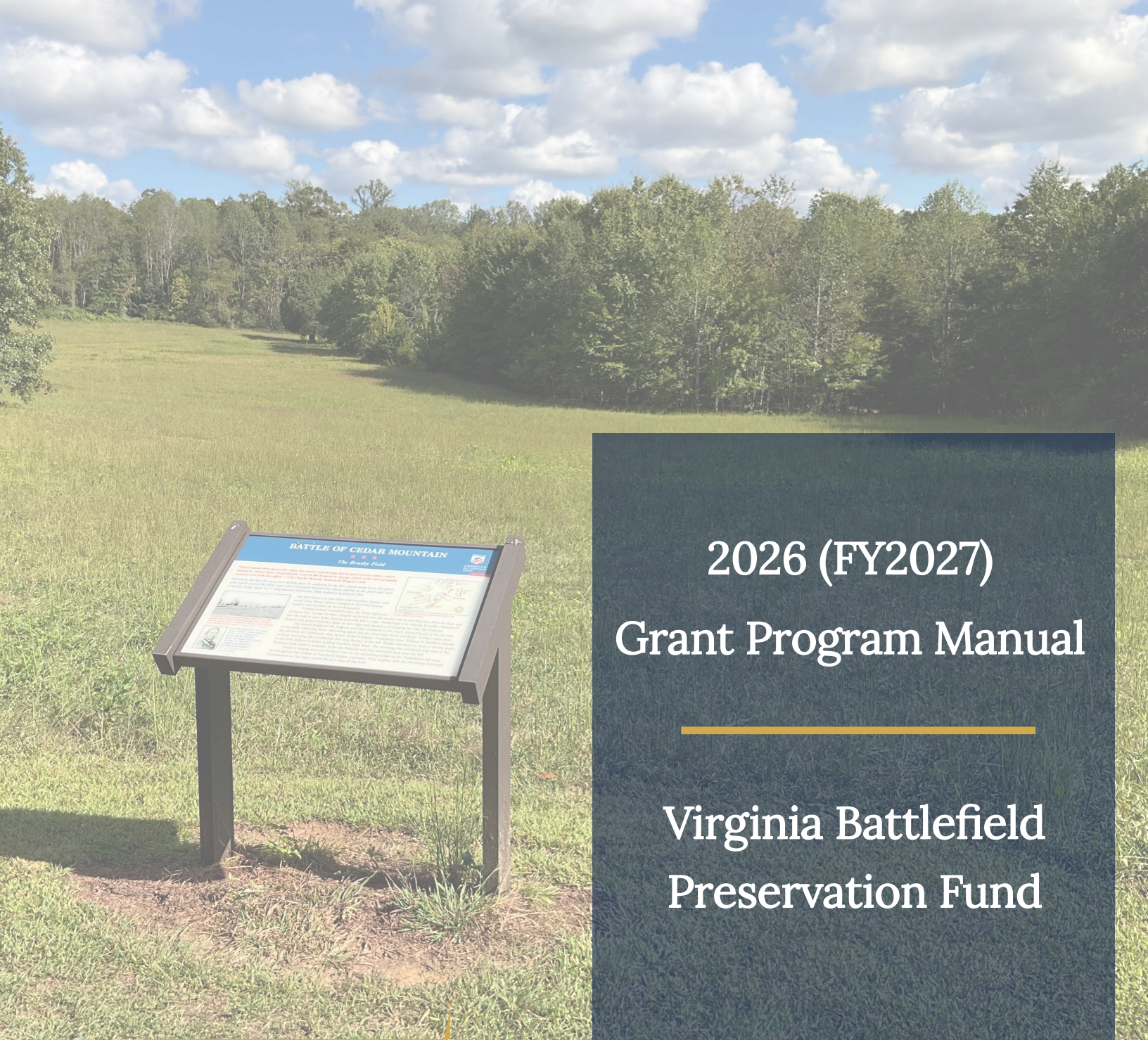




2026 (FY2027) Grant Program Manual

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund

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

DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORIC 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 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

