Peaks of Otter. Photo by Tammy Moore, courtesy of Scenic Virginia.
Introduction

Recreational Planning Region 2000, with 2,120 square miles of land and 26 square miles of water, encompasses the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell, the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg, and the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Appomattox, Brookneal and Pamplin City. While predominant land use is agricultural, population is concentrated in urban areas, where there is increased demand for recreational facilities and activities.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that this region had a population of 252,634 in 2010, comprising 3.16 percent of Virginia’s population. Continuing with a growth rate of 9.51 percent since 2000, the population will be 276,652 by 2020. Growth rates varied across the region from a decrease of 1.24 percent in the city of Bedford to an increase of 13.63 percent in the city of Lynchburg. To compare population and population change by locality in Virginia, see the 2010 Census Total Population Maps.

Regional focus

Through the 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey, input from public meetings and partnerships with local and regional staff, four priority considerations for the Virginia Outdoors Plan emerged: opportunities for outdoor recreation, economics, health and wellness, and land conservation. The following section summarizes thoughts and strategies specific to this region.

Health: Citizens cited the need to serve the aging population with facilities like wellness trails and paved trails. Better access to facilities is needed along with information and close-to-home facilities with trail connections. There was also interest in farmers markets and community gardens.

Youth: Facilities needed for youths include playgrounds and athletic fields, imaginative, unstructured play areas, and nontraditional facilities such as pump tracks, progression parks, skate parks, ropes courses, zip lines and canopy parks. Emerging activities such as geocaching and role playing can encourage kids to be more active, as can intergenerational programming. Kids need to be introduced to lifetime activities such as jogging and bicycling in addition to team sports. The Safe Routes to Schools Program should be expanded to encourage walking or bicycling to school.

Trails: Trail networks in the region should be connected and opportunities for camping near urban areas explored. In urban areas, safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities including on-road bike lanes as well as off-road options for mountain bikers and beginner single-track cyclists were mentioned during public-input sessions.

Water access: The public meeting comments included interest in projects along the Maury River Water Trail, the Staunton River Water Trail and the James River. Additionally, there is interest in increasing public access for boating throughout the region.

Land Conservation: Views and scenic vistas in the region especially along Route 11 were mentioned as being regionally important. There is also regional interest in green infrastructure planning.

Table 11.1 Most-needed outdoor recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>activity</th>
<th>% of households in region</th>
<th>% of households in state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails for hiking and walking</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic areas</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural areas</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for bicycling</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for wildlife watching and nature study</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing fields for outdoor sports (softball, baseball, football and soccer)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public pools</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for motorized off-road vehicles</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for horseback riding</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for motorized boating</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.
Falling Creek Park
Located in Bedford, Falling Creek Park has something for everyone. In addition to a 10-mile trail network, there is an 18-hole disc golf course, shuffle board, picnic shelters, charcoal grills, playground, skate park and a series of fitness stations located around a one-third-mile paved walking path.

Land conservation
The region abounds with scenic, natural, open space and historic resources — a legacy that Virginians have worked together to protect. Nearly 130,000 acres in the region are protected through outright purchase or under open-space easements held primarily by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. More landholders are looking for protection of agricultural and rural landscapes. The preservation of remaining open space in urban areas, and the effective management and protection of undeveloped land in areas of rapid growth, will help prevent suburban sprawl and retain the region’s pastoral character.

Regional and local organizations and agencies should support land protection efforts on priority lands, as identified by conservation partners in the region. Lands for protection may include those located adjacent to the rivers and tributaries, national and state park and forest lands, other parks and natural areas, important scenic viewsheds, core battlefield areas, properties on the state and national historic registers, and state scenic byways.

Land conservation recommendations include:

Further development of local policies to protect the scenic viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. The National Park Service has developed viewshed...
management and landscape design guidelines that may be useful in this endeavor. Regional and local organizations should encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant scenic views. Regional and local organizations should provide adequate protection for existing working lands, including farmland and forest lands.

Table 11.2 Conserved lands
Region 2000 Recreational Planning Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>acres</th>
<th>type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherst County</td>
<td>6,128.61</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amherst County</td>
<td>59,658.34</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appomattox County</td>
<td>2,512.14</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appomattox County</td>
<td>11,669.63</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
<td>10,907.77</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
<td>30,527.45</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>7,588.42</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>841.34</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Bedford</td>
<td>57.22</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lynchburg</td>
<td>89.37</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lynchburg</td>
<td>583.94</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>130,564.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Protected Lands Inventory, 2013.

