High Bridge Trail State Park is accessible from downtown Farmville. Photo by Jay Paul, courtesy of DCR.
Chapter 10  Regional Recommendations

Region 14 • Commonwealth Regional Council

Introduction

The Commonwealth Regional Council lies in Virginia’s Piedmont physiographic province. The council comprises the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Prince Edward, and the towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, Charlotte Court House, Crewe, Dillwyn, Drakes Branch, Farmville, Kenbridge, Victoria, Phenix and part of Pamplin. The recreation region also includes Nottoway and Cumberland counties and encompasses 2,804 square miles of land and 18 square miles of water. Rolling terrain and a rural countryside are the region’s dominant characteristics.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the Commonwealth Regional Council’s recreation region had a population of 104,609 in 2010, 1.31 percent of Virginia’s population. Continuing with a growth rate of 7.18 percent since 2000, the population will be 112,115 by 2020. Growth rates varied across the region from a decrease of 1.80 percent in Lunenburg County to an increase of 15.61 percent in Prince Edward County. 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 for land conservation and outdoor recreation.

Health: Citizens felt that schools and schoolyards should be open to the community after school hours. More partnerships with businesses are needed to provide equipment and foster outdoor recreation. Public communication to advertise outdoor recreation.

Youth: Accessible and sensory-oriented playgrounds and parks are needed close to home and school. Nontraditional facilities such as dog parks and zip lines would encourage kids to spend time outdoors. Physical education teachers should use the outdoors for instruction.

Trails: The organizational capacity for trail support is limited in this region. Volunteer groups and friends groups should assist land managers with trail maintenance and advocacy. While on-road facilities are not a substitute for trails, painted markings on roads and signage may provide nonmotorized connections between the region’s public spaces and towns.

Table 14.1 Most-needed outdoor recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>activity</th>
<th>region</th>
<th>state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for hiking and walking</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural areas</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for wildlife watching and nature study</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic areas</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for bicycling</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public pools</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing fields for outdoor sports (softball, baseball, football and soccer)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for motorized boating</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for motorized off-road vehicles</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for horseback riding</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southside and Commonwealth Council regions were combined for sampling purposes.

Source: 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.
Land conservation

The region abounds with scenic, natural, open space and historic resources — a legacy that Virginians have worked together to protect. More than 104,911 acres in the region are protected by 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 urban open space, and the effective management and protection of undeveloped land in regions of rapid growth, will counter suburban sprawl.

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 rivers and tributaries, national and state park and forest lands, other parks and...
natural areas, core battlefield areas, important viewsheds, properties on the state and national historic registers, and state scenic byways.

Specifically, local and regional agencies and organizations should protect water quality and the health of riparian lands adjacent to the James River. Local and regional agencies should also implement conservation and land planning to reduce sprawl in the region. For more information about prioritizing land conservation, see Chapter 5, Conservation Planning.

Land trusts and conservation programs operating in the region:
Civil War Trust, Land Trust of Virginia, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, and the Trust for Public Land.

### Table 14.2 Conserved lands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>acres</th>
<th>type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amelia County</td>
<td>14,463.95</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia County</td>
<td>2,521.07</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckingham County</td>
<td>2,988.91</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckingham County</td>
<td>17,598.27</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte County</td>
<td>4,931.02</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte County</td>
<td>781.58</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>2,133.16</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>16,659.41</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg County</td>
<td>2,528.86</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg County</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottoway County</td>
<td>1,396.60</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottoway County</td>
<td>25,912.45</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward County</td>
<td>4,527.95</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward County</td>
<td>11,102.21</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>108,045.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outdoor recreation

Charlotte and Lunenburg counties do not have full-time parks and recreation directors.

In 43 of the 55 outdoor recreation activities on the Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey, this region ranked below the statewide average for households participating. Popular activities in the region include camping, hunting, freshwater fishing, driving off-road, and organized baseball and softball. During the public input meetings, citizens cited the need for staff to provide outdoor recreation programs and to coordinate volunteers.

### Table 14.3 Per-capita spending on parks and recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amelia County</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckingham County</td>
<td>10.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte County</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg County</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottoway County</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward County</td>
<td>4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Blackstone</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Farmville</td>
<td>73.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td>62.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Economic impact

According to the Virginia Tourism Corp., domestic travel to the region generated more than $65 million in 2010, or approximately 0.35 percent of statewide travel expenditures. The region’s eight state parks generated an economic impact of more than $13 million in 2011. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that more than $57 million in visitor spending impacted businesses within 30 miles of the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir.
Economic opportunities through outdoor recreation are being realized as towns revitalize railroad corridors as trail connectors. Business owners have opportunities to provide vending machines, bike racks, shuttles, programs and festivals for trail users. Planning and small business support could transform vacant storefronts into trail-friendly businesses.

