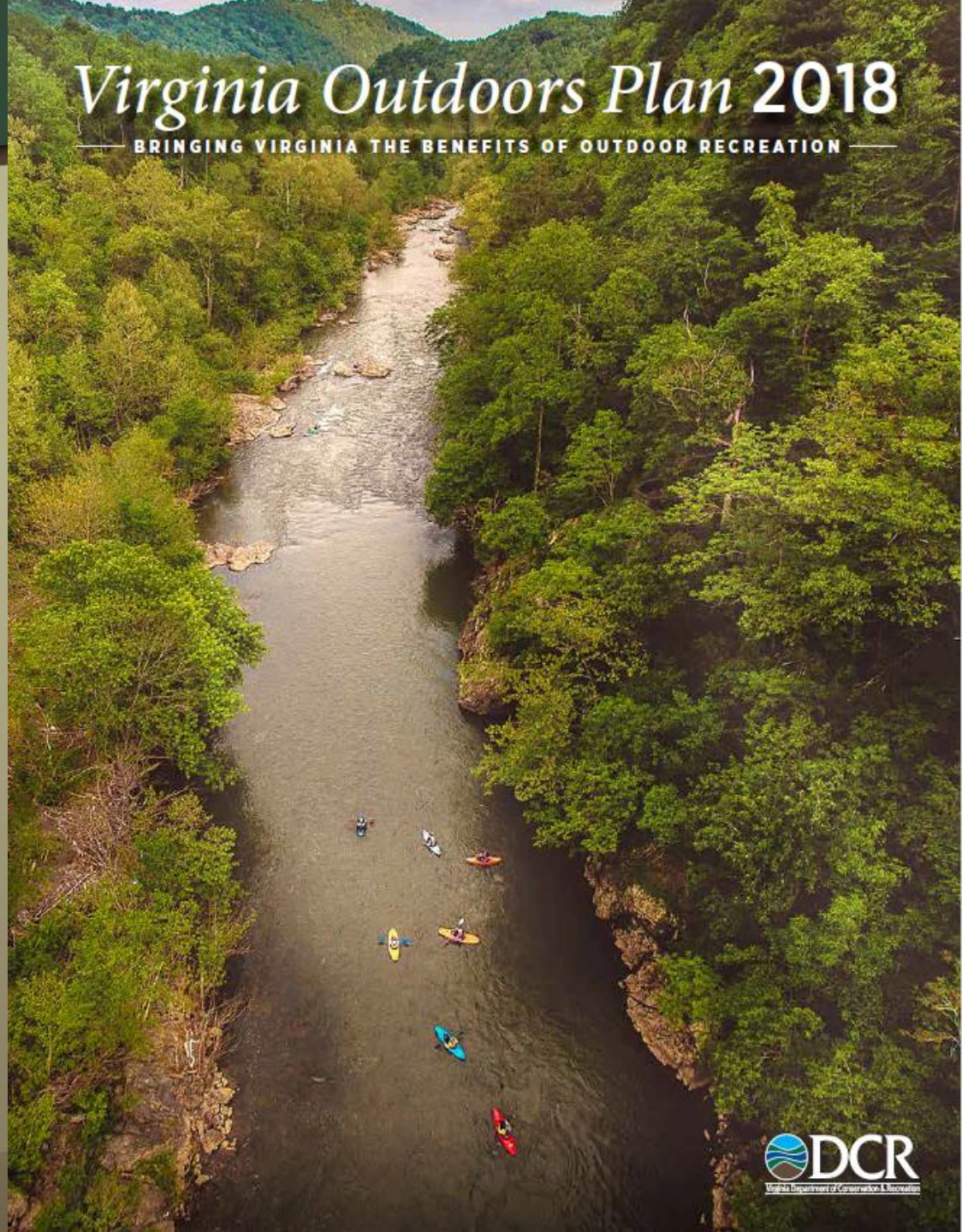


2018 *Virginia Outdoors Plan*

Virginia's 11th Statewide
Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan

Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018

— BRINGING VIRGINIA THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION —



Virginia Outdoors Plan

- Produced every 5 years since 1966
- Budget for the 2018 plan was \$328,000
- The plan takes 2 years to develop
- First step - Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (VODS)





2017 Survey Summary

- Natural areas, parks, trails, and access to waterways remain among the top recreational needs in Virginia
- Increased participation in freshwater fishing and paddle sports
- Increased visitation to natural areas and preserves
- Strong support (74%) for public funding for outdoor recreation
- Importance of scenic resources in travel planning
- The full survey : <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop>



2017 Public Opinions about Recreation

- 70% *Very Important to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities*
- 96% *Important to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources*
- 74% *Support state funding for outdoor recreation; 44% of those support an increase in funding*
- 66 % *Support public spending to prevent the loss of natural areas and open spaces*

Most popular activities for the 2018 VOP

Activity	% of households
Visiting natural areas, preserves, refuges	71
Driving for Pleasure	67
Walking for pleasure	67
Visiting parks (local, state, national)	56
Swimming/ outdoor pool	48
Sunbathing/ relaxing on a beach	47
Viewing the water	38
Swimming—beach/ lake/ river	37
Visiting historic areas	35
Freshwater fishing	34

Citizens view of most needed outdoor recreation facilities

Most Needed Facilities	% of households
Natural Areas	54
Parks	49
Trails	43
Water access	43
Historic areas	39
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	29
Playing fields, sports and golf facilities	22

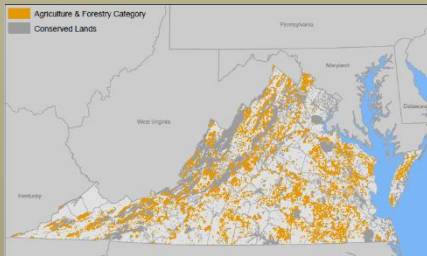
What more than a decade of surveys show us

- Recreation trends are remaining fairly consistent.
- Having access to outdoor recreation is on the rise, from the 2006 survey to now there has been an **11 percent increase in public support for more recreation opportunities.**
- Protecting natural areas and open space remains equally as important, staying in the 90 percentile.
- Access to trails, water, parks, natural areas and scenic views remain the top activities.

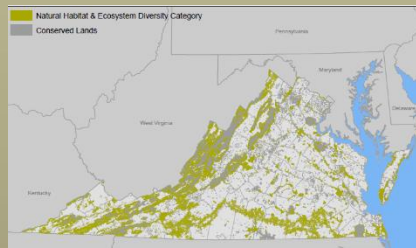
ConserveVirginia

- Conversations and Research resulted in use and/or production of 19 maps or data models.
- 19 were cross-referenced and consolidated into 6 categories

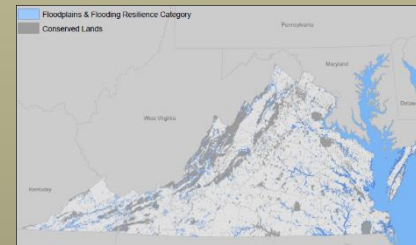
Agriculture & Forestry



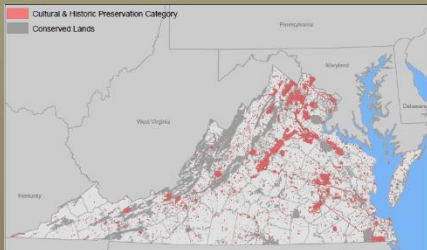
Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity



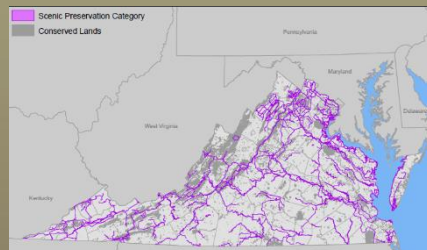
Floodplains & Flooding Resilience



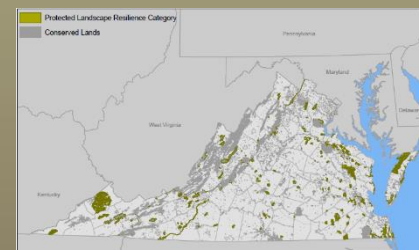
Cultural & Historic Preservation



Scenic Preservation



Protected Landscapes Resilience



The results in acres of these 6 categories

**Natural Habitat &
Ecosystem Diversity**
(3,926,390 acres)

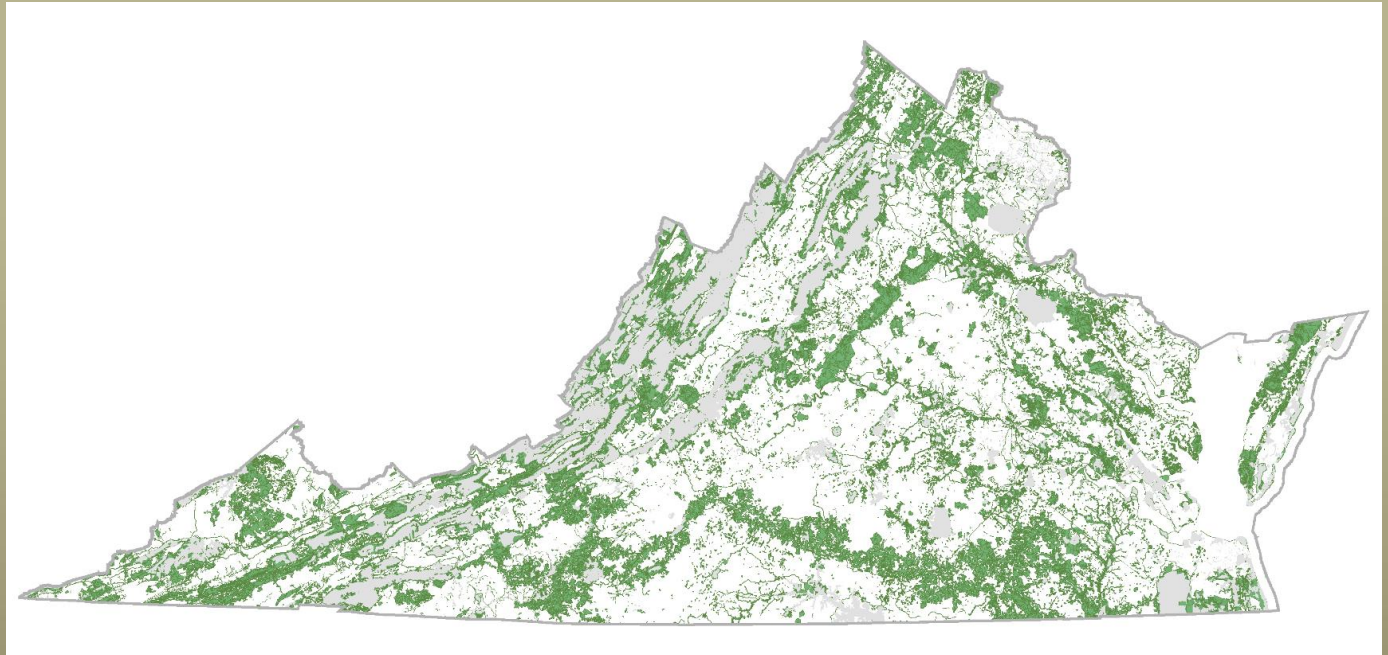
Agriculture & Forestry
(1,432,429 acres)

**Cultural and Historic
Preservation**
(1,147,336 acres)

**Protected Landscapes
Resilience**
(627,991 acres)

**Floodplains &
Flooding Resilience**
(545,461 acres)

Scenic Preservation
(270,870 acres)



6,327,922 acres

ConserveVirginia on Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE)



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

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Map

Species/Communities Search

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Welcome to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Natural Heritage Data Explorer*

This site provides interactive access to various map data representing Natural Heritage resources and other conservation values in Virginia.