Outdoor recreation

While each of the counties is served by a parks and recreation department, throughout the region, there is interest in additional playgrounds and unstructured play, as well as ballfields for youths.

Table 11.3 Per-capita spending on parks and recreation
Region 2000 Recreational Planning Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherst County</td>
<td>10.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appomattox County</td>
<td>19.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
<td>28.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>14.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Bedford</td>
<td>35.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lynchburg</td>
<td>97.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>62.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Economic impact

The Blue Ridge Parkway, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, numerous historic sites and Smith Mountain Lake bring tourists to the area. The Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited national park, with more than 15 million visitors in 2011. According to the Virginia Tourism Corp., domestic travel to the region generated more than $292 million in 2010, or 1.5 percent of statewide travel expenditures.

Table 11.4 Virginia State Parks 2013 attendance and economic impact
Region 2000 Recreational Planning Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state park</th>
<th>location</th>
<th>overnight visitors</th>
<th>day-use visitors</th>
<th>total visitors</th>
<th>economic impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holliday Lake</td>
<td>Appomattox, Buckingham counties</td>
<td>13,205</td>
<td>29,881</td>
<td>43,086</td>
<td>$1,468,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Mountain Lake</td>
<td>Bedford, Franklin counties</td>
<td>40,118</td>
<td>305,300</td>
<td>345,418</td>
<td>$7,893,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Virginia State Parks.
CHAPTER 10 Regional Recommendations

Health and wellness

According to the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, 26 percent of the adult population in the region was physically inactive during their leisure time in 2009. The percentage of children in poverty who may need additional outreach to participate in outdoor recreation activities ranges from 13 percent in Bedford County to 30 percent in the city of Lynchburg.

Citizens at Virginia Outdoors Plan public meetings in this region expressed interest in connecting local parks, schools and businesses to neighborhoods. This would encourage people to walk or bike as part of their daily routines. Sidewalks, bike routes and trails could improve recreation and public health, especially in urban areas.

Lynchburg cyclists present the city mayor with Lynchburg’s first Bike Month Proclamation in April 2013. Photo by Kelly Hitchcock.

Live Healthy Lynchburg and Healthy Bedford

Live Healthy Lynchburg is promoting and developing education and policy for the built environment to support physical activity and public health. Outcomes range from complete streets, to healthy food initiatives, to walking and running promotions, to the Live Healthy Lynchburg website.

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.
- Is able to be initiated within the next five years.

Featured projects for Region 2000

- Promote the proposed James River Heritage Trail, which follows the river and its headwaters from the Chesapeake Bay to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The James River from Iron Gate to the Chesapeake Bay is also part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The National Park Service manages this trail in cooperation with a number of partners at the local, state and federal levels.

- Implement steps outlined in the James River Heritage Trail conceptual plan.

- Access from the trail terminus to Riveredge Park and Six Mile Bridge is a priority for Amherst County and the region. Acquisition of right-of-way approval along the proposed corridor alignment is needed for an off-road trail connection to Six Mile Bridge and the short connection from the existing terminus to Riveredge Park.

- The Glasgow to Snowden paddle through the James River gorge is one of the premier paddling spots in the state. Overflow parking damages trails on U.S. Forest Service property at the Appalachian Trail bridge, creating railroad property trespass issues. State and federal agencies should work cooperatively to provide parking at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries takeout.

- Designate the Virginia Midland Trail (in most cases Route 60) a Virginia scenic byway and, ultimately, a National Scenic Byway extension of the West Virginia Midland Trail.

- Local trail connections from neighborhoods to parks, schools and businesses are needed to encourage physical activity and community engagement. These include the Appomattox Heritage and Recreational Trail, Bedford City to Falling Creek Park Trail and Lynchburg trail system connections.

- Expand public access to the Staunton River Water Trail and create opportunities for shorter paddling distances along the Staunton River.

- Implement Bedford and Campbell counties park master plans, including Timbrook, Long Mountain, English, Community and Countywide parks in Campbell County and Montvale, Falling Creek, Stroobants, and Moneta in Bedford County.
Local parks and recreation projects

- Explore reclamation of abandoned landfills as parks.
- Consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate, state or federally owned lands to increase local outdoor recreation.
- Acquire land and long-term leases with appropriate agencies to implement Appalachian Power Company’s recreation plan.
- Address Bedford County’s need for athletic fields and courts, particularly in the fast-growing Forest, Smith Mountain, Moneta and Stewartville areas.
- Develop a master plan for Riveredge Park to provide enhanced public recreation and river access, including a connector trail to link this park to the James River Heritage Trail.
- Provide recreation and water access along Falling Creek and Beaver Dam reservoirs to serve Roanoke and Staunton River Valley.

