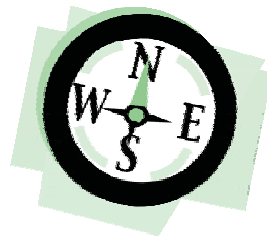


The Central Shenandoah Valley Greenway Plan



An Inventory and
Natural Resource Assessment of the
Central Shenandoah Region

July 2004

The Central Shenandoah Valley Greenway Plan

An Inventory and Natural Resource Assessment of the Central Shenandoah Region

Covering:

Augusta, Bath, Bridgewater, Broadway, Buena Vista, Craigsville, Dayton,
Elkton, Glasgow, Goshen, Grottoes, Harrisonburg, Highland, Lexington,
Monterey, Mount Crawford, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Staunton, Timberville
and Waynesboro

Prepared by the
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

July, 2004

The preparation of this plan was financed in part through a planning grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Rural Transportation Planning Grant Program.

The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission is very thankful for the assistance of many people and organizations that contributed to and provided information for this document. They include:

The Central Shenandoah Valley Greenway Committee

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Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Upper Valley Regional Park Authority
Friends of Blacks Run
Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
National Parks Service
Virginia Trails Association
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
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Bath County Chamber of Commerce
U. S. Forest Service
Virginia Department of Forestry
Valley Conservation Council
Lexington Chamber of Commerce
Milepost Zero
Virginia Department of Transportation
Harrisonburg- Rockingham Chamber of Commerce
Friends of Brushy Hills
Staunton Parks and Recreation
Waynesboro Parks and Recreation
Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation

A special thanks to the JMU students of Mary Handley's Natural Resource Management (ISAT 424) class who recommended potential greenways for the Augusta-Staunton-Waynesboro area as part of a class project.

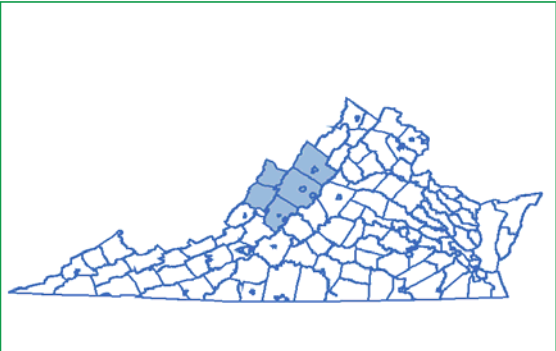
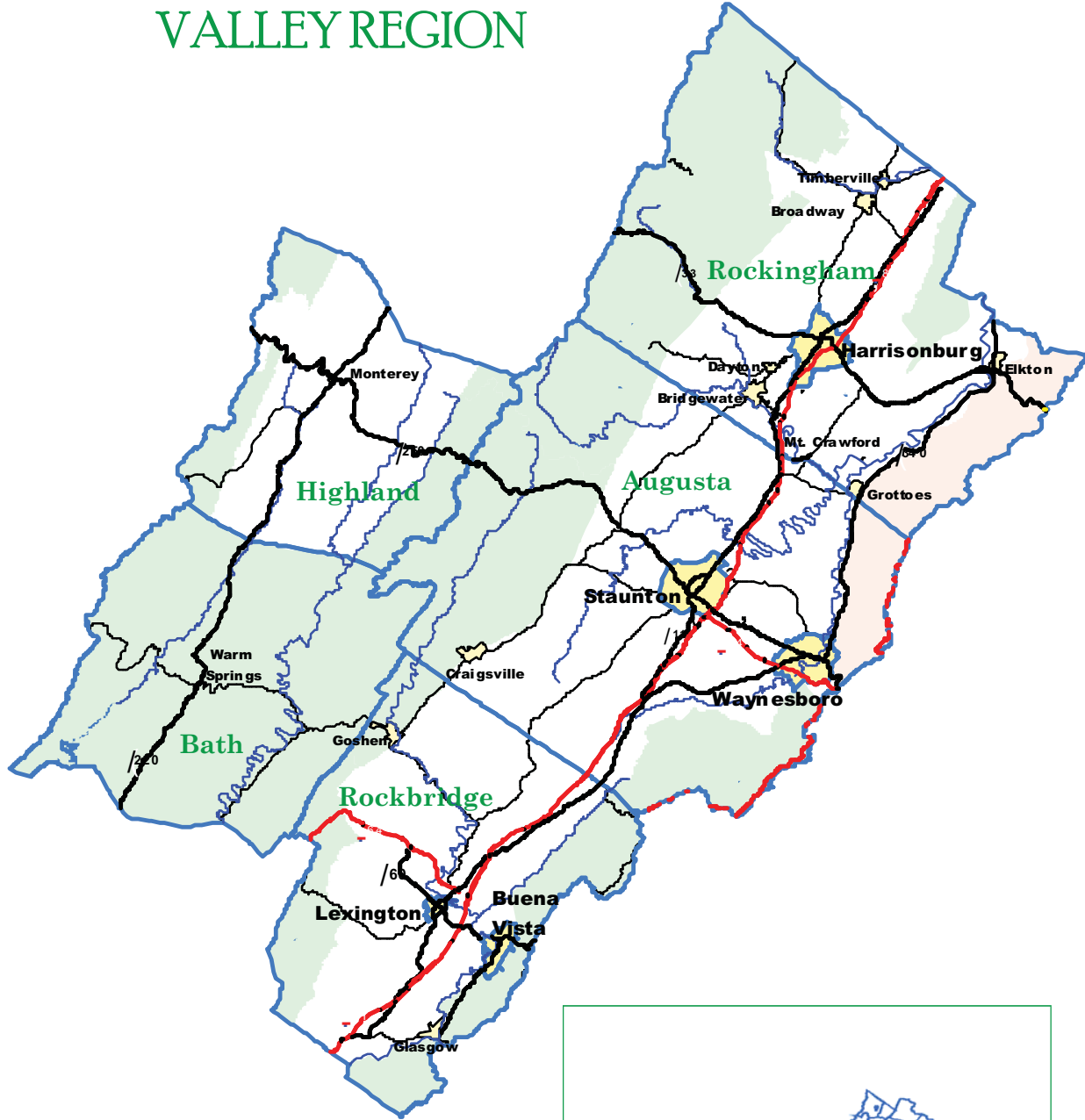
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CENTRAL SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGION





What Is A Greenway

Greenways are becoming popular project ideas as communities seek ways to enhance and protect their natural resources, strengthen the local economy and address quality of life issues. Greenways not only offer recreation opportunities, but also impact economic and community development, tourism, and transportation. Greenways offer communities a way to integrate housing, education, employment, commerce, transportation, tourism, and recreation into a comprehensive system by linking people with natural areas, parks, neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas.



Greenways can be defined as natural areas that are linear in nature that connect recreational facilities, historic sites, and/or cultural features with each other or with population centers or may serve as parks unto themselves. As natural areas, they are often scenic in nature and offer recreational opportunities in hiking, bicycling, canoeing, horseback riding, etc. Areas suited for greenway development typically are existing trails, ridgelines, abandoned railways, scenic roads, and river/stream corridors.



There are several classifications of greenways or trail types:



(1) **No Development/Limited Development** - the principal feature of this greenway type is water quality protection and protection of wildlife and plant populations in environmentally sensitive areas; there is limited access and use.



(2) **Multi-use Trails** - landscapes that can support paved or unpaved trails and provide quality access to native landscapes; support hiking, biking and equestrian and other outdoor uses. These trails are found along rivers, ridge tops, forested areas or close to home and work places.

-
- (3) ***Blueways/Riverside Trails*** - located along rivers, lakes, streams, and other watercourses, these trails support both waterside activities and non-motorized boating.
 - (4) ***Scenic Roadways*** - routes identified for driving and cycling tours, often with a historical or cultural theme.
 - (5) ***Bicycle Routes*** - located along roadways, these consist of designated bike lanes, bike paths and sidewalks.

Benefits Of Greenways

Greenways provide many benefits for a community such as economic growth and tourism, transportation improvements, recreational opportunities/healthy lifestyles, and environmental education and protection.

Economic Benefit - greenways offer numerous opportunities for economic growth, revitalization and development. Directly and indirectly greenways support recreation, eco-tourism and tourism-related services. Trails create links to historical, cultural, and natural sites thus increasing tourism in the area by offering a unique recreational experience for the traveler. In addition greenways can increase property values and are becoming desired neighborhood amenities.

Transportation Alternatives - greenways and trails offer a safe and healthy alternative to automobile travel for both the local resident as well as the visitor to the area. Trails offer pedestrians or cyclists a safe and healthy means to travel to work, school, parks, commercial centers, and tourist attractions. These alternative means of travel also reduce use on existing roadways.

Recreation/Healthy Lifestyles - greenways create a wide range of opportunities for outdoor activities for users of all ages and interests. From leisurely walks to mountain biking, greenways provide a safe and inexpensive means for outdoor exercise and healthy living for people of all ages living in rural, urban, or suburban areas.

Education - greenways offer an “up-close and personal” experience of the area’s natural, cultural, and historic resources. Trails can be utilized as outdoor classrooms to increase awareness of the importance of the watershed and the natural environment surrounding it. Cultural and historic resources can be interpreted along trails to explain the history and natural events that have occurred here.

Environmental Protection/Preservation - greenways can be used to preserve and protect open space, environmentally sensitive areas, and important wildlife habitat from future development or disturbance. Open space and greenway designation is an excellent method to protect diminishing areas of forest, wetlands, and pastureland especially in areas where development pressures are heavy. Greenways also serve as natural floodplains, act as riparian buffers and assist with erosion and flood control. They also preserve the visual beauty of the natural landscape.

Need For Our Regional Greenway Plan

Our area is located in one of the most scenic areas in the state. Within our Region lies the Appalachian Trail, one of the most recognized greenways in the country; the Blue Ridge Parkway, a national scenic road; Natural Bridge, a national historic landmark dubbed one of the seven natural wonders of the world; the Shenandoah National Park and many historic and cultural sites, national forests and scenic landscapes. Our Region boasts a large number of recreational facilities and natural resources, attracting large numbers of tourists annually.

These abundant resources make our Region prime for the development of greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to scenic destinations. Although there are numerous existing/planned trails and greenways in our Region, there is no overall plan or vision for an integrated regional greenway and trails system. Through this planning initiative, individual efforts not now linked can be tied together in one integrated Plan.

Furthermore, no original geographic information archive or map has been prepared highlighting existing amenities. Little information exists on greenways, bicycle, pedestrian or equestrian trails in our Region. This is tragic because we have tremendous greenway resources and opportunities to expand and improve upon successful projects.

Finally, the Region is experiencing significant population growth, with the resulting pressures to develop heretofore undeveloped land. Between 1990 and 2000, regional population increased by 15%. Given these growth pressures, it is critical that localities start planning for future trails now. With new greenways identified in this Plan, dedicated rights-of-way may be acquired or proffered before development occurs, thereby making trail development in these areas easier. It will also allow for improved links between transportation planning and land use planning, with trails and greenways formally linked to off-site amenities, attractions and destination points.

Our Greenway Plan Development

In 2002, through VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) applied for and received funding to develop a regional greenway plan. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a framework for developing a series of interconnected green spaces and trails by identifying and mapping existing and planned trails and greenways, blueways, key physical and natural features, cultural and historical sites and making recommendations for future projects.

