**Active recreation**
Activity that is usually more strenuous or organized and requires developed or specialized facilities such as fields or courts.

**Agritourism**
Touring agricultural regions to see farms and participate in farm activities is considered agritourism.

**All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)**
A three- or four-wheeled vehicle that is 50 inches or less in width, intended for off-road highway use. These vehicles are not licensed in Virginia.

**Atlantic Coastal Flyway**
The eastern migratory route taken by birds in the fall and spring.

**Biodiversity**
Biodiversity is often a measure of the health of biological systems. It includes the variety of living things, including variability within and among living populations and the ecosystems within which they occur.

**Blue-green infrastructure**
Blue or green infrastructure includes natural features on the land and water critical to maintaining ecosystems and human health.

**Blueway**
For the purposes of the Virginia Outdoors Plan, the terms blueway and water trail are used synonymously. Blueways and water trails are managed systems of access points and support facilities that allow trail users to plan multiday trips with assurances that access points, camping sites, rest stops and resupply sites are clearly identified on maps and on signs visible from the water.

**Car-top boat launch**
A facility that provides appropriate water access for small watercraft transported on top of a car. A car-top boat launch may also provide access for small boats transported by trailer, but most launches are designed to prohibit access for boats transported by a trailer. Also referred to as a hand-carry launch.

**Close-to-home recreation**
The Outdoor Industry Association considers close-to-home recreation as the opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation on parks, trails and along the water within 15 minutes of home.

**Complete street**
Streets designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to move safely along and across a complete street.

**Connector**
A trail that leads to or links one or more parks or greenways.

**Conservation**
The stewardship of valued natural and cultural resources through preservation, management and care to protect the resources from loss, damage or deleterious change. Conservation involves protection of a natural resource in order to prevent misuse, destruction or neglect.

**Conservation easement**
A legally binding agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization or government agency (the easement holder), in which the landowner voluntarily relinquishes specific land-use rights, and the easement holder agrees to enforce the terms of the easement for public benefit.

**Designated**
When a resource such as a trail, byway or river has received local, regional, statewide or federal recognition for outstanding qualities.

**Dog park**
Generally found in more urban areas, dog parks provide opportunities for dogs to exercise and play off-leash under owner supervision.

**Ecosystem**
A community of plants, animals and their environment that interacts and functions together as a unit.

**Ecotourism**
As defined by The Nature Conservancy and the World Conservation Union is “environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socioeconomic involvement of local peoples.”

**Emergent wetlands**
Wetlands that retain ponded water year-round and are most often associated with swamps and marshes or fringe wetland areas along open water.
Environmental education
As defined by the North American Association for Environmental Education, environmental education teaches children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment, and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can take care of it.

Environmental literacy
Fluency in the principles of ecology that includes a working knowledge of the basic vocabulary and understanding needed for wise stewardship decisions.

Fair market value
The value of property offered on the open market for a reasonable period of time with both buyer and seller knowing all the uses to which the property could be put and with neither party being under pressure to buy or sell.

Fee-simple
Absolute title to land, free of any other claims against the title, that one can sell or pass to another by will or inheritance.

Geocaching
Geocaching is an outdoor recreation activity that uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) to seek containers, called “geocaches” or “caches” that have been hidden in outdoor places such as parks.

Gray infrastructure
Manmade systems that support communities, including roads, utilities, and buildings and other impervious surfaces.

Green infrastructure
A broad concept of the ecological and human life support system that incorporates “an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life for communities and people” (Benedict and McMahon, 2006).

Green space
Lands with minimal impervious surface area that are not highly developed, including parks, natural areas, trails, greenways, forestlands, agricultural properties and other types of open space.

Greenway
A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridgeline, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road or other route. A natural or landscaped passage designed for pedestrians, equestrians or bicycles. An open-space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt. (Adapted from Charles Little, “Greenways for America.” 1990. The Johns Hopkins Press).

Habitat
The area, environment or landscape where a plant or animal normally lives that provides all that plant or animal needs for survival.

High elements ropes challenge course
Ropes courses are used in team building. A high elements course is constructed in trees or using utility poles.

Hub
A large block of land that contains and buffers one or more core areas and anchors a green infrastructure network.

Hut system
Located along a trail or in a park as temporary shelter, a hut system provides overnight camping and primitive toilets without water or electricity. Huts are most often constructed for use in wilderness areas, national parks and along backpacking and hiking routes.

Hydric soils
Soils that are saturated with groundwater during the winter and most of the growing season.

Hydrophytic vegetation
Plants that grow in soils that are wet during the growing season.

Impervious surface
A surface, including pavement, buildings and compacted soil areas, that does not permit the absorption of stormwater.

Interpreter
A person at a heritage site who works to improve and enrich the visitor experience by helping site visitors understand the significance of the place they are visiting, and connect those meanings to visitors’ personal lives through the use of interpretation. Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections.
between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.

**Invasive species**
“Nonnative” (or “alien,” “exotic” or “nonindigenous” plant, animal or microbial species that cause, or are likely to cause, economic or ecological harm or harm to human health.)

**Land trust**
Local, regional or statewide nonprofit conservation organization directly involved in helping protect natural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, historic or cultural property.

**Land-banked state parks**
State parks owned by the Commonwealth that are pending development and not open for public access.

**Letter boxing**
This outdoor activity involves hiding small, weatherproof boxes in public outdoor recreation areas and distributing clues to enable participants to find the box.

