



CHAPTER 13

*Regional  
Recommendations*

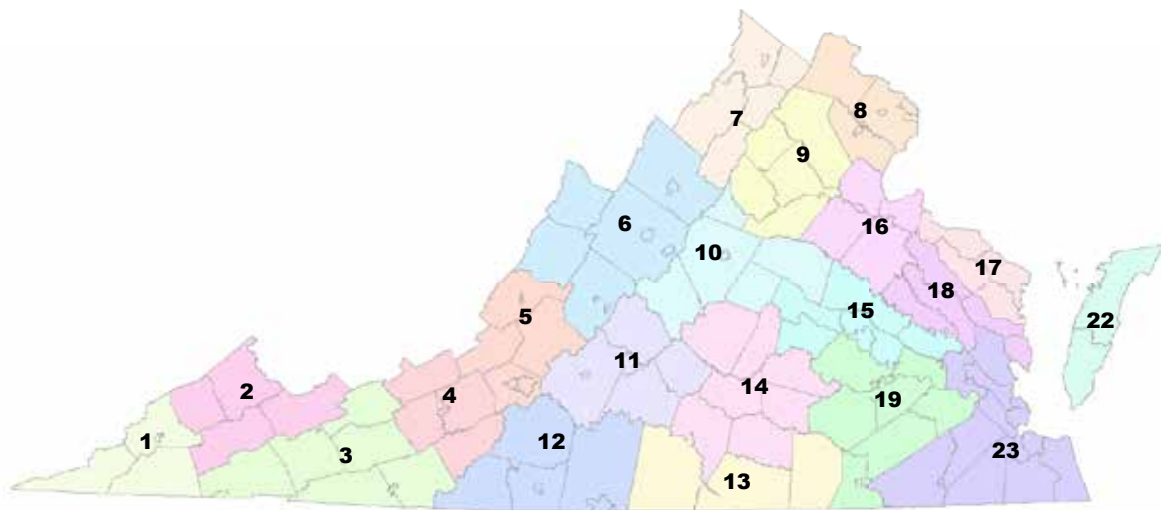
## Recreation Plan Implementation

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) provides an opportunity to meet regionally to discuss and prioritize parks and recreation and land conservation needs and goals. Increasingly, regional leadership recognizes that establishing recreation planning and land conservation strategies based on the detailed regional data is important to Virginians health and the long-term viability of the Commonwealth. Results from the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (VODS) and the Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities Inventory are important for prioritizing future outdoor recreation needs. Featured projects for each region, if implemented, will address these needs.

## Recreation Planning Regions

The 2018 VOP divides the Commonwealth into 21 outdoor recreational planning regions. These regions coincide in name, area, number and boundaries with existing planning districts. For the purposes of this plan, when a jurisdiction is a member of multiple planning district commissions, one planning region is selected to avoid duplication of inventory data and resource recommendations.

**Map 13.1 Recreation Planning Regions**



1	LENOWISCO	8	Northern Virginia	15	Richmond
2	Cumberland Plateau	9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	16	George Washington
3	Mount Rogers	10	Thomas Jefferson	17	Northern Neck
4	New River Valley	11	2000	18	Middle Peninsula
5	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	12	West Piedmont	19	Crater
6	Central Shenandoah	13	Southside	22	Accomack-Northampton
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	14	Commonwealth	23	Hampton Roads

## Regional Public Input

Recreation planning meetings were held in 2014, 2015 and 2016 across the 21 recreational regions. Planners, recreation and conservation advocates and local, regional and state agencies participated in these meetings to provide input for the VOP. These annual meetings engaged 744 individuals, enabling the Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation to identify the featured projects for each region.

**Table 13.2 Recreation Planning Meetings**

meetings	attendees
2014	183
2015	218
2016	343
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>

## Criteria for 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.
- The project is able to be initiated within the next five years.

## Recreation Mapping

Mapping tools available to assist with recreation planning include:

- The VOP Mapper, an interactive map tool useful for recreation and land conservation planning.
- The Natural Heritage Data Explorer, a map tool for land conservation, natural resource and planning.
- The Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS) provides extensive information on coastal resources in Virginia in the form of detailed descriptions and interactive spatial data.