

Matching Best Practices and Programs

Use this table to match practices with available cost-share programs:

Best Management Practices	CRP/CREP	EQIP/AMA	CSP	WIP	ACEP	MACS
Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas/ Wildlife Habitat Creation & Restoration	✓	✓	✓			
Pollinator Habitat		✓	✓			
Black Duck Habitat		✓				
Quail Habitat		✓	✓			
Native Plantings		✓	✓	✓		
Early Successional Habitat for Quail and Pollinators		✓				
Invasive Species Removal		✓		✓		
Tree/Shrub Enhancement			✓			
Hedgerow Planting		✓	✓	✓		
Field Border		✓	✓			✓
Conservation Cover		✓	✓			✓
Cover Crops		✓	✓			✓
Crop Rotation		✓	✓			
Conversion of Cropland to Grass-based Agriculture		✓	✓			
Construction of High Tunnel		✓				
Crop Diversification		✓				
Transition to Organic Grazing or Cropping system		✓	✓			
No Till, Strip Till or Direct Seeding to Improve Soil Health			✓			
Grazing Management (Access Control, Prescribed Grazing)		✓	✓			✓
Drainage Water Management		✓				
Bioreactor		✓				
Biochar Production from Woody Residue Treatment			✓			
Silvopasture Establishment		✓	✓			
Forage and Biomass Planting		✓	✓			
Integrated Pest Management		✓				
Forest Stewardship/Management Plan		✓		✓		
Forest Management such as Pruning, Thinning, Reforestation	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Prescribed Burning for Wildlife and Maintaining Understory		✓	✓	✓		
Forested Buffer Areas		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vegetative Buffers along Agricultural Ditches and Water Bodies	✓		✓			✓
Wetland Buffer Areas	✓				✓	✓
Wetland Restoration	✓	✓			✓	✓
Stream Habitat Improvement		✓	✓			

There are more practices than can fit on this list and program availability is subject to change. For more information on specific practices and programs, visit our website, our Snow Hill office, or contact us at info@lowershorelandtrust.org. You may also directly contact the partners listed in this brochure.

We can help:

Lower Shore Land Trust: (443) 234-5587

100 River Street, Snow Hill, MD Email: info@lowershorelandtrust.org

Extension Offices:

- Worcester: (410) 632-1972
- Wicomico: (410) 749-6141
- Somerset: (410) 651-1350

Farm Service Agency (FSA):

- Worcester: (410) 632-2464
- Wicomico: (410) 546-4777
- Somerset: (410) 651-0370
- State Office: (443) 482-2760

Forest Service - Contact a County Forester:

- Worcester: (443) 235-1636
- Wicomico: (410) 543-1950
- Somerset: (410) 651-2004
- State Forester: (410) 260-8531

National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Office:

- Worcester: (410) 632-5439
- Wicomico: (410) 546-4777
- Somerset: (410) 651-0370
- State office: (410) 757-0861

Soil Conservation District:

- Worcester: (410) 632-5439, ext. 3
- Wicomico: (410) 546-4777, ext. 3
- Somerset: (410) 621-9310

Lower Shore Land Trust	(443) 234-5587
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Living Shorelines	(410) 548-4860
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Program Open Space	(410) 632-1220
Maryland Environmental Trust	(410) 651-1424
Somerset County Planning & Zoning	(410) 697-9515
Wicomico County Planning and Zoning	(410) 260-8768
Worcester County Department of Environmental Programs	(410) 260-8409



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Conservation Tool Box



A landowner's guide to voluntary conservation programs and practices available on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore



Who We Are

Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is a nationally accredited 501(c)3 non-profit organization working on the Lower Eastern Shore to assist landowners and communities who wish to conserve land using available conservation and land protection tools. Since 1990, LSLT has worked with over 100 landowners to protect more than 21,000 acres of productive farmland, wetlands, and forests.



How We Can Help

LSLT strives to help landowners reach their conservation and restoration goals. Use this pamphlet as a guide when deciding how to manage your property today and for the future.

Conservation tools can help you achieve your goals as a steward of your land's natural resources, like:

soil health | water quality | wildlife habitat | forest lands

Lower Shore Lands

The Lower Shore Land Trust is dedicated to preserving rural lands, to promoting vibrant towns, and to building a healthier and more connected Eastern Shore.