In 2013, Roanoke County began operating the Explore Park property under a 99-year lease from the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority. The park will be a regional outdoor attraction.
CHAPTER 10  Regional Recommendations

Water access
This region is flanked by two major rivers, the James River in the north and the Staunton (Roanoke) River in the south, which fills the 23,400-acre Smith Mountain Lake. Others include the Buffalo, Pedlar, Piney, Tye, Appomattox, Falling and Big Otter rivers.

• According to local comprehensive and regional trail plans, the Staunton River Water Trail should include additional access and canoe-in campsites.

• Additional public access areas are needed on the James River between Eagle Rock and Snowden and between Lynchburg and Bent Creek. Public access is also needed at the Cushaw hydropower project near Snowden.

• The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Forest Service should continue to work with localities to acquire and develop a series of boating and fishing access sites, canoe-in campsites and dam portages.

• Appalachian Power should implement the Smith Mountain Lake Shoreline Management Plan, which considers public access opportunities and guidelines for protecting the scenic, recreational and environmental values of the lake.

Statewide trails
The following trails are part of Virginia’s nonmotorized statewide trail system.

• The James River Heritage Trail (see regional featured projects).

Regional trails

• Complete the 11-mile connection of the Appomattox Heritage and Recreational Trail from the town of Appomattox, Appomattox County Community Park and the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park to Pamplin City and possibly to High Bridge Trail State Park.

• Develop the Central Virginia Greenway from the Appalachian Trail at the Peaks of Otter to the Appomattox Heritage and Recreation Trail. The trail would then connect to the Cumberland State Forest and link Bedford, Amherst, Campbell, Appomattox and Buckingham counties, and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg.

• Develop a Staunton River Trail highlighting Native American culture, along with other historic and aesthetic points of interest along the scenic Staunton River from Altavista to Staunton River State Park.

• Extend the Blue Ridge Railway Trail along the old railroad right of way along the Piney and Tye Rivers to the Appalachian Trail.

• Develop Cumberland to Appomattox Trail sections connecting the Cumberland State Forest and the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park through the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest.

Plans guiding connectivity


• Lynchburg Comprehensive Plan http://www.lynchburgva.gov/comprehensive-plan

• Town of Amherst Comprehensive Plan and associated bicycle and pedestrian plans http://www.amherstva.gov


• Feasibility assessment, Bicycle or Bicycle/Pedestrian (Multi-User) Facility at Appomattox Court House NHP http://www.volpe.dot.gov/coi/ppoa/publiclands/projects/appomattox.html

Trails and greenways

Multistate trails or routes
Trails recognized under the National Trails System Act include the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The National Park Service manages the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which runs along the Blue Ridge. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy manages and maintains the trail.

• Regional and local efforts should continue to protect the setting and viewsheds along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to preserve the experience of a footpath in the wilderness. Consideration should be given to finding ways to disperse users, balance conflicting uses and meet visitor needs.
Bike routes
The Lynchburg Area Greenway Alliance, an advisory committee of Virginia’s Region 2000 Local Government Council, has been formed to champion planning and implementation of off-road and on-road bicycle facilities, trails, greenways and blueways. The Region 2000 Bicycle Plan, adopted in 2010, includes system recommendations, policy actions and development strategies.

- Consider implementation of a Complete Streets policy in Lynchburg to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The region has pulled together to improve the bicycle network through the Dr. John Bell Bicycling Awareness Memorial Fund. This fund is a public-private partnership between local cyclists, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the city of Lynchburg and the Region 2000 Local Government Council for the purpose of increasing bicycling awareness and safety in the area. Funds will be used to purchase “Share the Road” signs. Funds are matched by in-kind contributions from VDOT and the city.

Other trails
- Link the city of Bedford to Falling Creek Park and Liberty Lake Park.
- Connect Blackwater Creek to Peaks View and Ivy Creek parks.
- Connect Percival Island to High Bridge Trail State Park.
- Provide stronger neighborhood connections to existing trails.
- Connect Campbell County to Tomahawk Creek.
- Continue James River Heritage Trail to the town of Appomattox and NPS site and Holliday Lake.
- Develop off-road single-track and beginner options for mountain bikers at Lynchburg Reservoir.

