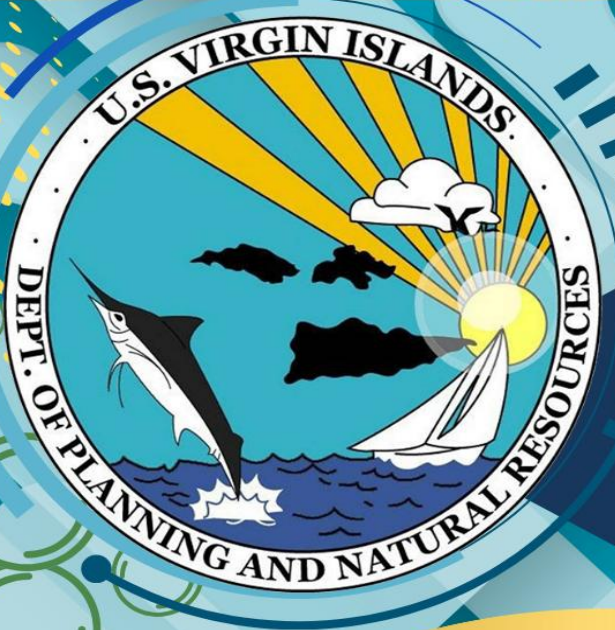


Culture. Development. Sustainability.



FY2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol,
Commissioner

protecting our natural & cultural resources

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**COMPREHENSIVE & COASTAL
ZONE PLANNING**

25



**BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES**

INTRODUCTION

Good morning Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chair of the 36th Legislature’s Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance, members of the Committee, other members of the 36th Legislature present, legislative staff, and to the public listening and viewing over various forms of media. I am Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (“DPNR” or “Department”); I have present with me Mrs. Apryl Henry, Director of Business & Administration, and in the audience, DPNR’s financial team.

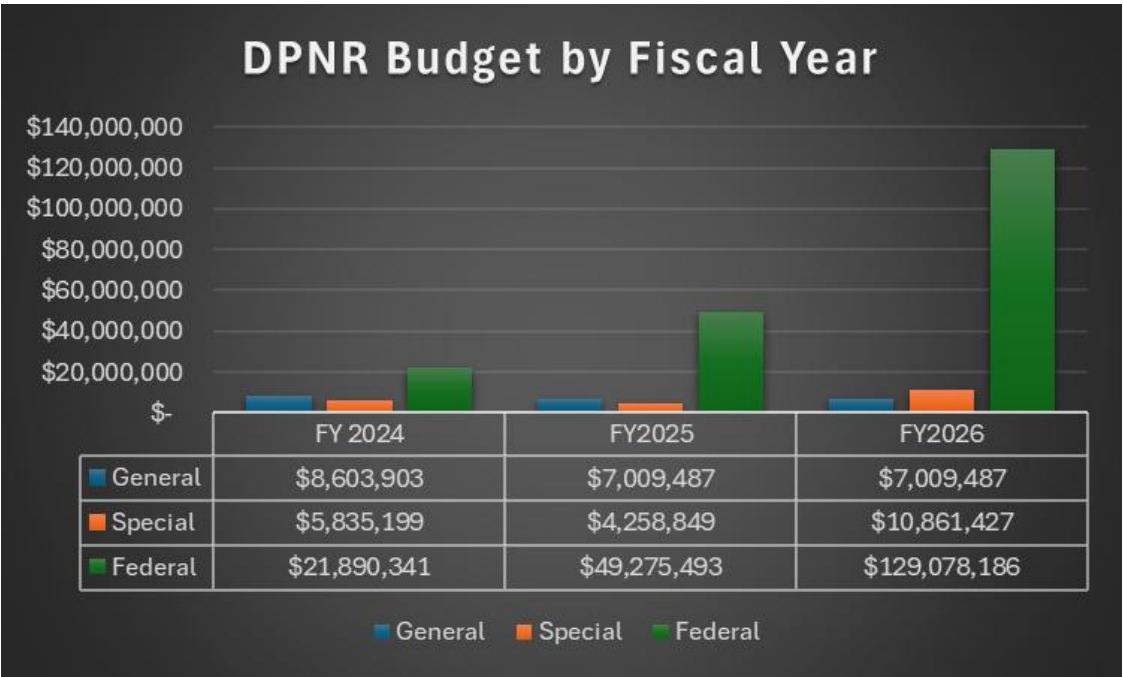
DPNR was established by Title 3 V.I.C. § 400(a) to administer and enforce all laws pertaining to: fish and wildlife; trees and vegetation; water resources, including the protection of safe drinking water; air and water pollution; flood control; preservation of mineral and other natural resources; preservation of the archaeological, architectural, cultural and historical heritage of the United States Virgin Islands, including public libraries and museums; pesticide control; coastal lands and off-shore islands and cays; mooring and anchoring of vessels within the territorial waters; earth change permits; and zoning. The enforcement powers of the department are codified under Title 12 V.I.C., as well as Title 29 V.I.C.

The Department is comprised of the following divisions: 1) Business and Administrative Services (DBAS); 2) Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning (CCZP); 3) Coastal Zone Management (CZM); 4) Environmental Enforcement (DEE); 5) Environmental Protection (DEP); 6) the Executive Office; 7) Fish and Wildlife (DFW); 8) Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM); 9) Permits (DP); 10) the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO); 11) the Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas; and 12) the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA).

The following departmental budget overview and funding breakdown by division and source illustrates how DPNR is leveraging a combination of general, federal, and non-appropriated funding to meet its statutory responsibilities, implement transformative projects, and support sustainable development across the Territory. This financial snapshot not only reflects our core operational needs but also highlights the targeted investments that will drive measurable outcomes in infrastructure, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and service delivery in the territory.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

5 The Department’s recommended FY26 budget totals \$146,949,100 consisting of \$7,009,487 (5%) from the General Fund, \$10,861,427 (7%) from Non-Appropriated Local Funds, and \$129,078,186 (88%) in federal grants. Notably, ~\$100 million (77%) of the federal funding is allocated to land acquisition and infrastructure grants that pass through DPNR and do not support departmental operations.



10

General Fund Request

15 The Department’s FY’26 General Fund appropriation is \$7,009,487, unchanged from FY’25. This includes \$4,894,087 for Personnel and Fringe Benefits supporting 61 positions (23 Exempt, 38 Classified); \$238,302 for Supplies; \$1,271,514 for Other Services and Charges; and \$605,584 for Utilities. The appropriation also covers required local match funding for several federal grants, including the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, and supports mandated obligations such as the Tutu Wells Mitigation Site and the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission.

20 A summary by category is provided in the table below, followed by a detailed breakdown of Other Services and Charges.

	FY'24 Budget	FY'25 Budget	FY '26 Recommended
Personnel	\$ 3,901,852	\$3,148,707	\$3,208,832
Fringe Benefits	1,858,326	1,667,760	1,685,255
Sub-total	\$5,760,178	\$4,816,467	\$4,894,087
Other Services & Charges	\$1,628,745	\$1,476,749	\$1,271,514
Supplies	200,000	223,000	238,302
Utilities	515,000	493,271	605,584
Capital Outlays	500,000	0	0
Sub-total	\$2,843,745	\$2,193,020	\$2,115,400
Totals	\$8,603,923	\$7,009,487	\$7,009,487

Other Services & Charges*	FY '26 Allocation
Debris Removal	\$ 12,000
Professional Services (Tutu Wells)	375,000
Communications	132,000
Advertising & Promotion	5,000
Printing & Binding	5,000
Travel	73,000
Travel – Purchase Bulk Airline	20,000
Transportation – Not Travel	10,000
Automotive Repair and Maintenance	35,000
Repairs & Maintenance	108,000
Rental of Land & Building	274,912
Security Services	60,000
Grants/IND Gov Agencies	40,000
Other Services	121,602
Total Other Services:	\$1,271,514

*Includes Other Services under Miscellaneous category

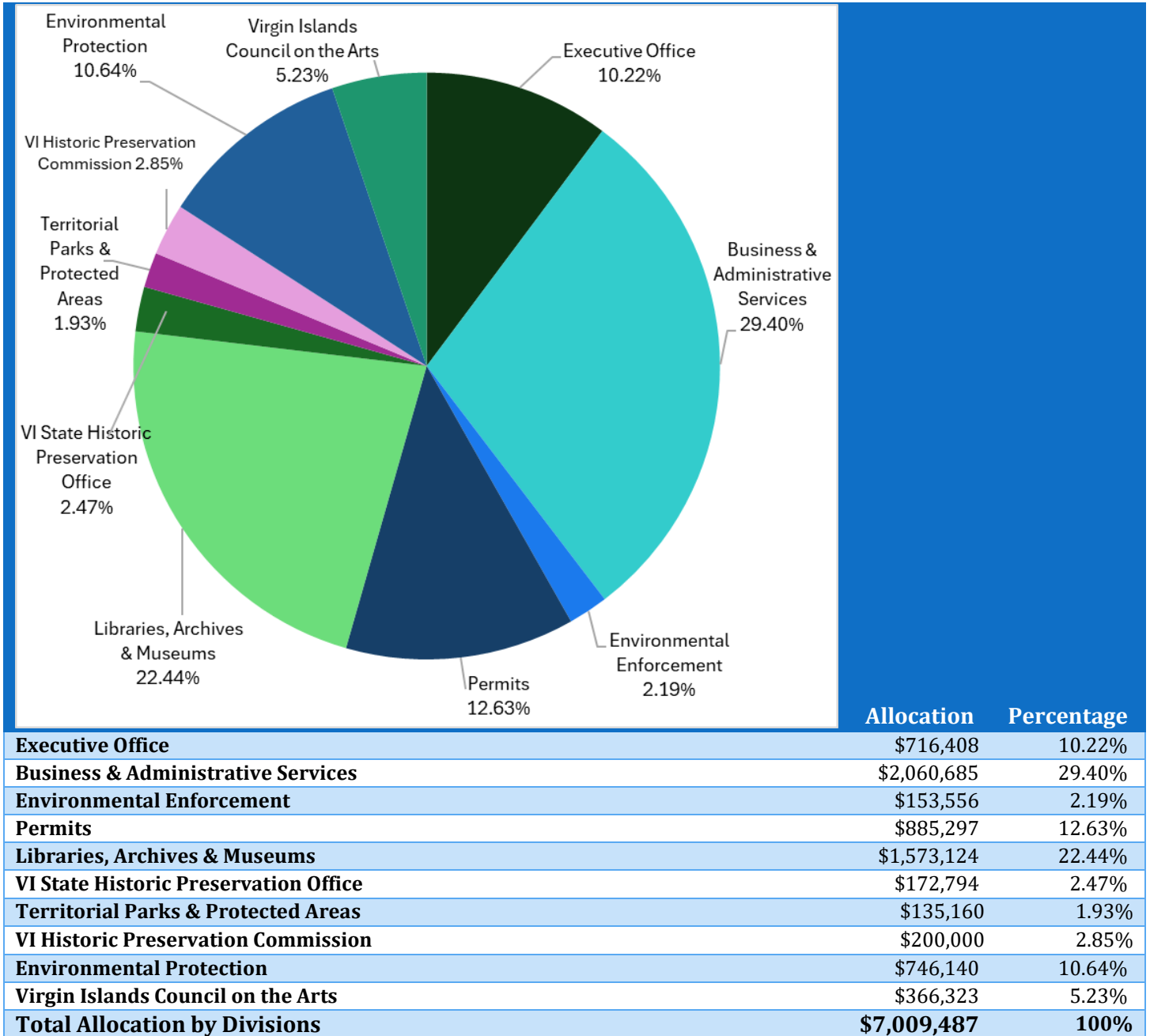
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General Fund Allocation by Division

