



Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Instructions VCAP Ranking Form

To be considered for review, applications must have a ranking score of 55 or greater. Applications with a ranking score of less than 55 will not be accepted for review. Districts may implement policy (similar to secondary considerations in the VACS program) to only submit for review applications that have a minimum ranking score higher than the 55 minimum score set by VCAP.

The VCAP Ranking form is to be filled out by District Staff for each application submitted for funding approval to the VCAP Steering Committee. Include the Contract Number (District##-PY##-Application Number###), Practice Code (abbreviation), Estimated Cost, Cost Share Requested and Resource Concern in the Heading Section. Unless there are special instructions, input ONE (1) for YES and ZERO (0) for NO. Please note the Spreadsheet will compute the ranking score automatically.

Site Assessment identifies the resource concern and site conditions.

Resource Concern Identified and Addressed by Selected BMP (Select One):

- The selected BMP must address the Resource Concern to earn points.
- Erosion Impact Area means an area of land not being disturbed but subject to persistent soil erosion resulting in the delivery of sediments onto neighboring areas or waterways, including visible signs of rills, gullies and deposition. *20 points*
- Poor Vegetative Cover means vegetation that is not uniform and mature enough to inhibit erosion. Visible signs include bare spots, stressed, diseased and dead vegetation resulting in a vegetative density of less than 75%. Leaf litter or mulch is not considered poor cover unless it is washing. *15 points*
- Land Cover that Contributes to *Excess Runoff* means Runoff from an impervious surface, compacted lawn, or poorly managed lawn that contributes to an increase in the volume and rate of runoff. This can include both concentrated and sheet flow that causes damage downstream. Excess runoff causes damage when it is not properly disconnected, dissipated and dispersed into the landscape. *10 points*

Ownership (Select One):

- Private Residences include the private lot and areas within public right-of-way that are maintained by private landowners but permission from the public entity is required. *10 points*
- HOA and Businesses include residential communities, apartment complexes and businesses. Tenant Businesses require permission from the landlord. *7 points*
- Public Areas include schools, parks, facilities and public right-of-ways on private land and managed by a public agency is considered public. *5 points*

Presence of Stormwater Management Facility Downstream of Site:

- The site or drainage area of the Resource Concern flows untreated to a natural waterway. Sites are considered treated when storm drains or ditch flows into an existing Stormwater Management Facility. *10 points if no current facility exists.*

Proximity to Stormwater Conveyance or Waterway (Select One if applicable):

- The identified resource concern the selected BMP addresses is located within 40 feet of a stormwater conveyance system such as Ditch, Storm Drain or Waterway. These resource concerns are considered connected to the stormwater conveyance system. *20 points*
- The identified resource concern the selected BMP addresses is located within 100 feet of a stormwater conveyance system such as Ditch, Storm Drain or Waterway. These resource concerns are not effectively buffered and filtered from the stormwater conveyance system. *10 points*

Slope (Select One if applicable):

- Treating a poorly vegetated or eroding slope greater than 15% is done when Conservation Landscaping (CL) is applied to that critical slope of 15% or greater. Mixed beds provide instant cover while the plants establish. Meadows may need additional erosion control measures such as erosion blankets. This does not apply to stream banks or shorelines or slopes less than 2 feet in height. *10 points*
- Mitigating concentrated runoff to a slope greater than 15 % occurs when a BMP intercepts runoff above a critical slope of 15% or greater, and either reduces the volume or velocity of runoff onto the slope or safely conveys runoff down the critical slope. This applies to structural practices placed within 40 feet of the top of slope. *5 points*

TMDL Implementation, MS4 Locality, or Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan:

- The selected BMP provides the necessary treatment for the pollutant of concern in the approved TMDL Implementation Plan, a locality's MS4 Permit, or Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.
- Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan is a plan that integrates with other land use plans or regulations that specifies how the water quality and water quantity components are to be managed on the basis of an entire watershed or a portion thereof. The plan may also provide for the remediation of erosion, flooding and water quality and quantity problems caused by prior development. Contact the local government.
- TMDL Implementation Plan is the scheduled steps of activities to address the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL allocation. The TMDL must be for sediment or nutrient impairments. Visit DEQ TMDL Website: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/tmdl-development/approved-tmdls>
- Identify Implementation Plans in Notes Column. *10 points if applicable*

BMP Selection describes the BMP function and suitability for implementation.