Thematic driving tours
There has been tremendous interest in thematic driving tours. These include heritage-based tours, agricultural or product-based tours, and nature-based tours such as the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail and Fish Virginia First. The Virginia Tourism Corp. maintains a list of Virginia’s scenic drives.

- The Battle of Lynchburg driving tour, Hunter’s Raid, the African-American Heritage Trail and the Bedford Wine Trail should be cross-marketed for historical and recreational contributions to tourism.

Historic and landscape resources
The region’s close proximity to the nation’s capital and its influence on protecting and enhancing the historical, cultural and natural sites for tourism make the identification and protection of historic and cultural landscapes significant to the region.

- Countywide surveys of the historic and architectural resources are needed in Appomattox and Campbell counties.
- Assessments of the archaeological resources in Appomattox County are needed to build on the work funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program in 2007, which helped prioritize conservation efforts for the Appomattox Station Battlefield Resource and Management Plan.
- Evaluate Monacan Indian lands in the region for protection and designate the Curtis Community as a historic district.

In 2010, Amherst County completed a major countywide survey in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Sweet Briar’s Tusculum Institute. Subsequently, the rural villages of Pedlar Mills and Sandidges were nominated to the National Register. In addition, the rural village of Clifford in Amherst County was listed in 2012.

Virginia’s Retreat is a region of South Central Virginia that offers travelers meaningful history attractions and abundant outdoor recreation. Driving tours include:
- Lee’s Retreat driving tour
- Wilson-Kautz Raid Civil War driving tour
- Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail

Scenic resources
The following scenic resources were identified through Virginia Outdoors Plan public meetings or in collaboration with Scenic Virginia, a private, nonprofit organization that is building a registry of Virginia places of significant scenic beauty.

- Peaks of Otter
- Mountains around Buena Vista
- Route 60 overlook near Blue Ridge Parkway
- Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area in Amherst County
Scenic highways and Virginia byways

VDOT provides information about the Virginia Byways Program, along with a scenic roads map. The Blue Ridge Parkway, an All-American Road, is important to tourism in this region. The Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway is an important group of citizens supporting the National Park Service.

Region 2000’s Rural Scenic Corridors Study goals

- Identifying rural road corridors suitable for designation as scenic byways and roads.
- Providing guidance for evaluating the significance for potential scenic corridors.
- Compiling a set of voluntary guidelines that localities may use to help preserve the rural character of roadways that have been designated as scenic or may be eligible or designation.
- Supporting the development of heritage tourism in Region 200’s rural areas.

In June 2012, Region 2000’s local government council prepared a Rural Scenic Corridors Study identifying roads that may need evaluation to determine if they qualify for designation as potential Virginia byways.

- Route 811 from 221 through Poplar Forest in Bedford County
- Route 29 as it connects with Route 43 in Campbell County
- Route 622 from Lynchburg to Nelson County
- The continuation of Route 624 to create a loop (Earley Farm Road to Route 624 to Higginbotham Creek Road)
- Routes 614 in Appomattox County
- Route 608 (Stonewall Road) and Route 618 (Vera Road) in Appomattox County between U.S. 460 at Concord and Route 24 at Vera
- Route 627 in Appomattox from Route 460 at Elam to Appomattox National Historical Park
- Route 727 from Appomattox to Charlotte County
- Route 24 from Campbell County line to Blue Ridge Parkway in Bedford County
- Route 122 from City of Bedford to Big Island in Bedford County
- Route 761/645 (Holcomb Rock Road and Route 651 (Perch Road) in Bedford County
- Route 633 (Epsons Road), Route 761 (Long Island Road), Route 699 (Gladys Road) between U.S. 501 near Brookneal and U.S. 29 near Altavista in Campbell County
- Route 24 (Colonial Highway) between Rustburg and Bedford line in Campbell County
- Route 635 (Buffalo Springs Turnpike) in Amherst County
- Route 653 (Ambrose Rucker Road)/ Route 636 (High Peak Road)/ Route 643 (Matohe/Kenmore Road) in Amherst County
- Route 610 (Sandidges Road) and Route 778 (Lowesville Road) in Amherst County
- A James River Byway would consist of roads that closely parallel to the route of the James River Batteau Festival. The corridor includes Route 685 (River Road), Route 622 and Route 130 in Amherst County.

Launch of the James River Batteau Festival. Photo by LuAnn Hunt.

Scenic rivers

Sections of the Staunton River are designated as a state scenic river in Pittsylvania, Campbell, Charlotte and Halifax counties.