A stakeholders committee was created, representing local government staff from each of our sub-regions, natural resource groups, VDOT staff, elected officials and interested citizens and outdoor groups. This committee ensured broad community participation and support. A number of stakeholders meetings were held throughout the Region to gather data and make recommendations on future greenway/blueway linkages to existing trails, greenways, attractions, development centers, and other destination points. These meetings were used to establish long-term buy-in and ownership of the established greenway plan and to build consensus and awareness of the greenway plan. Committee members developed a base map that served as the basis for identifying and assessing alternatives for connecting existing and planned greenways, transportation and development areas.

The project was coordinated with other planning activities: (1) Local Comprehensive Plans; (2) Waynesboro Greenways Plan; (3) Rockbridge Area Master Recreational Plan; (4) Augusta County Master Recreational Draft Plan; (5) Central Shenandoah Regional Flood Mitigation Plan; (6) Glen Maury Park Master Plan; (7) Blacks Run Greenway Plan; (8) Brushy Blue Master Trail Plan; (9) Virginia Outdoors Plan; and (10) A Cyclists Guide to the Shenandoah Valley and other initiatives in the area.

All existing and planned trails, as well as recreational areas and parks in the Region, were identified and mapped utilizing the CSPDC's Geographic Information System. An inventory of key historic and cultural sites and resources was prepared as a further means of linking the greenways to key destinations and attractions. The Plan identifies and describes community facilities such as schools, parks, and recreation centers, as well as major watercourses and water resources.

An inventory of environmental and physical features was prepared so that fragile environmental features and areas can be protected, and to identify physical features (such as railbeds and stream corridors suitable for trail development) and access points to the existing transportation network. With this body of information at hand, new greenways and open space projects were identified and recommended.

Conclusion

Our Region is rich in opportunities for the development of greenways and trails. As our Region's population increases at a rapid pace, the draw on our natural resources increases as well. The planning and development of greenways is just one technique that our Region can use to create a more viable and ecological sustainable environment. As mentioned above, greenways offer a multitude of advantages for communities. The benefits are not only economic but also social and environmental as well.

Our Region is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousand of acres of National Forest and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding. Additionally, the many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the Region provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to scenic destinations. There are hundreds of historically significant sites in our Region. Many of the sites are found on both the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

Our Region offers a broad range of recreational facilities both publicly and privately owned and maintained. These facilities, for the most part, are evenly distributed throughout each county and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Most of the recreational facilities are located in and around small communities and within our cities and towns. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available at a number of prominent facilities in the Region. These facilities include state parks, community recreational centers and parks, lakes, rivers, and campgrounds.

The water resources in our Region play an important role in the area's recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. Our Region contains the headwaters of two major rivers creating two separate basins, the Shenandoah River basin in the north and the James River basin in the south. The major waterways in the Region are the North

and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, James River, North River, South River, Middle River, Jackson River, Bullpasture River, Cowpasture River, and Maury River. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the Region and feed into these larger bodies of water. Natural springs of all sizes, including one of the largest in the state, are located throughout the Region. Other water sources in the area include: Lake Robinson, Lake Moomaw, Douthat Lake, Sherando Lake, and Lake Shenandoah. These rivers and streams and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways/blueways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities. Waterbodies of all types can add special features to trails as well.

Our Region's rural character with its scattered villages, beautiful farms, picturesque countryside, and magnificent vistas offer miles of scenic drives. Several road corridors in the Region are included in Virginia's Scenic Road map or designated scenic Virginia Byways. This program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high traffic corridors.

With innovative planning and foresight, our Region can accomplish much with the development of a regional greenway system. This Plan is the first step in identifying and assessing our tremendous natural resources and recommending potential greenway and open space projects that will support recreational opportunities, open space preservation and protection, economic development, tourism, education and quality of life on a regional basis.





PROFILE OF OUR REGION

The Central Shenandoah Valley Region is located in the middle of the historic and scenic Shenandoah Valley in west-central Virginia. With a land area of 3,439 square miles, the Region is home to some 246,400 persons. Geographically, the Region is the largest planning district in the state.



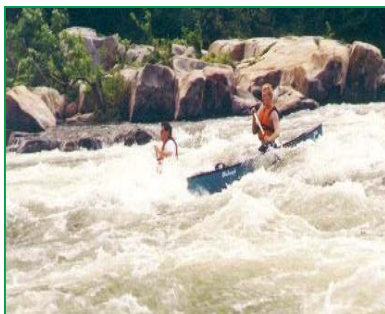
The Region is comprised of five counties (Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham) and five independent cities (Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro). The Region also has 11 incorporated towns within its borders: Glasgow and Goshen in Rockbridge, Craigsville and portions of Grottoes in Augusta, Bridgewater, Broadway, Dayton, Elkton, Mt. Crawford, Timberville and portions of Grottoes in Rockingham and Monterey in Highland.



The Region is bounded on the east by the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on the west by the elevations of the Allegheny Mountains and the West Virginia border. Of the Region's 2.2 million acres of land, approximately 1.2 million acres are publicly held and protected. The headwaters of the James, Shenandoah, and Maury rivers are located in the Region.



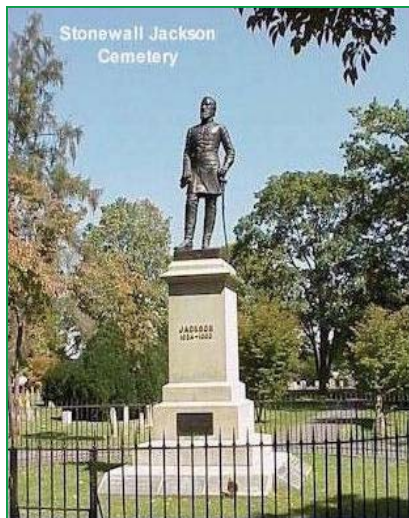
Bisected by Interstate 81 on the north-south axis and by Interstate 64 on the east-west axis, the Region is approximately 45 miles north of Roanoke, 100 miles west of Richmond, 125 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., 68 miles south of the Virginia Inland Port, and 200 miles northwest of the Port of Hampton Roads.



