

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		