Health and wellness

According to the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, approximately 28 percent of the adult population in the region was physically inactive during their leisure time in 2009.

Percentages of inactive adults

- Amelia: 26 percent
- Buckingham: 28 percent
- Charlotte: 27 percent
- Lunenburg: 33 percent
- Prince Edward: 29 percent

Recreation is important for regional populations, particularly for families and children in poverty.

Health factors are available by county at the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program website. The following summarizes the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion percentages for families and children in poverty.

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.

<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>Bear Creek Lake</td>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>41,856</td>
<td>36,432</td>
<td>78,288</td>
<td>$3,722,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Bridge Trail</td>
<td>Appomattox, Cumberland, Nottoway, Prince Edward counties; town of Farmville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>194,251</td>
<td>194,251</td>
<td>$3,108,016</td>
</tr>
<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>James River</td>
<td>Buckingham County</td>
<td>38,442</td>
<td>19,543</td>
<td>57,985</td>
<td>$3,195,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailor’s Creek</td>
<td>Amelia, Nottoway counties</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44,392</td>
<td>44,392</td>
<td>$710,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staunton River</td>
<td>Halifax County</td>
<td>23,359</td>
<td>99,530</td>
<td>122,889</td>
<td>$3,344,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staunton River Battlefield</td>
<td>Halifax, Charlotte counties</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29,976</td>
<td>29,976</td>
<td>$479,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Lakes</td>
<td>Prince Edward County</td>
<td>15,093</td>
<td>91,807</td>
<td>106,900</td>
<td>$2,600,887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Virginia State Parks.

Table 14.4 Virginia State Parks 2013 attendance and economic impact

Commonwealth Recreational Planning Region
### Regional Recommendations

#### Regional Recommendations

- **Region 14 • Commonwealth Regional Council**

- Has involvement and support from multiple jurisdictions in the region.
- Is able to be initiated within the next five years.

#### Featured projects for the Commonwealth region

- Complete the conceptual James River Heritage Trail connects existing trails between Wilderness Road State Park and beachfront parks. This trail is also part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.
- Designate the Virginia Midland Trail a Virginia scenic byway and a National Scenic Byway as an extension of the West Virginia Midland Trail.
- Support regional partnerships such as Virginia's farm to table movement to increase recreational opportunities with the region's agricultural community to encourage agritourism.
- The Tobacco Heritage Trail is part of the statewide Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. The towns of Victoria and Charlotte are developing connections and extensions to the trail, along with needed support services.
- The towns of Burkeville and Pamplin City are developing connections to High Bridge Trail State Park, along with needed support services.
- This region is rich in shoreline, but public access for viewing, swimming, fishing or boating is limited. Additional water-access points are needed throughout the region, but particularly along the Meherrin, Staunton and Appomattox rivers where blueway initiatives are under way.

---

**Map 14.2 Commonwealth Regional Council featured projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>■ LWCF Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Public Water Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Existing Regional Trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Existing Blueways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Scenic River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Scenic Byways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ State Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Jurisdictional Boundary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Proposed Featured Projects**

- High Bridge State Park
- Tobacco Heritage Trail/Beaches to Bluegrass
- James River Heritage Trail
- Midland Trail
- Potential Water Access
- Agritourism Enterprises

---

**Map Legend**

- US Bike Route 1
- Existing Regional Trails
- Existing Blueways
- Scenic River
- Scenic Byways
- State Parks
- Federal
- Local
- Private
- State
- Jurisdictional Boundary

---

**Recreation**

- LWCF Projects
- Public Water Access
- Existing Regional Trails
- Existing Blueways
- Scenic River
- Scenic Byways
- State Parks
- Federal
- Local
- Private
- State
- Jurisdictional Boundary
Local parks and recreation projects

- The Dogwood Trail in Farmville should be connected to the proposed Wilck's Lake Park Trail and High Bridge Trail State Park along Buffalo Creek.
- Explore reclamation of abandoned landfills for parks.
- Consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands.
- Localities without full-time parks and recreation directors should consider committing resources for these departments.
- Localities should convert old school sites and abandoned public sites to parks.