The following river segments have been evaluated and qualify for Virginia scenic river designation:

- A 20-mile segment of the Staunton River in Campbell County from the Town of Altavista to the beginning of the current designation at Long Island.
- The Roanoke River west of Smith Mountain Lake.
- The Appomattox River from Route 612 in Appomattox County to Route 608 in Prince Edward County.
CHAPTER 10 Regional Recommendations

The following river segments are potential Virginia scenic rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:

- James River in Campbell, Amherst and Appomattox counties from Lynchburg to Bent Creek.
- Staunton River from the Leesville dam to the Town of Altavista and from Altavista to Long Island.
- Falling River in the Brookneal area of Campbell County.

Federal programs

National parks

The region features the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

National forests

- New partnerships should continue to market recreational opportunities and rural economic development through tourism. The Forest Service should work with DCR, Virginia’s Blue Ridge Highlands Tourism Inc., and the Virginia Tourism Corp. to develop regional and international marketing strategies to showcase Virginia’s outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Regional and local organizations should continue to place program emphasis on areas designated by Congress, such as the Appalachian Trail and Mount Pleasant Wilderness Area.

State facilities and programs

State parks

A master plan has been developed for the following state parks in this region. The master plan outlines proposed, phased facility development in each park.

Holliday Lake State Park (560 acres) is located in the the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest in Appomattox County. Recommendations:

- Construct a new visitor center and office complex.
- Upgrade beach concession and bath house.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its contributions as a Civilian Conservation Corps-era Recreational Demonstration Area, the park maintains its aesthetic appeal with the 150-acre lake as the focal point. Across the lake is the Holiday Lake 4-H Center. The 10-mile Carter Taylor multiuse trail is accessible from the park in the state forest. Other opportunities exist for trail expansions on the additional 300 acres of parkland.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park (1,248 acres) is located primarily in Bedford County with a small 37-acre parcel in Franklin County under lease as a county park. Recommendations:

- Construct a campground.
- Construct additional cabins.
- Construct new picnic area with three shelters, a playground, restroom and parking.
- Implement shoreline erosion control.
- Install bike lanes along all park roads.

The location of Smith Mountain Lake State Park provides opportunities to form partnerships with American Electric Power as well as the counties in the region. There are also connectivity opportunities with the Roanoke River Greenway and Staunton River Water Trail.

State natural area preserves

Region 2000 is one of two districts in Virginia without a state natural area preserve. However, the district has a number of rare species populations and significant natural communities. Some highlights include a population of the Virginia endemic Kankakee globe mallow, three of the few Virginia Piedmont populations of the federally endangered smooth coneflower, the only two caves documented on the eastern side of Virginia’s Blue Ridge, and several stream reaches supporting rare species of mussels and fish.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method 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 include:

- Protection of habitat for the globally rare Kankakee globe mallow and the federally endangered smooth coneflower.
- Protection of riparian areas in watersheds that support the federally endangered Roanoke logperch and other rare aquatic species.
- Protection of riverside prairies.

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 staff. For a discussion of the Natural Heritage Program, see Chapter 9.

### Table 11.5 Natural heritage resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 2000 Recreational Planning Region</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of occurrences of rare species and significant natural communities</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of different rare species and significant community types (natural heritage elements)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of globally rare natural heritage elements</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of species listed as federally endangered or threatened</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of species listed as state endangered or threatened</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites identified by DCR</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites with some protection</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites with more than 65% of area with some protection</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of adequately protected conservation sites</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of July 1, 2012.

Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

### State forests

Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest (19,808 acres) is located in Appomattox and Buckingham counties. A portion of the 12-mile Carter-Taylor multiuse trail begins in the park and makes a loop through the forest. There are a total of 20 miles of trails. Horse trailer parking and picnic shelters are located in the forest, and two lakes are available for fishing. DOF should continue to manage the state forest to develop diverse timber stands that support biodiversity and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Bourassa State Forest (288 acres) is located in Bedford County. This property is primarily used and maintained for a wildlife refuge and for a forestry experimental station. Portions of the property are left undisturbed for the preservation and study of flora and fauna of climax forests. Hunting is not permitted on Bourassa State Forest.

### Other state lands

The following state-owned lands contain significant undeveloped open space that may have potential for local recreational use. Each site should be assessed and, where appropriate, a cooperative agreement should be developed for outdoor recreation and open space.

- The Lynchburg Training School and Hospital in Amherst County has approximately 100 acres of undeveloped land. Consideration for future use of the undeveloped land should include the preservation of open space, trails and access to the James River.
- Approximately 58 acres of the Central Virginia Community College tract in Lynchburg are undeveloped and may have potential for recreational use.

