

Land Conservation

Overview and State Stewardship of Public Lands

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Overview of Land Conservation

- Public lands
 - State-owned
 - Locally-held
- Conservation Easements
 - State Assistance to Localities: Purchase of Development Rights
 - State Land Trust: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
 - State Incentive: Land Preservation Tax Credit
 - Department of Taxation
 - Department of Conservation and Recreation



State-Owned Public Lands

- Natural Area Preserves (DCR)
- State Parks (DCR)
- State Forests (DOF)
- Wildlife Management Areas (DGIF)



Natural Area Preserves



Cypress Bridge,
Southampton Co.
Planned Dec 08
Closing



- 54 state natural area preserves protect 45,491 acres across the Commonwealth.
- The first natural area preserve was dedicated in October 1990.
- This program is actively acquiring three new natural areas preserves and acquiring 11 additions to existing natural area preserves.

Natural Area Preserves



Crow's Nest NAP
Stafford County

- Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act of 1989 authorized DCR to acquire and manage a statewide system of natural area preserves.
- Public and private lands dedicated as NAPs are selected to protect some of the rarest and most threatened elements of Virginia's natural heritage.
- Natural areas support exemplary natural communities and/or healthy populations of rare plant and animal species.



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage

Natural Heritage Stewardship Regions & Natural Area Preserves

● NATURAL AREA PRESERVES - 54 PRESERVES 45,491 ACRES

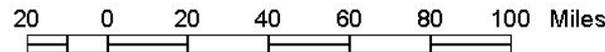
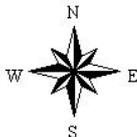
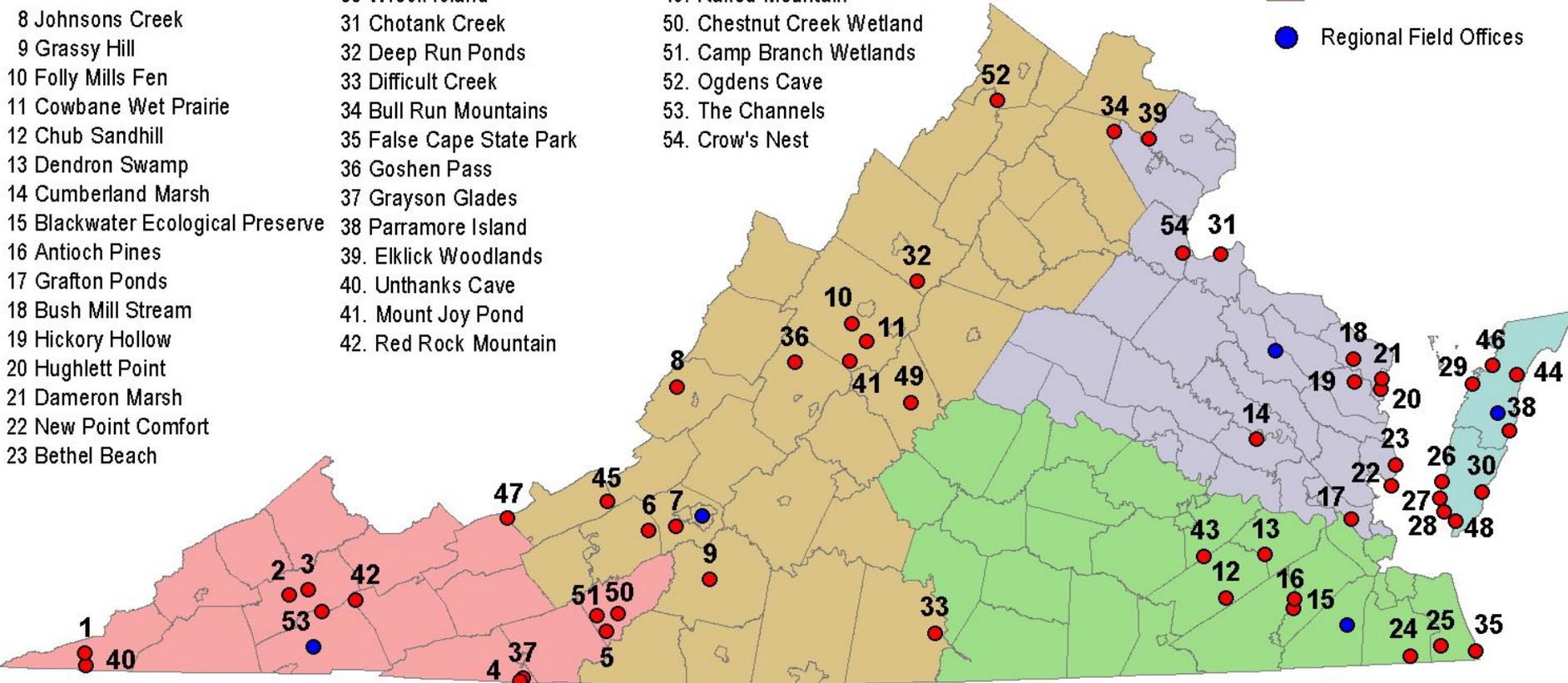
STEWARDSHIP REGIONS

