A duathlon on the Strasburg River Walk. Photo by Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation Department.

CHAPTER 10

Regional Recommendations

MAP ICON KEY

VOP Mapper
Data explorer
PDF
Introduction

“I haven’t been everywhere, but it’s on my list.”

— Susan Sontag

Recreation planning regions

The Virginia Outdoors Plan divides the Commonwealth into 21 outdoor recreational planning regions. These regions coincide in name, area, number and boundaries with existing planning districts (See Map 10). 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.

Regional public input

To initiate the regional planning process, 42 public meetings were held across the 21 recreational regions from December 2011 through March 2012. Regional projects reflect input from some 480 people attending these public meetings along with more than 120 written comments from citizens, organizations, technical advisory members and agencies. Information received during public meetings, along with input from planners, recreation professionals, nonprofit groups and planning district staff are incorporated into regional recommendations.

Regional featured projects

Featured projects for each region address these priorities and meet at least one of the following criteria:

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

Recreation mapping

Tools available to assist with recreation planning:

- The VOP Mapper, an interactive map tool.
- The Natural Heritage Data Explorer, a map tool useful for land conservation, natural resource and planning.
- A PDF map, which indicates recreation resources for each region.

Recreation plan implementation

Results from the 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey and 2012 Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities Inventory are important for prioritizing future outdoor recreation needs. Regional chapters outline existing conservation lands and address strategies to meet statewide conservation goals. 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.
CHAPTER 10 Regional Recommendations

Map 10.0 Planning Regions

Independent Cities
1. Alexandria
2. Bedford
3. Bristol
4. Buena Vista
5. Charlottesville
6. Chesapeake
7. Clifton Forge
8. Colonial Heights
9. Covington
10. Danville
11. Emporia
12. Fairfax
13. Falls Church
14. Franklin
15. Frederick
16. Galax
17. Hampton
18. Harrisonburg
19. Hopewell
20. Lexington
21. Lynchburg
22. Manassas
23. Manassas Park
24. Martinsville
25. Newport News
26. Norfolk
27. Norton
28. Petersburg
29. Poquoson
30. Portsmouth
31. Radford
32. Richmond
33. Roanoke
34. Salem
35. Staunton
36. Suffolk
37. Virginia Beach
38. Waynesboro
39. Williamsburg
40. Winchester

Recreation Planning Regions
1. LENOWISCO
2. Cumberland Plateau
3. Mount Rogers
4. New River Valley
5. Roanoke Valley-Allegheny
6. Central Shenandoah
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
8. Northern Virginia
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan
10. Thomas Jefferson
11. Region 2000
12. West Piedmont
13. Southside
14. Commonwealth Regional Council
15. Richmond Regional
16. George Washington Regional Commission
17. Northern Neck
18. Middle Peninsula
19. Crater
20. Accomac-Northampton
21. Hampton Roads