History Of The Region

The Central Shenandoah Valley Region is rich in history and culture. It has been settled in many areas over 250 years. A hospitable climate, prime soils, and diverse forest and wildlife combined to make the Region attractive to early settlers. Villages and farms dot the landscape. Cities are graced with historic landmarks and prominent academic institutions.

Communities and civic life have been and continue to be well-established. A strong agricultural heritage is evident throughout the Region. Working farms are a familiar sight in the countryside. Indeed, agriculture is still an important part of the regional economy. The Region accounts for about a quarter of the Commonwealth of Virginia's total for the market value of agricultural products sold.



Industry also flourished early in the Region, assisted by the fortuitous development of strong railroad connections. The Chesapeake & Ohio and Norfolk & Southern intersected in Waynesboro and the rail connection between Harrisonburg and Rockingham was completed in 1869. Two cities in particular, Waynesboro and Buena Vista, prospered as industrial communities in the late 19th century. They remain important industrial centers today.

A number of important academic institutions were established early in the Region. Lexington's Washington and Lee University, founded in 1749, and Virginia Military Institute, founded in 1839, are among the oldest and most prominent academic institutions in the nation. The Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind was founded in Staunton in 1839 and Mary Baldwin College, a private liberal arts college for women, was established three years later in 1842. The Rockingham area is home to Bridgewater College, established in 1880, James Madison University, established by the General Assembly as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women in 1908, and Eastern Mennonite College (now Eastern Mennonite University), a privately endowed liberal arts college, established in 1917.

Civil War history abounds in the Region. Combatants marched, camped, and skirmished across the Valley's rolling hills and mountainous woodlands. The Battle of McDowell, Piedmont, and Port Republic were

waged within the Region. Rockbridge County was the home of the military strategists Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and Robert E. Lee. Jackson’s Valley Campaign ended in Port Republic in Rockingham County in 1862. Virginia Military Institute trained many of the Confederacy’s soldiers and officers. VMI cadets were recognized for their service in the Battle of New Market.

Geographically, most of the counties in the Region were carved from Augusta County, whose borders originally extended to the Mississippi River. It is the oldest county, formed from Orange County in 1738 and named for Augusta, Princess of Wales and mother of King George III. It is the second largest county in the state in land mass, encompassing more than 968 square miles of diverse terrain. The county seat, Staunton, was founded in 1747. Waynesboro was established in 1801.

Rockingham, the next largest county in land mass, was formed from Augusta in 1778 and named for the Marquis of Rockingham, a British statesman sympathetic with the American Revolution. It is the third largest county in the state geographically with 853 square miles. Harrisonburg, founded in 1780, is the county seat and is located in the heart of Rockingham.



Rockbridge was formed from portions of Augusta and Botetourt counties in the same year as Rockingham and was named for its distinctive geological landmark, Natural Bridge. It encompasses 607 square miles of diverse, rolling terrain. Lexington, incorporated in 1778, is the county seat. Buena Vista was incorporated in 1892.

Bath, with a landmass of 540 square miles, was formed in 1790 from parts of Augusta, Botetourt, and Greenbrier counties. Named for the English resort city of Bath, Bath County was, similarly, to become a resort area of national reputation because of its soothing mineral waters. Warm Springs is the county seat.

Highland is the smallest county in the Region with 416 square miles. It was formed from portions of Bath and Pendleton counties in 1847. The county received its name from its prevailing high altitude; it has one of the highest mean elevations of any county east of the Mississippi River. It is known as "Little Switzerland" because of its pristine mountain beauty. Monterey is the county seat.

Geography of the Region

The Region is part of the Valley and Ridge Physiographic Province, which is characterized by gently rolling and hilly valleys, as well as gradual mountain slopes. The extreme eastern edge of the Region is within the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province which is distinguished by mountain peaks. The western edge of the Region is characterized by high, narrow, mountain ridges that run northeast to southwest forming relatively narrow river valleys. Elevations range from a high of 4,546 feet above sea level in Highland County to a low of 720 feet above sea level near Glasgow in Rockbridge County.

Soils in the valley range from carbonate soils to alluvial soils along rivers and streams. Colluvial soils resulting from the weathering of the sandstone and shale mountains are found in the foothills paralleling the valley. The mountain areas are covered with shallow, rocky, excessively drained soils that derive from the weathering of acidic sandstone, shale, quartz, and granite parent material. The predominant geological structure underlying the Region is a complex formation of limestone, calcareous shale, and dolomite, with smaller amounts of sandstone, conglomerate, and chert.

Natural Resources of the Region

The Region is blessed with a high quality and quantity of natural resources, made evident by the large proportion of the each county that is held as national forest and park land. Much of the forested area in the Region is within either the Shenandoah National Park or the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest. Forest resources are important in maintaining the local forestry industry, watersheds, wildlife habitats, and outdoor recreation. The dominant forest type in the Region is mixed hardwoods, specifically oaks, hickories, and maples.

Surface water in the Region drains into two separate basins, the Shenandoah River basin in the north and the James River basin in the south. The ridge dividing the two watersheds is located in southern Augusta County. The major waterways in the Region are the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, North River, South River, Middle River, Jackson River, Bullpasture River, Cowpasture River, and Maury River. Many of these major waterways are used as public supply sources. Normal water flow in the larger water courses generally provides ample supplies, but impoundments are required to maintain adequate reserves during droughts. Lake Moomaw in Bath County, with a surface area of 2,530 acres was created in 1979 with the completion of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River.