- 1 The Cedars
- 2 Cleveland Barrens
- 3 Pinnacle
- 4 Big Spring Bog
- 5 Buffalo Mountain
- 6 Pedlar Hills
- 7 Poor Mountain
- 8 Johnsons Creek
- 9 Grassy Hill
- 10 Folly Mills Fen
- 11 Cowbane Wet Prairie
- 12 Chub Sandhill
- 13 Dendron Swamp
- 14 Cumberland Marsh
- 15 Blackwater Ecological Preserve
- 16 Antioch Pines
- 17 Grafton Ponds
- 18 Bush Mill Stream
- 19 Hickory Hollow
- 20 Hughlett Point
- 21 Dameron Marsh
- 22 New Point Comfort
- 23 Bethel Beach

- 24 Northwest River
- 25 North Landing River
- 26 Savage Neck
- 27 Cape Charles Coastal Habitat
- 28 William B. Trower Bayshore
- 29 Parkers Marsh
- 30 Wreck Island
- 31 Chotank Creek
- 32 Deep Run Ponds
- 33 Difficult Creek
- 34 Bull Run Mountains
- 35 False Cape State Park
- 36 Goshen Pass
- 37 Grayson Glades
- 38 Parramore Island
- 39. Elklick Woodlands
- 40. Unthanks Cave
- 41. Mount Joy Pond
- 42. Red Rock Mountain

- 43. Cherry Orchard Bog
- 44. Mutton Hunk Fen
- 45. Clover Hollow
- 46. Marks and Jacks Islands
- 47. Chestnut Ridge
- 48. Magothy Bay
- 49. Naked Mountain
- 50. Chestnut Creek Wetland
- 51. Camp Branch Wetlands
- 52. Ogdens Cave
- 53. The Channels
- 54. Crow's Nest

- Chesapeake Bay
- Southeast VA
- Eastern Shore
- Mountain
- Southwest VA
- Regional Field Offices



