

Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)

From: Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 6:01 PM
To: Wampler, Jennifer
Subject: News from Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

 [DCR Outdoor Recreation Planning, Trails and Grants](#)

Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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1000 grant programs offered by 26
agencies.**2009 VRPS Awards**

Congratulations to the following award
winners at the 2009 VRPS Conference in
Roanoke.

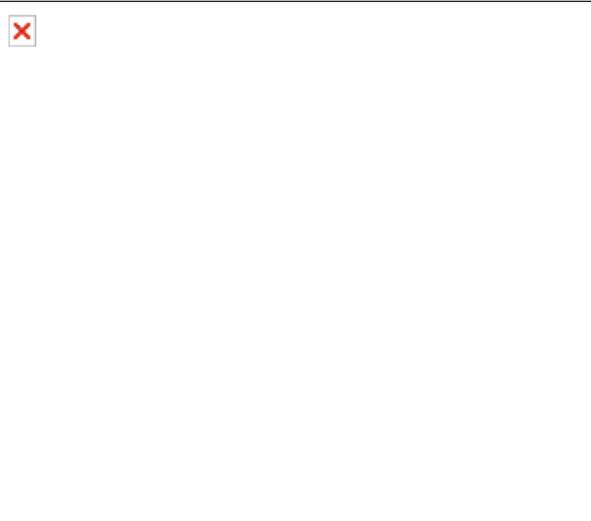
Distinguished Volunteer

Issue: 5

Fall 2009

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Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program
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Land and

Water Conservation Funding

A bill introduced earlier in September in the House (H.R. 3534) includes full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF funding helped open many local and state parks across Virginia, but available funding has tremendously declined as depicted in the graph.

A Senate version of the bill (S. 1462) does not include the LWCF full-funding provision but a coalition made up of more than 50 groups including land trusts, trails and outdoor recreation organizations, fish and wildlife groups, state parks agencies and foundations as well as other conservation organizations are working to achieve full funding for the LWCF.

Proposed Changes to VDOT's Enhancement Program

In an effort to streamline grant processing, the Commonwealth Transportation Board is proposing some changes to the Enhancement Program. For applications due this December, these changes may include an increase in the minimum allocation and funding selected projects estimated to cost \$200,000 or less. Applications for the following year would be limited to existing projects, and applications in 2011 should promote transportation functions.

Brian Battiegari
[Pathfinders for Greenways](#)
 City of Roanoke

Best Blueway/Greenway/Trail

Population 25,001-50,000

[Rocktown Trails](#)

Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation

Population 50,000-100,000

[Freedom Park](#)

James City County Parks & Recreation

Population Greater than 150,000

[Oceanfront Trail](#)

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation

Land Conservation in Virginia

Landscape connectivity and resources could benefit from the public interest in trails and greenways. Projects that receive grassroots support from a broad user base are more likely to get attention from elected officials. Land trusts should consider whether strategic partnerships could be formed to protect corridors also identified for trails.

The [Great American Trails Act](#) as proposed would provide a tax credit to private landowners who grant conservation easements to National Scenic Trails like the Appalachian and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trails. Read more about existing [tax incentives for land conservation](#) in Virginia.

Visit DCR's page on [tools and resources for land conservation](#) for links to land trusts and conservancies in Virginia, sample easement language, and much, much more.

A new report by the [Trust for Public Land](#) makes the case for conservation as a long-term economic investment, yielding \$10 for every \$1 put into conservation. An online [conservation campaign toolkit](#) is available to help you get started protecting the resources you value most!

Recreational Trails Program Update

This year's Recreational Trails Program grant round drew the largest number of applications ever - 66 applications requesting over \$6 million for projects totaling over \$11 million. With only \$824,000 in funding available for the entire state, private-sector partners are more important for funding than ever.

To read more about the proposed changes, visit [VDOT's Local Assistance Division Web site](#). Comments should be sent by Oct. 20, 2009 to EnhancementProgram@VDOT.virginia.gov.

James River Heritage Trail Regional Meetings

The James River Heritage Trail is getting some attention at the state level! Public meetings will be held along the entire 340-mile corridor in October and November, and your help is needed to gather information for a series of maps and a conceptual plan.

Building on water trails maps already completed by the James River Association, the conceptual plan will identify potential local government projects in need of funding. These projects may be eligible for future grant rounds of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails grant programs. More land trail experiences and park sites are needed to complement the water trail.

DCR is also partnering with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to identify agritourism opportunities along the corridor. Final maps will highlight pick-your-own farms, wineries, and other entrepreneurs who increase the river's recreational appeal.

The James River, entirely within the state of Virginia, is not only a remarkable recreational resource, it provides an outdoor classroom for learning skills like fishing and lessons ranging from anthropology to zoology. Hundreds of significant historical sites are along the banks waiting to be discovered and interpreted. In these turbulent times, help us to create a river experience that Connects our Commonwealth.

Oct. 6 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Jurisdictions covered: Amherst, Lynchburg, Appomattox, Campbell, Bedford, Nelson

Lynchburg Public Library ([Jones Memorial Library](#))
 Community Room
 2315 Memorial Ave.
 Lynchburg, VA 24501

Oct. 7 4-6 p.m.

Jurisdictions covered: Alleghany, Botetourt, Rockbridge

[Greenfield Education and Training Center](#)
 57 South Center Drive
 Daleville, VA 24080

Oct. 8 4-6 p.m.

Jurisdictions covered: Buckingham, Cumberland, Albemarle, Fluvanna

[Victory Hall Theatre](#)
 401 Valley St.
 Scottsville, VA 24590

Nov. 3 4-6 p.m.

Jurisdictions covered: Goochland, Powhatan, Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, Charles City, Hopewell, Prince George

[Richmond Regional Commission conference room](#)
 9211 Forest Hill Avenue
 Richmond VA.

Nov. 4 4-6 p.m.

Jurisdictions covered: Surry, Isle of Wight, James City, Newport News, Hampton and Suffolk

[Jamestown Settlement](#)
 2218 Jamestown Road
 Route 31 South
 Williamsburg, 23185

 Connecting the Commonwealth

Reports

[Study on Biking and Walking Resources in Virginia](#)

Great Outdoors America

[Best Practices in Recreation Resources Planning](#)

[ATC Local Management Planning Guide](#)

[Conservation: An Investment that Pays](#)

[New Online Tools for Creating Open Space Campaigns](#)

[City Park Facts 2009 Report](#)

DCR Trails Program Mission: Provide assistance and education to encourage the development, maintenance and promotion of attractive, sustainable and connected trails throughout the state.

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 Virginia Dept of Conservation & Recreation
 Planning and Recreation Resource Division

Communities Putting Prevention to Work

CDC Announces RFP for Chronic Disease Prevention

CDC's Procurement and Grants Office has published a funding opportunity announcement entitled, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Communities Putting Prevention to Work". Approximately \$373 million will be available in fiscal year 2009 to fund thirty to forty awards. The purpose of this FOA is to create healthier communities through sustainable, proven, population-based approaches such as broad-based policy, systems, organizational and environmental changes in communities and schools.

The application deadline for the community projects is December 1, 2009.

Click [here](#) for more information

Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership sets forth six 'livability principles' to coordinate policy and coordinate federal transportation, environmental protection, and housing investments at their respective agencies.

1. Provide more transportation choices.

Develop safe, reliable and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote public health.

2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.

Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

3. Enhance economic competitiveness.

Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.

4. Support existing communities.

Target federal funding toward existing communities - through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling - to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.

5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.

Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods - rural, urban or suburban.

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