Of the twelve (12) divisions within the Department, nine (9) rely on the General Fund appropriation, with the remaining three (3) divisions (CZM, CCZP and DFW) being funded entirely by federal grants and/or other non-appropriated local funds. The following table indicates the recommended allocation of the General Fund for these divisions for the upcoming fiscal year.

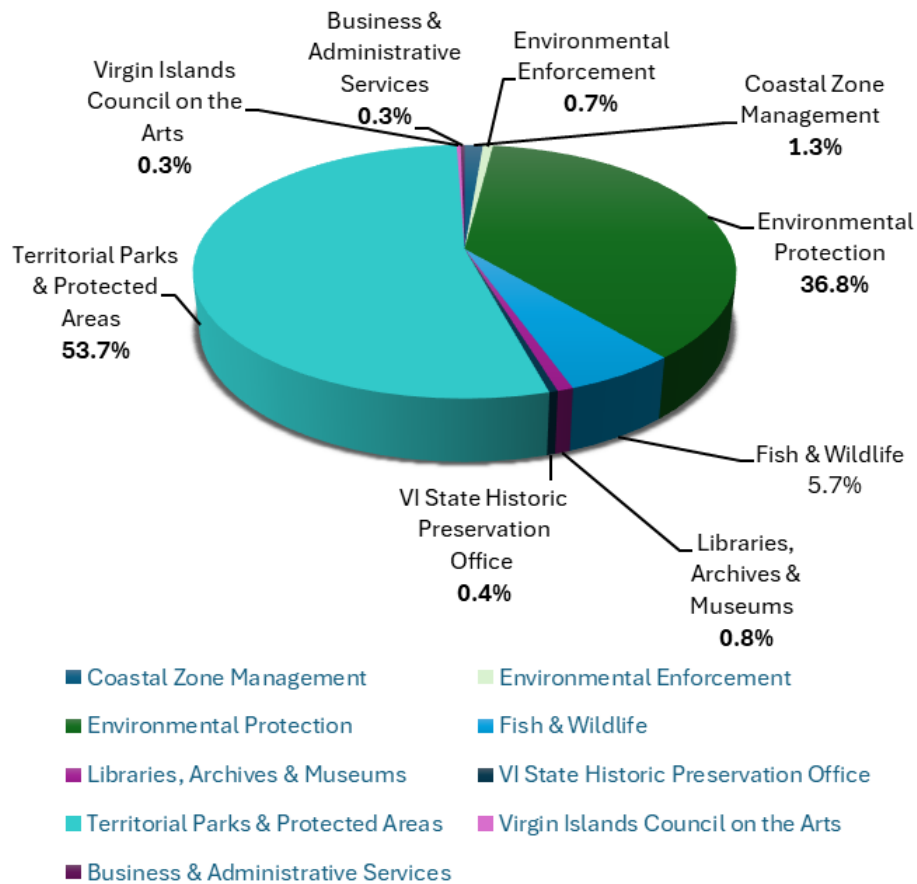
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Allocation of General Fund by Division



Federal Funds

- 5 Most of the Department's funding comes from federal awards. For FY 2026, federal grant funds will contribute \$129,078,186 or 88% of the overall budget to the Department's operations. Allocated across all categories, the estimated amounts are Personnel Services at \$9,449,063 which covers salaries and fringe benefits for 102 positions (43 exempt, 59 Classified); Supplies at \$1,268,951; Other Services and Charges at \$87,276,800; Utilities at \$35,500, Indirect Cost at \$1,727,423 and Capital Outlay at \$29,320,449. Below is a breakdown of federal funds by Division.
- 10



Divisions	Allocation	Percentage
Coastal Zone Management	\$ 1,670,623	1.3%
Business & Administrative Services	353,805	0.3%

Environmental Enforcement	917,374	0.7%
Environmental Protection	47,560,903	36.8%
Fish and Wildlife	7,342,731	5.7%
Libraries, Archives & Museums	1,040,000	0.8%
VI State Historic Preservation Office	559,773	0.4%
Territorial Parks & Protected Areas	69,257,827	53.7%
Virgin Islands Council on the Arts	375,150	0.3%
Total Allocation by Divisions	\$129,078,186	100.0%

Non-Appropriated Local (Special) Funds

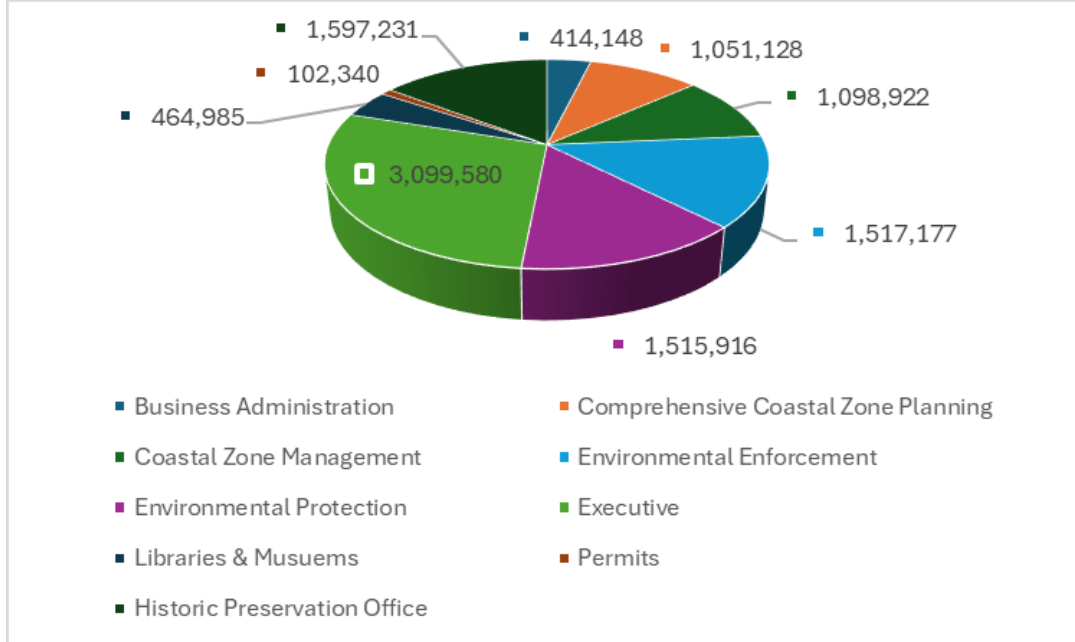
The FY 2026 recommendation from Non-Appropriated (Special) funds is \$10,861,427 or about 7% of the Department's total request. These funds, derived from fees, fines, and rentals of submerged and filled submerged lands provide support to the Executive Office, DEE, Permits, CCZP, CZM, and DEP. Fees collected are deposited into the following funds: General, Coastal Protection, Legal Publication, Fish and Game, Underground Storage Tank, Natural Resource Reclamation, and Air Pollution Control. Collections as of May 31, 2025, are in the amount of \$3,435,196; total collections of non-appropriated funds in FY 2024 were \$8,452,461.

Breaking down the Special Funds by category, the estimated amounts are: \$3,843,350 for Personnel and Fringe Benefits Services, which fund 42 positions (21 Exempt, 21 Classified) within the Department; \$522,953 for Supplies; \$4,909,976 for Other Services and Charges, \$47,000 for Utilities and \$1,538,148 for Capital Outlay. The table below provides the Allocation of Special funds by Division.

Allocation of Non-Appropriated Local Funds by Division

Divisions	Allocation	Percentage
Executive Office	\$3,099,580	29%
Environmental Enforcement	1,517,177	14%
Business & Administrative Services	414,148	4%
Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning	1,051,128	10%

Coastal Zone Management	1,098,922	10%
Libraries, Archives & Museums	464,985	4%
VI State Historic Preservation Office	1,597,231	15%
Environmental Protection	1,515,916	14%
Permits	102,340	1%
Total Allocation by Divisions	\$10,861,427	100%



BUDGET BY DIVISION

The following portion of the presentation provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of each of the 12 divisions and the estimated FY 2026 budget for each division. Here, I will focus my discussion on the major initiatives that each division will embark upon for FY 2026.

Business & Administrative Services (DBAS)

The Division of Business and Administrative Services manages budgeting, personnel, payroll, revenue collection, and fiscal matters across all funding sources. Below is the estimated FY26 budget breakdown for the division.

Division: DBAS	# of Personnel	Existing: 17	Funded Vacant: 5
Budget			
By Funding Source	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$632,633	\$235,000	\$280,415
Fringe	329,298	118,805	133,733
Supplies	90,185		
Debris Removal	12,000		
Rep & Maintenance	15,000		
Rental of Land/Bldg.	238,383		
Communications	95,000		
Transportation-Not Travel	1,000		
Travel	25,000		
Other Services NOC	20,186		
Utilities/Single Payer	602,000		
Totals	\$2,060,685	\$353,805	\$414,148

Comprehensive & Coastal Zone Planning (CCZP)

The Division of Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning develops long-range plans and policies to guide the Territory's physical, economic, and social development. It oversees zoning map amendments, subdivisions, planned area developments, and group dwellings, ensuring alignment with established planning standards. CCZP also serves as a planning resource for government agencies and the public, coordinating capital projects and planning efforts across sectors. Below is the estimated FY26 budget breakdown by category.

Division: CCZP	# Of Personnel	Existing: 2	Funded Vacant: 1
Budget			
<i>By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel			180,000
Fringe			92,125
Supplies			40,000
Prof Services			654,003
Training			20,000
Rental- Land/Building			
Communications			
Adv & Promotion			20,000
Trans. Not Travel			20,000
Travel			20,000
Other Services			5,000
Totals			\$1,051,128

FY26 INITIATIVES

5 In FY 2026, the Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning (CCZP) Division will continue advancing the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (USVI Comp Plan) through proposed amendments to key sections of the zoning law. These include updates to Section 225 (Definitions), Section 228 (Table of Permitted Uses), Section 235 (Administration and Enforcement), Section 240 (Penalties for Violations), and Section 242 (Fees). CCZP will also collaborate with other divisions and agencies on zoning amendments related to special areas

10 such as Agricultural Zones and Historic Districts. To support public understanding and compliance, the Division plans to host zoning law training sessions and develop a visual user guide to help residents and developers interpret and apply zoning regulations effectively.

15 *Coastal Zone Management (CZM)*

The Division of Coastal Zone Management works to protect and enhance the Territory's coastal environment while supporting responsible economic development. CZM regulates development in the coastal zone's first tier, manages the St. Croix East End Marine Park, oversees submerged and filled land leases, and implements policies to protect marine ecosystems—particularly coral

20 reefs—through erosion control and non-point source pollution programs. The Division is funded by two NOAA Cooperative Agreements, supplemented by fee and penalty collections used to meet the required non-federal match. These funds support 25 positions dedicated to fulfilling the program's objectives. Below is the FY26 funding breakdown:

Division: CZM	# Of Personnel	Existing: 18	Funded Vacant: 5
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel		\$959,208	\$624,703
Fringe		460,415	304,219
Supplies		21,000	90,000
Trans. Not Travel		5,000	0
Professional Services		50,000	0
Advertising & Promotion		5,000	0
Capital Outlay		0	0
Travel		40,000	0
Sub-Grants		95,000	0
Other Services		35,000	80,000
Indirect Cost		0	0
Totals		\$1,670,623	\$1,098,922

FY26 INITIATIVES

- 5 In FY2026, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Division will focus on advancing several 30% design projects from the Territory's Watershed Management Plans to full design in preparation for implementation. These projects, identified in collaboration with the Department of Education and other property stakeholders, aim to address key environmental challenges within the coastal zone. CZM was awarded approximately \$22 million under a NOAA grant, which will be used to support the design and implementation phases of these priority watershed projects.

Under the enhancement section of our cooperative agreement with NOAA, the Division will pursue enhancements in permitting requirements that will synchronize the way all Divisions with earth change responsibilities review such applications.

15

Environmental Enforcement (DEE)

- 20 The Division of Environmental Enforcement serves as the law enforcement arm of the Department, tasked with enforcing boating safety, permitting laws, and protecting the Territory's natural resources. DEE also supports Homeland Security efforts through land and marine patrols and maintains a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs, assisting federal and local agencies as needed. The Division operates with a team of 10 staff members, including nine active enforcement officers. Below is the FY26 funding breakdown.

Division: DEE	# Of Personnel	Existing: 10	Funded Vacant: 7
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$ 96,507	\$402,453	\$666,931
Fringe	57,049	199,486	327,491
Supplies	0	63,000	203,755
Repair & Maintenance	0	0	123,000
Capital Outlay	0	0	68,000
Advertising & Promotion	0	0	3,000
Printing & Binding	0	0	8,000
Communication	0	0	20,000
Transp. - Not Travel	0	0	5,000
Travel	0	0	25,000
Other Services	0	83,524	10,000
Training	0	0	20,000
Utilities	0	0	37,000
Indirect	0	168,911	0
Totals	\$153,556	\$917,374	\$1,517,177

FY26 INITIATIVES

- 5 The Division of Environmental Enforcement in partnership with Online Mooring LLC, is launching a new electronic boating registration card system. These digital cards, accessible via mobile devices or as downloadable files, contain key registration details such as vessel ID, owner information, and expiration dates. Designed to improve convenience and enforcement efficiency, the e-card will be issued immediately upon registration approval and will serve as
- 10 valid proof of registration until the physical decal is received and affixed to the vessel. This initiative reflects the Division's commitment to modernizing services and offering boaters a timely, user-friendly, and environmentally responsible alternative to traditional paper registration.
- 15 In addition, DEE is enhancing field operations by procuring Apple iPad tablets to replace manual, paper-based processes. In collaboration with the Bureau of Information Technology (BIT), DEE is developing digital forms to be preloaded onto the tablets, enabling officers to document patrol logs, issue citations, and access vessel registration records in real time. This upgrade will significantly improve efficiency, accuracy, and information sharing between DEE
- 20 and local or federal law enforcement agencies, reinforcing the Division's mission to protect the Territory's natural resources and public safety.

Environmental Protection (EP)

The primary objective of the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to protect and conserve the Territory's natural resources while minimizing residents' exposure to environmental hazards. DEP staff work to implement strategic measures that safeguard human health and the environment, focusing on key priorities such as clean air and water, land conservation, and chemical safety. Below is the FY2026 funding breakdown:

Division: DEP	# Of Personnel	Existing: 21	Funded Vacant: 21
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$223,546	\$2,071,990	\$351,147
Fringe	95,977	1,030,259	170,437
Supplies	18,617	375,239	90,036
Professional Services	375,000	5,662,637	40,000
Repairs & Maintenance	0	4,000	14,000
Auto Repairs & Maintenance	10,000	0	30,000
Communication	0	0	0
Advertising & Promotion	5,000	5,250	0
Transportation – Not Travel	5,000	0	5,000
Travel	5,000	500,591	30,000
Bulk Ticket Purchase	8,000	0	0
Sub Grants	0	31,111,917	10,000
Other Services	0	5,449,501	775,296
Electricity	0	0	0
Water	0	0	0
Indirect Cost	0	974,570	0
Capital Outlay	0	374,949	0
Totals	\$746,140	\$47,560,903	\$1,515,916

FY26 INITIATIVES

In FY 2026, the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) will focus on eliminating its high-risk designation to improve program operations and streamline the grant reimbursement process, which currently limits access to full funding and flexibility. As part of its modernization efforts, DEP will transition permitting services to the Municipality e-permitting platform, allowing applicants to submit and receive permit documentation electronically for greater convenience and efficiency.

To support this transition and improve overall program delivery, DEP will prioritize strategic recruitment to ensure timely permit processing, effective enforcement, and expanded community education and outreach. Additionally, recognizing the critical role of

water quality in public and environmental health, DEP will strengthen collaboration between its Water Quality and Non-Point Source Pollution Programs to more effectively identify and address sources of pollution that threaten ecosystems and community well-being.

5

Executive Office

The Executive Office coordinates the strategic planning and operations of DPNR. The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Media Relations, and the Office of Human Resources all fall under the Executive Office. Below is a breakdown of the requested budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

10

Division: Exec. Off	# Of Personnel	Existing: 6	Funded Vacant: 2
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$499,367		\$230,000
Fringe	200,041		89,580
Supplies	11,000		80,000
Rep & Maintenance	0	250,000	250,000
Rental of Land/Bldg.	0		450,000
Rental/Mach & Equip	0		20,000
Prof. Services	0		800,000
Communication	0		20,000
Ad & Promotion	0		5,000
Printing & Binding	0		5,000
Transp. – Not Travel	0		10,000
Travel	6,000.00		30,000
Other Services	0		1,000,000
Electricity	0		10,000
Machinery & Equip.	0	100,000	100,000
Totals	\$716,408	\$3,191,503	\$3,099,580



FY26 INITIATIVES

15 In FY26, the Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR) will achieve several key milestones in FEMA-funded capital projects. Most notably, we anticipate the long-awaited reopening of the Dr. Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library and the Athalie McFarlane Petersen Library, as well as the completed renovation of our St. John Office, restoring vital community resources. Renovation work at the Enid M. Baa Library will continue through FY26 as part of our

20 ongoing disaster recovery portfolio.

Simultaneously, progress continues on the FEMA-funded restoration of Fort Frederik and Fort Christian museums, with architectural and engineering (A&E) design ongoing and construction bids set to be advertised upon finalization. In parallel, a separate procurement for conceptual exhibit design at both sites is supported by USED A funding, which was initiated and evaluated in FY25. The selected exhibit design vendor will work in coordination with the construction contractor to ensure alignment with the renovation timeline. Once complete, DPNR will issue a dedicated RFP for the fabrication and installation of exhibit components, ensuring a smooth transition from construction to public interpretation.

Lastly, to continue the modernization of the Department, the Executive Office has submitted a BEAD funding request to OMB for FY26 to expand its e-permitting platform (Municipity) to include the Divisions of Environmental Protection (EP), Fish & Wildlife (DFW), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This upgrade will streamline permitting workflows, enhance enforcement capabilities, improve service delivery, and support revenue growth.

Fish & Wildlife (DFW)

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) implements scientific and technical assistance projects for conservation to enhance the natural heritage of the Virgin Islands. DFW completes Territorially mandated work to restore habitats and preserve indigenous species using federal grants apportioned by Congress annually to US jurisdictions along with competitive grants awarded to the Division. All projects are based on long-term strategic plans for safeguarding wildlife and marine resources.

Division: DFW	# Of Personnel	Existing: 20	Funded Vacant: 12
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel		\$2,037,289	
Fringe		951,960	
Supplies		422,442	
Indirect Cost		279,132	
Repair & Maintenance		157,000	
Debris Removal		10,000	
Auto Repairs & Maintenance		30,000	
Rental of Land & Bldg		225,032	
Rental Machines & Equip		2,500	
Professional Services		6,048	
Communication		10,000	
Advertising & Promotion		5,000	
Printing & Binding		25,000	
Travel		123,000	
Bulk Airline		10,000	

Sub Grants	408,340
Other Services	2,543,988
Utilities	35,500
Capital Outlay	60,500
Totals	\$7,342,731

FY26 INITIATIVES

5 In FY 2026, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will launch a major effort to expand facilities supporting wildlife and fisheries conservation through a network of Community Outdoor Resilience Centers (CORCs) that provide outdoors amenities to access fish and wildlife resources. Key projects include the renovation of the Red Hook office to support public boating access and a mangrove trail with boardwalk on St. Thomas and repurposing the former Elena Christian
10 Junior High School into an educational fish hatchery. DFW will also enhance boating infrastructure by installing fish cleaning stations, monofilament collectors, educational signage, and ADA-compliant kayak launches across the Territory under the Boating Infrastructure Program.

15 DFW will submit its updated State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)—last revised in 2017—for the first time electronically via wildlife.vi.gov to Congress. This data-driven plan expands eligibility for federal funding beyond traditional game species to include areas like aquatic invasive species, baitfish, sargassum, aquaculture, rare pollinators, and conservation opportunity areas. The plan outlines actionable, measurable spatial and species-specific goals, positioning the Virgin Islands
20 to secure millions in future federal funding.

Continuing efforts to connect communities with nature, DFW will pursue new annual habitat goals, such as creating additional trails through representative ecosystems. In FY25, trail crews funded by the Office of Insular Affairs' native plant program mapped and assessed nearly three
25 new miles of wetland forest trails on St. Croix and a half mile of wetland trails on St. Thomas. DFW will also sustain its support for youth and community programs, including the Complex High School Marine Biology Club, Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue (STAR) Network, UVI Youth Ocean Explorers scholarships, and guided kayaking trips.

30

Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM)

35 The Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM) encompasses the Virgin Islands Public Library System, the territorial archives, and the Fort Museum Program, delivering vital services in education, cultural preservation, and public engagement. DLAM manages five public libraries across the Territory, including the Dr. Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library, Enid M. Baa Library & Archives, Florence Williams Public Library, Athalie McFarlane Petersen Library, and the Elaine Ione Sprauve Library & Cultural Museum offering access to information, research, and cultural
40 programming.

- 5 The Museum Unit plays a critical role in preserving and interpreting the rich history, arts, and cultural heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is responsible for the stewardship of Fort Christian and Fort Frederik, both National Historic Landmark sites, as well as their extensive collections of historical artifacts. These sites serve not only as cultural anchors but also as event venues for government and private functions, offering a unique setting for public engagement and community use.

Division: DLAM	# Of Personnel	Existing: 18	Funded Vacant: 5
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$859,460	0	\$186,524
Fringe	496,664	0	103,705
Supplies	40,000	40,000	19,162
Rep & Maintenance	75,000	0	
Auto Rep & Maintenance	5,000	0	
Debris Removal	0	0	3,000
Security Services	60,000	0	1,000
Communications	20,000	0	20,000
Transp. - Not Travel	2,000	0	5,000
Advertising & Promotion		10,000	3,000
Travel	10,000	0	10,000
Printing & Binding	5,000	10,000	
Professional Services	0	70,000	57,594
Other Services		10,000	
Capital Projects	0	900,000	56,000
Totals	\$1,573,124	\$1,040,000	\$464,985

10

FY26 INITIATIVES

- 15 In FY 2026, the Department of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM) will prioritize expanded access to educational resources, digital tools, and community-centered programming. A key initiative includes an upcoming collaboration with NASA that will support lifelong learning and promote engagement with STEM content through technology integration. DLAM will enhance public access, modernize facilities, and extend outreach efforts to historically underrepresented communities. These initiatives align with national goals in literacy, workforce preparedness, and civic engagement. Workshops and lecture series will be offered throughout the year.

Traditional literacy remains a core focus. DLAM will continue to expand library collections and support programming such as family literacy nights, intergenerational book clubs, and outreach in areas with limited library access—particularly those that demonstrate academic impact and strong community partnerships. These efforts aim to improve reading skills while fostering a love of learning and community connection.

In our Forts, DLAM will develop the conceptual design of new permanent exhibits highlighting the Virgin Islands' natural and cultural heritage in each facility. This includes audio and visual production, to include self-guided tours of the facilities.

10 *Permits (BP)*

The Division of Building Permits is responsible for reviewing and issuing construction-related permits, including those for floodplain management and structure demolition, while ensuring all building activities across the Territory comply with local and national codes. Below is the FY2026 budget breakdown for the division.

Division: Permits	# Of Personnel	Existing: 21*	Funded Vacant: 3
Budget By Funding Source	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$519,874		\$65,000
Fringe	303,423		37,340
Supplies	35,500		
Rep & Maintenance	4,000		
Auto Rep & Maintenance	15,000		
Rental of Land/Building	0		
Rental Mach/Equip	0		
Professional Services	0		
Communication	0		
Ad & Promotion	0		
Transp. Not Travel	1,500		
Travel	6,000		
Other Services	0		
Electricity	0		
Water	0		
Totals	\$885,297		\$102,340

*Includes 13 employees on an expiring FEMA award

FY26 INITIATIVES

In FY2026, the Division of Permits will continue prioritizing training and outreach to the construction industry and key stakeholders. These efforts will focus on clarifying recent code changes and providing guidance on the permit submittal and inspection process through the department's Municipality e-Permitting platform. To further enhance service delivery, the Division plans to acquire an additional plan review tool within the e-Permitting platform to support greater accountability, accuracy, and faster processing times.

Additionally, the Division has been awarded a grant under the NFIP-CAPSSE program, which will support efforts to strengthen the Territory's Floodplain Management Program. This funding will help improve the Virgin Islands' community rating and compliance with national floodplain standards, reinforcing DPNR's commitment to resilience and public safety.

Territorial Parks & Protected Areas (TPPA)

The Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas is responsible for the supervision, management, and regulation of all public parks, recreational lands, and marine parks across the Territory, as designated by regulation or the Commissioner. The Division is mandated to establish the Virgin Islands Territorial Parks System, which will serve as a unified framework that promotes the history, culture, conservation, recreation, and wellness of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Division: TPPA	# Of Personnel	Existing: 7	Funded Vacant: 0
Budget			
By Funding Source	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$58,000	\$422,248	
Fringe	35,160	158,035	
Supplies	13,000	347,270	
Other Services	0		
Professional Services		210,000	
Sub Grants		39,040,529	
Indirect Cost		304,810	
Capital Projects		27,985,000	
Travel	10,000	789,935	
Repairs & Maintenance	9,000		
Bulk Airline	10,000		
Totals	\$135,160	\$69,257,827	



FY26 INITIATIVES

5 During FY 2026, the Division of Territorial Parks & Protected Areas will focus on advancing several key initiatives to build out the Virgin Islands Territorial Parks System. Priority will be given to the approval and implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, as mandated by Act 8609, and the development of the Territorial Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, funded through the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

10

TPPA staff will also continue developing management plans for newly acquired park properties under the NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) grant, guided by conservation priorities, sustainable land use, and community input. Each site will be evaluated to ensure that planning aligns with its natural topography, promotes public access, and includes accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

15

To enhance public engagement, TPPA will invite community members to provide input on how they interact with these spaces and their vision for the new park system. A new GIS and mapping fellow will join the team to create interactive maps of TPPA-managed properties, including upcoming acquisitions, which will be made available online at dpmr.vi.gov/parks. Additionally, TPPA will continue collaborating with community partners to strengthen environmental stewardship through programs funded by the NOAA CRRC grant, including conservation corps initiatives with CHANT, mangrove and coral restoration and workforce development with GRROE and CWORI, and summer environmental education programs with SEA.

25

Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

30 The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office is committed to preserving and protecting the Territory's archaeological sites and historic built environment. This mission is carried out through consultation with federal, state, and local agencies, public education and outreach, and regulatory oversight of development activities that may impact historic resources. VISHPO also supports and sponsors projects that advance historic preservation and archaeology throughout the Virgin Islands.

35 In collaboration with the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission, VISHPO helps safeguard the historic and cultural assets of the Territory's Historic District Towns and the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Buildings, Places, and Sites. These efforts preserve the distinct character, charm, and architectural integrity of the Virgin Islands, reinforcing its identity as a uniquely historic destination within the Caribbean.

40

Division: VISHPO	# Of Personnel	Existing: 6*	Funded Vacant: 3
<i>Budget By Funding Source</i>	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$143,495	\$269,778	
Fringe	74,383	132,137	
Supplies	25,000	0	
Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	0	
Auto Rep & Maintenance	5,000	0	
Debris Removal	0	0	\$10,000
Communication	5,000	0	
Advertising & Promotion			2,500
Travel	11,000	0	
Bulk Airline Ticket	2,000	0	
Transp. Not Travel	500	0	
Sub-Grants			270,583
Other Services	101,416	157,858	
Capital Outlay			1,314,148
Totals	\$372,794	\$559,773	\$1,597,231

*Includes 2 employees on an expiring HPF award

FY26 INITIATIVES

- 5 The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO) remains dedicated to supporting the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission (VIHPC) in the stewardship of the territory's rich cultural and architectural heritage. In FY 2026, VISHPO will continue assisting the Commission with the management of historic districts and site reviews to ensure the integrity of the built environment.
- 10 A key initiative for FY 2026 is the publication and promotion of the Historic Districts Guide for Charlotte Amalie, Christiansted, Frederiksted, and Cruz Bay, which will be made available on the DPNR website. This comprehensive resource will provide property owners, developers, and the public with clear guidance on making improvements within the historic districts, including the application process and links to additional preservation resources. VISHPO will actively promote
- 15 this guide to encourage community engagement and compliance with preservation standards.