ConserveVirginia, Virginia's statewide land conservation plan, is now available here.

[This site should be viewed in Firefox version 3.6 or higher, Google Chrome, or Safari version 3 or higher, or Internet Explorer 10 or higher.](#)



Open Access: You do not need to register for use, nor log in, if you are interested in using the site for land use planning or conservation planning. Anyone can freely view and create maps of conservation status and conservation values, by clicking the **"Map"** tab above. Click the **"Species/Communities Search"** tab to search our database and create summaries of Natural Heritage Resources (i.e. rare species populations and natural communities) by conservation status ranks, counties, watersheds, and other descriptors.

User login

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Managed Conservation Lands

☐ Managed Conservation Lands

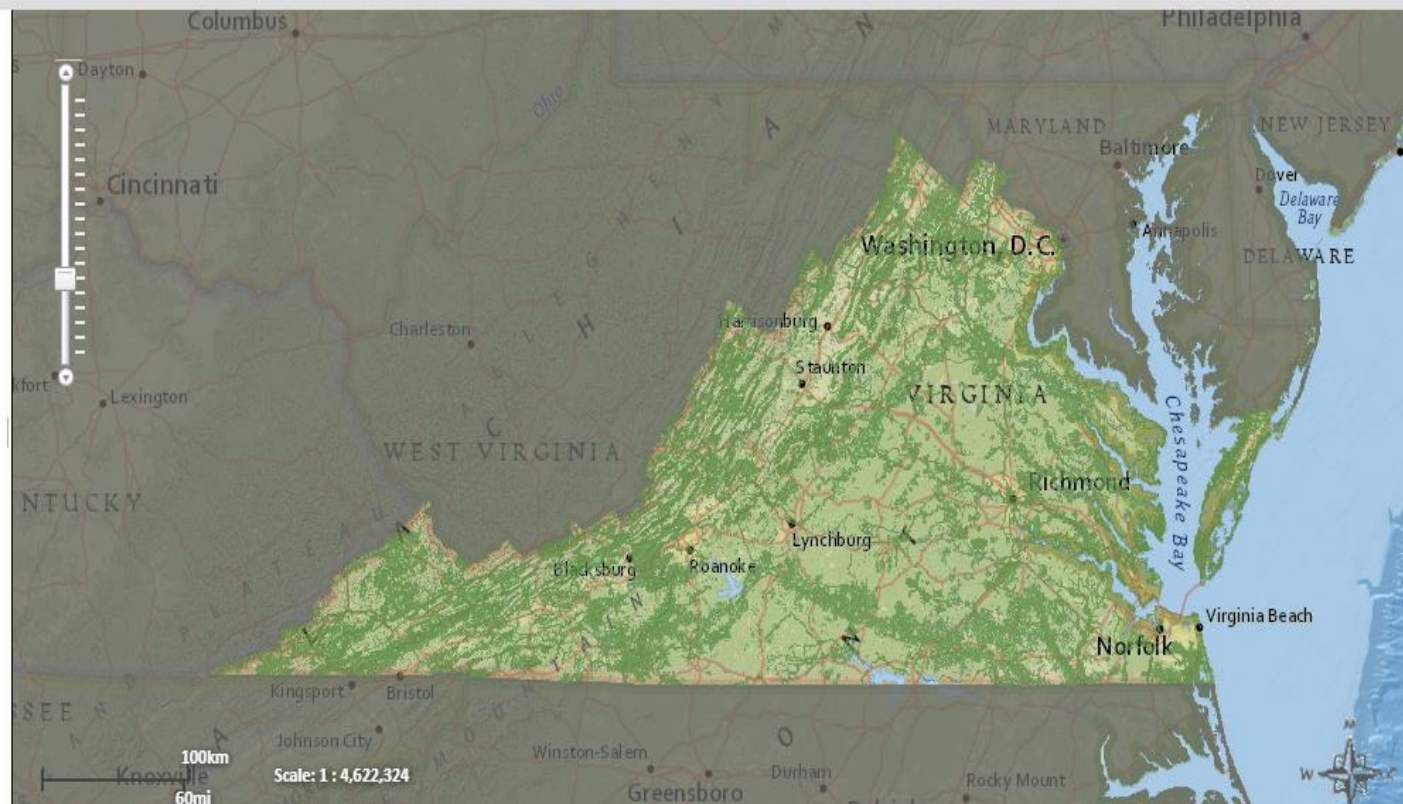
- ☐ Federal
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Private
- ☐ State
- ☐ VOF Easement

