

Land Conservation in Virginia

Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting

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Current Programs

- ❖ Land Preservation Tax Credit Program
- ❖ Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
- ❖ Office of Farmland Preservation
- ❖ Virginia Outdoors Foundation and private land trusts
- ❖ Virginia Water Facilities Revolving Loan Program
- ❖ Virginia Land Conservation Needs Assessment (strategic conservation)

Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credits

Donation History

Tax Year	# of Credits	# of Acres	Credit Requests
2000-01	222	31,161	\$ 52,969,772
2002	216	35,168	\$ 62,431,163
2003	140	28,161	\$ 75,306,207
2004	238	50,049	\$ 142,134,720
2005	277	55,916	\$ 155,687,875
2006	456	93,835	\$ 246,985,554
2007	254	59,323	\$ 100,000,000
2008	224	60,199	\$ 102,287,084
2009	228	63,447	\$ 106,647,006
2010	133	32,710	\$ 69,503,752
Total	2,388	509,969	\$1,113,953,133

Through July 2010



Conservation Value Review

If tax credit is \$1 million or more:

- ◆ Application must be filed with both DCR and Dept. of Taxation
- ◆ DCR must verify conservation value, using criteria adopted by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
- ◆ Criteria include:
 - ★ conservation purpose,
 - ★ public benefit, and
 - ★ water quality and forest management.

Transfer Fees

- ◆ Any transfer by sale or distribution of a credit is subject to a fee of 2% of the FMV of the donation.
 - ★ This equates to 5% of the credit amount transferred.
- ◆ Up to 50% of fees raised can be used by TAX and DCR for their costs in implementing this article.
- ◆ The remaining fees shall be transferred to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for **distribution to public or private conservation agencies or organizations that receive donations.**

Transfer History Data

Tax Year	#of Credits	# of Recipients	Amt. Transferred
2002	165	1,794	\$ 51,307,127
2003	112	1,865	\$ 69,666,741
2004	210	3,063	\$ 123,470,215
2005	250	2,782	\$ 148,873,532
2006	425	4,670	\$ 231,093,726
2007	231	2,533	\$ 90,941,550
2008	204	2,844	\$ 93,718,676
2009	190	2,754	\$ 80,495,372
2010	46	301	\$ 10,938,074
Grand Total	1,833	22,606	\$ 900,505,013

Through July 2010

Enhancement Opportunities

- **A Stable Funding Source.** A dedicated funding source or stable ongoing general fund appropriations
- **State Tax Credits.** Increasing the annual cap beyond \$100 million is one way for Virginia to ensure the continued success of the land preservation tax credit program and be able to meet the Governor's new 400,000-acre land conservation goal.
- **Land Conservation Bond.** As the economy improves, the Governor and General Assembly may wish to consider another state land-conservation bond.
- **Encouraging Local Action.** In Virginia, municipalities have broad local authority for land conservation.