Wilck's Lake Park

This park in Farmville is situated on Wilck's Lake. A 1.6-mile walking trail begins at the Wilck's Lake boat ramp parking lot and connects to High Bridge Trail State Park and a day care in town. The park includes a skate park, playground, fitness equipment, picnic tables and an open field for soccer and other pickup games.

Water access

The region has a large number of streams and rivers. Significant waterways include the Slate, Appomattox, Nottoway, James, Meherrin, Willis, Staunton and Bush rivers. The Nottoway, Meherrin and Staunton rivers are all deep, slow moving rivers, part of an ancient system draining into Albemarle Sound. The James and Appomattox rivers form the northern boundary of the region, while the Staunton and Meherrin rivers form the region's southern boundary. This richness in water resources gives the region the potential for water-related recreation if additional access points and support facilities are developed.

- Develop the Appomattox River Blueway in Farmville, a 4-mile blueway along Buffalo Creek and the Appomattox.
- Develop overnight camping areas and canoe ramps along the river where bridges cross the stream along the Meherrin River Blueway Canoe Trail. This blueway will eventually extend from the headwaters of the North Fork of the Meherrin to the confluence of the Chowan River.
- Provide additional public access on the James, Staunton and Slate rivers, as well as on tributaries used for paddling.
- Improve fishing access on the Briery and Sandy rivers.
- The Amelia Wildlife Management Area has the potential to accommodate primitive camping and picnicking for nonmotorized boats as a part of the Appomattox River Blueway.

Trails and Greenways

Multistate trails or routes

- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (a James River Heritage Trail connector trail)
- U.S. Bike Route 1

Statewide trunkline trails

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

- The proposed Beaches to Bluegrass Trail connects existing trails from the Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay across the southern portion of the state and includes the James River Heritage Trail listed as a featured project.

Regional trails

- The Cumberland Appomattox Trail in Prince Edward, Amelia, Cumberland and Buckingham counties would connect public lands throughout these counties.
- Construct additional segments of the Tobacco Heritage Trail and develop volunteer capacity for maintenance of existing sections.

A family enjoys cycling on the Tobacco Heritage Trail. Photo by Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Bike routes

- Improve safety for bicyclists along U.S. Bicycle Route 1 and replace missing signs along the route.
- The Commonwealth Regional Council has developed the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan 2010 Update and Map to guide efforts for roadway improvements in the region.

The town of Farmville, the Virginia Surface Transportation Plan 2035, and the Commonwealth Regional Council Sidewalk Survey address connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians.
**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.

- Virginia Retreat tours should be cross-marketed with other attractions for history, education, and tourism. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has worked informally with Virginia's Retreat to develop more markers for this trail.

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

**Historic and landscape resources**

The region's proximity to the nation's capital and its influence on protecting and enhancing the historical, cultural, and natural sites for tourism makes the identification and protection of historic and cultural landscapes significant.

- Support Civil War battlefield protection such as the effort to conserve additional land at Appomattox Courthouse and Sailor's Creek.
- Continue to protect and interpret Civil Rights in Education sites.
- Work with Department of Historic Resources to meet the critical need for countywide surveys of historic and architectural resources in Amelia, Buckingham, and Prince Edward counties.
- Work with Department of Historic Resources to meet the critical need for archaeological surveys in Amelia, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties, as well as for archaeological assessments of the archaeological resources in these five counties.

**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.

- Views from High Bridge Trail State Park
- Viewshed surrounding Red Hill in Charlotte County
- Viewshed surrounding Sandy River Reservoir
- Viewshed surrounding Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park
- Viewsheds along Lee's Retreat

**Scenic highways and Virginia byways**

The Virginia Department of Transportation provides information about the Virginia Byways Program, along with a scenic roads map.

The following road segments are potential Virginia byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:

- Route 15 south of Farmville in Prince Edward County and in Buckingham County
- Route 160 in Buckingham County

**Scenic rivers**

Currently, sections of the North Meherrin and Staunton rivers, along with the Meherrin River from the confluence of the North Meherrin to the Brunswick County line, are the region's designated state scenic rivers.

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

- James River from Wingina to Maidens
- Staunton River from Route 360 to Staunton River State Park
- Appomattox River from Route 612 to Route 608 in Prince Edward and Buckingham counties
- Slate River from Route 20 to the James River in Buckingham County

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

- Appomattox River from Route 608 to the Powhatan County line
- James River from Bent Creek to Wingina in Buckingham County
Federal programs

There are no national parks, national forests or other public recreation lands in this region with the exception of those listed below.

Army Corps of Engineers

The corps maintains three wildlife management areas in the region: Buffalo on the Staunton, Cargills Creek and Hogan Creek. John H. Kerr reservoir easements are also located in this region.

