.g., 1 of 4)? |  |

| **Type of Organization** |
| --- |
|[ ]  Company |[ ]  Individual |
|[ ]  Government Entity |[ ]  NGO |
|[ ]  Other:  |

| **Please identify significant partners and describe their role.** Partners include those that provide critical support to the program/project including planning, implementation, and/or financial support.  |
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| **If your organization has won a previous Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award, please explain how this project differs from your previous application.** |
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| **Was this project implemented in order to satisfy a mandatory compliance requirement?** |
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|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |
| If yes, the program was implemented to satisfy a mandatory compliance requirement, did it go beyond the minimum requirements? |
|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |
| **Was this project a Supplemental Project or other project required by any type of enforcement action (e.g., consent order)?** |
|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |
| If yes, the project was a supplemental project or other project required by an enforcement action, provide a brief explanation. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

# Section Two: Project Description

| **In 100 words or less, provide an executive summary of your conservation project:** |
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| **Is the land permanently protected by either a conservation easement or a donation of the land to a conservation organization?** |
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|[ ]  Yes |[ ]  No |

| **How many acres of land are protected?**  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How is the land being managed?** |
|[ ]  Facility |[ ]  Land Management Organization |
|[ ]  Other: |  |

| **Please provide the address.** In addition, you must submit a map of the protected lands if applicable. |
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| **Please provide the Tax Map Parcel Number if applicable:** |
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# Section Three: Full Project Description

Devote one paragraph to each criterion.

| **Describe how the application supports ConserveVirginia**? [35 points maximum] Demonstrate how the property is located within given ConserveVirginia categories and that the project also protects those respective resources in perpetuity, or how your program is designed to conserve these resources. **Up to 5 points for each ConserveVirginia Category:** Agriculture and Forestry, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Protected Landscapes Resilience, Scenic Preservation, Water Quality Improvement |
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| **Describe how the project will benefit underserved communities** [10 points maximum]: The Social Vulnerability Index created by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences may be used to identify underserved areas of the state: <http://cmap2.vims.edu/SocialVulnerability/SocioVul_SS.html>. Data from other sources will also be considered for this criterion if applicant provides the source reference. Very high social vulnerability = 10, High social vulnerability = 8, Moderate Social Vulnerability = 5, Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability = 0 |
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| **Describe the water quality protection aspects of your project** [15 points maximum]:* Are best management practices for water quality being implemented on the preserved property?
* Are lands adjacent to streams and water bodies protected with riparian buffer requirements and being managed as wooded buffers?
* Are wetland areas identified and protected?
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| **Describe how your project protects rare, threatened, or endangered species or exemplary natural** **communities** [10 points maximum]:* Are there rare, threatened, or endangered species or exemplary natural communities on the property?
* If there are rare, threatened, or endangered species on the property, how are they protected and managed?
* Describe the requirements to protect wildlife habitat contained in the deed.
* How are biodiversity criteria evaluated/considered in your land conservation plan?
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| **Describe how your project protects working farms and forest lands** [10 points maximum]:* Is the land currently in farm or forest use?
* How does the donation of the conservation easement or land ensure that the land can continue in farm or forest use?
* Is there a farm conservation plan or forest stewardship plan for the property?
* Are waterways on the property protected by vegetated buffers?
* How are working lands evaluated/considered in your land conservation plan?
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| **Describe how your project protects historic resources** [10 points maximum]:* Are there historic resources on the property?
* If so, how are those resources protected?
* Describe the requirements to protect historic resources contained in the deed.
* How are historic resources evaluated/considered in your land conservation plan?
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| **Describe the public access aspects of your project** [10 points maximum]: Full Public Access (365 days/year) = 10 points, Restricted Public Access (180-364 days/year) = 5 points, Limited Public Access (less than 180 days per year) = 3 points, Visual Access = 2 points |
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