Recommendations for the Region

In order to protect, preserve, and enhance the area's vast natural resources and contribute to the Region's open space and recreational opportunities, the following recommendations are suggested:

- (1) Strengthen local comprehensive plans and create special land use regulations that protect and preserve unique scenic resources in the area. Develop a trail and greenway plan as part of each local government's comprehensive planning process.
- (2) Encourage local governments and adjacent landowners to develop scenic overlay zones adjacent to and within the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive.
- (3) Support the aspects of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests revised Land and Resource Management Plan which calls for additional facilities within the national forests including trails, camping, water access, natural resource interpretation and environmental education.
- (4) Evaluate the following river segments to determine suitability for designation to the Virginia Scenic River program:
 - Maury River from its origin west of Goshen Pass to the James River.
 - Back Creek and Jackson River in Bath County above Lake Moomaw.
 - Cowpasture River in Highland and Bath counties.
 - Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers from Marble Valley to Goshen Pass.
 - South Fork of the Shenandoah River in Rockingham County.
 - Laurel Fork in Highland County.
 - James River in southeastern Rockbridge County.
- (5) Support development of equestrian trails in the region, where appropriate.
- (6) Support the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Birding and Wildlife Trail program that designates trails/tours for bird and wildlife viewing.

-
- (7) Identify and develop appropriate access to the public waters and free-flowing water systems in the region.
 - (8) Determine appropriate roads for bicycle routes and develop and adopt local pedestrian and bikeway plans to include in VDOT's transportation plans.
 - (9) Support appropriate alternatives to large-scale expansion of Interstate 81 such as rail transportation improvements.
 - (10) Create tourist-friendly road and trail maps for cycling, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and scenic driving.
 - (11) Support state efforts to include Grand Caverns and Natural Chimneys Regional Parks in the state park system.
 - (12) Support a multi-regional effort to develop a bicycle/trail system that connects the 10 Civil War Battlefields in the western part of the state.



ROCKBRIDGE- BUENA VISTA- LEXINGTON AREA



Community Profile

Rockbridge County is located in the historic and scenic Shenandoah Valley in west-central Virginia. Rockbridge County is bounded on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains and the west by the lower elevations of the Alleghany Mountains. Principle cities are Buena Vista, the industrial nucleus of the area, and Lexington, the County seat. Each city borders the Maury River. The two incorporated towns of Goshen and Glasgow are also located in Rockbridge County. Goshen is located on Mill Creek and the Calfpasture River, a major tributary of the Maury. Glasgow is located at the confluence of the Maury and the James Rivers. Rockbridge County is bordered by Augusta County to the northeast, Nelson County to the east, Amherst County to the southeast, Bedford to the south, Botetourt to the southwest, Alleghany to the west and Bath County to the northwest. The County lies at the headwaters of the Maury River, and near the headwaters of the James River.



Rockbridge County was originally populated by Native Americans then later settled there in 1737 when Scotch-Irish pioneers moved there from Pennsylvania and eastern Virginia. Rockbridge County was created in 1778 from portions of Augusta and Botetourt counties. Today Rockbridge County encompasses 607 square miles. The population in the county including the cities of Buena Vista and Lexington is 34,024 (U.S. Census, 2000).



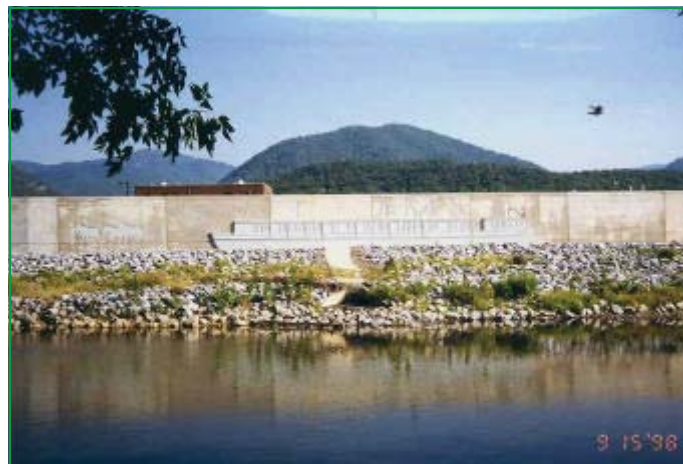
Lexington serves as the county seat and is home to many state and national historic landmarks, including the academic institutions of Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute (VMI). The City of Lexington was incorporated in 1841 and became an independent city in 1966. Lexington has a population of 6,867.

Buena Vista was incorporated as a town in 1890 and as a city in 1892. Buena Vista is located in the eastern part of the County on the Maury River at the foot of the steep western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The City covers an area of 6.9 square miles and has a population of 6,349.

The Rockbridge area is located in one of the most scenic areas in the state. Within the area lies the Appalachian Trail, a national scenic trail, Natural Bridge, a National Historic Landmark, dubbed one of the seven natural wonders of the world, many historic and cultural sites, national forests and scenic landscapes. The Rockbridge area boasts a large number of recreational facilities and natural resources. Additionally there are great areas of open space, since most of the county is sparsely populated and large open tracts of land exist. The area has a large tourist population due to its rural ambience and numerous historic and natural features.

Greenways, Trails, And Natural Areas

Our area is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousands of acres of National Forest and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.





Hiking Trails

Appalachian Trail – a national hiking trail that runs across the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia; access via Rt. 60 E., 9 miles east of Buena Vista.

