



REGION **10**
Thomas Jefferson

Kids enjoying Bear Creek State Park | Bill Crabtree, Jr./Va. Tourism Corp.



Saunders Monticello boardwalk trail | Marco Sanchez

Introduction

The Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region includes Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties and the city of Charlottesville. This area attracts citizens and visitors who enjoy a variety of natural resource based recreation opportunities such as parks, river recreation, cultural and historic sites. Adding to the scenic beauty of the area are viewsheds of mountainsides, ridges, pastoral valleys and charming towns.

Regional Focus

Table 10.1 Most-Needed Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region

activity	% of households in	
	region	state
Natural areas	64	54
Parks	50	49
Trails	45	43
Water access	45	43
Historic areas	30	39
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	22	29
Playing fields, sports and golf facilities	17	22

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.

Table 10.2 Top 10 Outdoor Recreation Activities By Participation

Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region

activity	% household
Visiting natural areas	83
Driving for pleasure	73
Walking for pleasure	67
Visiting parks (local, state & national)	61
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	56
Swimming/outdoor pool	49
Swimming/beach/lake river (open water)	44
Viewing the water	40
Visiting historic areas	38
Culinary tours/trails (brewery/winery/food)	36

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey. Visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/vop to view regional participation rates for more than 100 activities.



Nelson County stream | Virginia Department of Forestry

Regional Featured Projects

To be considered a regional featured project, a project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Has statewide or regional significance.
- Addresses top statewide or regional needs identified by the Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.
- Has involvement and support from multiple jurisdictions in the region.
- Able to be initiated within the next five years.

Featured projects for Thomas Jefferson region:

- Implement the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission’s Jefferson Area Bike Pedestrian Plan.
- Implement the James River Heritage Trail.
- Implement the Rivanna River Trail.
- Implement the Rockfish River Trail.
- Develop Biscuit Run Park community trail connections.
- Develop Crozet Tunnel as a tourist destination and develop areas regional trail connections.
- Develop Ragged Mountain-Hedgerow Park trail connections.
- Develop a concept plan for the 3-Notch’d Trail.

Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact

Table 10.3 Per-Capita Spending on Parks and Recreation

Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region

locality	dollars
Albemarle County	24.52
Fluvanna County	19.58
Greene County	9.96
Louisa County	30.68
Nelson County	13.32
City of Charlottesville	255.96
Statewide	71.09
Town of Warrenton	217.34
Statewide	71.09

Source: Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, “Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures,” 20110.

Regional Health

Table 10.4 Health Trends

Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region

locality	adult smoking (% of adults)	adult obesity (% of adults with BMI over 30)	physical inactivity (% of adults age 20 or over reporting no leisure time/ physical activity)	access to exercise opportunities (% population with adequate access to locations for physical activity)	air pollution – particulate matter (micrograms per cubic meter)
Albemarle County	14	23	18	74	8.6
Fluvanna County	14	28	23	52	8.5
Greene County	17	28	25	73	8.6
Louisa County	17	32	26	46	8.7
Nelson County	16	30	22	44	8.4
City of Charlottesville	20	26	18	100	8.7
Statewide	17	27	21	81	8.7

Outdoor Recreation Interface with Virginia Tourism

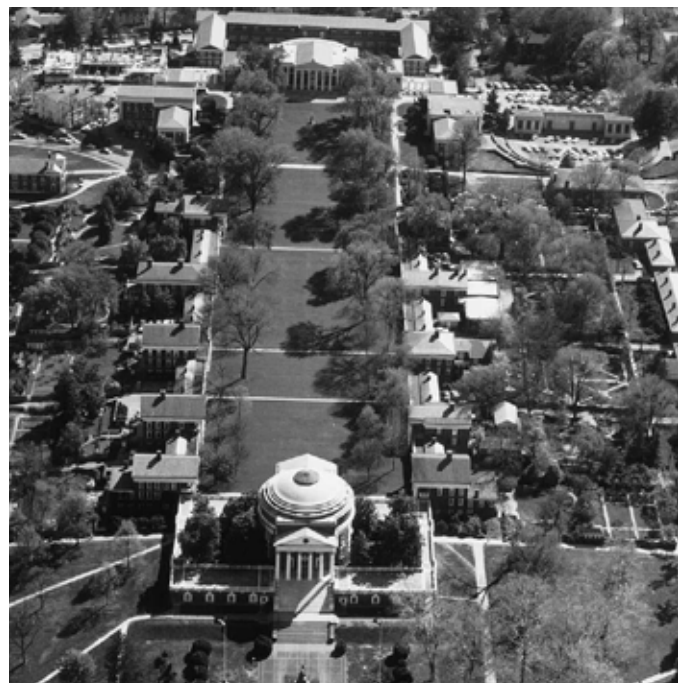
The Virginia State Tourism Plan was completed by Virginia Tourism Corp. in March 2013. In 2017, Virginia Tourism compiled “Nature & Outdoors” recommendations in Appendix 13 for each recreation planning region.

