



## Guiding Conservation Standards

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*The Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust seeks to conserve rural lands which will best preserve the farms, forests, wetlands, waters, and heritage of the Virginia Eastern Shore for the benefit of future generations.*

### Area Served

Northampton & Accomack Counties, Virginia

### Priority Conservation Sites

- Property adjacent to land already in conservation easement or a preserve
- Waterfront properties
- Those lands that contribute to coastal resiliency, habitat migration, and aquifer recharge
- Southern tip of the Delmarva Cape, Northampton County
- Savage Neck and Cherrystone Inlet, Northampton County
- Church Neck watershed, Northampton County
- Craddock Creek watershed, Accomack County
- Finney Creek watershed, Accomack County
- Folly Creek watershed, Accomack County
- Machipongo River watershed, Accomack County
- Nandua Creek watershed, Accomack County
- Nassawadox Creek watershed, Northampton County
- Occohannock Creek watershed, Accomack and Northampton Counties
- Parting Creek watershed, Accomack and Northampton Counties
- Pitts Creek watershed, northwestern edge, Accomack County
- Property adjacent to Virginia Scenic Byways
- Properties on the state and national historic register

### Minimum Conservation Standards

- ≥ 50 acres unless contiguous with or in close proximity to permanently protected property, including State and Federal conservation lands or lands that exhibit ecologically important conservation value as defined by Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program.
- Subdivision: no partition shall result in parcels <50 acres
  - < 100 acres                      No subdivision allowed
  - 100 –150 acres                  No subdivision preferred, 2 parcels may be ok
  - 200+ acres                      Preferred density 100+ acres per parcel
- In no event shall more than one (1) percent of the total square footage of the Protected Property be occupied by impermeable surfaces.
- Farmland                              No less than 80 percent protected
- Timber land                          No less than 80 percent protected
- Waterfront land                    No less than 80 percent protected
- Scenic open space                No less than 80 percent protected
- Wetlands/Bottomlands            100 percent protected
- Wildlife & plant habitat            100 percent protected
- Historic and cultural resources    100 percent protected

### Public Interests Served

- Productive farms, forests and fisheries are maintained.
- The supply of safe drinking water is protected and retained.

- Wildlife habitat, wetlands and other natural resources maintain healthy function.
- Rural scenic values are preserved.
- Recreational opportunities on land and water are available.
- Historic and cultural resources are preserved.