Map Date: 9/22/08

State Parks



Caledon
State Park

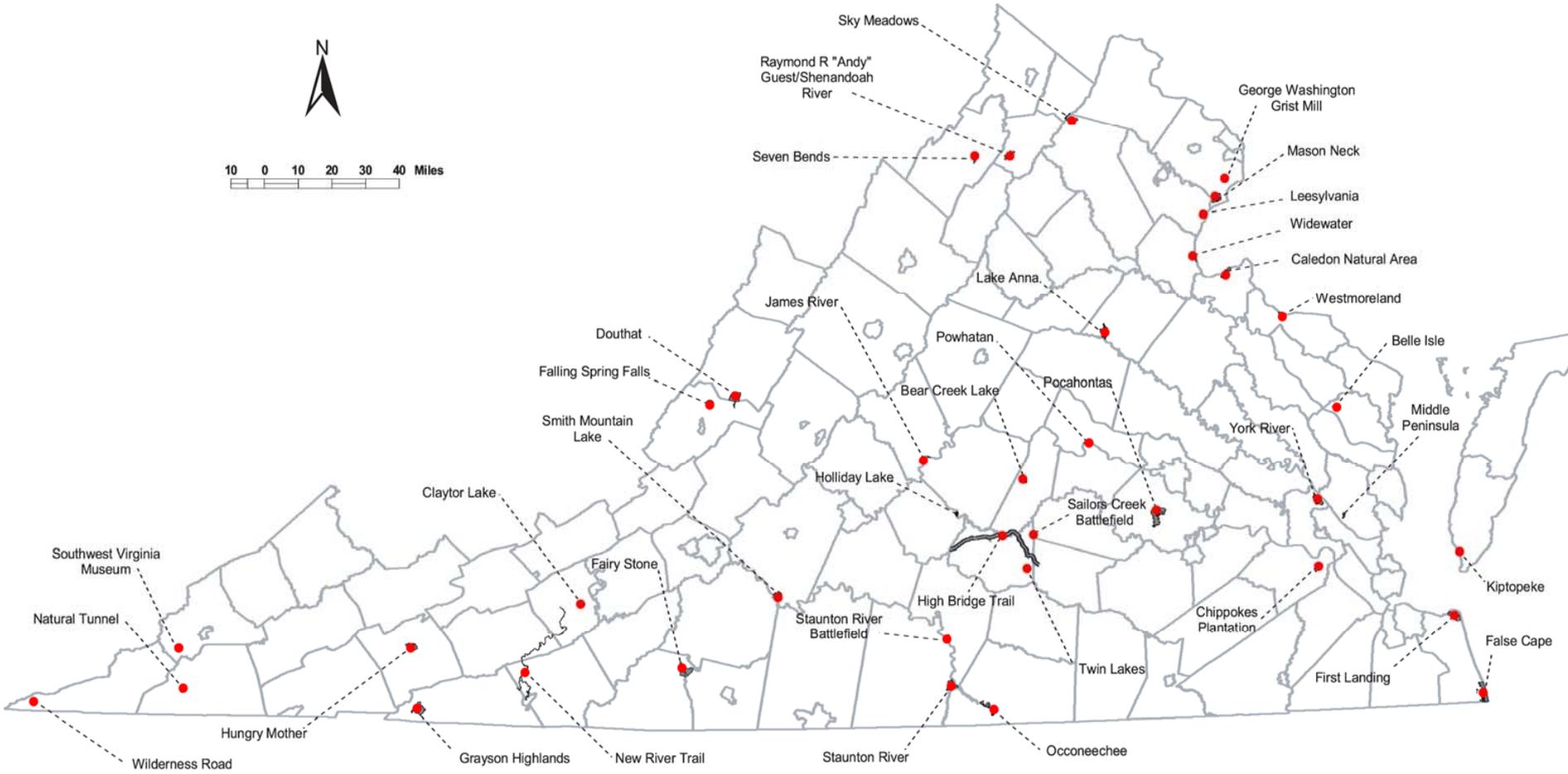
- In 1936 Virginia opened the first state park system in the country, with six parks.
- Now 35 parks – almost 67,000 acres.
- 4 more parks (Powhatan, Widewater, Seven Bends, and Middle Peninsula) have been acquired but are not yet open.
- Virginia's state parks:
 - provide outstanding state park facilities, services and programs while protecting and promoting stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the Commonwealth;
 - serve as a natural tonic for the mind, body and spirit; and
 - provide an economic stimulus to the community and region in which they are located.



Map IX-3. State Parks



10 0 10 20 30 40 Miles



VDGIF Land Holdings

- 38 Wildlife Management Areas (200,000 acres)
- 15 Conservation Easements (12, 494 acres)
- 215 Boat Landings
- 37 Freshwater Lakes
- 8 Freshwater Hatcheries