VISHPO is also advancing its role in the St. Croix National Heritage Area, approved by Congress. The required management plan has been submitted to the Department of Property and Procurement for bid solicitation. In FY 2026, VISHPO will allocate resources to support the plan's development, ensuring alignment with federal guidelines and timely completion.

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA)

The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts is dedicated to enriching the Territory's cultural landscape by preserving, supporting, and promoting excellence in the arts. VICA ensures that the arts remain accessible to all Virgin Islanders through strategic leadership and community engagement. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with matching appropriations from the Government of the Virgin Islands, VICA administers a competitive grant program that supports individual artists, arts organizations, schools, and community-based groups across the Territory.

Division: VICA	# Of Personnel	Existing: 3	Funded Vacant: 0
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$175,950	0	
Fringe	93,260	0	
Supplies	5,000	0	
Communication	12,000	0	
Grants/Ind Gov't Agencies	40,000	0	
Rental of Land/Bldg	36,529	0	
Other Services	0	\$375,150	
Utilities	3,584		
Totals	\$366,323	\$375,150	



FY26 INITIATIVES

As VICA prepares for FY2026, its strategic planning begins each June with a community-wide survey distributed through Survey Monkey, social media, and in-person outreach. The survey targets individuals, grantees, educators, arts organizations, and UVI, with additional access at agricultural fairs and "How to Apply" workshops held on all islands. Public input is actively collected through email, workshops, funded events, radio appearances, and exhibitions at VICA's Art Spaces—ensuring inclusive, territory-wide participation.

The Art Spaces initiative continues to thrive, with VICA's offices on St. Thomas and the Dorsch Cultural Center on St. Croix providing key venues for exhibitions, performances, artist networking, and technical support. The "Dorsch After Dark" series will return in 2026, offering a monthly platform for emerging and established artists. These creative hubs also provide artists with resources to complete grant applications, press releases, and professional development tasks, reinforcing the territory's arts infrastructure.

VICA will continue to promote its signature programs: the USVI Folklife Festival, held in partnership with The Ten Sleepless Knights and the Reichhold Center for the Arts; the Made in

the USVI Pop-up Shops and the Poetry Out Loud competitions. These programs celebrate the love of our cultural traditions, promote local entrepreneurship, and introduce the arts to our youth.

Human Capital

- 5 As of June 30, 2025, DPNR maintains a workforce of 151 active employees across its twelve divisions, consisting of 83 classified, 1 GS (General Schedule), and 67 exempt personnel. In FY 2025, DPNR welcomed 16 new hires, experienced 10 resignations, five (5) retirements with five more pending before the end of the calendar year, and terminated two (2) employees. We are presently interviewing for three (3) positions in which the postings have closed and currently
 10 have five postings which we intend to fill before the end of the fiscal year. We also anticipate releasing another 15 postings by the end of this month.

- The Department continues to experience human resources challenges due to salary constraints. We have developed a pathway to address retention and have made starting salaries for many positions more competitive; however, this still relies on the negotiations for collective bargaining
 15 being completed. We have also taken advantage of several fellowship opportunities, with three currently providing services to the Department and a fourth to begin later this summer, to fill personnel shortfalls within the department.

These staffing changes reflect the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity and maintain operational effectiveness.

Supplemental Budgets

- In an effort to address critical operational gaps, DPNR has submitted two supplemental budget requests for Fiscal Year 2026. These requests are essential to ensure continuity of service and staffing across two divisions – the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums and the Division
 25 of Permits. Without these Supplemental requests, employees will be laid off, and services to the public will be further impacted.

- Supplemental Request #1 requests \$575,143 to support six (6) months of funding to support 13 existing staff, as well as fill vacancies, from the Division of Permits. Following the passage of the 2017 storms, DPNR was awarded a \$7M disaster supplemental award from FEMA, which allowed us to shift existing employees at the time off of the General Fund and hire over 20 new employees.
 30 The award was set to expire in August 2025; however, we were able to reallocate resources and justify an extension of the award to continue to support staff through March 2026. Without supplemental funding, we will not be able to support staff salaries, the majority of which are inspectors which would directly impact disaster recovery projects in the territory. Below is a chart outlining the positions that will be impacted.

Supplemental #1

Position ID*	Position Name*	FTE*	Employee ID	Incumbent Name	TYPE	BARGAINING UNIT	SALARIES	FRINGE	TOTAL
180000467	PLAN EXAM GENERAL	1	96729	LAWRENCE, CECILY	EXEMPT	EXMT	30900	19520.38	50420.38
180000471	UNIT CHIEF	1	8877	NEWTON, ALVIN	EXEMPT	EXMT	62000	29208.03	91208.03
180000473	CHIEF FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	102032	COLE, DEVIN	EXEMPT	EXMT	35020	20803.76	55823.76
180000474	CHIEF FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	112502	HARRIS, PETER	EXEMPT	EXMT	44000	23601.03	67601.03
180000475	CHIEF FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	101036	CRUSE III, IRA	EXEMPT	EXMT	34000	20486.03	54486.03
180000477	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	96777	AUSTIN, J'WANNI	EXEMPT	EXMT	30000	19240.03	49240.03
180000478	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	95170	VACANT	EXEMPT	EXMT	32000	19863.03	51863.03
180000479	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	58572	ABRAMSON, DUANE	EXEMPT	EXMT	30900	26718.22	57618.22
180000481	Field Superintendent	1	112562	RYAN, JAMAR	EXEMPT	EXMT	34000	20486.03	54486.03
180000482	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	109872	BROWNE, COLIN	EXEMPT	EXMT	30900	19520.38	50420.38
180000483	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	901169	GARIB, YASMINE	EXEMPT	EXMT	30900	26718.22	57618.22
180000484	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	V8060	VACANT	EXEMPT	EXMT	31000	19551.53	50551.53
180000485	ADM SPEC/PERMIT TECHNICIAN	1	112564	SMITH-ANDREWS, LYRA	EXEMPT	EXMT	33840	20436.19	54276.19
180000495	PLAN EXAM SENIOR	1	1110X33	VACANT,	EXEMPT	EXMT	45000	23912.53	68912.53
180000496	PLAN EXAM GENERAL	1	112500	HODGE, FLOREZ	EXEMPT	EXMT	30000	26437.87	56437.87
180000497	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	98196	VACANT	EXEMPT	EXMT	30000	19240.03	49240.03
180000501	FIELD SUPERINTENDENT	1	89876	VACANT	EXEMPT	EXMT	30000	19240.03	49240.03
180000XXX	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1		NEW	EXEMPT	EXMT	80000	31290.03	111290
180000051	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	1	109212	SWANSTON, ZARIAH	EXEMPT	EXMT	40000	29552.87	69552.87
GRAND TOTAL							714460	435826.2	1150286
6 MONTHS REQUEST							357230	217913.1	575143.1

Supplemental Request #2 seeks \$1,416,159 to fund DLAM's operational staffing needs for the full fiscal year. The Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM) cannot fully reopen or operate territory-wide without appropriate staffing. The current budget ceiling does not allow for the retention and recruitment of the necessary workforce. Without Supplemental Request #2, public libraries will remain closed or underutilized, denying access to vital educational and cultural resources. I would also like to note that the Trump Administration permanently closed the offices of the Institute of Museums and Library Sciences in April 2025 and the current federal budget shows no allocations which would incorporate the operation of libraries. Thus, the \$138k we received in FY 2025 to support subscription services, pay for our e-rate and provide outreach supplies, is likely the last amount of federal support we will receive for the next several years. Below is a chart of the supplemental request for the Division:

Supplemental #2

Position Name*	FTE*	SALARIES	TOTAL FRINGE	TOTAL SALARIES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	75,000.00	30,907.53	105,907.53
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	1	34,287.00	20,575.43	54,862.43
ARCHIVIST (STX)	1	70,000.00	30,525.03	100,525.03
ARCHIVIST (STT)	1	70,000.00	30,525.03	100,525.03
ARCHIVIST ASSISTANT (STT)	1	45,000.00	23,912.53	68,912.53
FORT RECEPTIONIST (STT)	1	30,000.00	19,240.03	49,240.03
FORT RECEPTIONIST (STX)	1	30,000.00	19,240.03	49,240.03
MUSEUM AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
MUSEUM AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
MUSEUM AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
LIBRARIAN III (STX)	1	57,102.00	27,682.30	84,784.30
LIBRARIAN III (STJ)	1	57,102.00	27,682.30	84,784.30
LIBRARIAN II (STT)	1	51,231.00	25,853.49	77,084.49
LIBRARIAN II (STX)	1	51,231.00	25,853.49	77,084.49
LIBRARIAN I (STJ)	1	50,773.00	25,710.82	76,483.82
LIBRARY TECH III (STJ)	1	46,468.00	24,369.81	70,837.81
LIBRARY TECH II (STT)	1	34,650.00	20,688.51	55,338.51
LIBRARY AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
LIBRARY AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
LIBRARY AIDE (PT)	1	20,000.00	6,230.00	26,230.00
SYSTEM ANALYST I (STT)	1	46,468.00	24,369.81	70,837.81
SYSTEM ANALYST I (STX)	1	46,468.00	24,369.81	70,837.81
BOOKMOBILE DRIVER (STT)	1	39,343.00	22,150.37	61,493.37
GRAND TOTAL		955,123.00	461,036.32	1,416,159.32

CONCLUSION

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) achieved several significant milestones in FY 2025, reflecting our ongoing commitment to service, stewardship, and sustainability. For ease of reference, a detailed summary of accomplishments by division is provided in the Appendix to this testimony. Highlights include:

- Completion and adoption of the Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan, a critical tool for guiding responsible development across the Territory;
- Launch of the Electronic Permitting (e-permitting) system, Municipality, for application submissions;
- Zoning 101 training sessions for all DPNR staff, offering practical, layperson-friendly instruction on zoning and subdivision codes, development calculations, and code strengths and weaknesses. These sessions were recorded for ongoing staff development.
- Securing over \$70M in funding to support the conservation and enhancement of our green spaces;
- Continued public engagement through Science Saturdays, streamed live via Facebook on the second Saturday of each month, promoting environmental awareness and education.
- Upgrading of enforcement fleet assets, including new vessels deployed in both districts to strengthen regulatory enforcement and public safety.
- Execution of over \$8 million in subrecipient agreements under the Historic Disaster Recovery Program, supporting critical restoration efforts.
- Promotion of Virgin Islands culture and heritage through art displays, musical performances, and folklife festivals held across the Territory.

