



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NOW ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR RIPARIAN FORESTS FOR LANDOWNERS PROGRAM**

*Project proposals due to eVA by Feb. 15*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA** – The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for Riparian Forests for Landowners Program (RFFL) project funding. RFFL is DOF's new statewide, flexible landowner assistance program that helps landowners meet riparian forest buffer needs and fill gaps in assistance not supplied by other programs. DOF seeks partnerships with qualified service providers in carrying out RFFL. Selected service providers will foster landowner connections to facilitate the installation of, and one year of maintenance on, riparian forest buffers at no cost to the landowner.

Riparian forest buffers are areas near streams, lakes, or wetlands that contain a combination of trees, shrubs, and other perennial plants, primarily to provide conservation benefits. Riparian forest buffers deliver a number of benefits including filtering nutrients, pesticides and animal waste from agricultural land runoff, filtering sediment from runoff, stabilizing eroding banks, providing shade, shelter and food for fish and other aquatic organisms, and providing wildlife habitat for terrestrial organisms.

This program is federally funded via the USDA Forest Service and the Virginia State Water Quality Improvement Act.

### **For Service Providers – How to apply**

Please visit:

[https://mvendor.cgieva.com/Vendor/public/IVDetails.jsp?PageTitle=SO%20Details&rfp\\_id\\_lot=55697&rfp\\_id\\_round=0](https://mvendor.cgieva.com/Vendor/public/IVDetails.jsp?PageTitle=SO%20Details&rfp_id_lot=55697&rfp_id_round=0) and review all supporting documents.

Registration in eVA is required ([eVA - Virginia's eProcurement Marketplace](#)). If you are not already registered in eVA, please see the attached new supplier registration guide for instructions.

**Submit proposal via eVA by 6 p.m. on Feb. 15, via eVA.**

Additional details:

Each proposal should include only one river basin. If you would like to submit a proposal for a partial river basin, please specify the area of coverage in your application so we can potentially accept more than one service provider per basin.

Half of the available funding must be used on lands identified as underserved by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>).

## **Virtual Pre-Bid Meetings**

A pre-bid meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Friday, Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. Meeting information can be found below. If you have questions, contact DOF Procurement Officer Thomas Baumann at [Thomas.Baumann@DOF.Virginia.gov](mailto:Thomas.Baumann@DOF.Virginia.gov).

### **Friday, Jan. 12, 3 p.m.**

Teams link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting?rtc=1>

Meeting ID: 250 038 165 68

Passcode: 4PsFn3

### **Monday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m.**

Meeting details and instructions are included as an attachment to the solicitation on eVA.

Teams link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting?rtc=1>

Meeting ID: 236 755 211 060

Passcode: QCYZjD

## **More information on the RFFL Program**

You can protect water quality at no upfront cost by participating in the RFFL program. Participants may be private landowners, homeowner associations or civic leagues. There are no prerequisites to participate, all that's required is the need for a riparian buffer and a commitment to keep it in place for 15 years. Land may be rural, urban or suburban, be activity-farmed or not.

Starting this spring, the RFFL program will be accepting landowner inquiries for assistance through the DOF website. In the meantime, reach out to Program Coordinator Deya Ramsden ([Deya.Ramsden@DOF.Virginia.gov](mailto:Deya.Ramsden@DOF.Virginia.gov)), for more information.

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## ***About the Virginia Department of Forestry***

*The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$23 billion annually. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.*