BMP Type (Select One if applicable):

- Structural BMPs provide storage of stormwater runoff for the 1-inch volume. *10 points*
- Impervious Surface is removed and replaced with Conservation Landscaping. *10 points*
- Impervious Surface is removed and replaced with topsoil and lawn grass. *5 points*
- Living Shoreline installed where no existing stabilization practices are present and there are no uphill management solutions that could protect the shoreline. *10 points*
- Living Shoreline installed where the existing stabilization practices have failed or are failing and there are no uphill management solutions that could protect the shoreline. Existing stabilization practices include bulkheads, breakers and revetments. *5 points*
- Conservation Landscaping proposes a Riparian Buffer of 35 feet or more as measured from the top of the stream bank. Riparian Areas must increase their width based on slope. Width must be at least 35 feet for slopes less than 4 percent; 50 feet for slopes of 4 to 6 percent; 65 feet for slopes of 6 to 8 percent; and 100 feet for slopes greater than 8 percent. Forested Riparian Buffer should include an additional Vegetated Filter Strip if receiving overland impervious runoff. *10 points*
- Conservation Landscaping that treats dispersed impervious runoff (*Filter Strip*).

BMP Provides Disconnection:

- When Impervious Runoff is less than 40 feet from a stormwater conveyance such as ditch, storm drain or water body and/or discharges to slopes greater than 5% then it is considered connected to the stormwater conveyance system and needs an alternative disconnection practice to minimize stormwater impacts. A BMP Qualifies when the practice intercepts impervious runoff prior to discharging to the stormwater conveyance. Qualifying BMPs include RG, DW, CW, RWH, BR, IF and PP. The qualifying practice must NOT have an under drain. *10 points*

Treatment Area:

- Impervious Area Treated (IAT) are the hardscapes within the drainage area of the practice that are being captured and treated. If the BMP treats pervious areas only, do not input anything. This does include the surface area for ISR, PP, and GR being converted.
Points = IAT/1,000; 20 point maximum
- The contributing drainage area (CDA) should include all impervious and pervious areas draining to the BMP. The contributing drainage area will be used to calculate the percent impervious cover. If contributing drainage area is less than impervious area treated, an error will be given and correction is needed.
*Points=IAT/CDA * 20; 20 point maximum*

Installed Area:

- Input the surface area of practice in square feet. Applicable Practices: RG, CW, BR, IF, PP, CL, and CL -Filter Strip.
*Points = Surface Area/1,000 * 2; 10 points maximum*
- Input the gallons of the practice installed, conversion factor: 7.48 gallons per cubic foot. Applicable Practices: Dry Wells and Rainwater Harvesting.
Points = Gallons/1,000; 10 points maximum

- Input the linear footage of the practice installed. Applicable Practices: Vegetated Stormwater Conveyance, Living Shorelines, and CL - Riparian Buffers.

*Points = Linear footage/100*3; 10 point maximum*

Application Strength measures the quality of the application packet.

Partnership:

- A nonprofit or partner agency is directly involved in the design, installation, and maintenance of the practice. This includes Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists or other NGO working on public lands or nonprofits working with a private residence. This does NOT include MOU/ MOA partnerships or Permitting Agencies. Identify Partner in Notes Column. *5 points*

Educational Value:

- The proposed practice is accessible from roads, trails, water, or public facilities AND is part of an educational program such as an outdoor classroom or demonstration site. The proposed practice is accessible from roads, trails, water, or public facilities. The proposed practice is part of an educational program such as an outdoor classroom or demonstration site. Identify how the project creates educational value within the application narrative. *10 points*

Cost Effectiveness:

- The cost effectiveness for treating impervious runoff is measured by dividing the cost estimate by the impervious area treated. The BMP that most effectively treats impervious runoff will be rewarded.
*Input = Estimated Cost/IAT; Points = 3/(Estimated Cost/IAT) * 20; 20 point maximum*
- The cost effectiveness for the overall project is measured by dividing the cost estimate by the installed area, either square footage, gallons, or linear foot. Low cost projects will be rewarded.
*Input = Estimated Cost/ Installed Area; Points = 3/(Estimated Cost/Installed Area)^2 * 100; 20 point maximum*

Pollutant Removal:

- This is the selected BMP's pollutant removal efficiency. This will be self-populated from the Pollutant Removal Worksheet, do not input anything.
- This is the weighted runoff value for the contributing drainage area based on the amount of impervious area treated and the pervious area treated. All pervious areas treated are assumed to be Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) D with a Rv of 0.25. Pervious Area is the difference between the contributing drainage area and impervious area treated. See the Calculations Appendix A of the VCAP Manual for typical Rv values.
- The Pollutant Load is computed from the Runoff Value (Rv) and Contributing Drainage Area. See the Calculation Appendix A of the VCAP Manual for equation.

*Input = 2.28*Rv*CDA/43,560; Points = 2.28*Rv*CDA/43,560 *EFF*20; 20 point maximum*