Blue Ridge Parkway – scenic road built in the 1930s along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Accessible to the Rockbridge area from several points. The Parkway provides beautiful vistas, hunting, camping, various foot and cycling trails. Trails include:

- Whetstone Ridge Trail - 12 mile hiking trail
- Yankee Horse Trail - .2 mile hiking trail, waterfall
- Boston Knob - .10 mile hiking trail
- Indian Rocks. - .3 mile hiking trail, rock formations
- White Oak Flats - 1 mile
- Otter Creek Trail - .8 mile hiking trail overlooking lake

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests – over 58,000 acres of forested land and open space in Rockbridge County managed by the U.S. Forest Service offering outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting.

James River Face Wilderness Area – 9,000 acres with well-maintained hiking trails including portions of the Appalachian Trail and Devils Marblyard.

Rich Hole Wilderness Area – trails from 1.5 mile to 6 miles located in 6,450 publicly maintained acres located 18 miles west of Lexington.

Thunder Ridge Wilderness Area – the smallest Virginia Wilderness with 2,450 acres located in southeastern Rockbridge County. Six miles of the Appalachian Trail traverse the Wilderness.

Natural Bridge – national historic landmark with nature trail under a 215-foot limestone arch along Cedar Creek; admission is required.

Goshen Pass – unspoiled mountain gorge where Maury River rushes through; hiking trails, swimming, tubing, picnic areas; several access points.

Chessie Nature Trail – 6 mile rail-to-trail foot path along Maury River from Lexington to Buena Vista; wildlife, rock formations, remains of canal locks.

Lake Robertson Trail System – eight trails ranging from 1 to 1.75 miles for hiking, walking; surrounding 31 acre fishing lake near Collierstown.

Woods Creek Trail – 1.5 to 2 mile walking/jogging trail along shaded stream in downtown Lexington.

Glen Maury Park – numerous hiking and nature trails within 315-acre city owned park, located in Buena Vista along the Maury River.

Moore's Creek Dam (Lexington City Reservoir) – 2.3 miles of hiking/nature trails; 6 miles of mountain biking trails and a 22 acre lake.

Jordan's Point Park – historic city park in Lexington along the Maury River under development, walking/jogging trails, interpretive centers, fishing, canoe access, picnic area.

Historic Lexington Walking Tour – .8 to 3 mile walking tour in historic downtown. Passes W & L campus, VMI Post, Stonewall Jackson cemetery, churches, and historic homes.

Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area – two large parcels of forested mountain land (over 33,000 acres) that join southeast of Goshen at the Maury River. The Little North Mountain parcel lies in Augusta and Rockbridge County; hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Wildcat Mountain Trail – 4 mile hiking trail with loops at Cave Mountain Lake to Wildcat Mountain.

Locher Tract – 1 to 4 miles of wildlife viewing trails along the James River; connects with Balcony Falls trail; site of old family farm.

Natural Bridge Cedar Creek Trail – 1 mile hiking trail follows Cedar Creek underneath Natural Bridge, past Lost River to Lace Waterfalls; admission is required.

House Mountain Trail – hiking and mountain biking trail five miles west of Lexington.

North Mountain Trail – 9.5 mile hiking trail with views of Lake Robertson.

Jump Mountain Trail – 5.6 miles of hiking trails with climb to top of Jump Mountain.

Laurel Run Trail – 1.5 mile trail in the heart of Goshen Pass; along native trout stream with roadside pavilion and waterfalls.

Maury River Walk – 2.5 mile walking/running trail on flood wall along Maury River in Buena Vista.

Elephant Mountain Walk – hiking trail in Buena Vista leads east to Blue Ridge Parkway.

Kendal Retirement Community Trail System – trail designed for use by residents of retirement community with planned connections to Brushy Hills and Woods Creek Trail.

Brushy Hills – 560 acre natural forest preserve two miles west of Lexington with approximately eight miles of hiking trails and birdwatching.

Birding and Wildlife Trails – the following sites have been nominated as part of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries’ Birding and Wildlife Trails program. These “thematic” trails allow the sightseer to view a variety of birds, wildlife and wildflowers native to the area:

- ❖ Natural Bridge
- ❖ Boxerwood Gardens
- ❖ Brushy Hills
- ❖ Chessie Nature Trail
- ❖ Glen Maury Park
- ❖ Goshen Wildlife Management Area
- ❖ Lake A. Willis Robertson
- ❖ Locher Tract
- ❖ Steeles Tavern Country Manor



Cycling Routes

Although there are no designated bikeways in the county, the vast majority of the county’s state roads are ideally suited for the advanced cyclist. There are a number of bicycle clubs and advocacy groups in the Region that have expressed a desire to see more road improvements and signage to accommodate the on-road cyclists and improve the safety of cycling on county roads. Mountain biking is becoming an increasing popular activity in the area with ample opportunities for mountain biking in the national forest and other areas with mountain biking trails. Old logging roads in the national forests offer an ideal setting for developing mountain biking trails. Some popular routes both on-road and off-road are described below:

Lake Robertson Loop – 26 miles for cycling along Rt. 251 to Lake Robertson.

Goshen Pass Loop – 35 to 52 miles of roadside cycling, passing through mountain gorge along Maury River.

South River Loop – 20 to 25 miles of cycling on Rt. 608 to the South River.

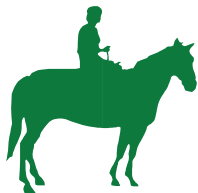
Natural Bridge Loop – 36 miles of cycling on Route 76 through Rockbridge County past Natural Bridge.

Guy's Run – hunter access road open for mountain biking just west of Goshen Pass on Rt. 39.

Transamerica Route “Route 76” – portion of cross-country cycling route through Rockbridge County from Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia; established in 1976 to celebrate 100th anniversary of the bicycle and 200th anniversary of USA.