Other federal facilities

Fort Pickett in Nottoway, Dinwiddie and Brunswick counties should be evaluated for opportunities to increase public recreational use within the base mission.

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.

Bear Creek Lake State Park (329 acres) is located in Cumberland County.

Recommendations:
- Construct a visitor center with parking lot.
- Construct a staff residence.
- Renovate the concession area and beach bathhouse.
- Relocate the contact station.
- Construct an accessible trail from the meeting facility to the beach.

High Bridge Trail State Park (1,091 acres) is primarily a 33-mile rail trail crossing Appomattox, Cumberland, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties, and the communities of Pamplin, Prospect, Farmville and Burkeville.

Recommendations:
- Construct a visitor center at High Bridge focal point.
- Develop day-use areas at Rochelle and Piney Grove tracts.
- Develop primitive camping at Piney Grove.
- Develop the eastern administrative/maintenance node.
- Construct an access road to Piney Grove and High Bridge.

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

Recommendations:
- Update master plan in 2014 to incorporate acquisition of additional 300 acres.
- Construct a new visitor/discovery center and office complex.
- Upgrade swim beach concession and bathhouse.

James River State Park (1,561 acres) is located in Buckingham County.

Recommendations:
- Update master plan in 2014.
- Renovate existing staff residence.
- Develop canoe livery node at Bent Creek.
- Expand campground.
- Construct a large shelter with kitchen facilities.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park (329 acres) is located in Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties.

Recommendations:
- Construct a staff residence.
- Bury utility lines located in historic viewshed.
- Improve parking near the Hillsman House.

Staunton River Battlefield State Park (345 acres) is located in Halifax and Charlotte counties, and is divided by the Staunton River.

Recommendations:
- Complete stabilization and restoration of Fort Hill, artillery emplacements and the earthworks on the north side of bridge.
- Address public water supply needs at Mulberry Hill/town of Randolph.
- Conduct engineering study on railroad bridges and repair bridges based on study recommendations.
- Construct restrooms at Clover Center picnic area and at Mulberry Hill.
- Restore Mulberry Hill buildings and gardens and develop parking area.
- Construct a staff residence and maintenance area.
Twin Lakes State Park (548 acres) is located in Prince Edward County.

Recommendations:
- Construct an office/visitor center complex.
- Upgrade campground, including new bathhouse.
- Renovate overnight facilities.
- Upgrade beach area, day-use parking and associated roads.
- Improve accessibility throughout park and conference center.
- Construct a staff residence.

State natural area preserves and natural heritage resources

While Commonwealth Regional Council Planning District is one of two districts in Virginia that lack a dedicated natural area preserve, the district has some highly significant sites supporting biodiversity. Some highlights include: part of the world’s largest population of the federally endangered Michaux’s sumac, outstanding examples of several forest and woodland community types, granite flatrock communities, and remnant populations of globally rare mussels.

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 additional buffer lands around Fort Pickett.
- Protection of significant communities and rare species habitats along the Nottoway River in Lunenburg and Nottoway counties.
- Protection of Piedmont hardpan forest and Piedmont savannah communities.
- Protection of granite flatrock 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 staff. For information about the Natural Heritage Program, see Chapter 9.

### Table 14.5 Natural heritage resources

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

Data as of July 1, 2012.
Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

State fish and wildlife management areas

The Featherfin Farm Wildlife Management Area, located about 10 miles west of Farmville, consists of approximately 2,800 acres and borders more than 10 miles of the Appomattox River in Prince Edward, Appomattox and Buckingham counties. This largely wooded tract provides a diversity of rolling Piedmont habitats that support upland species such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and an occasional bear, and it includes approximately 300 acres of fields and woodland edges that provide habitat for rabbits, quail and other small game. A variety of other wildlife also occurs on the property, which promises to provide good wildlife viewing opportunities.

- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries should continue to look for additional recreational boating and fishing access on the James, Sandy and Appomattox rivers.
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- DGIF should look for opportunities to develop stream restoration and protection projects for listed species.
- DGIF should partner with local governments and private entities to cooperatively address human-wildlife interactions, including nuisance issues, population overabundance and trash management.

State forests

Cumberland State Forest (16,222 acres) is in Cumberland County. The forest offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, picnicking, biking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. Bear Creek Lake State Park is located within the forest. The 14-mile Cumberland multiuse trail weaves through the forest and park. There is also the 16-mile Willis River hiking trail. Horse trailer parking and picnic shelters are located in the forest and four lakes are available for fishing.

