



About VIRGINIA*forever*

VIRGINIA*forever* is a unique, diverse coalition of businesses, environmental organizations and outdoor enthusiasts that advocates for increased government funding for water quality improvements and land conservation across the Commonwealth. We are the only statewide organization that has a primary focus on increasing funding for natural resources protection.

Annual Events

Bridge Builder Celebration – Honors an individual who has taken action to promote funding that benefits land and water resources in Virginia.

Budget Briefing – A series of presentations by secretaries and department heads reviewing natural resources components of the Governor's proposed budget.

Advocacy

Land Conservation – Virginia needs to conserve farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and historic places for citizens, visitors and future generations. We advocate for funding for programs like:

- Land Preservation Tax Credits to help owners be able to afford to donate conservation easements.
- The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to assist land trusts and agencies in acquiring land for public recreation or protect land that grows crops, trees or other natural resources.

Water Quality Improvement – Virginia needs to reduce water pollution throughout the Commonwealth. We advocate for funding for programs like:

- Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) cost share to help farmers reduce agricultural runoff into streams, rivers and the Bay.
- The Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) to restore streams and install practices to reduce urban runoff from streets and parking lots.

Resiliency – As the impacts of extreme weather events and sea level rise continue to escalate, Virginia has an opportunity and obligation to ensure our resilience to these threats. We advocate for the Shoreline Resiliency Fund to improve floodplain management and mitigation efforts for future flood damage, and other programs that benefit land and water.

Natural Resources Agency Operations – Agencies can only implement conservation programs if they have sufficient staff and adequate tools such as IT and communications technology. Having observed that natural resources declined as a percent of Virginia's overall budget, we advocate for general fund appropriations for natural resources agencies to be increased to ensure the efficient execution of all critical functions.



OUR MEMBERSHIP



Individual Members: Elizabeth Andrews · Robert Burnley
Pamela Faggert · Adrienne Kotula · Maureen Matsen

Emeritus Members: Robert Dunn · Johnny C. Finch
Henry P. Long · Carol Wampler

CONTACT US

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