2026 VBPF GRANT ROUND CALENDAR	
DATE	ACTIVITY
July 1	Grant round opens; updated grant application form and grant manual released
July 8	Virtual Grant Workshop
July 17	Deadline for easement application to be submitted for August 17 Easement Acceptance Committee (EAC) meeting
August 17	Last EAC meeting before VBPF application deadline
September 1	Grant applications due by COB
September-October	Review and scoring of grant applications
November	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 2026-2028 Biennium State Budget appropriated up to \$5.25 million in VBPF funds for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Combined with \$372,324 in remaining funds from the Fiscal Year 2026 grant round, the total amount available for the Fiscal Year 2027 grant cycle is up to \$5,622,324 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 Tuesday September 1, 2026.**

All applications for the VBPF 2026 Grant Round must be submitted through the [WebGrants](#) online grant management portal. To submit an application form for the VBPF 2026 Grant Round, you must first [register](#) in WebGrants if you are not already a registered user. Registrants must be approved by staff, so please allow up to 48 hours for this process to be completed.

A virtual grant workshop will be held July 8, 2026. Information about the event will be provided by the VBPF Grant Program Administrator.

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), 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 three years 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 should 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 letter signed by all property owners that the owner(s) are willing to sell the subject property to the applicant or convey a perpetual historic preservation and open-space easement over the subject 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 September 1, 2025 (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 parcel of land 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 subject 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.*

AWARD AMOUNT

VBPF will pay a total grant award of up to 50% of the appraised value of the property or easement interest acquired (the “Appraised Value”). The Appraised Value of any project must be substantiated by an Appraisal Report and Appraisal Update, as applicable. Eligible costs to potentially be paid include due diligence costs up to 50% of the Appraised Value. Please note that due diligence costs will only be reimbursable if the actual cost to acquire the property or easement interest is less than 50% of the Appraised Value; therefore, reimbursement for due diligence costs will typically only be available for certain transaction types (such as a full property donation). Eligible due diligence costs include the cost of appraisals, environmental assessments, boundary surveys, title searches/title insurance, applicable easement program fees, closing costs, and legal services, including services obtained within 12 of the application deadline for the grant cycle. Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, indirect costs such as staff time, overhead, or pro bono work, or costs for maintenance, operation, development, rehabilitation, restoration, or interpretation of lands, demolition of buildings/structures, or construction of new improvements. In any case, the grant amount paid cannot exceed the lesser of: (i) 50% of the Appraised Value or (ii) total actual expenditures.

REQUIREMENTS

Matching Funds:

Applicants are required to provide \$1 in matching funds for each \$1 received from the VBPF for the proposed project. If the required 50% match is not determined at the time of the application, a letter from the organization confirming that the match will be met must be included with the application. Such statement should specify the source of the funds to ensure only eligible monies are used as match. Applicants must also fully disclose the sources of all other funding in hand or anticipated. Eligible matching contributions are as follows:

- Cash/funds from non-VBPF sources. **Other state funds are not eligible to be used as match.**
- The value of any contribution due to a bargain sale (monetary value of the donated portion of the property) or the donation of land or interest therein made by the landowner as part of the proposed project. The match property must be acquired in fee or restricted by an easement within the previous two years, and not acquired with VBPF funds, so long as the match property is also restricted as approved by DHR.

When additional property is proposed as match, the match property must be in proximity to and historically connected to the property that is the subject of the grant. The match property must also be protected in the same manner as the grant property; information on the match property must be included with the application; all due diligence items are also required for the match property.

Indirect costs such as staff time, overhead, or work provided pro bono are not eligible match sources.