Land protection helps keep industries like forestry and agriculture working and viable, while promoting better land use decisions that help improve wildlife habitat, water quality, green space, and vibrant Eastern Shore towns.



What is a conservation easement and how does it work?

- A written agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency
- It ensures the property will not be developed beyond an agreed upon limit (or not at all)
- The land remains in private ownership
- Lower Shore Land Trust, a trusted local conservation organization, ensures the terms of the easement are upheld **forever**

Common Easement Programs

- Donated Easement:**
- Where: agricultural lands, wetlands, and forest lands
 - Main landowner benefit: Considerable Federal and State Tax Breaks
 - Easement terms are specific to the conservation values of the property
 - **Contact Lower Shore Land Trust**

Rural Legacy Program:

Helps protect large tracts of Maryland's most precious cultural and natural resource lands through state and county grants made to local applicants.

Coastal Bays: This area in Worcester County connects the Pocomoke State Forest, EA Vaughn Wildlife Management Area, and Assateague Island National Seashore, an ecologically rich 70,000 acre block of preserved farms, forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitats.

Quantico Creek: This area of land surrounding the Quantico Creek in Wicomico County supports tourism, outdoor recreation and fishing, agriculture, and forestry industries, and has a significant water quality impact on the Nanticoke River.

Dividing Creek: This area preserves prime farmland, working forest, and ecological areas along the shoreline of the Dividing Creek in both Somerset and Worcester County. Dividing Creek connects to the Pocomoke River, which drains to the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact Lower Shore Land Trust for more information.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
Length: 30-year (WRE) or permanent easements (both) Contact: NRCS
Enrollment: Ongoing

These programs provide technical and financial assistance. WRE restores, protects, and enhances wetlands while ALE preserves working agricultural lands. Their goals are to protect and restore habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, improve soil, air, and water quality, and control flooding.

Other Easement Programs

- Program Open Space
- Habitat Protection Easement Programs
- Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)



LSLT can help you find the right program to match your goals with your land



photo credit: National Park Service



American black duck; photo credit: Bonnie Shulman/Flickr Creative Commons



Bobwhite quail; photo credit: Susan White

For more information on these programs, visit our office or our website at lowershorelandtrust.org



What are Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

BMPs are activities, maintenance procedures, and other management strategies that reduce the discharge of pollutants into waterways and conserve soil health.

BMPs help landowners manage their properties to promote water quality, soil health and conservation, higher yields for producers, and habitat for declining species such as **American black duck, bobwhite quail, and pollinators.**

Financial and technical assistance programs help landowners implement these enhanced stewardship practices on their land.

Stewardship of your land protects natural resources, helps wildlife, waterways, and your community.

Restoration Programs

Conservation Reserve (and Enhancement) Program (CREP):

Where: Highly erodible agricultural lands and degraded wetlands
Length: Temporary (10-15 years) or permanent easement
Contact: Local FSA office or NRCS Conservationist

CREP provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to protect environmentally sensitive and under-performing agricultural land. Landowners receive payments to implement conservation practices such as grassed and forested buffers and wetlands.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) & Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA):

Where: Agriculture and forestry lands Contact: NRCS
Contract length: Up to 10 years Enrollment: Ongoing

This program provides technical and financial assistance to help landowners plan, install and implement structural, vegetative, and management conservation practices that benefit wildlife. Applicants can sign up at any time.

Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS)

Where: Farmland Contact: Soil Conservation District
Contract length: 10 to 15 years
MACS helps farmers protect their natural resources by implementing practices to manage nutrients and soil erosion to meet Bay clean-up and restoration goals. Conservation grants cover up to 87.5 % of installation costs.

Woodland Incentive Program (WIP):

Where: Forest lands 5 to 1000 acres Contact: Forest Service
This state program provides cost-share assistance for tree planting, site preparation, and timber stand improvement practices. Eligible practices include thinning, pruning, prescribed burning, crop tree release, site preparation for natural or artificial reforestation, herbicide treatment and planting of seedlings.

Other Restoration Programs

- USDA/NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (Cost-share payments)
- Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources Living Shorelines Program (Loan)