North Rockbridge Tour – 72 mile cycling tour begins and ends in Lexington; covers Rockbridge County.

Highlands Scenic Tour – 20 mile scenic driving tour with short hiking and mountain biking trails including Rhododendron Trail (handicapped accessible), Cocke’s Comb and North Mountain Overlook; showcases the management of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.



Equestrian Trails

State and national surveys are finding that horseback riding is becoming an increasingly popular form of outdoor recreation and the demand for horse trails is high. Our area with its beautiful scenery and large tracts of public-owned lands makes the setting for horse trails very practical and attractive. Many equestrian trails are found in the George Washington National Forest and other public lands. There are private equestrian trails and stables found throughout the area as well. Given the high demand for equestrian trails in our area, consideration should be given to them during trail planning and development.

Virginia Horse Center – equestrian center with 577 stalls, campsite, cross-country course.

Balcony Falls Trail – 4.1 mile hiking and horseback riding trail in National Forest.

Sulphur Springs Trail – 6.6 mile horseback riding trail connects to Balcony Falls Trail.

Piney Ridge Trail – 3.5 mile horseback riding trail, intersects with Sulphur Springs Trail.



Parks, Campgrounds, And Recreational Sites

Our area offers a broad range of recreational facilities both publicly and privately owned and maintained. These facilities for the most part are evenly distributed throughout the county and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Most of the recreational facilities are located in and around small communities and within our towns and cities. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available at a number of prominent facilities in the area. These facilities include county parks, community recreational centers, lakes, rivers, and campgrounds. These sites offer a wide range of outdoor and seasonal activities and the perfect opportunity to develop trails and greenways linking population centers with key recreational sites.

Parks And Recreational Areas

Lake Robertson – 31 acre county park; fishing and swimming, campsites, picnic shelters, and playing fields. Eight trails ranging from 1 to 1.75 miles for hiking and mountain biking.

Glen Maury Park – a city owned 315 acre camping/recreational park with 9 covered shelters, 180 picnic tables, 5 playgrounds, 1 pool, camping, nature trails, boat landing and ball fields located in Buena Vista.

Buena Vista Public Golf Course – site adjacent to Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista; future site of 18-hole public golf course and other amenities.

Blue Ridge Recreational Area – 15.5 acre County park, with swimming pool and picnic area in Fairfield.

Jordans Point Park – historic Lexington city park along Maury River with walking/jogging trails, interpretive centers, fishing, canoe access, picnic area.

Glasgow Ruritan Park – town park with ball fields, walking track and picnic tables in Glasgow.

Boxerwood Gardens – a nature center and arboretum located near Lexington featuring native and unusual plant specimens.

Hopkins Green – landscaped urban park in Lexington with park benches, green space, outdoor stage area.

Davidson Park – playground, picnic shelter, picnic tables in Lexington.

Richardson Park – 4½ acre park with playground facility and picnic pavilion in Lexington.

Kids Playce – modern playground facility designed and maintained by community families located in Lexington.

Lime Kiln Bridge Park – playground, picnic area in Lexington.

Downtown Children’s Park – shaded park designed for small children located in Buena Vista.

16th, 34th and 12th Street Playgrounds – small playgrounds located throughout Buena Vista.

Fairwinds Park – small children’s playground in Lexington.

Taylor Street Park – small children’s playground in Lexington.



Campgrounds

Long’s Campground – RV and tent campsite, pool; north of Lexington.

Natural Bridge Jellystone Camp Resort – 175 camp sites, canoeing, fishing, hiking, on the James River.

Natural Bridge/Lexington KOA Campground – RV sites, tent sites, pool, playground, fishing; located between Lexington and Natural Bridge.

Cave Mountain Lake – 42 camping sites, swimming and fishing lake, trails; located near Natural Bridge Station.

Rockbridge Alum Springs – campground owned and used by Young Life, a youth ministry; located 15 miles west of Lexington on 273 acres.

Tye River Gap Campground – RV and tent campsites, swimming pool, hiking trail; near Vesuvius.

Lee-Hi Campground – RV and tent sites, picnic tables located at Rt. 11 and I-81 north of Lexington.

Mallard Duck Campground – family campground with 18 RV sites, fishing, located northeast of Lexington near Cornwall.

Hopper Creek Group Camp – rustic atmosphere for tent camping near Cave Mountain Lake.



Sports Facilities

Brewbaker Sports Park Complex – lighted ball fields, playground, public swimming pool, and picnic area in Lexington.

Fox Field – private baseball and football field located in Brewbaker Park Complex in Lexington.

Lexington Country Club – private 18-hole golf course, outdoor pool in Lexington.

Washington and Lee University – college campus in Lexington with track facility, tennis courts, etc.

Laurel Park Youth Complex – 2 lighted ball fields in Buena Vista.

Camden Field – lighted football field and track facility located in Buena Vista.

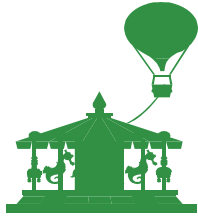
Picnic Areas

Ben Salem Wayside – picnic area between Lexington and Buena Vista with Maury River access; remains of canal boat lock.

Sam Houston Wayside – birthplace monument of Texas hero, Sam Houston with picnic area on Rt. 11 north of Lexington.

Virginia Gold Orchard – picnic area, Asian pear orchard at Fancy Hill.

Rockbridge Vineyard – picnic area and winery near Raphine.



Destination Points And Special Events

Theater at Lime Kiln – outdoor performing arts theater in Lexington using an old lime kiln and former quarry as setting.

Safari Park – petting zoo south of Lexington.

Lyburn Downing Community Center – community center located in Lexington; offices of Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization (RARO).