**Loop trail**
A trail that starts and stops at the same point.

**Local trail**
A trail within one jurisdiction connecting specific parka and local resources.

**Maintenance Reserve Project**
A maintenance reserve project refers to state capital projects as cited in Chapter 2, section 2.2 of the Construction and Professional Services Manual. For example, on state-owned property, a single effort involving major repair or replacement to plant, property or equipment, normally costing from $25,000 to $500,000 is considered a Maintenance Reserve Project.

**Naturalist**
A person, often a scientist or writer, who studies and promotes nature.

**Nongame wildlife**
Species that are not actively sought by hunters, trappers or anglers.

**Open space**
Minimally developed land that is public or privately owned, including scenic rural landscapes, urban green space, greenways, trails, undeveloped riparian lands and floodplains, historic landscapes, parkland and undeveloped recreation areas, forests, farmland, and undisturbed natural environments and wildlife habitat.

**Partnership**
A partnership includes various ways for different organizations to work together, not limited to cooperative ventures, memorandums of understanding, joint ventures, collaborations and coalitions. Partnerships among organizations interested in public lands may involve shared labor, money, information, services, and mission alignment. (Indiana University's Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands. Feb. 4, 2013)

**Passive recreation**
Activity that is initiated by individuals that can be less strenuous and generally requires less developed facilities than active recreation.

**Pole shed**
A three-sided structure, open on one side and typically used to store equipment such as tractors or supplies.

**Progression park**
A park with features that step up levels of difficulty so that a user can learn skills and “progress” toward more challenging activities. Progression parks are typically associated with ski areas; mountain bikers refer to this as skills parks.

**Pump track**
A pump track is a mountain bike dirt course that incorporates bumps, jumps and berms that allow cyclists to continuously navigate the course without pedaling by using weight shifts (pumping) and gravity.

**Rails-To-Trails**
Paths constructed on or along abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

**Rails-with-Trails**
Paths that are constructed on or adjacent to an active railroad right-of-way.

**Recreational carrying capacity**
A measure of the activity days for recreational use that a given area or facility provides without damaging the resources or creating user conflicts.

**Regional trail**
Any trail of significant length that crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

**Riparian**
Lands located along banks of a natural course of water and associated with riverine environments.
Riparian forest
The forested area of land adjacent to a body of water such as a river, stream, pond, lake, marshland, estuary, canal or reservoir.

Ropes course
Usually implemented as a team building activity, ropes courses may take place on the ground or on ropes suspended at higher levels between trees, utility poles and other structures.

Scrub/shrub wetlands
The intermediate stage of wetland plant growth when the plants are predominantly shrubs or small trees. These wetland types are not typically wet year-round.

Scenic byway
A road recognized by a locality or organization for its scenic and cultural attributes that can be driven at a reasonable speed to see and experience the entire landscape corridor. (Also see the definition for Virginia Byway.)

Scenic highway
A road, designated as such by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, within a protected scenic corridor located, designed and constructed so as to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and cultural value of the countryside. (Code of Virginia §33.1-64)

Scenic roads
Road corridors having scenic qualities, including designated Virginia Byways, National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads, as well as roads found to qualify for the state program that have not been designated are shown on A Map of Scenic Roads in Virginia.

Seaside
The Atlantic Ocean side of the Eastern Shore.

Sense of place
A component of cultural identity and human orientation in the landscape based on a personal response to the environment. In the larger landscape context, sense of place may be an individual's perception of the whole region, state or nation.

Smart growth
Strategies for planning economically sound development creating walkable, livable communities offering a high quality of life. Smart growth promotes revitalization, redevelopment and infill in urban and suburban areas and encourages development around established community centers already served by utilities and other public facilities. Smart growth links sustainable development with the availability of infrastructure, water and land-based resources to support the community.

Stacked loop trails
Stacked loop trails include a series of interconnected loops offering a variety of trail options where trail users choose the distance and difficulty of their ride. Easier, shorter loops are close to the trailhead, while more challenging loops extend further.

Stakeholder
An individual, group or organization with an interest in, or influence over, a program or project.

Subacre farming
Intensive farming on less than one acre usually involving multiple crops with multiple crop cycles in a given year.

Sustainable forestry
The stewardship and use of forests and forestlands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki, 1993).

Sustainability
The ability of an activity to be maintained over time without depleting the natural resource base. Sustainable activities do not reduce options or otherwise impoverish future generations.

Tax benefits
Income and estate tax deductions derived from qualified charitable donations.

Thematic driving trails
Driving routes that follow a particular historic event or display a particular set of sites that have common resources.

Tidal wetlands
Wetlands within tidal areas where water levels change with the tide.
**Trunkline trail**
A generally long-distance trail designed to accommodate multiple uses and is a key component of a state trail system. A major trail to which connector trails link.

**Urban crescent**
The populated and increasingly developed land spanning along the Interstate 95 corridor from Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia to the Richmond metropolitan area and southeast to Hampton Roads and the coastline.

**Viewshed**
The area that can be seen from a particular place where landform, not vegetation, determines its extents.

**Virginia byway**
A road, designated as such by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance. Preference is given to corridors controlled by zoning or otherwise, so as to reasonably protect the aesthetic or cultural value of the highway. (Code of Virginia §33.1-63)

**Watershed**
All the land that drains into a given body of water.

**Water trail**
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**Wayfinding**
1) The ways in which people and animals orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. 2) The art and craft of providing signs and symbols that help travelers find their way from place to place.

**Wetland function**
Wetlands function as a natural pollutant filter to reduce sediment and chemical contaminants from reaching other water bodies, such as streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

**Zip-line**
A pulley and harness attach a person or zipliner to a suspended cable.