



North Carolina Forever 2024 Legislative Agenda

- 1) A Recurring Theme: Increase recurring dollars for the 3 conservation trust funds
 - a) Land and Water Fund: \$45 million recurring (\$55 million by 2026), and in addition to traditional projects increase support by the fund for projects that support not only conservation, but also military readiness
 - b) Parks and Recreation Trust Fund: \$45 million recurring (\$55 million by 2026)
 - c) Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund: \$15 million recurring (Defer to Dept. once confirmed)
- 2) Coastal Issues:
 - a) Support the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) request for positions and operating costs to establish a Coastal Habitat Assessment Program (CHAP) under the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) Program within the Habitat and Enhancement Section to fill gaps in coastal habitats mapping and assessment (i.e., SAV, salt marsh and other wetlands, oysters) to support restoration and protection that enhances community and ecological Resilience
 - \$900,000 recurring
 - \$200,000 non-recurring
 - \$1.1 million total
 - b) Secure recurring funding for FerryMon (Pamlico Sound) and ModMon (Neuse River)
 - FerryMon: \$175,000 per year (direct cost)
 - ModMon: \$185,000 per year (direct cost)
 - c) The Coastal Federation and the NC Division of Coastal Management have applied for a competitive federal coastal restoration and resilience grant totaling \$68.5 million. These funds would support a variety of restoration and preservation projects including farmland preservation, stormwater management, living shorelines and wildfire and flood mitigation across the state's coastal counties.
 - \$10 million in nonrecurring state funds to match this grant will provide North Carolina with a competitive advantage in the federal grant process. Use of the state funds would be contingent on winning the federal grant, which will be decided during summer, 2024.
- 3) Targets of Conservation Opportunity
 - a) Re-establish the Conservation Tax Credit
 - b) Increase funding to support conservation on private lands:
 - Ag Wrap: \$3 million recurring
 - Ag Cost Share Program: \$10 million recurring with flexibility for administration
 - CCAP: \$1.5 million recurring

It is the philosophy of NC Forever that all funding asks are made in addition to current funding of land and water projects and it is not the organization's intent to supplant any existing funding.