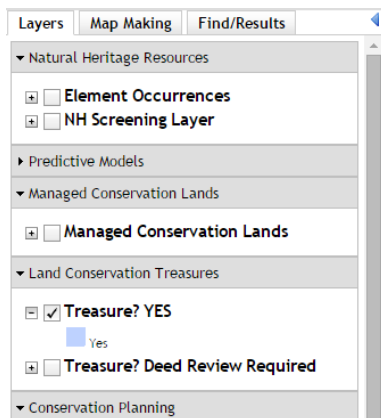# The Virginia Treasures initiative

Our goal is to identify, preserve and protect at least 1000 Treasures in Virginia during my administration. Every Treasure attained – from my first day in office to my last – will be added to our list. This list will become a scorecard by which my administration measures success at protecting land, water and recreational space. **-Governor Terry McAuliffe**

The Virginia Treasures initiative focuses on quality rather than just quantity. The program stresses safeguarding significant sites and assets rather than just the numbers. The idea is to preserve, protect and highlight Virginia's most important ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational assets as well as its special lands.
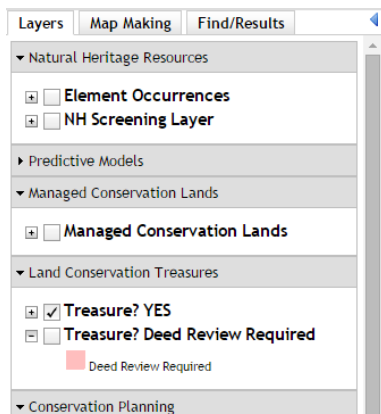
A land protection treasure is one permanent, fee-simple conservation or open-space easement, or an amendment of an existing easement that permanently protects significant resources. Significant resource protection is measured by means of 14 metrics; a treasure must protect at least one metric. Please refer to the DCR Website for more information about the Virginia Treasures Program.

Natural Heritage Data Explorer: Virginia Treasures Initiative Screening Layers

The Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) now includes two data layers that allow conservation partners to see if new project locations qualify as Land Conservation Treasures. These two layers can be found in the far left list of layers, in a group called **Virginia Treasures Initiative.** Please note, to maximize the performance of these maps, we recommend zooming in to the extent of one's project before making either of these layers visible (i.e. checking their box).
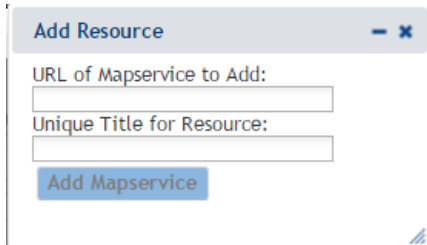

The first layer named **TREASURE? YES** appears in blue. Any permanent land conservation project that overlaps with this layer meets at least one of five metrics based on location and automatically qualifies as a Land Conservation Treasure.

The second layer named **TREASURE? DEED REVIEW REQUIRED** appears in magenta. Any permanent land conservation project that overlaps this layer **MIGHT** meet one or more metric. DCR staff must review the deed language to ensure that the metric's corresponding conservation values are fully protected before accepting it as a Treasure.

More detailed versions of both the "TREASURE? YES" and "TREASURE? DEED REVIEW REQUIRED" data layers can be opened in NHDE or other map viewers as a mapservice. Then, users can identify a polygon and see specific metric(s) that apply to a project location.

In NHDE, click the "Add Resource" button above the layers list. In the window provided

enter the URL of the mapservice and insert a title of your choosing. The layer will then appear in your NHDE layer list and will be usable in your map during that session. The mapservice URLs are:

TREASURE? YES -
https://dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/dnh/NHDE_NODEED/MapServerTREASURE? DEED REVIEW REQUIRED - https://dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/dnh/NHDE_DEED/MapServer

Please contact David Boyd if you have questions about the data collection process for Land Conservation Treasures.

Please contact Irv Wilson if you have questions about the deed review process for Land Conservation Treasures.