In addition to the completed accomplishments listed above, we also anticipate prior to the end of the fiscal year making several land purchases for the Territorial Park System and launching our recreational fishing program to the public.

These accomplishments are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the 150+ men and women of DPNR. I extend my deepest gratitude for their service and commitment to our mission. Their collective efforts continue to foster economic growth while safeguarding the Territory's natural and cultural resources for future generations.

In closing, I thank the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands for the opportunity to present the Department's FY 2026 budget. With your continued support and our federal partnerships, DPNR is well-positioned to maintain operational efficiency, restore essential services, and contribute meaningfully to the Bryan-Roach Administration's vision of a stronger, more resilient Virgin Islands.

The road ahead will present challenges especially in securing adequate funding—but the staff of DPNR stand ready to meet them head-on.

Thank you, and we welcome your questions.

APPENDIX I: FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

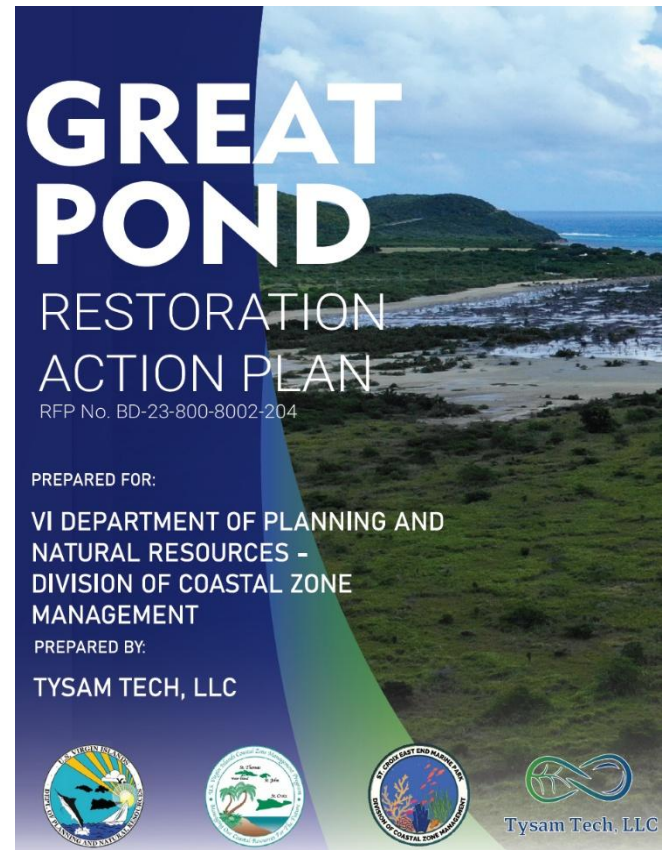
COMPREHENSIVE AND COASTAL ZONE PLANNING

1. The Department received the final draft of the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan on December 10, 2024, and participated in the Committee of the Whole held December 17th on same. The CLWUP was subsequently adopted on December 31, 2024 by Act No. 8981
2. The CLWUP strategies were compiled into an Implementation Matrix, the portion of the Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan that will push it forward. They represent a “to do” list for the GVI, stakeholders, and the community to implement the plan over the next 10 to 20 years.
3. The Division conducted Zoning 101 training for the Department. This refresher training was recorded for staff future use and explained the Zoning and Subdivision Codes in layman’s terms. Its intent was to show the breadth of planning activity areas the different divisions of DPNR are engaged in, to give all Department staff a better understanding of the two Codes, and an explanation of development review calculations.
4. The division lost one Planning Technician during the Fiscal Year but continues its day-to-day work and in FY ‘25 conducted 17 bill reviews, 2,164 business license zoning reviews, 302 Earth Change zoning reviews, one Major CZM permit review, 65 Zoning Certification letters, 10 public hearings, 10 recommendation reports, issued 21 Cease and Desist Orders, and presented six applications before the Legislative Committee of the Whole.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

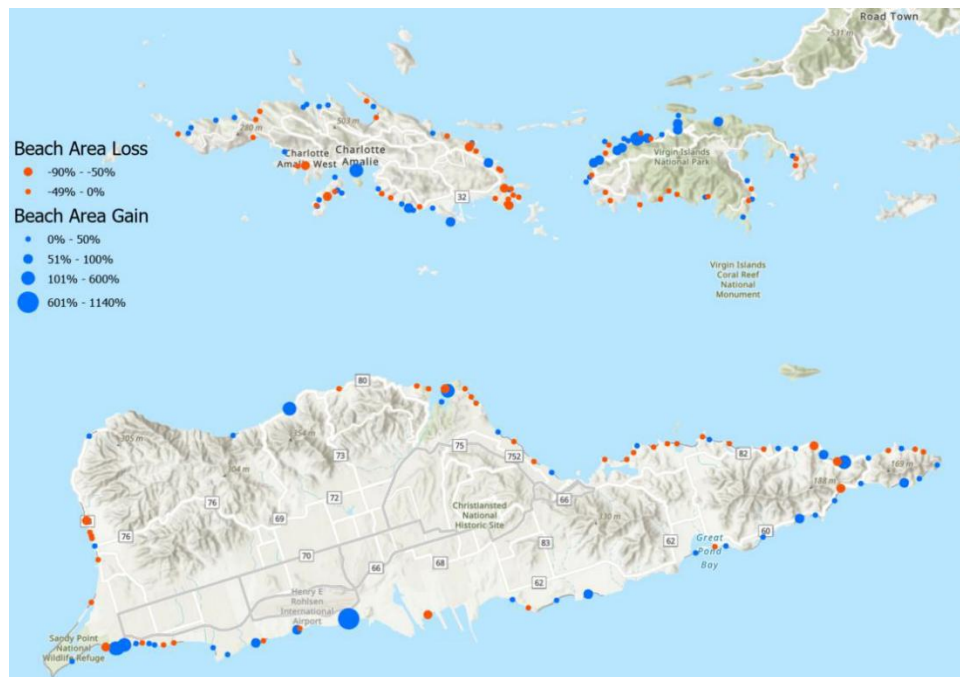
The Division of Coastal Zone Management saw the following activity across the first three quarters of 2025:

- 48 Outreach activities resulting in approximately 2,110 community members being reached.
- 84 Minor Land Applications
- 20 Modifications
- 18 Repair and Maintenance Requests
- 12 Certificates of Completion
- 16 Cease and Desist Orders issued, 1 pending.
- 15 Notices of Violation issued, 5 pending
- \$124,935.10 in fines collected
- 11 Public hearings covering 17 projects
- 12 Decision meetings covering 28 projects
- 16 Federal Consistency Projects



1. The CZM Division along with its sister Divisions celebrated the successful development and adoption of the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan in FY2025.
2. CZM was successful in obtaining additional funding for initiatives to implement some recommendations from the land and water use plan. Specifically, CZM was awarded \$294,000 and \$600,00, projects to be implemented will include the development of a geospatial tool that will utilize both existing and new data that will assist with the comprehensive review of development proposals in the islands. This effort is being coordinated with the other Divisions in DPNR, the GIS Division of the Lieutenant Governor's Office, the Department of Public Works, and the University of the Virgin Islands.
3. CZM was successful in coordinating the completion of the Great Pond Restoration Action Plan in St Croix, the Division is now pursuing opportunities for funding to implement the actions recommended under the action plan.

In FY2025, CZM in collaboration with the University of the Virgin Islands and funding support from NOAA, completed a nearshore wave analysis looking at beaches and erosion across the 3 major islands. This project was a continuation of the work completed in 2023 on Coastal Vulnerability.



Change in beach area between early 2017 and 2022. Many beaches have recovered from the storm, or at least regained area. However, some of the highest gains in beach area are also indicative of the delay in revegetation in some beaches – beaches appear wider because the footprint of vegetation has decreased.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Division of Environmental Enforcement registered vessels and issued permits as follows in Fiscal Year 2025:

Boats & Watercraft	3906
Mooring Registration	603
Anchoring	40
Cruising Permit	1
Multi-Vessel Moorings	36

The Division's outreach initiative, the National Safe Boating Program was promoted in several schools throughout the territory, reaching approximately 170 students. This initiative culminated at the 2025 Boating Safety week in the month of May.



PhotoGrid

The Division received delivery of two 10 meter (36') aluminum Interceptor patrol vessels on December 4, 2024. This new generation of fast attack patrol vessels will provide the capability of long-range patrols for our officers in the comfort and safety of an enclosed cabin.



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Department continues to advance critical infrastructure upgrades across its divisions, some projects experienced unforeseen delays in FY25 due to supply chain disruptions and necessary scope adjustments:

- 5 • **Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library (St. Thomas):** This project required significant roof replacement and experienced delays due to prolonged lead times on roofing materials. In addition, electrical system upgrades, air conditioning repair, and water pump replacements were necessary. We are pleased to report that all components—
10 except for the pump replacement have been successfully completed. The remaining pump work is expected to be finalized in the upcoming quarter.
- 15 • **Florence A. Petersen Library (St. Croix):** The roof replacement proceeded as planned; however, during execution, unanticipated conditions in the ceiling and walls required expanded scope. A change order was approved to address mold remediation, additional demolition, and construction work. Demolition was completed in April, followed by mold
20 remediation in June, renovation activities are currently underway and being closely monitored for timely completion.
- **St. John Satellite Office:** The completion of this project was delayed by the contractor due to an error in executing the approved design plans. The Department is working closely with the contractor to resolve the design deviation and bring the project to
 closeout.

