Conserve the Future Fund

Established in 2017 by donors passionate about environmental stewardship, the Conserve the Future Fund supports local initiatives focused on environmental care, conserving natural resources, and regional sustainability.

**Fund Purpose**

- Educate the community about their connection to and responsibility for the environment so current and future generations can live sustainably;
- Prevent and mitigate environmental challenges at the local level, with ripple effects for global health;
- Invest in and elevate the work of local organizations with expertise and passion for the environment to ensure a strong, growing network that can lead strategy, research and community engagement; and
- Create a charitable legacy that will encourage continued and increased support for conservation efforts over time.

"Our physical environment plays a significant role not only in supporting our health, but also how we interact with each other. Conserve the Future backs projects that make a positive impact on our natural environment AND give Richmonders a chance to thrive together."

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Ann Samford, donor

**Our Goal**

So far, we have raised $1.34 million of our initial $2.5 million goal. Thanks to the generosity of the Estes Family, there is an additional incentive grant of $100,000 for all commitments made by December 31st, 2023. We aim to give away 4% (or $100,000) in grants annually, while investing the remaining assets so the fund can grow to serve Richmond in perpetuity. We believe this is the best way to ensure philanthropic resources will always be available to support a healthy local environment, now and for generations to come.

**Areas of Impact**

- Renewable energy and efficiency and local food sourcing and regenerative agriculture
- Reforestation, soil conservation and preservation of green spaces
- "Reduce, reuse, recycle" programs and clean air, water and soil efforts
- Protecting wildlife habitats and supporting biodiversity
- Education, research, or job training to support environmentally conscious efforts
- Promoting racial justice and community inclusivity through environmental justice
Past Grants Include:

- **Capital Region Land Conservancy** - $40,000 to support establishing a revolving loan fund (Virginia Conservation Assistance Program) for urban residential and commercial conservation efforts

- **Capital Trees** - $5,000 to support the planning and construction fees for greening Northside’s Hotchkiss Field and Community Center

- **Community Climate Collaborative (C3)** - $15,000 to support recruiting cohort of local employers to reduce GHG emissions while creating a replicable model for use throughout Virginia, propelling RVA toward carbon neutrality $15,000

- **City Bees RVA** - $10,000 to support K-12 STEM program involving apiaries in Chesterfield, Sankofa Community Orchard, and Northside Pine Camp

- **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy** - $30,000 to support Installing solar panels on roof and wide promotion of "how-to" and benefits of solar energy to other local nonprofits and places of worship

All past grants are listed at cfrichmond.org/CTF.

How to Apply

The fund accepts proposals as part of the Community Foundation’s open application process, and awards grants annually on Earth Day. The advisory committee works closely with Foundation staff throughout the year to learn about local needs and opportunities and to review proposals. Since its inception, the fund has awarded $388,000 project-based grants to 13 organizations.

Advisory Committee

Graham Evarts  
Ron Felmus  
Morgan Goodman  
Bruce Kay  
Jim Klause  
Ann Samford  
Christie Thalhimer Silverstein  
Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt

Updated as of June 2023

If you wish to join us in this effort, you may contribute directly to the fund at cfrichmond.org/CTF.  
If you wish to learn more, please contact Sarah Arenstein Levy at sarenstein@cfrichmond.org