

MOWING FOR MONARCHS: Building a Business Case at VDOT

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| Land Stewardship Program

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Mowing for Monarchs: Measuring Success

The Who & What:

- Standing up a new VDOT Land Management Program
- Taking a stewardship approach and tying in land management practices to support decision-making
- Goal is to make maintenance and operational process improvements tied to beneficial land uses
- Example: reduce timing and frequency of mowing on ROW back slopes, a statewide activity

The Where:

- First interstates and then larger, 4-lane primaries

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The Why: FY 24-26 VDOT Business Plan

Virginia Department of Transportation
FY2024-2026 Business Plan

Objective 4.5: Improve Land Management

Enhance VDOT's land use review process to identify and take advantage of opportunities to maximize value to the Commonwealth and meet commitments by July 2025.

Improve land management to maximize the beneficial outcomes and outputs of VDOT's existing land assets in a manner that supports the agency's policy and legislative objectives.

Enhance the existing land use review process to create opportunities for informed and data driven decision-making to optimize right-of-way values in support of the agency's operations. The enhanced land use review process will ensure future land use decisions are consistent, defensible and complies with environmental requirements as well as other VDOT commitments and Commonwealth goals.

Goal:
Enhanced Land Use Review Process

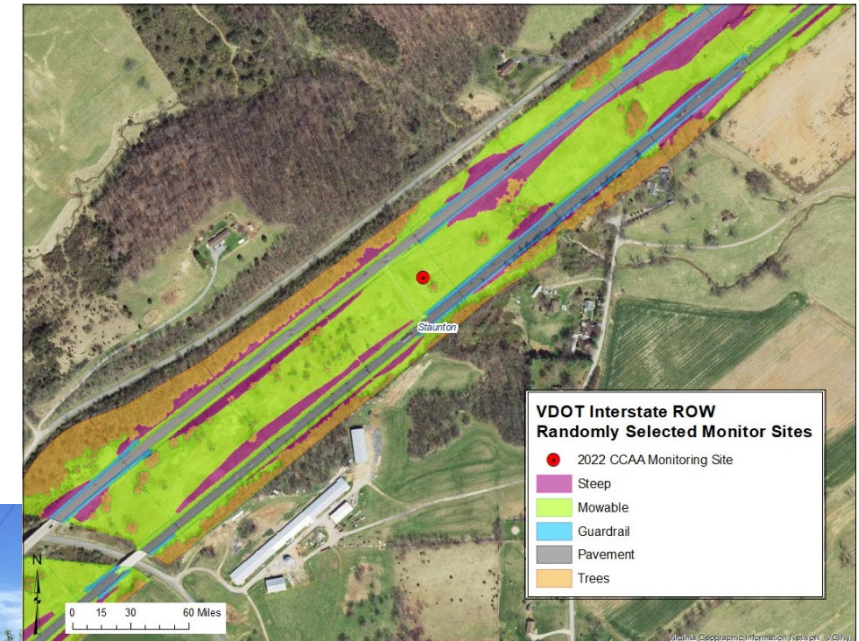
Related Strategies

- 4.5.1 **December 2024** – Develop and adopt a suite of land management practices and accompanying decision support methodologies to include cost-benefit and return on investment analyses.
- 4.5.2 **June 2025** – Develop a land management valuation to identify cost and burden reductions to the agency.
- 4.5.3 **July 2025** – Establish a land management program that optimizes land values and provides a decision-support methodology as well as a tracking mechanism for leadership use. This will allow the Department to lead the decision-making process as external interest in the agency's right-of-way increases.

The When:



The How: Cost data & ArcGIS



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Roadside Mowing as a Beneficial Use or Practice:

- Performing a single, full mow during the dormant season meets program commitments under VDOT's Monarch Agreement and our TMDL pollution reduction requirements for the Chesapeake Bay



Roadside Best Management Practices that Benefit Pollinators

Handbook for Supporting Pollinators through Roadside Maintenance and Landscape Design



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration