

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
RECREATION AND THE STATEWIDE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANS FOR A STATE
SYSTEM OF ATTRACTIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND
ENDURING TRAILS ACROSS THE
COMMONWEALTH**

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES;
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES;
AND THE VIRGINIA DELEGATION TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY
COMMISSION**



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
OCTOBER 2017**

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



Rochelle Altholz
Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance

David C. Dowling
Deputy Director of
Soil and Water Conservation
and Dam Safety

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

September 29, 2017

The Honorable Daniel W. Marshall, III
Chair, Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee
House of Delegates

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart
Chair, Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable L. Scott Lingamfelter
Vice-Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Members of the Virginia Delegation
Chesapeake Bay Commission

Dear Delegate Marshall, Senator Stuart, Delegate Lingamfelter and Members of the Commission:

I am pleased to provide you this report, ***Current and Future Plans for a Statewide System of Attractive, Sustainable, and Enduring Trails across the Commonwealth***, on behalf of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee. This report is presented in accordance with the provisions of §10.1-204.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. Section 10.1-204.1 directs DCR to convene a Committee to assist the Commonwealth in developing and implementing a statewide system of attractive, sustainable, connected and enduring trails for the perpetual use and enjoyment of the citizens of the Commonwealth and future generations.

This report provides a status on the ongoing work of the committee to include recommendations for the Virginia Outdoors Plan and specific outcomes desired by members as expressed in two meetings of the Committee, held on December 1, 2016 and April 26, 2017, respectively.

We look forward to continued work with this committee in advancing the development of trails across Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clyde E. Cristman".

Clyde E. Cristman

State Trails Advisory Committee Members

Sally Aungier

Virginia Horse Council
Regional Director

James Beamer

Dominion
Legislative Outreach Managing Director

Liz Belcher

Roanoke Valley Commission
Greenways Coordinator

John Bolecek

VDOT, State Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner

Champe Burnley

Virginia Bicycling Federation, President

Nathan Burrell

James River Park System, Park Manager

Rob Campbell

James River Association
Community Conservationist

Peter Irvine

U.S. Forest Service
Recreation and Heritage Staff Officer

Matt Crane

Richmond Cycling Corp
Director of Development

Harvey Darden

VDOF, Natural Resource Manager II

Andrew Downs

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Southwest & Central Virginia Regional Director

Anthony Duncan

International Mountain Bike Association
Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

Joe Elton

Interested Citizen

Paul Gilbert

NOVA Parks
Executive Director

DCR Staff members: Forrest Atwood, Janit Llewellyn-Allen, Julie Buchanan, Michael Fletcher, Danette Poole, Tom Smith, Jennifer Wampler

Emily Harper

Nelson County Parks & Recreation
Director

Ann Jennings

Chesapeake Bay Commission, Director

Tom Johnson

Great Eastern Trail Association
President

Ursula Lemanski

National Park Service RTCA
Virginia Projects Manager

Brian Moyer

DGIF, Recreation Science Team Leader

Shawn Lindsey

Executive Director, Spearhead Trails

Travis Sarkees

Virginia Interactive General Manager

Amanda Scheps

Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Owned Lands Manager

Jim Stutts

Executive Director
Virginia Recreation and Park Society

Sandra Tanner

Virginia Tourism Corp.
Partnership Marketing Dev. Spec.

Beth Weisbrod

Virginia Capital Trail Foundation
Executive Director

Wayne Wilcox

City of Virginia Beach
Senior Planner

W. Bruce Wingo

BCR Board

Kathryn Zeringue

East Coast Greenway Alliance
South Atlantic Coordinator

PREFACE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of § 10.2-204.1 of the 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly (House Bill 1542; Delegate Lingamfelter). Enactment Section A of § 10.1-204.1 stipulates “that the Committee shall be appointed by the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and shall be composed of a representative from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. National Park Service; the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and nonlegislative citizen members, including representatives from the Virginia Outdoors Plan Technical Advisory Committee and the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee and other individuals with technical expertise in trail creation, construction, maintenance, use, and management.”

The Advisory Committee shall examine and provide recommendations regarding:

- options to close the gaps in a State system of trails as described in § 10.1-204;
- creative public and private funding strategies and partnerships to leverage resources to fund the development of trails;
- integrated approaches to promote and market trail values and benefits;
- the development of specialty trails, including concepts related to old-growth forest trails across the Commonwealth;
- strategies to encourage and create linkages between communities and open space;
- strategies to foster communication and networking among trail stakeholders;
- strategies to increase tourism and commercial activities associated with a State trail system;
- strategies to enhance the involvement of organizations that promote outdoor youth activities, including the Boy Scouts of the U.S.A. and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and the 4-H program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension; and
- other practices, standards, statutes, and guidelines that the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation determines may enhance the effectiveness of trail planning across the Commonwealth,
- including methods for receiving input regarding potential trail impacts upon owners of underlying or neighboring properties.

The following status report provides an overview of the ongoing work and the findings and recommendations of the State Trails Advisory Committee assembled in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

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Introduction

This report conveys the highlights from two statewide trail advisory committee meetings¹, held during fiscal year 2017 and committee recommendations for the Virginia Outdoors Plan as requested by the General Assembly. Other items of discussion documented include the possibility of including historic trails in the statewide network, and the criteria for determining whether a trail should be designated as a statewide “connecting” trail. This report addresses the trail data needed to improve citizen services and satisfaction, with a proposal for purchasing outdoor recreation data from local governments. The report concludes with information provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, where the statewide trails program is housed, to include future plans and potential goals in regard to the Statewide Trails Network.

Virginia Outdoors Plan Recommendations

The following are committee recommendations for incorporation into the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan:

Options to close the gaps in a statewide system of trails:

- Identify gaps and justify closing the gaps; and
- Gather research to help justify the value of trails.

Strategies to encourage and create linkages between communities and open space:

- Establish a state trails foundation (Friends of Trails as a non-profit) to be a revenue generating statewide organization that creates a shared identity for trails.
 - Provide a galvanizing voice for trails, statewide;
 - Engage people beyond just using the resource; and
 - Make trails a part of personal and community shared identities.
- Partnership/outreach with business and the private sector:
 - Educate landowners about liability immunity pursuant to *Code of Virginia* §29.1-509 (e) to encourage use of private lands for trails;
 - Conduct a study to demonstrate the economic benefits of trails (Look at other states as examples); and
 - Educate local boards of supervisors and local government. Work with the planning districts to reach out to these groups. Incorporate this idea in the statewide governor’s trail conference.

¹ All meeting minutes are available on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website (www.townhall.virginia.gov)

Practices, standards, statutes, and guidelines that may enhance the effectiveness of trail planning across the Commonwealth:

- Update Greenways and Trails Toolbox on topics discussed (blazing, culverts, fencing, railbanking, stormwater, on-road segments, transition areas); and
- Provide technical expertise to trail projects to assist in meeting stormwater standards.

Practices, standards, statutes, and guidelines that may enhance methods for receiving input regarding potential trail impacts upon owners of underlying or neighboring properties:

- The General Assembly should authorize local governments to provide a local tax break for trail easements; and
- Provide staff resources and a web-based toolkit with topics discussed (case studies, landowner testimonials, agenda templates, landowner liability law and interpretation, brochures) to support local public input meetings with landowners.

Historic Trail Consideration

At the December 2016 committee meeting, Peggy Crosson, representing Virginia's Lewis and Clark Eastern Legacy Trail, made a presentation for the committee to consider creating a new category, a Virginia "historic trail," as part of the statewide trail system.

In response, committee members noted the following during a discussion of *specialty trails*:

- It is difficult to find trails information on the DCR website;
- Current mapping is not useful;
- The VOP should recommend addressing specialty trails by having an inventory of trails;
- Trails offer economic opportunities and promote tourism;
- Historic trails are thematic and perhaps more appropriate as marketing or tourism, DCR focuses on outdoor recreation;
- Specialty trails for DCR should focus on outdoor recreation; and
- Birding and wildlife trails should be listed.

Statewide Connecting Trails

The Statewide Trail Advisory Committee met in April 2017 as part of the Land Conservation and Greenways Conference held in Williamsburg.

Guest speakers from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts provided some benchmarking on trail development in other states. North Carolina has a statewide trail

coordinator and three regional trail specialists, and the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition involves four states and 1,400 miles of trail, with an annual goal of 33 new trail miles.

Speakers from Virginia discussed innovative approaches to trail development in their regions, representing Northern Virginia, Roanoke-Alleghany and Southwest Virginia.

In a mapping exercise, participants recommended trails to consider as “Connecting Trails” for the statewide system. A map of these trails will be included in the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan.

The following list of criteria, along with human judgment, would prove useful to elevate a trail to this status:

- Marketable to out-of-state residents;
- Provides year-round, public access;
- Crosses boundaries or jurisdictions;
- Provides a key connection to communities;
- Connects to natural assets (places with natural, cultural or historic significance);
- Has a large service area (potential for use); and
- Non-motorized (by state code).

Additional Screening for Existing Trails:

- Trail has an established management entity; and
- Trail is identified on local and regional plans.

Additional Screening for Proposed Trails:

- Grassroots/local support;
- Identified on maps as study area or corridor with flexibility to adjust as needed; and
- Meets identified need.

Another group discussed thematic driving tours (Civil War Tours, Wine Tours, Artisan Trails, etc.) and thought these were outside the scope of the committee’s work. These tours are more suitable for promotion through marketing and tourism outlets.

Other groups reviewed the list of recommendations and the outline for the trails chapter of the VOP. These recommendations are available in Appendix A.

Need for Data

Members would like to see better trail information as indicated by comments such as “it is difficult to find trails information on the DCR website” or “current mapping is not useful.” One outcome mentioned in the first (2015) meeting called for “utilizing technology, including mobile apps, for

trail mapping and information sharing.” These concerns echo comments raised at regional Virginia Outdoors Plan meetings by people who do not know where to find information on local trails.

In their 2009 report, the Greenways and Trails Task Force recommended developing “a trail inventory process, and database maintenance protocol, to maintain up-to-date information on trail development, and work with local agencies to build the database and monitor progress. This benchmarking will be essential to evaluate effectiveness of current programs and chart success.”

Over the last 10 years, the technical ability to collect and map trail data has gotten easier but local government cooperation continues to pose a challenge for obtaining reliable data. While a few jurisdictions have their trail and park data available for download through an open GIS portal, and others are actively mapping their data, inconsistencies exist because of the localities that do not map or share data.

The Center for Geospatial Information Technology at Virginia Tech identified the need for a part time position to collect and maintain trails data in their report ***Development of a Statewide Comprehensive GIS Decision Support Database for Virginia’s Bikeways (2009)***. This report, funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), was developed for VDOT and DCR.

Currently there is an overlap between data on trails and routes collected by DCR and VDOT. While VDOT typically maintains data on shared use paths in VDOT right-of-way and on-road bike facilities, DCR collects data on trails within parks and public lands. Many long-distance trails, like the Cross-County Parkway in Fairfax, include both transportation and recreation segments over facilities as diverse as earthen pathways, sidewalks, bike lanes, paved trails, and shared roadways. Although VDOT and DCR attempted to populate the support database to integrate data useful to both agencies, most localities did not or could not provide data.

The National Recreation and Park Association has developed a PRORAGIS database tool which has become the most comprehensive and largest collection of detailed data on municipal, county and state park systems in the U.S., but very few Virginia localities provide their information. Access to this level of data gives local governments an incredible opportunity to improve citizen services and satisfaction, as well as reduce government spending through streamlining operations.

If DCR were in a position to provide an incentive, like a trails planning grant each year, to localities in exchange for their outdoor recreation data, many possibilities for researching and promoting outdoor recreation would open up. A glimpse of the data collected so far, for both trailhead (point features) and trail (line features) data, demonstrates the wide discrepancy in data and facilities available at the local level as shown in the following diagrams:

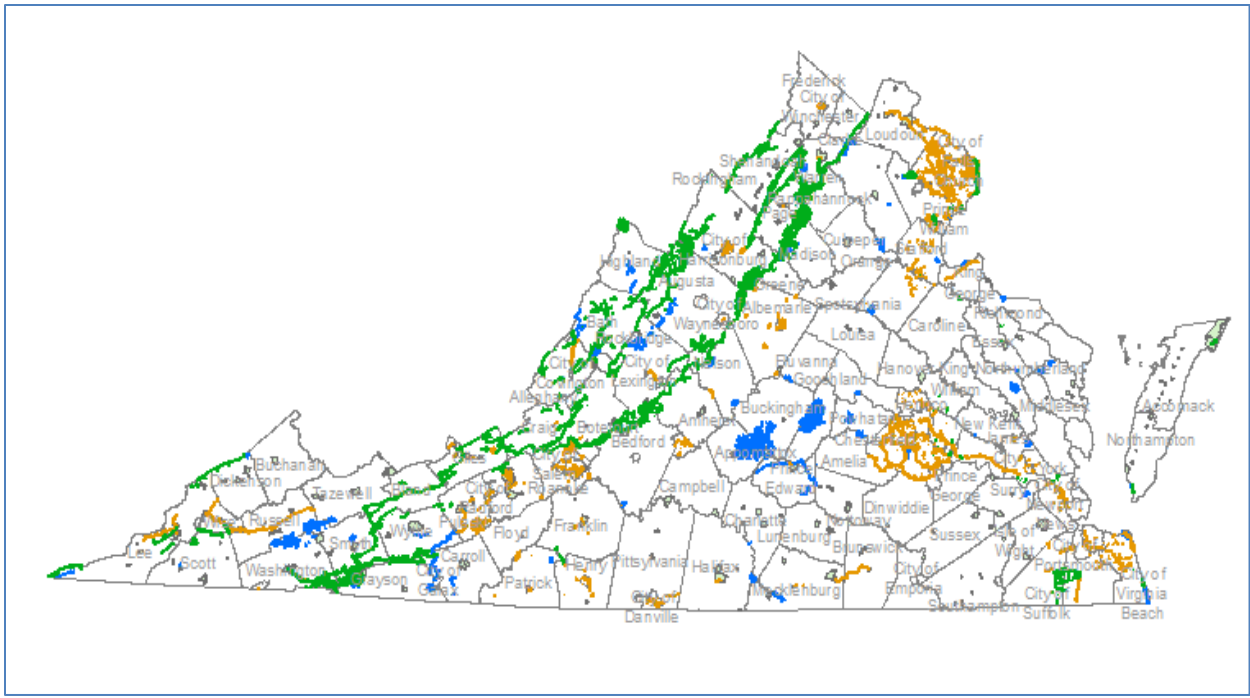


FIGURE 1 (GREEN INDICATES FEDERAL TRAILS, BLUE-STATE TRAILS AND ORANGE-LOCAL TRAILS)

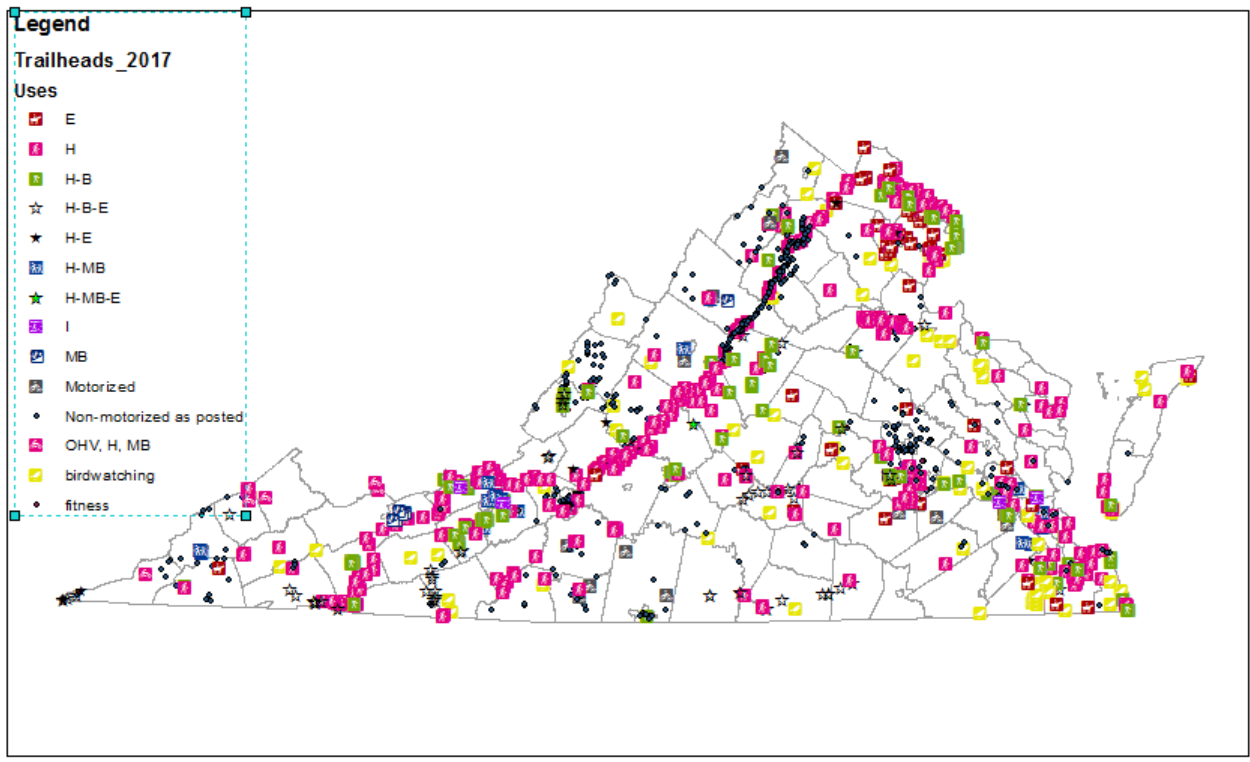


FIGURE 2 TRAILHEADS CATEGORIZED BY TYPE OF USES ALLOWED (IF KNOWN)

With the positive impact that parks and trails have on public health, and the importance of these facilities to community decision makers and funders, the demand for parks and trails data will

increase. Improved data could help recreation planners identify potential locations for new or improved access to outdoor recreation and create improved transportation routes and recreation opportunities for targeted neighborhoods. The data would help identify trends and compare approaches to park and trail design and management assisting local agencies in setting goals and evaluating results. Furthermore, helping local agencies make strategic decisions about parks and trails that increase public health benefits would support requests for specific changes in infrastructure and for funding.

Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 Conferences

In April 2017, the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee co-hosted a conference with Virginia's United Land Trusts in Williamsburg. The conference was well attended, and follow up surveys indicate participants were pleased with program content and networking opportunities. Participants included Governor McAuliffe and numerous other elected officials. A conference program is attached in Appendix B.

The next conference is scheduled to be held April 23-25, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. The planning committee will reach out to the new Governor to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

Fiscal Year 2018 Statewide Trails Advisory Committee Meetings

Plans are underway for a "Day on the Hill" in Richmond on November 30, 2017, to help build capacity within the committee to work with their legislators. In addition to hearing from committee members who spend lots of time at the Capitol, attendees will learn about the Outdoor Recreation Caucus and the work of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; in particular, the role the Commission plays as the legislative "arm" of the Bay restoration effort.

The next committee meeting will be held April 24, 2018, as part of the Land Conservation and Greenways Conference in Roanoke.

Moving Forward

The Planning and Recreation Resources (PRR) Division at the Department of Conservation and Recreation manages the Virginia Statewide Trails Program, guided by the following goals:

- Enhance access to the outdoors through the development of a trails network that promotes healthy recreation and connects citizens including children and families to Virginia's diverse open space and natural landscapes.
- Improve linkages between communities and key tourist destinations in both rural and urban areas to promote regional outdoor recreation and heritage tourism initiatives,

support local economies, and provide economic stimuli for small business start-ups and entrepreneurial expansion.

- Create the foundation of a statewide system of interconnected open space corridors through which trails traverse, in order to support long-term protection of Virginia’s “green infrastructure” and the ecological services it provides.
- Integrate trails as a critical component in Virginia’s transportation infrastructure, in order to provide efficient and convenient non-motorized connections to neighborhoods, schools, community facilities, and employment centers.
- Educate citizens about the trail network’s social, ecological, transportation, and wellness benefits, and foster educational pursuits through environmental research, multi-cultural programs, and “outdoor classrooms.”

This Division provides many important services for the Commonwealth that are not replicated elsewhere. A recent audit of the Division reflect that it was “apparent that PRR and Design and Construction (DAC) need additional resources to adequately perform duties required by the Code of Virginia, federal grant programs, and other mandated activities.”

The Statewide Trails Advisory Committee will continue to examine the critical issues and provide recommendations necessary for the development of the trail network. However, with limited staff resources and funding, in order for the Division to support the work of the committee or implement the recommendations requested by the General Assembly, financial and political support from elected officials at all levels of government is necessary. Specifically, support is needed to address adequate staffing and implement incentives such as a trail planning grant that encourages local governments to embrace the statewide network.

2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan

Trails Chapter - DRAFT

STATISTICS

- Describe need for trails established by regional meeting input and survey results
- Describe work of Statewide Trails Advisory Committee to include requests for staffing and GA funding (surveys, recommendations in response to HB1542, other recommendations, desired outcomes)
- Include HB1542 charge from GA

ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES

- Connecting Trails description and map(s)
- Meeting stormwater standards
- Health partnerships for funding opportunities

CHALLENGES

- Getting trails on the ground —difficult grant process, meeting stormwater standards, lack of resources for trail development and maintenance in rural areas
- Providing guidance for prioritizing trail projects
- Balancing trail user needs conflict/surfacing-ADA
- Marketing inside and outside Virginia
- Maintenance and operations funding

CASE STUDIES

- Rails to Trails Concept – Example (Chessie Trail - Cliff Kiracofe)
- Roanoke River Greenway – FEEMA Origin (Regional Commission - Amanda)
- Case study for utility crossings and trails
- National Trails (map of National Trails in Virginia) cooperative agreements, cost share funding
- Case study, Northern Virginia trail PHT gap analysis
- Leveraging trails with other infrastructure (Herndon)
- Attracting supporting businesses through regional cooperation (Roanoke-Alleghany region)
- Text box on types of Transportation funding with links to each
- Creating special tax district (Lexington)
- Encourage entrepreneurs (NSVRC gap analysis)
- Opening private lands to recreation (liability, Twin River Outfitters case study, Spearhead case study, openaccess.com)
- Meeting needs in rural areas
- Health case study (HEAL Fairfax (Liz C.))
- Virginia Beach utilities underground

RECOMMENDATIONS

Comments updated by: Janit Llewellyn Allen 04/3/17 - Revised by Jennifer 03/31/17 – Revised based on STAC meeting notes Danette Poole/JLA 04/26/17

Statewide trails advocacy is essential to grow a statewide trails network. To achieve the trails goals and objectives outlined below, the State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), appointed by the Governor, should advocate for state funding, staff support and a statewide non-profit advocacy organization.

1-Strategies to enhance trails in communities and close the gaps in the statewide system of trails as described in Code 10.1-204

- Develop multi-state trails connectivity goals and strategies. (DCR, STAC)
- Encourage partnerships through Virginia Economic Development Partnership and local economic development initiatives for trails development. Assist local communities to promote trails as economic initiatives. (VTC) Example – return on Investment – James River Park System.
- Identify and close the gaps in the statewide trails system and create linkages between communities and open space. Gather data from trail counters to support trails projects. (Regions, localities with VDOT/DCR/VTC).
- Create a central clearing house of information to closed statewide trail system gaps. Consider an interagency MOU to facilitate information sharing. (DCR-lead)
- Include recreation, scenic and connecting statewide trails in local and regional plans (local and regional governments)
- Obtain funds for a statewide trails needs assessment showing costs. DCR, STAC, advocacy community)
- Identify existing and potential old growth forests in each region that tie into the statewide trail system.
- Address maintenance and operations upfront
- Connect with health partners

2-Develop creative public and private funding strategies and partnerships to leverage resources for funding trails development

- Seek sources of funding for trails renovation and maintenance. (STAC, DCR, advocacy community)
- Leverage funding for trails with other infrastructure (government agencies and business partners)
- Educate localities about transportation funding for trails (VDOT, DCR)
- Facilitate partnership/outreach with business and the private sector to enhance and build trails. (STAC or Friends of Trails)
- Foster programs for recognizing businesses that support trails - e.g. FHWA Pedestrian Friendly Community and League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Business Program (DCR)
- Develop strategies for the state to encourage trail agreement through partnerships, programs and legislation. (DCR, STAC)
- Explore utility easements for trail connections. (DCR, planning districts and localities). Specifically pursue decommissioning of lines, restrictions are changing (Virginia Beach case study)
-

3-Integrated approaches to promote and market trail values and benefits

- Obtain funding for a statewide study on the economic and other benefits of trails. (STAC)
- Publicize and market trail use and positive impacts (DCR, Virginia Tourism, local and regional trail leaders, Health Department)

4 - Strategies to foster communication and networking among trail stakeholders

- Develop a common vision for trails in Virginia (STAC)
- Develop a communications plan (DCR/Tourism/STAC)
 - o Expand distribution of Greenways and Trails e-news (DCR)
- Establish a non-profit statewide trails organization (Friends of Trails, STAC)
- Create a central place for trails stakeholders to share and learn:
 - o Social media (advocacy community, statewide trails organization)
- Provide educational opportunities (e.g. trails workshops). (Regions and local governments with support from DCR and other state agencies)

5- Strategies to increase tourism and commercial activities associate with statewide trail system

- Develop tourism branding for trails in Virginia
- Develop community strategies to sustain and expand trails and supporting businesses. (Statewide trails organizations, Virginia Tourism, local governments and Chambers of Commerce)
- Identify trail service gaps in regions and localities that could support new and expanding businesses. (Local governments, chambers, Virginia Tourism, Virginia Economic Development Partnership with input from advocacy community)
- Install trail counters and collect other data needed to identify business opportunities. (local/regional governments)
- Develop app for sharing trail data with users (VDOT, DCR, VEDP, Tourism)
- **DCR – Possibility of “Trail Town” Meetings** -- On June 2, staff consulted with the National Park Service about the possibility of bringing Amy Camp with Cycle Forward to Virginia to conduct “Trail Town” trainings. These would be similar to those she did along the Great Alleghany Passage in Pennsylvania. There is widespread need for this training in Virginia, which could encompass, at a minimum, towns along state park trails, Appalachian Trail communities, Tobacco Heritage Trail communities and communities along Spearhead Trails in Southwest Virginia. Staff identified a need for a “train the trainer” program, which could be incorporated into the Greenways and Land Conservation conference next April in Roanoke. The 2018 conference will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.
-

6-Update the Greenways and Trails Toolbox and Trails Program Website to provide practices, standards, statutes and guidelines that enhance the effectiveness of trail planning across the Commonwealth

- Update the Greenways and Trails Toolbox (DCR)
 - (e. g. trail signage plan; sustainable OHV trail development guidelines; strategies for overcoming road and trail barriers; defining the corridor to reduce trespass; guidance for initiate non-profit friends group to support local trails. (DCR)
- Update the trails program website. (DCR)
 - o Develop a web-based trails toolkit for planners to use to engage landowners.

Additional Comments

- Consider a call out box in the VOP for Mobile Apps, STRAVA
- Plan for a future STAC meeting to address talking points for meeting with legislators and local officials.

Other Comments

Case studies may not fall easily into 2 categories; therefore they will be incorporated throughout the trails chapter and VOP regional chapters.

Report on accomplishments from 2013 VOP.

Note: Definitions to go at end of VOP, youth engagement to go in youth engagement chapter

Conference Schedule

Virginia's Statewide Land Conservation and Greenways Conference
 April 25 – April 27, 2017
 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center
 Williamsburg, Virginia
 2017 Land Trust Host: Historic Virginia Land Conservancy

Tuesday April 25, 2017

- 1:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Registration Open in the Promenade**
Field Trips – Meet on Site
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. **Social Hour – Cash Bar in the Hotel Promenade**
Dinner on Your Own in Williamsburg
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Special Session – Greenways in America: Looking Forward (invited speakers)**
Room 10
- 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. **Screening of the Documentary *Green Fire*, on the Evolution of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic**
Room 17

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

- 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Registration Open in the Promenade**
- 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. **Plenary Sessions – Open to All**
VaULT meeting – Room 18
State Trails Advisory Council – Rooms 2 & 3
- Noon to 1:15 p.m. **Lunch – Harrison Ballroom**
Speaker: Wendy Jackson, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance
Trails and Conversation: People, Places, and Prosperity

1:30 to 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent sessions**

Session A Room 16	Session B Room 11	Session C Room 15	Session D Room 17
Effective Organizations Make for Successful Missions – Don Owen and Sandra Marra	Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation Initiative – Laura Belleville Using Partnerships for Community-based Tourism – Joshua Carroll	Syndication of Conservation Easement Deductions – Tim Lindstrom (CLE applied for)	Intro to ArcGIS Online: From Desktop to Cloud, Part I – Annie Cahill, Matthew Viverito