ConserveVirginia

- ☒ ConserveVirginia
- ☒ ConserveVirginia Map
- ☐ Agriculture & Forestry Category
- ☐ Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity Category
- ☐ Floodplains & Flooding Resilience Category
- ☐ Cultural & Historic Preservation Category
- ☐ Scenic Preservation Category
- ☐ Protected Landscapes Resilience Category

Conservation Planning

- ☐ Agricultural Model



2019 Grant Rounds

Recreational Trails Program & the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
Division of Planning & Recreation Resources



Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Held an *acquisition-only* grant round
- Received 9 applications, top 7 applications were recommended for funding through the LWCF committee
- If approved by the National Park Service, 2019 projects will total \$4.42 million dollars in funding

*Next Anticipated Grant Round: **Spring 2020***
(Anticipated Apportionment: \$3,800,00.00)

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- RTP requires that 30% of funding supports non-motorized trails, 30% to motorized trails, and 40% to diversified/multiuse trails.
- DCR received 30 applications in 2019
 - 3 non-motorized, 2 diversified, and 4 motorized projects were recommended for funding through the RTP committee.
 - DCR grants staff are currently processing agreements to request these applications be approved through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- If approved by the FHWA, 2019 projects will total \$3.39 million dollars in funding

*Next Anticipated Grant Round: **Fall 2020***
(Anticipated Apportionment: \$1,500,00.00)

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation & Fund Grants

- The foundation manages the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, which gets funding from the state's annual budget.
- An Interagency Taskforce reviews and recommends grant applications to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.
- There are four application categories, and each has a particular set of criteria.
 - Open Spaces and Parks
 - Natural Area Protection
 - Historic Area Preservation
 - Farmlands and Forest Preservation

The 2019 grant round closed in August

State Trails Advisory Committee

- Established by House Bill 1542 in 2015
- Addressed specific tasks outlined by the General Assembly
- Provided recommendations in the Trails Chapter of the 2018 VOP
- Legislation sunsets in Jan 2021

Virginia Trails Alliance

- An outgrowth of the STAC
- Formed in November 2018
- Formed as an umbrella group to advocate for trails (+/-38 member organizations)
- No dues or member fees
- Has sent several letters to Governor Northam and his staff and/or the legislature

- DCR has have 33 river segments scenically designated
- As part of the 50th celebration, 10 requests for designation assessment have been made to DCR
- The River Management Society Symposium is in Richmond on May 12-15, 2020
- Visit the website at:

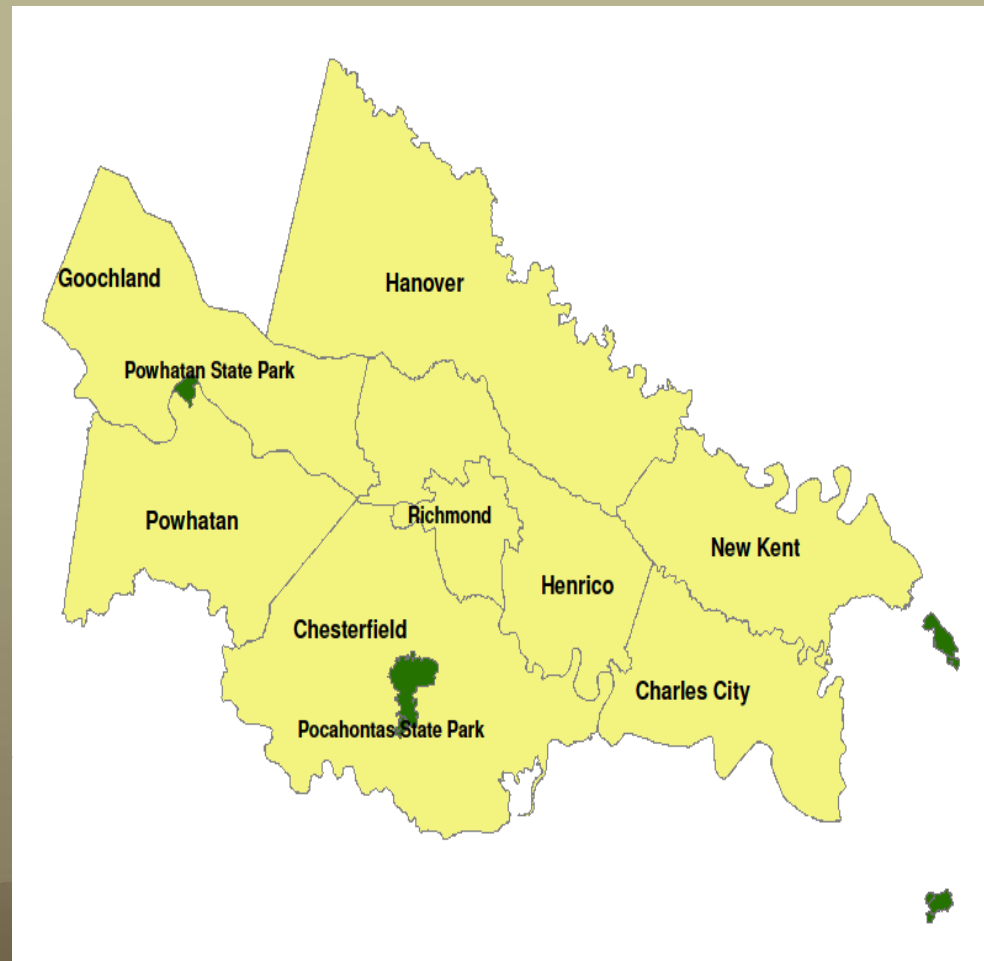
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/sr50>