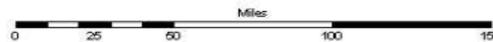
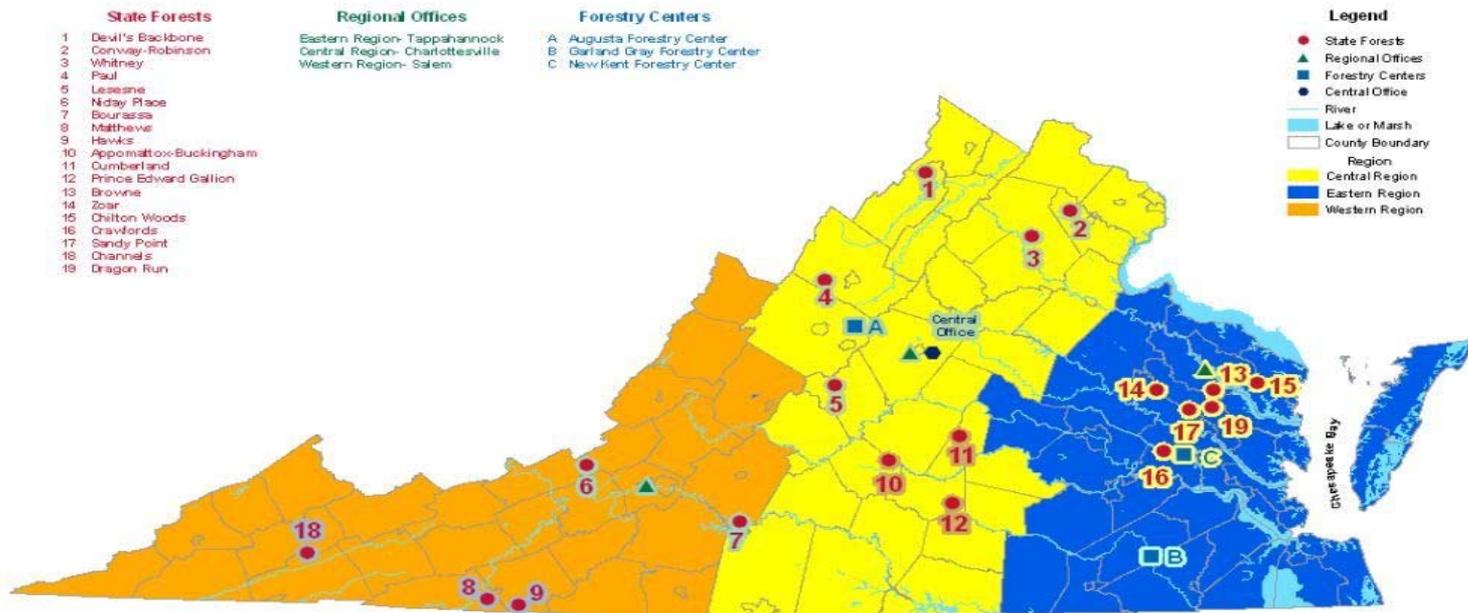
State Forests

- The agency owns State Forests for scientific, recreation, and educational purposes.
- 19 State Forests
- 55,142 total acres



State Forest Locations

Virginia Department of Forestry



Management



Prescribed Fire Mgmt



Phragmites
Spraying



- Natural Area Preserves
 - Monitoring rare species' population status
 - Practices that maintain, enhance, and restore rare species populations and natural community occurrences
 - E.g. prescribed burning; invasive species control
- State Parks
 - Park operations and visitor safety
 - Resource management and facility maintenance
 - Educational and environmental programs
 - Park master planning and facility development
 - Each of the seven park districts has a full-time resource management employee

Management

- Wildlife Management Areas
 - Conservation Police Officers
 - Wildlife & Fisheries Biologists/Technicians
- State Forests
 - Timber management
 - Research and demonstration projects
 - Wildlife and fisheries habitat
 - Insect and disease evaluation
 - Genetic tree improvement



Management



Water Management to protect rare plants at Hickory Hollow NAP

- Natural Area Preserves:
 - 1 Natural Areas Stewardship Manager
 - 1 Natural Areas District Manager/Statewide Stew. Ecologist
 - 5 Regional Natural Areas Regional Stewards (12, 14, 11, 8, 9 NAPs each)
 - 3 Natural Areas Conservation Officers (12, 14, 28 NAPs each)
- Division of State Parks:
 - 288 full-time employees
 - 659 part-time/seasonal employees



Management

- Wildlife Management Areas
 - 1 Forester
 - 3 Lands Managers
 - 16 Wildlife Biologist Assistance
 - 11 Wildlife Workers
 - 6 Boat Ramp Facility Technicians
- State Forests
 - 9 FTEs that handle all of the forest management workload with 2-3 seasonal workers during planting season