Despite these setbacks, the Department remains committed to restoring and modernizing public facilities in a manner that ensures long-term resilience, safety, and improved public access. We appreciate the public's patience and continued support as these vital cultural and community infrastructure projects move forward.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Division of Fish and Wildlife addresses short-term and long-term challenges for fish and wildlife resources in the Territory by providing training opportunities for staff to provide
30 technical guidance and present our scientific work to national and international committees and agencies.

- 35 1. In FY 2025, DFW was awarded a competitive NOAA Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program award to work with local fishers to engage in cooperative research on fish trap escape vents for small reef fish.
- 40 2. The third issue of our, 'Go Wild, Go Fish,' has already reached over 700 persons and the magazine issues' reach is over 3,600 views to date: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/2ce84e5b31.html>.
3. Our staff co-authored a scientific paper on the role of invasive seagrass on juvenile yellowtail snapper and presented five talks at scientific conferences.

4. DFW solidified community partnerships by serving on the Virgin Islands Food and Farm Council and collaborating on the former Viya Phone Book's Good Food Pages for 2025.



5. The Division used its Reef Responsible platform to engage more than 450 fairgoers at the St. Croix Ag Fair in February 2025 and presented Reef Responsible concepts with games and giveaways at the Nisky Moravian School, the St. Thomas Children's Museum Kid Expo, UVI's Afternoon on the Green, Coral Reef Fest, and the Week of the Young Child on St. Croix.
6. Staff served as weighmasters at a dozen sport fishing tournaments, sponsored by the VI Game Fishing Club, CORE, and Golden Hook Fishing Club, collecting data for continuing long-term studies of trends in fish harvested during tournaments. Those data are used in stock assessments for pelagic fish.
7. DFW hosted workshops to consider wildlife and fisheries strategies. Importantly, a special session at the [U.S. Caribbean Community of Practice session](#) at UVI in March 2025 engaged local stakeholders to provide expert information on conservation opportunity areas, wildlife, plant, and fish species for inclusion in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). A UVI [SEAS Alliance](#) Intern is currently coding a website to display the information for the SWAP electronically and researching over 200 species profiles!
8. We engaged the oldest national non-profit working on fish and wildlife policy on a 5-year strategic plan for the Division that includes strategies for staff morale, policy revisions, and programmatic change. The [Wildlife Management Institute](#) conducted virtual and in-person focal interviews with DFW staff, DPNR divisions' staff and leadership, and external stakeholders on St. Croix and at national meetings during FY25.

9. Additionally, DFW reminded the general public and visitors that it was illegal to remove shells, sand, and coral from the territory though coordination with Environmental Enforcement, V.I. Port Authority, and Customs and Border Patrol. From 2008 to 2016, and 2020, to date DFW has worked with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to confiscate and return to sea: 6,233 lbs of coral, 4,133 lbs of conch, 1,300 lbs shells, 1,287 lbs of sand, 648 lbs of rocks, and 284 lbs of whelks that were successfully returned to the wild.

10. New murals and information on invasive species are now displayed at each Seaplane port of entry on St. Croix and St. Thomas.



11. We also sent representatives to discuss invasive species at the Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshops sending a representative to the White House's National Invasive Species Committee's Advisory Committee.

Among our day-to-day work, DFW taught 800 free archery lessons, and conducted 275 sea life surveys to assess fish stocks in the territory, registered over 400 commercial and recreational fishers, funded more than 400 kayak tours, and issued eighty (80) research, retention, and collection permits over FY 2025.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS



In FY2025, DLAM advanced its mission of education, preservation, and community engagement through dynamic programming. The Florence Williams Public Library emerged as a vibrant community hub, participating in events such as Jump Up, Art Thursday, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The library extended its hours and introduced innovative offerings—author readings, DJ sets, moko jumbie performances, and head wrap demonstrations—attracting new patrons through strategic partnerships. It also hosted public town halls, training sessions, and debuted the “Lunch-in-the-Library” and “Toddler Time” series.

Throughout the year, school visits introduced students and families to library services, including the Talking Books Library, bilingual programs, and computer lab resources for research, job applications, and resume building. The inaugural DLAM Easter Egg Hunt blended fun with literacy through interactive word and storytelling games.

While our online platform Hoopla was promoted year-round to expand access to digital media. Key collaborators included the St. Croix Children's Museum, the VIPR Friendship Committee, and St. Croix Central High School Spanish students. Additionally, DLAM proudly hosted the premiere of *We Are Taino* at the Florence Williams Library and Fort Christian Chapel, featuring Kasike Maekiaphan Phillips of the Guainía Taino Tribe.

The Archives Unit digitized funeral pamphlets for genealogy records, scanned historical police records with the support of returning Danish archivists, and coordinated meetings with the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) during their visit to St. Croix Landmarks Society and UVI Library.

The Museum Unit curated cultural art exhibits, hosted drum circles, and welcomed thousands of visitors, reinforcing DLAM's leadership in cultural preservation, youth engagement, and equitable access to knowledge across the Virgin Islands. Currently, our Tides of Freedom exhibit is displayed at Fort Frederik Museum through October 2025.

DLAM collaborate with VIEPSCOR's Youth Earth Explorers STEM summer camp, support the

Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, and host a fundraising ball in August 2025 to support the preservation of the Fort Christian Museums.

DLAM Stats FY25 from Oct 1- May 31,2025

- Computer Lab users- 413
- Number of children in Library -1,179
- Number of adults in Library-2,887
- Library Programs & Outreach 77
- Adult new patrons issued USVI Public Library System Cards-242
- Under 18 new patrons issued USVI Public Library Cards-148
- HOOPLA online digital library has 393 patrons 5,493 borrows
- Fort Museum Paid Guests - 8,155

PERMITS

The Division of Building Permits main function is reviewing applications, issuing permits, and conducting inspections.

The following permits were issued within the first three quarters of FY 2025:

- 867 Renewable Energy Permits
- 654 Building Permits
- 556 Electrical Permits
- 415 Certificate of Occupancy /Use
- 244 Plumbing Permits
- 150 Demolition Permits
- 47 Flood Zone Permits
- 11 Stop Work Orders
- 867 Renewable Energy Permits
- 10 Mechanical Permits
- 47 Flood Zone Permits
- 3 Wireless Facility Permits
- 415 Certificate of Occupancy /Use

The Division conducted over 2883 Inspections and continues to ensure construction complies with all applicable codes of the USVI. The Division is committed to seeking ways to better implement effective enforcement on noncompliance construction within our territory.



Training for End users on DPNR E-Permitting System

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The Division of Permits launched the end user phase and provided training to all stakeholders for the permitting and inspection usage of DPNR E-Permitting system. Kiosks were placed in our St. Thomas and St. Croix lobby areas for users who come into the office to submit their applications.

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Building Permits staff have also been instrumental in the finishing stages of the GSI Flood Mapping as we worked in collaboration with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Division of Building Permits continues its quest to provide guidance to other governmental agencies with projects pertaining to elevation, drainage, and stormwater storage on site, as well as perimeter clearing in areas close to the flood plains. Staff continues to be active in their participation in the DPNR federal consistency meeting for compliance.

15



The Division of Permits continues to participate in events such as the St. Croix Agriculture Fair, Realtor Expo, and the VIHFA Housing Expo to provide needed information and assistance for our community on the services we provide.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

- The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office provided mandatory Section 106 Consultation Reviews for federally supported projects in the Territory and provided historic preservation technical assistance to private sector property owners and Virgin Islands governmental agencies. In all, **134 Section 106 reviews** have been conducted through June 2025.

The VISHPO Historic Building Recovery Program has awarded over \$8 million in subgrants for the restoration of 46 historic buildings across the Territory and successfully added eight new sites to the National Register of Historic Places. With six projects pending, the program will continue in FY 2026, including plans to apply for funding through the National Park Service's Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) for damages caused by Tropical Storm Ernesto in August 2024. With \$48 million available nationwide, and VISHPO's successful management of the 2018 HIM Grant, the Territory is well-positioned to receive further support.

HOSPITAL STREET 38 – FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX



BEFORE



AFTER

Grant Award Amount: \$159,139.00

Project Description:

- Roof Repairs
- New roof gutters and downspouts
- Repaired damaged windows, doors framings and shutters
- Refurbished front and back porches and steps
- Exterior painting

CATHERINEBERG 8D – CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS



BEFORE



AFTER

Grant Award Amount: \$199,587.00

Project Description:

- Repaired Balcony Roof
- New Balcony 1st & 2nd floors columns
- New Balcony Railings
- New roof gutters

VESTER GADE 2D - CRUZ BAY, ST. JOHN



BEFORE



Grant Award Amount: \$198,325.00

Project Description:

- Rebuilt Roof
- Roof Gutter Repairs
- Replaced Window & Door Shutters
- Exterior Painting

AFTER

Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission 2024 Activity Summary

- 5 In 2024, the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission (VIHPC), operating under the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), continued its mission to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the Virgin Islands through regulatory oversight, grant facilitation, and community engagement. The VIHPC, composed of the St. Thomas-St. John Historic Preservation Committee (STT-STJHPC) and the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee (STXHPC), reviewed a combined total of 144 applications for preservation and development projects within the historic districts of Charlotte Amalie, Cruz Bay, Christiansted, and Frederiksted.

St. Thomas-St. John Historic Preservation Committee

- 15 The STT-STJHPC reviewed 76 applications in 2024, addressing projects such as rehabilitations, signage approvals, and new constructions within the Charlotte Amalie and Cruz Bay historic districts. Notable activities included a special meeting on October 12, 2024, to discuss the full implementation of Cruz Bay Historic District rules and regulations, covering exterior signage, paint colors, windows, doors, and new constructions for private, leased, and governmental properties. Monthly meetings, such as the one held on September 10, 2024, via Microsoft Teams, reviewed specific projects like the rehabilitation of buildings at Kronprindsens Gade and Estate Nisky. The committee, chaired by Kurt G. Marsh, Jr., emphasized community outreach to encourage applications for the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund to repair hurricane-damaged properties.