### Private sector

- Reba Farm Inn & Saddle Soar Equitainment offers horseback- and trail-riding packages.
- At the top of Liberty University’s 5,000-acre mountain, the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre is the country’s first venue for year-round skiing, snowboarding and tubing, with beginner, intermediate and advanced slopes and a two-story lodge.
- Sweet Briar College, with more than 3,200 rural acres, including nature sanctuaries and preserves, is one of the largest landholders among private colleges in the United States.
• Private sector, entrepreneurial opportunities exist for the establishment of outfitter services for canoeing and kayaking, boat launches, canoe-in campgrounds, fee-based hunting and fishing opportunities, multi-field sports complexes and swimming pools. Opportunities may be associated with bed and breakfast venues, agricultural operations, game farms, and historical restorations.

• Lynchburg College should consider preservation strategies to allow College Lake to be available for public use. As College Lake has filled with sediment, wetlands have developed on Lynchburg College properties. These wetlands offer significant opportunities for research and learning. A system of boardwalks should be developed so that these wetlands can be accessed for environmental preservation and other educational programs. A proposed 1.5-mile extension of the Creekside Trail will connect Blackwater Creek Athletic Complex with College Lake.

Website directory

Region 2000 Partnership
http://www.region2000.org/

U.S. Census Total Population Maps for Virginia
http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/datamapper.html

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/virginia/2012/rankings/outcomes/overall

Falling Creek Park
http://bedfordtrails.wordpress.com/about/

Virginia Tourism Corporation domestic travel economic impact
http://www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/

Live Healthy Lynchburg
http://www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/

Bedford Community Health Foundation
http://www.healthybedford.org/

Energize Bedford Community Action Coalition

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
http://www.nps.gov/cajo/index.htm

James River Heritage Trail Conceptual Plan

James River Association
www.jrava.org

Virginia Midland Trail
www.midlandtrailva.com

Virginia’s Explore Park
http://www.explorepark.org/

Virginia Explore Park Enabling Authority
http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/e3259429414409e085256eb00060ca1d/91de0ce3741f83db85257735006bfe3a?OpenDocument

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
http://www.nps.gov/appa/index.htm
Website directory

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
http://www.appalachiantrail.org/

Lynchburg Area Greenway Alliance
http://www.lynchburgbikemonth.com/greenway-alliance/

Region 2000 Bicycle Plan

Complete Streets
http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets

Dr. John Bell Bicycling Awareness Memorial Fund
http://www.region2000.org/donate-to-the-dr.-john-bell-
bicycling-awareness-memorial-fund.html

Region 2000 Greenways and Blueways Plan

Lynchburg Comprehensive Plan
http://www.lynchburgva.gov/comprehensive-plan

Town of Amherst Comprehensive Plan and associated bicycle and pedestrian plans
http://www.amherstva.gov

Town of Appomattox Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail
http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/

Fish Virginia First
http://www.fishvirginiafirst.com/

Virginia’s scenic drives and driving tours
http://www.virginia.org/ScenicDrives/

Battle of Lynchburg driving tour
http://www.historicsandusky.org/bol.htm

Hunter’s Raid
http://www.huntersraid.org/

African-American Heritage Trail
http://www.virginia.org/CentralVirginiaDrivingTour/

Bedford Wine Trail
http://www.virginia.org/Listings/WineriesAndBreweries/BedfordWineTrail/

National Register of Historic Places
http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/va/state.html

Virginia’s Retreat
http://www.varetreat.com/

Scenic Virginia
http://www.scenicvirginia.org/

Virginia Byways Program
http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-byways.asp

Scenic Roads map

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
http://brpfoundation.org/project/neighbors-guide-blue-
ridge-parkway

Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway
http://www.friendsbrp.org/

Rural Scenic Corridors Study

Virginia scenic rivers
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/srmain.shtml

Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park
http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm

Blue Ridge Parkway
http://www.nps.gov/blri/index.htm

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
http://www.nps.gov/appa/index.htm

State parks master plans
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/masterplans.shtml

Holliday Lake State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hol.shtml
Website directory continued

Smith Mountain Lake State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/smi.shtml

Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/registry.shtml

Natural Heritage Program

Reba Farm Inn & Saddle Soar Equitainment
http://www.rebafarminn.com/

Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre.
http://www.liberty.edu/snowflex/

Sweet Briar College nature sanctuaries and preserves
http://sbc.edu/biology/nature-sanctuaries