

Sec. A.1-108. Ranking criteria.

In order to effectuate the purposes of the ACE program, parcels for which conservation easement applications have been received shall be ranked according to the criteria and the point values assigned as provided below. Points shall be prorated and rounded to the first decimal.

A. *Open-space resources.*

1. The parcel adjoins an existing permanent conservation easement, a national, state or local park, or other permanently protected open-space: two (2) points, with one (1) additional point for every five hundred (500) feet of shared boundary; or the parcel is within one-quarter (1/4) mile of, but not adjoining, an existing permanent conservation easement, a national, state or local park, or other permanently protected open-space: two (2) points.

2. Size of the parcel: zero (0) points for parcels of less than fifty (50) acres; one (1) point for parcels of at least fifty (50) acres; one (1) additional point for each fifty (50) acres over fifty (50) acres; one (1) additional point for each fifty (50) acres over two hundred (200) acres.

B. *Threat of conversion to developed use.*

1. The parcel is threatened with forced sale or other hardship: three (3) points.

2. The number of division rights to be eliminated on the parcel: one-half (1/2) point for each division right to be eliminated, which shall be determined by subtracting the number of retained division rights from the number of division rights.

C. *Natural, cultural and scenic resources.*

1. Mountain protection: one (1) point for each fifty (50) acres in the mountain overlay district, as delineated in the comprehensive plan; an additional one (1) point may be awarded for each twenty (20) acres within a ridge area boundary. For purposes of this section, the term “ridge area boundary” means the area that lies within one hundred (100) feet below designated ridgelines shown on county mountain overlay district elevation maps. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(1) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

2. Working family farm, including forestry: five (5) points if at least one family member’s principal occupation and income (more than half) is farming or foresting the parcel; three (3) points if at least one family member has as a secondary occupation farming or foresting the parcel so that it is eligible for or subject to land use taxation as land devoted to agriculture, horticulture or forest use under Albemarle County Code § 15-800 *et seq.*: one (1) additional point if the parcel is certified as a Virginia Century Farm by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

3. The parcel adjoins a road designated either as a Virginia scenic highway or byway, or as an entrance corridor under section 30.6.2 of Chapter 18 of the Albemarle County Code: two

ALBEMARLE COUNTY CODE

(2) points, with one (1) additional point for each six hundred (600) feet of road frontage if the parcel is subject to a deed restriction as provided herein; otherwise, one (1) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of road frontage; the parcel adjoins a public road: two (2) points, with one (1) additional point for each one thousand (1000) feet of road frontage; or, the parcel is substantially visible from, but is not contiguous to, a public road designated either as a Virginia scenic highway or byway, or as an entrance corridor under section 30.6.2 of Chapter 18 of the Albemarle County Code: two (2) points. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(2) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points for adjoining a Virginia scenic highway or byway.

4. The parcel contains historic resources: three (3) points if it is within a national or state rural historic district or is subject to a permanent easement protecting a historic resource; two (2) points if the parcel is within the primary Monticello viewshed, as shown on viewshed maps prepared for Monticello and in the possession of the county; two (2) points if the parcel contains a site of archaeological or architectural significance as determined by a qualified archaeologist or architectural historian under the United States Department of Interior's professional qualification standards. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(5) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

5. The parcel contains an occurrence listed on the Virginia Natural Heritage Inventory or a qualified biologist submitted documentation of an occurrence of a natural heritage resource to the program administrator and the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage on behalf of the owner: five (5) points.

6. The parcel contains capability class I, II or III soils ("prime soils") for agricultural lands or ordination symbol 1 or 2 for forest land, based on federal natural resources conservation service classifications found in the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia: one (1) point for each fifty (50) acres containing such soils to a maximum of five (5) points.

7. The parcel is within the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Watershed, the Chris Greene Lake Watershed, the Ragged Mountain Reservoir Watershed, or the Totier Creek Reservoir Watershed: three (3) points.

8. The parcel adjoins or contains perennial stream(s), as that term is defined in Chapter 17 of the Albemarle County Code: one (1) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of frontage.

9. The parcel adjoins or contains a waterway designated as a state scenic river: one-half (1/2) point for each one thousand (1000) feet of frontage. The deed restriction set forth in section A.1-109(B)(4) shall apply if the parcel is eligible for points under this criterion.

10. The parcel is within a sensitive groundwater recharging area identified in a county-sponsored groundwater study: one (1) point.

11. The parcel is within an agricultural and forestal district: two (2) points.

12. The parcel is subject to a professionally prepared Forestry Stewardship Management Plan approved by the Virginia Department of Forestry: one (1) point.

D. *County fund leveraging.* State, federal or private funding identified to leverage the purchase of the conservation easement: one (1) point for each ten (10) percent of the purchase price for which those funds can be applied.

(Ord. 00-A.1(1), 7-5-00; Ord. 02-A.1(1), 12-11-02; Ord. 04-A.1(1), 10-6-04; Ord. 07-A.1(1), 12-5-07; Ord. 11-A.1(1), 5-4-11; Ord. 18-A.1(1), 9-12-18)