Public Use: Recreation



Hickory Hollow NAP,
Northumberland
County



- State Parks
 - Hiking, camping, cabins, educational programs, fishing, boating
- Natural Area Preserves
 - hiking, nature study, research, education, wildlife observation.
 - More intense uses are not allowed (horseback riding, off-road bicycle riding, off-road motorized vehicle use, camping, fires, swimming)
- Wildlife Management Areas
 - Hunting, hiking, photography, boating, fishing
- State Forests
 - Increasing demand for recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, hiking, birding and biking

Public Use: Hunting



- All 38 Wildlife Management Areas
- State Forests: varies Forest by Forest, based on size, deed restrictions, operations.
- Natural Area Preserves: *14,573 acres have some form of hunting*
 - Managed lottery hunting for waterfowl –3 preserves
 - Managed lottery hunting for white-tailed deer –2 preserves
 - General hunting during all open hunting seasons – 2 preserves
 - Other managed hunts for deer population management –6 preserves
- State Parks
 - Hunting opportunities range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system.
 - Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year.



Revenue Sharing With Localities

- DGIF
 - Timber Sales
 - Boat Landings
 - Freshwater Fishing Piers
 - 650 + VDGIF License Agents
 - 1000 + Game Check Stations
- State Forests
 - One-fourth of the gross proceeds is paid annually to the counties in which that land is located in lieu of taxes.



Acquisition Funding Sources

- DOF
 - Donations
 - Federal Forest Legacy Program
- DCR
 - Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - State General Obligation Bonds
- DGIF
 - Federal Pittman- Robertson Funds
- ALL
 - Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
 - Virginia Public Building Authority Bonds



Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Funded Projects

Farm and Forestlands

1. Big Woods
2. Black Farms Property
3. Brumley Mountain (2006)
4. Brumley Mountain (2007)
5. Brush Creek Farm
6. Charlton Hill
7. Dragon Run Conservation Corridor
8. Elgin Dairy Farm
9. George Property
10. Leonard Farm
11. Marlboro Angus
12. Meadow Grove Property
13. Oaken Brow (Withdrawn)
14. Page Property
15. Port Tobacco
16. Portobago Creek Easement
17. The Big Survey
18. The Meadow
19. Welbourne Farm Easement

Natural Areas

20. Bulls Pond
21. Clinch River
22. Clinch/Pinnacle
23. Crows Nest
24. Fletcher Ford
25. Garden Creek
26. Gilvary Forest
27. Hickory Hollow Nature Trail
28. Lower Blackwater - Blackwater 2
29. Marks and Jacks Islands
30. Old Growth Blackwater River - Blackwater 4
31. Powers Tract, Northwest River
32. Protection of Gallohan-Surgenor Cave
33. Rare Oak-Hickory Forest
34. Sweet Spring Hollow

Open Spaces and Parks

35. Altavista/English Area Park
36. Bullpasture River
37. Cedar Creek Bluff
38. Chincoteague Open Space
39. Fairfax Cross County Trail Easement
40. Fairview Park
41. Fray Tract
42. Historic Yorktown Beach Trail
43. Indian River Park
44. Jamestown Campground and Yacht Basin
45. Jamison Cove Marina
46. Keister Park
47. Mary B. Stratton Estate
48. McAfee Knob/Carter Land
49. Merrimac Farm
50. Mount Pleasant Farm
51. Paradise Creek (2006)
52. Paradise Creek (2007)
53. Powhatan Creek (Withdrawn)
54. Rappahannock Station Park
55. Tobacco Heritage Trail - Phase 2
56. Waid Recreation Area
57. Whitt-Riverbend Park
58. William's Wharf Landing

Battlefields

59. Third Winchester
60. Cedar Creek
61. Brandy Station
62. Kernstown

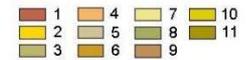
Historic Resources

63. Brandy Station
64. Burhman (Malvern Hill)
65. Carr Property
66. Chancellorsville Battlefield
67. Colley Farm
68. Dunn Meadow
69. Embrey Farm
70. Fishers Hill
71. Fort Christianna (Withdrawn)
72. Four Mile Tree
73. Huntsberry Farm Project
74. Hutchison Farm/South Lot
75. Ingles Ferry Farm