Prince Edward-Galion State Forest (6,461 acres) is in Prince Edward County. The Virginia State Forest system had its beginning in 1919 when Emmett D. Gallion bequeathed 588 acres to the Commonwealth. Gallion donated his property to advance the course of forestry in the southern Piedmont of Virginia. This donation is the core of the Prince Edward-Gallon State Forest, which was established to demonstrate good forest management, provide a land base for applied forest research, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and outdoor recreation. The forest offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, picnicking, biking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. Twin Lakes State Park is located within the forest.

Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest (19,808 acres) is located in Appomattox and Buckingham counties. A portion of Holliday Lake State Park is located within the forest in Appomattox County. The forest offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, geocaching, picnicking, biking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. The 12-mile Carter-Taylor multiuse trail begins in the park and makes a loop through the forest. There are a total of 20.4 miles of trails. Horse trailer parking and picnic shelters are located in the forest along with two lakes. The Virginia Department of Forestry should continue to manage the forest to develop diverse timber stands that support biodiversity and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Private sector

Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Civil War Trust are private groups that manage conservation lands within the region.

- Outfitter services are needed for the region's growing trails and blueways network.
- Explore private or public-private partnerships to provide recreational areas for all-terrain vehicle use.
- Assess entrepreneurial opportunities that may develop with increasing use of High Bridge Trail State Park. Services such as skills training, nature programs, food and beverage services, and bicycle and horse liveries would enhance recreational enjoyment of the park and promote visitation to the region.

The Sandy River Retreat Log Cabin Farm Stay and Tree Top Adventure Park is located in Prince Edward County. Guests can explore the 16-acre property that includes a garden, fruit trees and livestock. Arrangements can be made for a guided tour and feeding. A custom high-element ropes course in the tree tips consists of challenge obstacles, zip-lines, burma rope bridges and cargo nets for climbing. The farm is adjacent to Sandy River Reservoir, a 740-acre water supply impoundment located east of Farmville. The reservoir supports excellent fishing opportunities.
Website directory

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

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps – Virginia map
http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/virginia/2012/measures/factors/24/map

Virginia Tourism Corp. – Economic Impact of Travel
http://www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/

John H. Kerr Dam Lake Level Report

List of Virginia Land Trusts
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation

James River Heritage Trail (proposed)

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

Virginia Midland Trail
http://www.midlandtrailva.com/

Virginia Farm to Table
http://virginiafarmtotable.org/partners/

Wilcks Lake Park
http://www.farmvilleva.com/town-facilities/parks/wilcks-lake-park

Appomattox River Blueway
http://www.virginiachamber.org/

Meherrin River Blueway Canoe Trail
http://www.whittlesmill.org/Meherrin-River-Canoe-Trail-Map.html

Virginia’s Nonmotorized Statewide Trail System

Beaches to Bluegrass Trail
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/tr-sbiib2e.shtml

Tobacco Heritage Trail
http://www.tobaccoheritagetrail.org/

Virginia Department of Transportation – U.S. Bicycle Route 1 and 76 in Virginia
http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/united_states_bicycle_route_1_and_76_in_virginia.asp

Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan 2010 Update

Town of Farmville, Virginia 2035 Transportation Plan Bicycle Plan

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

Fish Virginia First
http://fishvirginiafirst.com/

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

The Civil War Trust – Appomattox Courthouse and Sailor's Creek
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/appomattox-courthouse/appomattox-sailors-creek-2012/

Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail

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

Virginia Department of Transportation – Virginia Byways Program
http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-byways.asp

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Virginia Scenic Rivers List
Website directory  continued

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – State Park Master Plans
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/masterplans.shtml

Bear Creek Lake State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/bea.shtml

High Bridge Trail State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hig.shtml

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

James River State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/jam.shtml

Sailors Creek Battlefield State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/sai.shtml

Staunton River Battlefield State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/stb.shtml

Twin Lakes State Park
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/twi.shtml

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

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Featherfin Farm Wildlife Management Area

Cumberland State Forest
http://www.dof.virginia.gov/stforest/list/cumberland.htm

Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest

Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/site.asp?trail=3&loop=PAP&site=PAP05

Ducks Unlimited
http://www.ducks.org/

National Wild Turkey Federation
http://www.nwtf.org/

The Civil War Trust
http://www.civilwar.org/

Sandy River Retreat Log Cabin Farm Stay and Tree Top Adventure Park
http://www.sandyriverretreat.com/Pages/default.aspx

Sandy River Reservoir
http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/waterbodies/display.asp?id=114