

The Virginia PDR Manager's Group Perspective on Funding of PDR's for Virginia

Joint Subcommittee meeting for Long-Term Funding Sources
for PDR's to Preserve Open-Space Land and Farmlands

Virginia is known for its scenic beauty, its productive farms and forests, and its pristine natural areas.





PDR Managers Group

✂ Active Programs

- Virginia Beach
- Fauquier County
- James City County
- Albemarle County
- Clarke County
- Isle of Wight County
- Chesapeake
- Spotsylvania County
- Rappahannock County
- Augusta County

✂ Adopted Programs

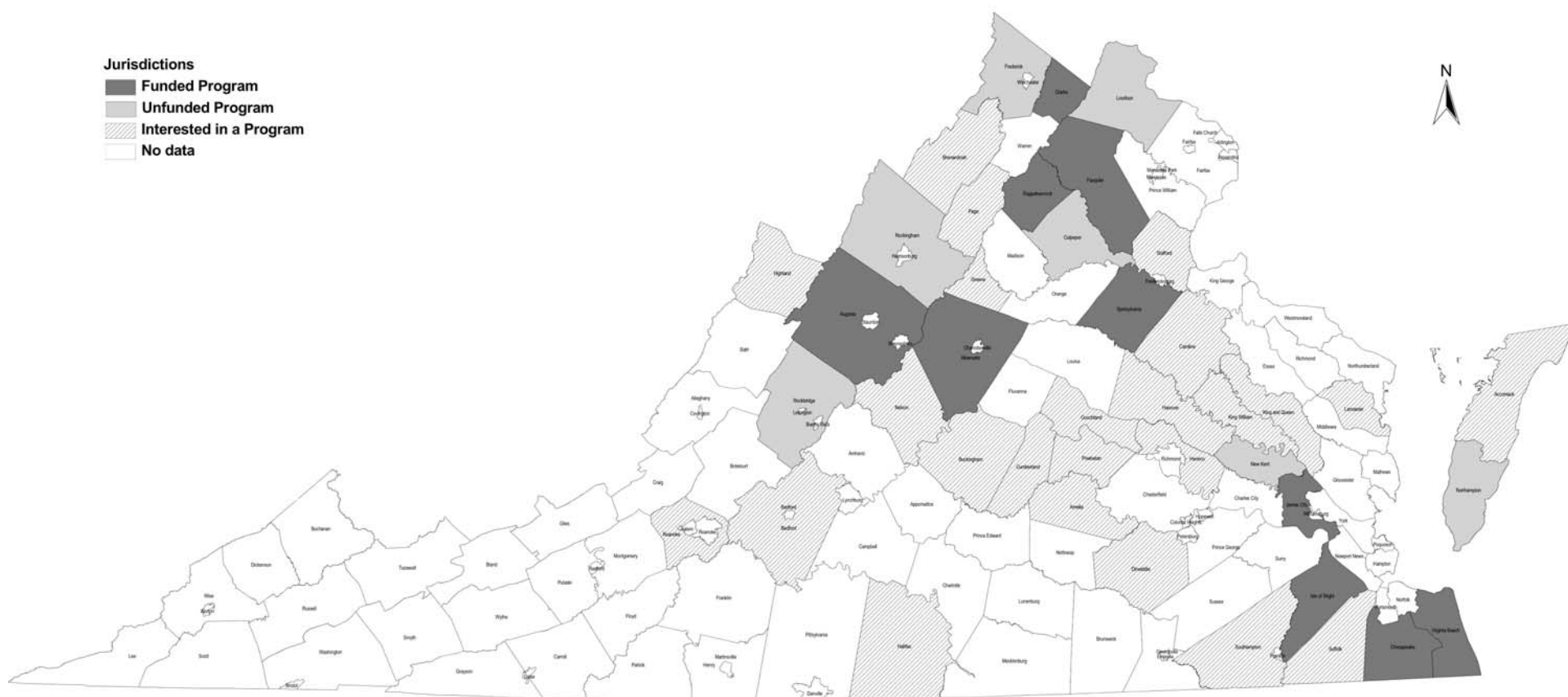
- Loudon County
- Frederick County
- Rockingham County
- New Kent County
- Northampton County
- Rockbridge County