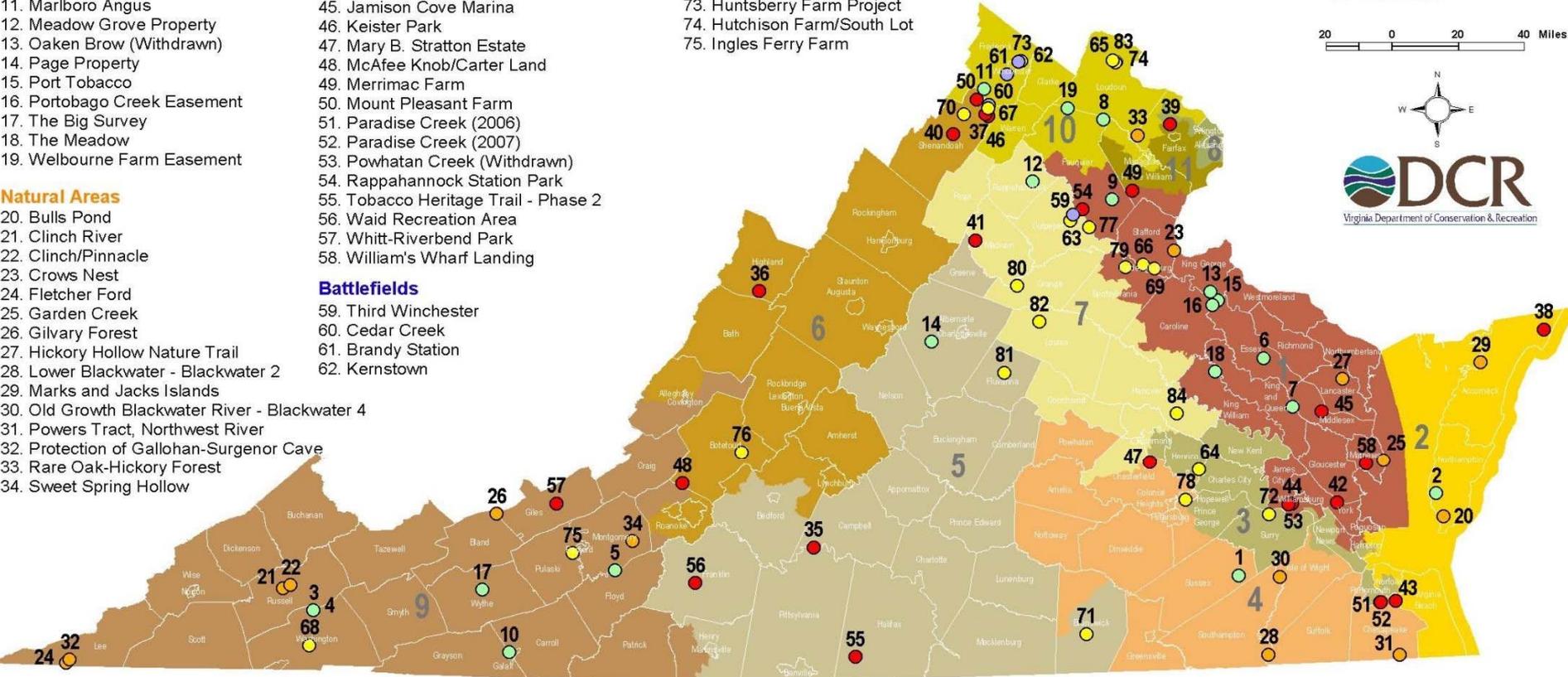
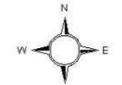
Historic Resources

76. Kanawha Canal Park (Withdrawn)
77. Kelly's Ford Battlefield Overlook Park
78. Kippax Plantation
79. Lick Run Civil War Battlefield
80. Montpelier - Home of James Madison
81. Palmyra Lock and Mill Site
82. Riveroak
83. Talbot Farm Easement
84. Topotomoy Battlefield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