St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee

- 5 The STXHPC processed 68 applications in 2024, focusing on balancing modern development with the preservation of St. Croix's architectural heritage. During its monthly meeting on September 19, 2024, the committee approved significant projects, including new construction at 19 and 20 Prince Street, Frederiksted, and signage approvals in Christiansted and Frederiksted that complemented the towns' historical aesthetics. Additional approvals included repairs to the roof and porch deck at the Botanical Gardens. Chaired by Collette Burgess, the committee worked to ensure developments respected the historical integrity of the island's historic districts.

VIHPC Annual Meeting and Community Engagement

- 10 The VIHPC held its Annual Meeting from May 22-24, 2024, at Government House in Christiansted, St. Croix. A highlight of the meeting was a walking tour of Christiansted, where commission members, staff, and invited guests visited several historic preservation projects, showcasing ongoing efforts to maintain the island's cultural landmarks. The VIHPC also supported the extension of the National Park Service's Harvey, Irma, and Maria (HIM) Reimbursement Grant
 15 Program, extended through December 30, 2026, which allocated over \$10 million for recovery projects, including the St. Thomas Synagogue, Friedensthal Moravian Church, and private properties in historic districts.

Legislative and Funding Efforts

- 20 In 2024, the VIHPC collaborated with lawmakers to address challenges posed by dilapidated structures in historic districts. A bill discussed by the Disaster Recovery Committee in January aimed to relax certain preservation restrictions to encourage renovation while maintaining historical integrity. The VIHPC's efforts were bolstered by federal funding extensions, enabling continued support for subgrantees like the St. Thomas Historical Trust and private homeowners to restore properties damaged by the 2017 hurricanes.
- 25 The VIHPC's 2024 activities reflect a commitment to preserving the Virgin Islands' rich history while fostering sustainable development and community involvement.

TERRITORIAL PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS

- 30 During the past fiscal year, the team at Territorial Parks and Protected Areas has grown to a staff of 8 including a NOAA Coastal Fellow who will be completing her time with the division this summer; a new fellow will be joining the team shortly before that position ends. We have been able to hire a Senior Planner using funds from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, a Property & Operations Manager and a Research & Restoration Coordinator using funds from the NOAA
 35 Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC), and Legal Counsel using funds from the America the Beautiful Challenge.



With funding from the NOAA Climate CRRC award, the division has been working with numerous local non-profits and programs at UVI to increase environmental education and workforce development in the territory. Since October 1, 2024 when the grant started, over \$2.3 Million in subawards have already been paid to partners like Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT), the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA), and UVI's Growing Research, Restoration, Outreach, and Education (GRROE) program. This work will continue through 2029 with over \$13M going straight into the community. This grant is also providing unprecedented opportunities to purchase land for conservation in the Territorial Parks System. The team is currently working on approximately \$24M in land acquisition projects, all of which will be protected for the people of the Virgin Islands in perpetuity. More information on this grant can be found at <https://dpnr.vi.gov/parks/crrc>.



The Property and Operations Program of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas collaborated with Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT) to remove illegal structures and accumulated waste from two designated park sites: Columbus Landing at Salt River and Hesselberg on St. Croix. This initiative, conducted under Pillar III of the NOAA CRRC grant, reflects a coordinated and strategic approach to environmental conservation and community engagement. As part of the effort, nine unauthorized structures were dismantled, and approximately 188 wooden pallets, along with other miscellaneous debris, were removed from park properties and surrounding shorelines.



These land acquisition projects will be supported by properties brought into the Territorial Parks System either by taking over management of GVI owned lands, or by donation. In December of 2024 the parks system received its first donation of land in Fish Bay, St. John from the non-profit Island Resources Foundation.

The team at TPPA continues to work with the community at home and abroad through outreach and education programs such as VINE, the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators, a monthly meeting that invites formal and informal educators to come together and share programs, compare calendars to align outreach activities throughout the territory, and ask for help when anyone needs an extra push to get something accomplished. Through this network organizations and government agencies are able to share job opportunities to help expand the reach of each posting as well as share grant opportunities. TPPA Communications Specialist is also running the Science Saturday program which has been running at DPNR since March 2017. Streamed on DPNR's Facebook Page on the second Saturday of every month at 10AM, Science Saturday reaches local researchers and shares their knowledge with the community through fun and engaging activities and interviews. These are loaded onto the Department's YouTube page as well where you can watch every "episode" since the program went virtual in 2020. Also new is a blog on the Parks website where you can learn what the TPPA team is up to or read synopsis of Science Saturdays and access the links to each video.



<https://dpnr.vi.gov/blog-tppa/what-does-your-park-look-like/>

VIRGIN ISLANDS COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

In 2025, the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA) continued its mission to enrich the cultural life of the Virgin Islands through leadership that preserves, strengthens, and makes accessible excellence in the arts to all Virgin Islanders.

VICA awarded \$372,000 to 43 grantees across the Territory, supporting a diverse array of programs, including art education, music festivals, traditional craft workshops, documentaries, cultural projects, schools, and cultural history tours. Additionally, VICA offered mini-grants of up to \$2,500, enabling initiatives such as the creation of CDs and videos, instruction of traditional arts and crafts, book publications, festivals, and programs for at-risk and disabled children.

The Council's offices across the Territory served as galleries and performance spaces, featuring art exhibitions, African drumming, classical and jazz recitals, woodworking demonstrations, and various community-based events. In collaboration with local organizations, VICA continued the successful "Made in the USVI" Pop-Up Shops, providing local artists and artisans opportunities for business growth and exposure.

VICA led the territorial Poetry Out Loud competition, with ten schools participating. Isabel Thill, a junior at Antilles School, emerged as the territorial winner and represented the USVI at the national finals in Washington, D.C. VICA provided travel and accommodation for the winners and their chaperones, as well as monetary prizes for the top three finalists. The Council also introduced the Poetry Ourselves Competition, encouraging students to create original poetry, with competitions held in schools following the 2023-2024 POL Teacher's Guide.

In partnership with Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, VICA organized Folklife Festivals on St. Croix and St. Thomas, celebrating the Virgin Islands' rich cultural heritage with workshops, storytelling, traditional dancing, and activities like basket weaving and head tying. The St. Croix festival coincided with the 175th anniversary of Emancipation, while St. Thomas celebrated its festival at the Fort Christian Museum.

Furthermore, VICA coordinated the Congressional Arts Competition in partnership with the Office of Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, inviting high school students from across the Territory to compete for the opportunity to have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol. Winners and their chaperones were sponsored by VICA to attend the national exhibit in Washington, D.C.

Through these initiatives, VICA has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to enriching the cultural life of the Virgin Islands, ensuring the continued growth, accessibility, and celebration of the arts for all.



APPENDIX II: FY 2025 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

| Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)



Engagement Score

Impact Score

AC 80400 Comprehensive Coastal Zone Planning

	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
I The average number of days to complete zoning reports	May 2025	9	13	15	↗ 2
I The average number of days to process land development applications	May 2025	9	1	7	↘ 1
I The average number of days to process certificate applications	May 2025	2	2	3	→ 1
I The percentage of completion of long-range planning initiatives	May 2025	0%	0%	100%	→ 3

AC 80000 Executive Office

	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
I The number of capital/disaster recovery projects to be completed quarterly	Q3 2025	0	0	4	→ 2
I The number of sustainability initiatives and scorecard development to measure Governmental ESG goals quarterly	Q2 2025	0	0	4	→ 1

AC 80040 Building Permits



	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
I The average number of days to review and provide status of electrical/plumbing applications for construction	May 2025	5	9	4	↗ 2
I The average number of days to review and provide status of Building applications for construction	May 2025	9	10	15	↗ 1
I The percentage of construction inspections conducted within 5 days of request	May 2025	100%	100%	95%	→ 1



AC 80051 Business & Administrative Services




	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
I The average number of days to process and approve invoices in the ERP system	May 2025	5	5	5	→ 6




AC 80053 Coastal Zone Management




	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
I The number of outreach activities conducted	May 2025	27	3	4	↘ 1




 The number of field inspections performed and monitored for compliance	May 2025	15	19	16	↗ 2
 The average number of days to review and approve minor permits	May 2025	71	71	60	→ 3



AC 80060 Division of Territorial Parks & Protected Areas	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The number of outreach activities completed	May 2025	5	4	2	↘ 1
 The number of land parcels transferred to Territorial Parks	May 2025	0	0	3	→ 1


AC 80900 Environmental Enforcement	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The number of vessel registrations per month	May 2025	32	259	125	↗ 1
 The number of sea patrol hours per month	May 2025	208hrs	254hrs	125hrs	↗ 1
 The number of dockside fisheries inspections per month	May 2025	388	275	250	↘ 1

AC 80500 Libraries, Archives & Museums	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The number of borrows from library cardholders (library books/DVDs)	May 2025	1,197	897	750	↘ 1
 The percentage of library patrons using archival materials	May 2025	3%	2%	10%	↘ 1
 The average number of museum visitors per month	May 2025	1,425	721	600	↘ 2

AC 80530 VI Council of the Arts	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The number of subawards granted per fiscal year	May 2025	7	0	70	↘ 2
 The number of community outreach projects supported/provided	May 2025	1	2	2	↗ 1
 The number of special projects coordinated	May 2025	5	1	3	↘ 2

AC 80600 Division of Fish and Wildlife	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The percentage of data entered into the federal database within 4 weeks of receipt	May 2025	12%	55%	75%	↗ 1
 The percentage of fisheries-independent data collection performed based on received surveys	May 2025	56%	56%	100%	→ 1
 The percentage of resolved wildlife incidents	May 2025	0%	100%	100%	↗ 1

AC 80700 Environmental Protection	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The number of permittee inspections completed	Apr 2025	16	18	40	↗ 1
 The number of permittee renewals completed	May 2025	22	15	35	↘ 1

 The number of community outreach activities to raise awareness for local and federal environmental compliance conducted	May 2025	1	1	2	→ 1
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AC 80800 VI State Historic Preservation Office

	Most Recent Period	Prior Actual Value	Current Actual Value	Current Target Value	Current Trend
 The average number of days to process all statutory reviews	May 2025	5	7	15	↗ 1
 The percentage of Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission Historic district(s) applications approved	May 2025	90%	90%	100%	→ 2
 The number of community outreach and events provided to raise preservation awareness	May 2025	4	6	5	↗ 1