PDR Managers Group

- ✂ Hanover County
- ✂ Cumberland County
- ✂ Bedford County
- ✂ Suffolk
- ✂ Halifax County
- ✂ Stafford County
- ✂ Prince William County
- ✂ Dinwiddie County
- ✂ Amelia County
- ✂ Powhatan County
- ✂ Goochland County
- ✂ Henrico County
- ✂ Prince George County
- ✂ Essex County
- ✂ Shenandoah County
- ✂ Culpeper County
- ✂ Highland County
- ✂ Page County
- ✂ Greene County
- ✂ Caroline County
- ✂ King William County
- ✂ King & Queen County
- ✂ Lancaster County
- ✂ Accomack County
- ✂ Southampton County
- ✂ Buckingham County
- ✂ Nelson County
- ✂ Roanoke County

Status of PDR Programs in Virginia



Map Prepared on 8/11/06 by:



Why protect the land?

☀ Land conservation matters to all Virginians. We all need clean air and water, healthy and abundant supplies of food and fiber, and places for recreation. Land conservation supports all these related resources.



Threats to Virginia

- ✦ Of all the land developed in Virginia since the founding of Jamestown, more than 25 percent has been developed in the last 15 years.






Successful land conservation requires the protection of a diversity of lands.

- ✂ Working farms
- ✂ Forests
- ✂ Scenic landscapes
- ✂ Natural areas
- ✂ Wildlife habitat and game lands
- ✂ Historic resources
- ✂ Parks and recreational areas

Future Needs of the Commonwealth

- 
- Ensure an adequate land base of working farm and forest land so that agriculture remains viable and an economic leader in Virginia .
 - Bay Agreement (another 358,000 acres permanently protected by 2010)
 - Protect Natural Resources

Costs

- ✦ How much is needed for new state PDR matching program?
 - \$6000/acre is estimated by the PDR managers based on local figures
- ✦ How much land is needed to keep Agriculture the leading industry in Virginia
 - ?



How Much?

- ✖ Using matching block grants to localities that are certified under the state pdr model from VDACS as presented by the Farmland Protection Task Force.
 - 100,000 acres x \$3,000/acre = \$300,000,000
 - Over the next 4 years (\$75,000,000/year)
 - 50,000 acres = \$37,500,000 over the next 4 years
 - Compare this to \$900,000,000+ to have a state run program without local participation

Long Term Funding



- ☀️ Dedicated funding is a priority
- ☀️ Possible sources
 - Real Estate transfer tax
 - Tourism tax
 - Cigarette tax



VA Agricultural Vitality Program

- ✦ Staffing costs/needs to fund the office of Farmland Preservation for both
 - Farm Link
 - Farmland Preservation Responsibilities
- ✦ Determine state funds and sources for providing technical assistance
 - To develop new local programs
 - Strengthen existing programs



Other Strategies

- ✦ Ability of local governments to issue debt for farmland preservation without voter approval.
- ✦ Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs

Our Partners

- ☼ Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ☼ The Nature Conservancy
- ☼ American Farmland Trust

- ☼ *Virginiaforever*
- ☼ Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- ☼ Virginia Farm Bureau
- ☼ Piedmont Environmental Council



Core Principles

- ✦ Guided by differing missions, and often serving different constituencies, we are united in our commitment to land conservation that protects the natural, cultural, historical, and working landscapes that define Virginia, support our economy, and underpin our quality of life.




Successful land conservation requires action and initiative at all levels.

- ✦ Landowners who want to protect their property should have the tools and incentives to do so.
- ✦ A local community that wants to come together to conserve the lands that matter most to its citizens should have the resources to launch such an effort.
- ✦ Agencies and organizations seeking to protect lands of statewide importance need the ability to secure those lands for all Virginians to enjoy.



How to accomplish our Goals

- ✦ Protecting a diversity of lands at a number of different levels requires a variety of programs.
 - The land preservation tax credit program
 - State funding for Local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs
 - State funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF)

- 
- ✦ We look forward to working with the Joint Subcommittee to identify better the funding needs and the revenue sources required to meet those needs so that we can take action together to protect Virginia's natural, cultural, and working landscapes.