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Frederick County  
Conservation Easement Authority

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## **89 ACRES OF CEDAR CREEK FARMLAND PROTECTED**

***Frederick County's first easement strengthens its commitment to preserving its agricultural heritage and protecting water quality***

Winchester, VA - The Frederick County Easement Authority (CEA) and Potomac Conservancy proudly announce the closing of the first conservation easement closed through the counties Purchase of Development Rights program. The easement will protect an 89-acre farm in the Cedar Creek watershed, ensuring it will be available for agriculture for generations to come.

"This agreement is significant," says Kelly Watkinson, Potomac Conservancy's Senior Director of Land Protection, "not only because it protects farmland that contains important agricultural, natural and scenic resources, but because it shows the strength of public-private partnerships in Frederick County and the depth of concern for maintaining our rural character."

The conservation easement will be held jointly by Frederick County, the CEA, Potomac Conservancy and the United States Department of Agriculture. Grant funding for the project was awarded by the USDA Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Farmland Preservation. This project would not have been possible without the support of State Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel and State Delegate Beverly Sherwood, as well as the support of Frederick County Board of Supervisors member Gene Fisher.

Watkinson notes that the project, "which demonstrates the compatibility of conservation and continued farming, is made possible through local, state, federal, and nonprofit participation."

At the time of this easement, Potomac Conservancy along with other local land conservation organizations, hold conservation easements on over 5,469 acres of farm and forestland in Frederick County, Virginia. A conservation easement is a flexible legal tool that enables landowners to permanently protect the natural, scenic, and historic values of their property from development and subdivision. Because an easement is perpetual, it is transferred with the property when it is sold, thereby forever protecting the land. Property owners retain full use and ownership of the land. Easements have become a key tool for protecting land threatened by development and inappropriate uses around the country.

For information regarding placing your property in a conservation easement within Frederick County, please contact the Frederick County Conservation Easement Authority at 540-665-5651 or contact Kelly Watkinson with Potomac Conservancy at 540-667-3606 or at [Watkinson@potomac.org](mailto:Watkinson@potomac.org)

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*About the Frederick County Conservation Easement Authority*

The CEA was established in 2005 to provide a means to assist County landowners in protecting and preserving farm and forest land, open space, scenic vistas, historic sites, water resources and environmentally sensitive lands. The primary method for accomplishing this mission is for the CEA to hold conservation easements.

*About Potomac Conservancy*

Since 1993, Potomac Conservancy has protected the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Its conservation programs address the goals of improving water quality, protecting the river's scenic integrity, enhancing recreational resources, and building an informed and engaged constituency, using a range of tools, including restoration, permanent protection, advocacy, and citizen education and engagement. More information about the Conservancy is available at [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org).

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