Perpetual Easement:

Both 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 year | * Prohibits or limits subdivision and new construction |
| * Required removal of non-historic buildings/structures and rehabilitation of the battlefield landscape through a management plan | * Cemetery, Forest Management, Agricultural Resource Management, and Riparian Buffer provisions (as determined applicable by DHR). |

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.

A separate Cemetery Maintenance Plan or Rehabilitation and Management Plan will be required for certain properties as determined by DHR.

For fee-simple projects, the required historic preservation easement must be recorded prior to any subsequent conveyance or transfer of the property. Encumbrances recorded prior to the easement and work completed during the open grant period 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.

Please note that recordation of the easement takes an average of 24 months to complete. Contact Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, at karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov or 804.482.6094, or visit the [Easement](#) section of DHR's website for additional information.

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 conforms to the official comprehensive plan for the area in which the property is located. Applicants must submit correspondence from the locality indicating that use of the property for open-space land conforms to the official comprehensive plan. Projects that do not conform to 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 meets Universal Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (“USPAP”) standards, and that is completed within six months of closing (“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. DHR may also request an Appraisal Update and/or Appraisal Review as applicable.

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.*

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

A project scoring sheet reflecting the value of review criteria will be used to evaluate each application (see APPENDIX I). Evaluation of applications will be based on the content of, and materials submitted with, the application form. For the 2026 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 September 1, 2026. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. **All applications for must be submitted through the [WebGrants portal](#).** To submit an application form for the VBPF 2026 Grant Round, you must first register in WebGrants if not previously registered. 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>

Only 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. Contact Wendy Musumeci, VBPF Grant Program Administrator at wendy.musumeci@dhr.virginia.gov or at 804-482-6096 for additional assistance or if you have any questions.

GRANT AWARD TIMELINE & CONTRACT INFORMATION

Grant awards will tentatively be announced in November 2026. All applicants will be notified of their status regardless of result. Notice of grant award letters will be distributed through email and WebGrants, 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.

CHANGES IN SCOPE

Recipients must inform DHR if the total acreage of a project as indicated in their application and grant agreement changes. Adequate information and a revised budget (as applicable) must be provided to justify a change of scope to the grant award. All requests for changes in scope must be submitted in writing to the VBPF Grant Program Administrator through WebGrants.

FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

VBPF funds for fee-simple acquisition projects may be made as an advance payment or as a reimbursement. Funds for easement projects will only be paid at closing or as a reimbursement. Claims must be requested no earlier than three weeks prior to closing on the purchase of the property or recordation of the easement. Financial/closing agents or awardees already registered as a payable entity with the Commonwealth of Virginia with an active [eVA vendor ID](#) must ensure their record is current. Awardees should contact DHR well in advance of closing for additional information.

VBPF funds will not be distributed until the following due diligence documents have been provided, reviewed, and approved by the Program Administrator. Some of these may vary depending on the project type.

1. Grant Agreement signed by both grant recipient and DHR.
2. Documentation of match sources.
3. Letter detailing the Board of Historic Resources approval of the historic preservation easement offer for the 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.
4. Correspondence from locality indicating proposed easement conforms to the locality's comprehensive plan.
5. A fully executed settlement statement that shows the purchase price of the property or easement.
6. Appraisal Report and Appraisal Update (as applicable).
7. For prior fee-simple acquisition projects, a copy of the recorded deed or other confirmation that closing occurred no more than 12 months before the 2026 application deadline (i.e., acquisition must have occurred on or after September 1, 2025).
8. Draft deed of acquisition for prospective purchases.
9. Resolution of any issues with the easement application or draft easement raised by DHR.
10. Title commitment, effective within ninety (90) days prior to closing, committing to insure grant recipient's fee simple interest in the property or the Board's easement interest.
11. As applicable: itemized list of expenses (with documentation) showing eligible costs paid and anticipated costs not yet incurred, but that will be expended prior to grant closeout.



Please contact the Program Administrator with any questions regarding the timing, requirements, and submittal of the above listed documents.

REQUIRED DELIVERABLES FOR GRANT CLOSEOUT

- Biannual progress reports.
- 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, including public access and plans for future stewardship.
- An itemized list of all costs expended with copies of applicable receipts or invoices as applicable.

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 I: Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund

2026 Scoring and Review Criteria



APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be considered using the criteria contained in the *Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF) 2026 Grant Program Manual* and as outlined in this scoring rubric. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff and independent reviewers will evaluate applications. **All VBPF grant application forms must be submitted through DHR's [WebGrants](#) portal.** Applicants will receive an email notification from WebGrants upon receipt of a completed application form. Additionally, applicants will be given two business days to correct technical errors associated with their application through the WebGrants system.

All applications will go through a comprehensive review process based on the scoring criteria. Successful applications will protect historically significant battlefield properties that meet or exceed the program interests of the VBPF, with a strong confidence that the objectives of the Grant Agreement and all program requirements will be met based on the demonstrated qualifications, experience, and capabilities of the applicant. The review panel will consider factors such as public access, community impact, easement provisions, plans for long term stewardship of historic resources, the applicant's prior performance managing a VBPF grant (including timely completion of open Grant Agreement requirements), and whether the application clearly indicates why this property/project is important to the applicant organization. If requested, DHR will provide a summary of review panel scoring and/or schedule a feedback session with the applicant at the conclusion of the grant round.

Some eligible sites identified as "Associated Historic Properties" or "Needing Further Study" in the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* (2007) may not have defined Core and Study Areas. Select applicants may be asked to provide defensible boundaries for the site according to guidelines provided in *National Register Bulletin No. 40: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* and/or *National Register Bulletin No. 21: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. Any associated points will be awarded accordingly.

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund 2026 Grant Round SCORING SHEET

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points	Scored Points
Battlefield Significance & Integrity (65 Points)		
Battlefield Priority Rating • 20 points for Priority I • 15 points for Priority II • 10 points for Priority III • 5 points for Priority IV; and • 5 points for Revolutionary War battlefield/site	25	
Percent of Property within Core/Study Area • 10 points for entirety of property in Core/Study Area • 5 points for 51—99% of property in Core/Study Area	10	
Historic Battlefield Features and Sites: character-defining manmade features and sites such as earthworks, roads, encampments, buildings, forts, and gun emplacements • 15 points for multiple historic battlefield features/sites intact on property; no modern improvements present; documentation of features/sites provided • 10 points for landscape retains aspects of its historic significance with 1-2 historic battlefield features/sites intact on property; modern improvements present, but impact is minimal and dispersed; documentation of features/sites provided • 5 points for feeling and association as historic battlefield diminished by modern improvements and alterations to landscape; presents opportunity for battlefield landscape rehabilitation or restoration to day of battle conditions • 0 points for no battlefield features/sites present; historic landscape heavily altered	15	
Historic Battlefield Terrain: natural terrain and topographic features that comprise the historic battlefield landscape, such as ground cover, agricultural fields, marshes, drainages, waterways, knolls, and ridges • 15 points for multiple terrain/topographic features related to battle intact on property; no post-war alteration of landscape • 10 points 1-2 terrain/topographic features related to battle intact on property with minimal post-war alteration of landscape • 5 points for terrain/topographic features related to battle present but moderately altered; presents opportunity for battlefield landscape rehabilitation or restoration to day of battle conditions • 0 property's terrain and topography significantly altered; no terrain or topographic features related to battle present	15	
Additional Historic Significance (10 Points)		
Additional Historic Significance • 5 points for listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) • 3 points for not listed in the VLR, but non-battle historic resources (>50 years old) present on property • 0 points for no additional historically significant resources present	5	
Underrepresented History • 5 points for property has direct connection to Virginia's underrepresented history, and sufficient documentation provided • 3 points for property has direct connection to Virginia's underrepresented history, but insufficient documentation provided • 0 points for no connection to Virginia's underrepresented history	5	

