

LAND & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Conservation Lobby Day 2025



FUNDING FOR VIRGINIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Virginia's natural resources boost local economies; form the foundation of our culture and diverse communities; and sustain the health of our people, our wildlife, and our water. But the demands facing Virginia's landscapes are growing and Virginia needs to increase the scale and speed of its conservation efforts to ensure these benefits for future generations. The General Assembly needs to fully fund key conservation programs to ensure the long-term health of our landscape.

SUPPORT:

HB2059 (Krizek) & SB1341 (Marsden) "Virginia's Great Outdoors Act" dedicates \$230 million in annual funding for our state parks, public lands, trails, and outdoor grant programs

HB2306 (Lopez) Accepts land to create a new state park in Loudoun County

HB1825 (Orrock) Extends retirement benefits to conservation officers to encourage job retention at state parks

REDUCING INVASIVE SPECIES

Virginia is losing vast tracts of stable and mature forests and ecosystems to invasive plants. This loss reduces the state's capacity to mitigate impacts of climate change, improve habitat and community health, and ensure clean air and water. The General Assembly needs to encourage the use of native plants and reduce the spread and trade of invasive plants.

SUPPORT:

HB1941 (Seibold) & SB1166 (Salim) Requires invasive plant species to be labeled at the point of sale

PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Wildlife crossings are infrastructure, such as underpasses, that allow animals to move safely between habitats. More wildlife will move across roads as we continue developing land and animal populations adapt to changing climate by migration. Virginia is already ranked the 9th worst state in the U.S. for deer-vehicle collisions. The General Assembly must support wildlife corridors to make our roads safer for wildlife and people.

SUPPORT:

HB2025 (Gardner) & SB1341 (Marsden) Incorporates wildlife-friendly design in flood resilience infrastructure and identifies wildlife-vehicle conflict hotspots statewide.

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VIRGINIA
CONSERVATION
NETWORK

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budget positions at
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