Regional Historic Resources

The Thomas Jefferson region is home to two of our country’s most iconic historic resources: Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, and the Rotunda and Lawn at the University of Virginia, both of which are National Historic Landmarks. The surrounding city of Charlottesville contains multiple individual historic buildings and districts as well. Outside of the densely occupied city, this region retains its rural character, with rolling hills containing predominately farms, timberland and open space. Many historic farmsteads and communities include both manor houses and the homes of enslaved persons and tenants, and extensive evidence for indigenous occupation prior to European settlement can be found. The Thomas Jefferson region is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, a historic and scenic region that runs from Gettysburg to Monticello and encompasses battlefields and other historic sites of great significance to American history.

Appropriate conservation activities may include installation of highway markers to commemorate historic locations and events, placement of historic properties on the Virginia Landmarks Register or National Register of Historic Places and placement of historic preservation and open space easements.

Conservation targets include: 19th century farmsteads, 19th and early 20th century dwellings and commercial buildings/districts; historic schools and churches; historic transportation routes and crossroads, sites and properties associated with enslaved persons/communities; and significant prehistoric habitation sites. Information about historic buildings, structures and archaeological sites is maintained in the permanent files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and is available to local planners.



Aerial view of the University of Virginia | Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Table 10.5 Regional Historic Resources*Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region*

resource	location
Monticello	Albemarle County
University of Virginia - Rotunda and Lawn	City of Charlottesville
Paramount Theater	City of Charlottesville
Palmyra Lock and Dam	Fluvanna County
Pine Knot (Theodore Roosevelt Retreat)	Albemarle County

Source: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Land Conservation

Table 10.6 Conserved Lands*Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region*

locality	easement acres	ownership acres
Albemarle County	93,608.48	19,072.64
City of Charlottesville	72.52	194.60
Fluvanna County	14,858.50	1,279.07
Greene County	10,019.66	18,316.80
Louisa County	20,064.76	948.83
Nelson County	18,511.90	27,770.74
Total	224,718.50	

Natural Area Preserves and Natural Heritage Resources

The Thomas Jefferson region has comparatively few populations of rare plants and animals and few examples of intact native plant communities. However, the region does retain some natural heritage resources of note, within both the Piedmont and the Blue Ridge portions of the district. Some examples include rare plants and communities associated with greenstone outcrops, the only known population in the world of an aquatic insect known as the Virginia Piedmont Water Boatman, and several populations of rare mussels.

DCR recommends that conservation activities and land protection efforts in the region focus on unprotected Essential Conservation Sites and all unprotected portions of Natural Area Preserve resiliency areas. Secondly, strategic land conservation should expand upon existing managed areas and seek connectivity via protecting and/or managing intact ecological cores and natural vegetation cover between currently protected lands. Finally, attention on remaining unprotected natural heritage resources within the region should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The appropriate conservation activities and methods of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas; developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner; securing a conservation easement through a local land trust; acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust; dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner; or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Conservation targets of special significance in the region include:

- Large blocks of native forests.
- High-quality stream corridors.
- Rare wetland and rock outcrop communities.

Information about the location of conservation sites and the natural heritage resources they contain, as well as management assistance, is available to local planners from DCR's Natural Heritage Program. For more on the Natural Heritage Program, see Chapter 11 and Appendix 11.

Table 10.7 Natural Area Preserves*Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region*

preserve name	owner	locality
Crawford's Knob	Private	Nelson County
Naked Mountain	Private	Nelson County

Table 10.8 Natural Heritage Resources*Thomas Jefferson Recreational Planning Region*

Number of occurrences of rare species and significant natural communities	224
Number of different rare species and significant community types (natural heritage elements)	110
Number of globally rare natural heritage elements	44
Number of species listed as federally endangered or threatened	7
Number of species listed as state endangered or threatened	9
Number of terrestrial conservation sites identified by DCR	52
Number of conservation sites with little or no protection	21
Number of partially protected conservation sites	11
Number of well protected conservation sites	20

Information as of Feb. 28, 2018. Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Program