3:00 to 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break in the Promenade**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. **Concurrent sessions**

Session E Room 16	Session F Room 11	Session G Room 15	Session D (cont.) Room 17
Land Trust Standards and Practices 2017: What's New? – Sylvia Bates, Heather Richards	Resiliency Planning: Green Infrastructure Applications – Steve Walz, Chuck Flink	Scenic Resources Guiding Land Conservation – Lynn Crump, Luke Pecoraro, Corey Miles, Liz Russell	Intro to ArcGIS Online: From Desktop to Cloud, Part II – Annie Cahill, Matthew Viverito

6:00 p.m. **Banquet at Williamsburg Winery, 5800 Wessex Hundred, Williamsburg VA 23185**

Speaker: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Basil Gooden
 Recognition of the Contributions of Speaker and Mrs. Howell

Thursday, April 27, 2017

- 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Registration Open in the Promenade**
- 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. **Networking Breakfast and Roundtable Discussions** – Harrison Ballroom
Table A
Strengthening Diversity in Our Community – Ebonie Alexander, Nathan Burrell, Carolyn Finney, Marissa Hartzler
Table B
Trails and Tourism – Sandra Tanner, Ursula Lemanski, Amy Camp
Table C
Carrying Capacity on Public Lands – Rob Evans, Laura Belleville
Table D
Public/Private Partnerships – Mike Kane, Paul Gilbert

8:45 to 10:00 a.m. **Concurrent sessions**

Session H Room 16	Session I Room 11	Session J Room 15	Session K Room 17
Communicating the Value of Land Conservation for Clean Water – Jennifer Miller Herzog, Kristin Reilly	Funding for Trails through VDOT – John Bolecek, Liz Cronauer, Shane Sawyer, Chris Gensic Developing an Invasive Species Management Plan for Your Property – Nathan Burrell	Conversations about Land, People, and Community: A Sand County Almanac Revisited, Part I – Bettina Ring, Buddy Huffaker, Maria Kobylecky, Susan Cable	Economic Impacts and Public Benefits of Trails in Virginia – Justin Doyle, Peter Hujik, Susan Sherman

10 to 10:30 a.m. **Networking break in the Promenade**

10:30 to Noon **Concurrent sessions**

Session L Room 16	Session M Room 11	Session J, cont. Room 15	Session N Room 17
Forest Management on Conserved Properties – Andrew Fotinos, Brian Irvine, Terry Lasher, Rob Suydam, Land Stewardship after the Easement – Jessica Palmer, Michael Sands	Planning, Partnerships and Advocacy on the James River Trail – Heather Barrar, Stuart Connock Stone Soup: Public-Private Partnerships – Paul Gilbert	Conversations about Land, People, and Community: A Sand County Almanac Revisited, Part II	Trail Towns and Community Building – Amy Camp Public Benefits of Trails – Rex Linville

- Noon to 1:30 p.m. **Lunch – Harrison Ballroom**
Remarks by Governor Terry McAuliffe
Speaker: Carolyn Finney, Cultural Geographer, University of Kentucky
Radical Presence: Black Faces, White Spaces & Other Stories of Possibility

1:45 to 3:15 p.m. **Concurrent sessions**

Session O Room 16	Session P Room 11	Session Q Room 15
Conservation in Cities, Towns, and Suburbs: Opportunities, Challenges, and Approaches – Kathy Baker, Tee Clarkson, Kerry Hutcherson, Jason McGarvey, Andrea Reese	Creative Reassembling of Former Railroad Corridors; a.k.a. Putting Humpty Dumpty Together Again – Craig Della Penna	Indigenous Cultural Landscape Research – Deanna Beacham, Suzanne Copping, Julia King, Joe McCauley

3:15 to 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break in the Promenade**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. **Concurrent sessions**

Session R Room 16	Session S Room 11	Session T Room 15
Education and Outreach roundtable – Marissa Hartzler Community Conservation: Working with Schools – Meagan Cupka	A Tale of Two Trails – David Brickley The East Coast Greenway – Kathryn Zeringue and Steve Lambert	Economic and Environmental Benefits of Battlefield Preservation – Adam Gillenwater, Tom Gilmore