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund 2026 Grant Round SCORING SHEET

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points	Scored Points
Property Characteristics (45 points)		
Contiguity/Proximity • 20 points if surrounded on all sides by conserved lands • 15 points if 50-99% of property contiguous with conserved lands • 10 points for <50% of property contiguous with conserved lands • 5 points if in proximity (less than 2 miles) of conserved lands • 0 points if not adjacent to or in proximity of conserved lands	20	
Meets ConserveVirginia Priorities • 4 points for Cultural and Historic Preservation • 2 points for Agriculture and Forestry • 2 points for Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity • 2 points for Floodplains and Flooding Resilience • 2 points for Scenic Preservation • 2 points for Protected Landscapes Resilience • 2 points for Water Quality Improvement	16	
Additional Conservation Values/Viewshed • 1 point for within designated local/state/national heritage area or trail system • 1 point for adjoins state/national scenic river or byway • 1 point for adjoins state/national/local trail system, water trail, or blueway • 1 point for within other designated area/route/trail • 1 point for protects a fragmented battlefield (Priority IV) or provides greenspace in an urban environment • 0 points for no additional conservation values	5	
Total Conserved Acreage • 4 points for 100+ acres • 3 points for 50-99 acres • 2 points for 10-49 acres • 1 point for less than 10 acres	4	
Public Access & Interest (45 Points)		
Public Access Resulting from Project: degree to which property will be physically accessible to the public beyond the 2-day easement requirement • 20 points for daily/365 days of the year without permission required • 15 points for 180-364 days of the year without permission required • 10 points for 3-179 days of the year • 5 points for only visual access from public right-of-way • 0 points for no visual access and no physical public access provided beyond the 2-day easement requirement	20	
Planned Improvements for Public Access: degree to which improvements are planned to facilitate public access, such as signs, kiosks, markers, trails, wayside panels, restrooms, parking areas, visitor centers, and regular walking tours • 5 points for site improvements planned to provide physical public access; feasible and detailed timeline included; improvements already in process • 2 points for site improvements planned to provide physical public access but timeline is non-specific; improvements not yet started • 0 points no site improvements planned	5	

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund

2026 Grant Round

SCORING SHEET

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points	Scored Points
Public Access & Interest Continued		
Education: degree to which project supports educational efforts, such as scholarly articles, website development, lectures, lesson plans, mobile/web apps, podcasts, and online indexes of historic records • 5 points for detailed and specific plans for making information about the property accessible to the public • 2 points for general educational activities planned but insufficient or no detail provided • 0 points for no educational activities planned	5	
Community Support: degree of community support for and engagement with project; plans for community engagement described • 5 points for application identifies specific communities that will be positively impacted; community support and engagement with project in process; plans for future engagement specified; letters of support included • 2 points for general description of positively impacted communities but active engagement not in process; no letters of support included but plans for outreach described • 0 points for specific communities not identified; no current community support for project or future plans for outreach described	5	
Research: degree to which the project furthers research opportunities and increases knowledge about the history of the property • 5 points for identifies specific research areas associated with the property and how project will further opportunities in these areas • 2 points for general description of research opportunities but no specific and direct connection to the property provided • 0 points no research opportunities identified or insufficient description of research opportunities	5	
Heritage Tourism: degree to which project stimulates heritage tourism • 5 points for provides specific detail on how project will stimulate investment in heritage places and development of heritage tourism activities • 2 points for generally identifies how project will stimulate investment in heritage places or development of heritage tourism activities • 0 points for insufficient detail or description of how project will stimulate heritage tourism	5	
Project Characteristics (45 Points)		
Documentation of Threat: threats identified (e.g. property for sale, solar farm, data warehouse center, residential subdivision) and sufficient documentation provided • 15 points for property currently listed for sale, in estate settlement, or development plans in process • 10 points for listed for sale within prior 12 months but not actively on the market for sale; or documentation of recent change in zoning • 5 points for not currently on the market for sale; threat described but documentation not provided; or <10% of the battlefield protected • 0 points for no documented threat	15	

**Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund
2026 Grant Round
SCORING SHEET**

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points	Scored Points
Project Characteristics Continued		
Severity/Extent of Threat • 10 points for application identifies nature, extent, and severity of specific threats to property • 5 points for application describes nature, extent, and severity of threat to battlefield or region, but not specifically to property • 0 points for nature, extent, and severity of threat not clearly identified	10	
Compelling Preservation Purpose • 5 points for protects a unique resource or location within a battlefield (e.g. headquarters, hospital site, etc.) • 5 points for reduces fragmentation of preserved battlefield lands and contributes to large landscape scale conservation • 0 points for no compelling preservation purpose identified	10	
Uses of Property • 5 points for current and future uses consistent with historic preservation standards • 3 points for current uses not consistent with historic preservation standards, but plans for battlefield landscape rehabilitation/restoration described • 0 points for current and future uses not consistent with historic preservation standards	5	
Stewardship of Historic Resources • 5 points for plans for treatment and maintenance of historic resources on property are consistent with historic preservation standards • 3 points for plans for treatment and maintenance of historic resources on property generally described, but no specific examples provided • 0 points for plans for treatment and maintenance of historic resources not consistent with historic preservation standards	5	
Alignment with Local Plans (5 points)		
Comprehensive Plan • 5 points for documentation from locality that conservation of the property conforms to the current applicable comprehensive plan • 0 points for no documentation from locality provided or project does not conform to comprehensive plan	5	
Project Readiness and Organizational Capacity (35 points)		
Goals and Objectives: goals, objectives, and expected outcomes of the project clearly identified and achievable • 10 points for project demonstratives achievable goals and outcomes; proposal is clear and feasible • 5 points for project identifies goals and outcomes, but proposal is unclear or not fully feasible • 0 points for goals and objectives of proposal not clear; outcomes not feasible within grant timeline	10	

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund

2026 Grant Round

SCORING SHEET

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points	Scored Points
Project Readiness and Organizational Capacity (35 points)		
Organizational Capacity to Complete Project • 10 points for demonstrates organizational capacity and experience to manage project to completion; timeline is reasonable; some steps already completed • 5 points for limited organizational capacity and experience to manage project to completion; timeline is reasonable but no steps completed • 0 points for insufficient organizational capacity and experience to manage project to completion	10	
Budget and Financial Capacity • 10 points for costs identified in budget are necessary, reasonable, and allowable; applicant demonstrates financial capacity to complete project • 5 points for costs are reasonable and allowable, but some costs are not realistic or feasible relative to project objectives; budget lacks specificity; adequate funds are not yet available to support the proposed effort • 0 points for costs are not allowable or reasonable; multiple deficiencies in budget; budget does not support technical aspects of the project	10	
Project Readiness • 3 points for easement offer for property has been approved by Board of Historic Resources or alternate holder; project is ready to move forward • 2 points for application clearly demonstrates VBPF funding requested is critical for completion of the project • 0 points for project has multiple complex issues that need to be addressed (as demonstrated through Easement Acceptance Committee review) and is not ready to move forward	5	
Progress Reports • For Applicants with active VBPF grants: The Applicant has submitted the required progress reports per the frequency and by the deadlines identified in the Grant Agreement for each active grant. • Yes = 0 points • No = -3 points	0	
Qualitative Analysis The review panel will also undertake a qualitative analysis focusing on the benefit of the project to the Commonwealth, including consideration of factors such as public access, community impact, easement provisions, plans for long term stewardship of historic resources, the applicant's prior performance managing a VBPF grant (including timely closeout of Grant Agreements and projects), and whether the application clearly indicates why this property/project is important to the applicant organization.		
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 250		

APPENDIX II: 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.