Region 15 State Parks

State Park Master Plan updates

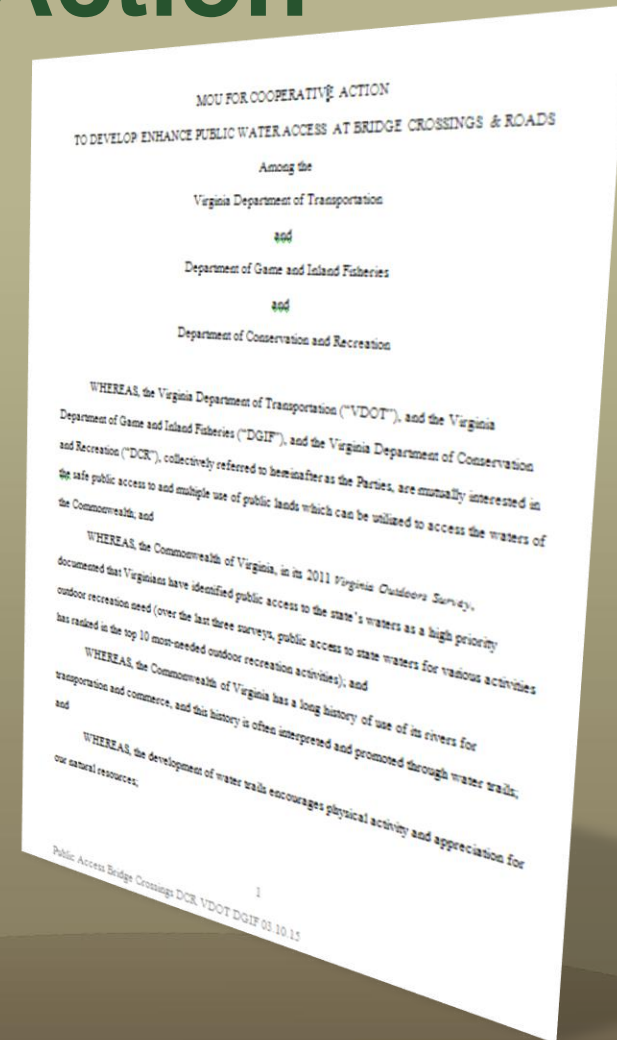
- Powhatan 2022
- Pocahontas 2027



Other State Agency Initiatives

MOU for Cooperative Action— Public Access

- Establishes coordination between DCR, DGIF, and VDOT
- Purpose: ID opportunities for access at bridge crossings and road endings
- Clarifies roles
- Established 1981; updated 2015



VDOT has developed two websites that focus on bike travel

- **Bicycle Facility Inventory**

https://www.virginiaroads.org/datasets/bicycle-facility-inventory-view/data?selectedAttribute=Lane_Miles

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts**

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=9f56a169771746dcb18b6e0ba88f3fbe>

Virginia Department of Forestry

- VDOF owns:
- 25 State Forests totaling 69,441 acres
- 181 easements covering 58,426 acres
 - State Forests are self-supported through the sale of forest products and use permits.
 - Properties are open to the public for outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and canoeing.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

DGIF works to ensure that all Virginians have the opportunity to appreciate outdoor recreation by enhancing fish and wildlife resources while providing opportunities to pursue those activities in a safe manner.

- Maintains 44 Wildlife Management Areas and over 225,000 acres of public access
- 154 Lakes Owned and/or Managed
- 121 Accessible water facilities with 182 Boat Ramps
- 650 Bird and Wildlife Locations
- Newly Established Elk Population



ADVENTURE TOURISM **MANUFACTURING**

- Initiative led Virginia Tourism Corporation to recruit manufacturers of adventure tourism products to locate and expand to the Commonwealth
- Targeted product sectors include kayaks, canoes, ATVs, and outdoor gear
- Initiative seeks to grow Virginia's outdoor culture while spurring job creation and tourism partnerships

The Office of Outdoor Recreation

- Leads efforts to support outdoor recreation through attracting outdoor equipment industries
- Recruits new outdoor businesses to the Commonwealth
- The Office will lead an effort to grow the outdoor industry in Virginia through industry promotion, coordination, and recruitment

The VOP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The 2019 spring TAC meeting

- Review the survey results from 2017
- The results informed the next VOP direction
- Three topics were addressed in the break-out sessions
 - Recreation trends
 - Legislative engagement for recreation
 - VOP future priorities

Recreation Trends

- Technology Integration
 - Mapping
 - Drones
 - Geocaching
- Glamping
 - Trailers
 - RVS
 - Yurts
- Sports Tourism
 - Extreme Sports
 - Marathons and Bike Races



Promoting Recreation to Legislatures

- **Ecosystem Services**
 - Flood Protection/resiliency
 - How land conservation dovetails with recreation
 - How open space/recreation/land con supports economics
- **Legislative engagement**
 - Invite them to see what's happening around the State
 - Submit case studies that shows the economic value to communities

Next VOP Priorities

- Build a case for Maintenance Funding for stewardship and infrastructure
 - Creating a dedicated regular source of a maintenance fund
 - Discuss the real costs of facility development (long-term maintenance and operations)
 - Emphasize deferred maintenance and the need for sustained funding
- Build a strong argument for the economic value of outdoor recreation
 - Detail the return on investment/cost-benefit



Visit the Virginia Outdoors Plan at:

www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vop.shtml

Thank you!