GRANT CATEGORIES



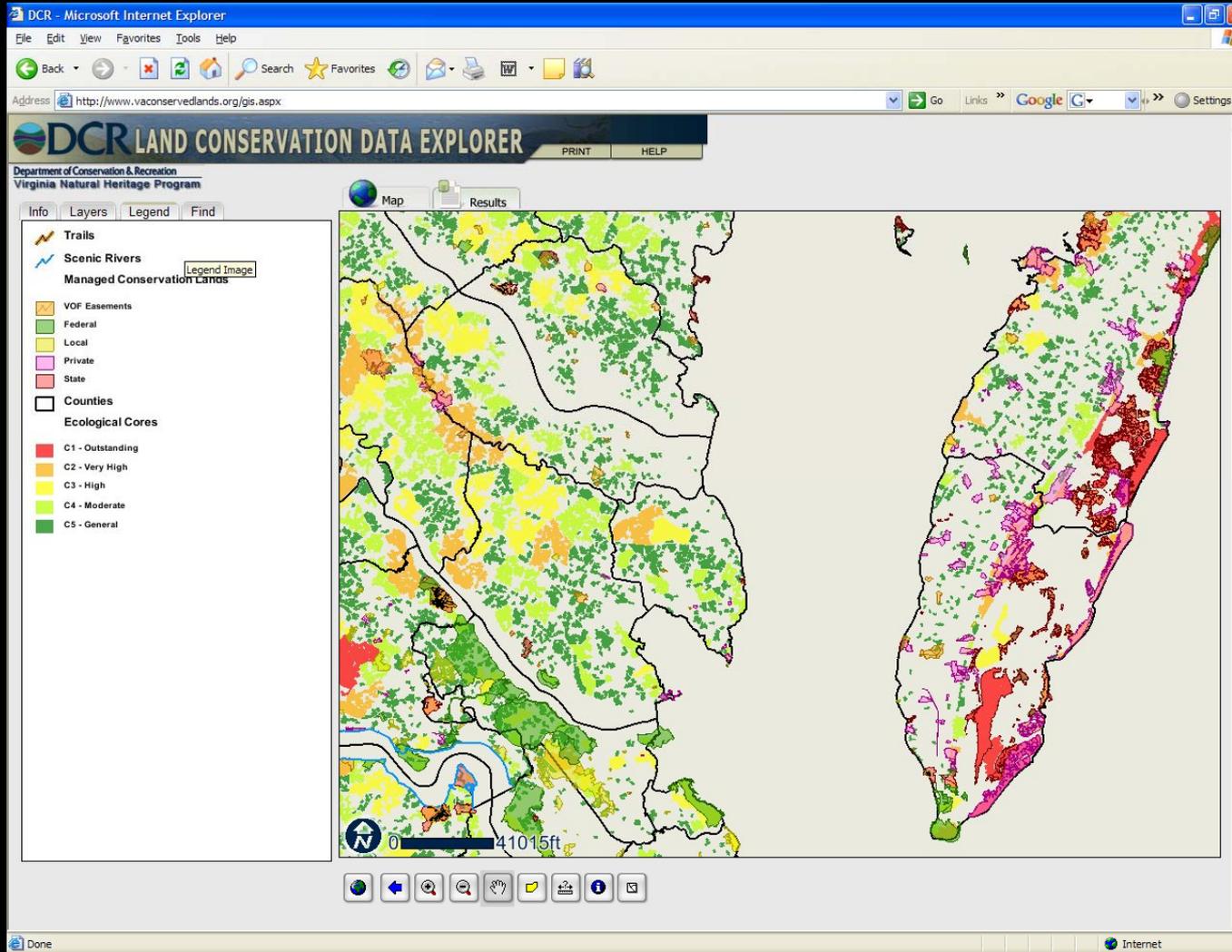
Public Information

Is there one place citizens
can go to find all of the
public lands in their area?



Virginia Land Conservation Data Explorer

www.vaconservedlands.org



-conserved lands and VCLNA

-reference layers including jurisdictional boundaries, VDOT roads, rivers and streams, hiking trails, High-res aerial photography, topo maps...

-ability to search all layers by feature names or values



Conclusion