Natural Bridge Zoo – petting zoo in Natural Bridge.

Wade's Mill – a working water-powered flourmill listed on the National Register of Historic Places located in northern Rockbridge County.

Buffalo Springs Herb Farm – 18th century farmstead located in the northern end of Rockbridge County offering garden tours, workshops, herbs and garden products.

Lexington Visitors Center – located in downtown Lexington, offers current and further information on historic, cultural, and recreational sites, attractions, events etc. throughout the Rockbridge and surrounding areas.

Public Schools And College Campuses

Our public schools and college campuses not only offer recreational and sporting facilities, but are also key destination points for trails, bikeways, and greenways. The development of trails and bikeways to our public schools offer a safe, off-road means for students to travel and can offer important linkages between neighborhoods and schools.

Rockbridge County

Highland Belle Elementary School
Effinger Elementary School
Mountain View Elementary School
Fairfield Elementary School
Natural Bridge Elementary School
Rockbridge Middle School
Rockbridge High School

City of Buena Vista

Enderly Heights Elementary School
Kling Elementary School
Parry McClure Middle School
Parry McClure High School
Southern Virginia University

City of Lexington

Waddel Elementary School
Central Elementary School
Maury River Middle School
Lylburn Downing Middle
Washington & Lee University
Virginia Military Institute



Historic And Cultural Sites

The many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the area provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to historic and scenic destinations. There are dozens of historically significant sites in our area. Many of the sites are found on both the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

Natural Bridge – national landmark, lodging, hiking trails, Monacan Indian Living History, wax museum, caverns.

Stonewall Jackson House – home owned by Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson located in historic Lexington.

Lee Chapel – national historic landmark, tomb of Robert E. Lee on Washington and Lee campus in Lexington.

Virginia Military Institute (VMI) – nation’s oldest state-supported military college, museum dedicated to history of VMI and cadet life.

Washington and Lee University – the 9th oldest institution of higher education in America.

Stonewall Jackson Cemetery – tomb of Jackson and his family members as well as other local settlers, W & L and VMI leaders, Civil War veterans, and others.

Paxton House – historic house built between 1830-1835; located in Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista, now used as a senior center.

Cyrus McCormick Farm – historical site and picnic area located in Steeles Tavern, home of Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the mechanical grain reaper, over 600 acres of open space.

George C. Marshall Museum – museum dedicated to the life of General George C. Marshall, a 1901 graduate of VMI who developed the Marshall Plan following World War II.

Liberty Hall Ruins – ruins of Liberty Hall Academy; later moved and renamed Washington and Lee University.

VMI Museum – museum located on VMI campus contains exhibits of cadet life and history of institution including Stonewall Jackson’s uniform.

Southern Virginia University – 4-year private college located in Buena Vista; founded in 1867 as Bowling Green Female Seminary, later re-named Southern Seminary; many historic buildings on campus.



Water Resources

The water resources in our area play an important role in the area’s recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. The major waterways in our area are the James River, the Maury River, the Calfpasture River, and the South River. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the area and feed into these larger bodies of water. Other water sources in the area include Lake Robertson and Goshen Pass. These water bodies and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities, and can add special features to trails as well.

James River – flows through the southeastern portion of Rockbridge County with fishing, canoeing, kayaking; access in Glasgow.

Maury River – flows through the county from Goshen Pass, through Lexington, Buena Vista converging with James River in Glasgow. Swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking; several access points including Goshen Pass, Rt. 703, Rt. 60, Rockbridge Baths, Jordan’s Point, and Glasgow.

South River – flows through the northeastern portion of the County from Augusta County to Maury River west of Buena Vista. Fishing and canoeing.

Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers – wild trout streams in northwestern part of county near Goshen.

Mill Creek – flows through Goshen to the Calfpasture River, fishing.

Irish Creek – eastern part of Rockbridge County flowing from Blue Ridge Mountains to South River. Fishing, kayaking and canoeing.

Moore's Creek Dam (Lexington Reservoir) – 22 acre lake for fishing southwest of Lexington.

Buffalo Creek – 2.8 mile section privately owned; open with permit for fishing; 7 miles southwest of Lexington.

Lake Merriweather – private recreational lake owned by the Boy Scouts of America near Goshen.

Lake Robertson – 31 acre fishing and canoeing lake west of Lexington near Collierstown.

Cave Mountain Lake – 7 acre swimming lake with fishing facilities located in southeastern part of the County; maintained by the U. S. Forest Service.



Transportation And Scenic Byways

The rural character of our area, with its scattered villages, beautiful farms, picturesque countryside, and magnificent vistas, offers miles of scenic drives. Several road corridors in the area are included in Virginia's Scenic Road map or designated as scenic Virginia Byways. This program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high traffic corridors.

The following road corridors in Rockbridge County are currently designated scenic byways:

- Rt. 56 – Steeles Tavern to Massies Mill
- Rt. 130 – Intersection of U. S. 11 at Natural Bridge to Amherst County line
- Rt. 39 – Intersection of U. S. 11 North to Bath County line
- Rt. 608 – South River Road
- Rt. 42 – Goshen to Bridgewater
- Rt. 663 – River Road
- Rt. 780 – Brattons Run
- Rt. 11 – Lexington to Natural Bridge

Other roads in Rockbridge County could qualify for scenic by-way designation. Recommended candidates include:

- Rt. 11 – Raphine to Lexington
- Rt. 60 – Lexington to Buena Vista
- Rt. 252 – Brownsburg to Rt. 39
- Rt. 251 – Lexington to Collierstown

Other transportation infrastructure to be considered when developing greenways includes abandoned railroad lines and engineered structures like tunnels and culverts. For greenway development and planning, the following transportation-related sites in Rockbridge County have been identified:

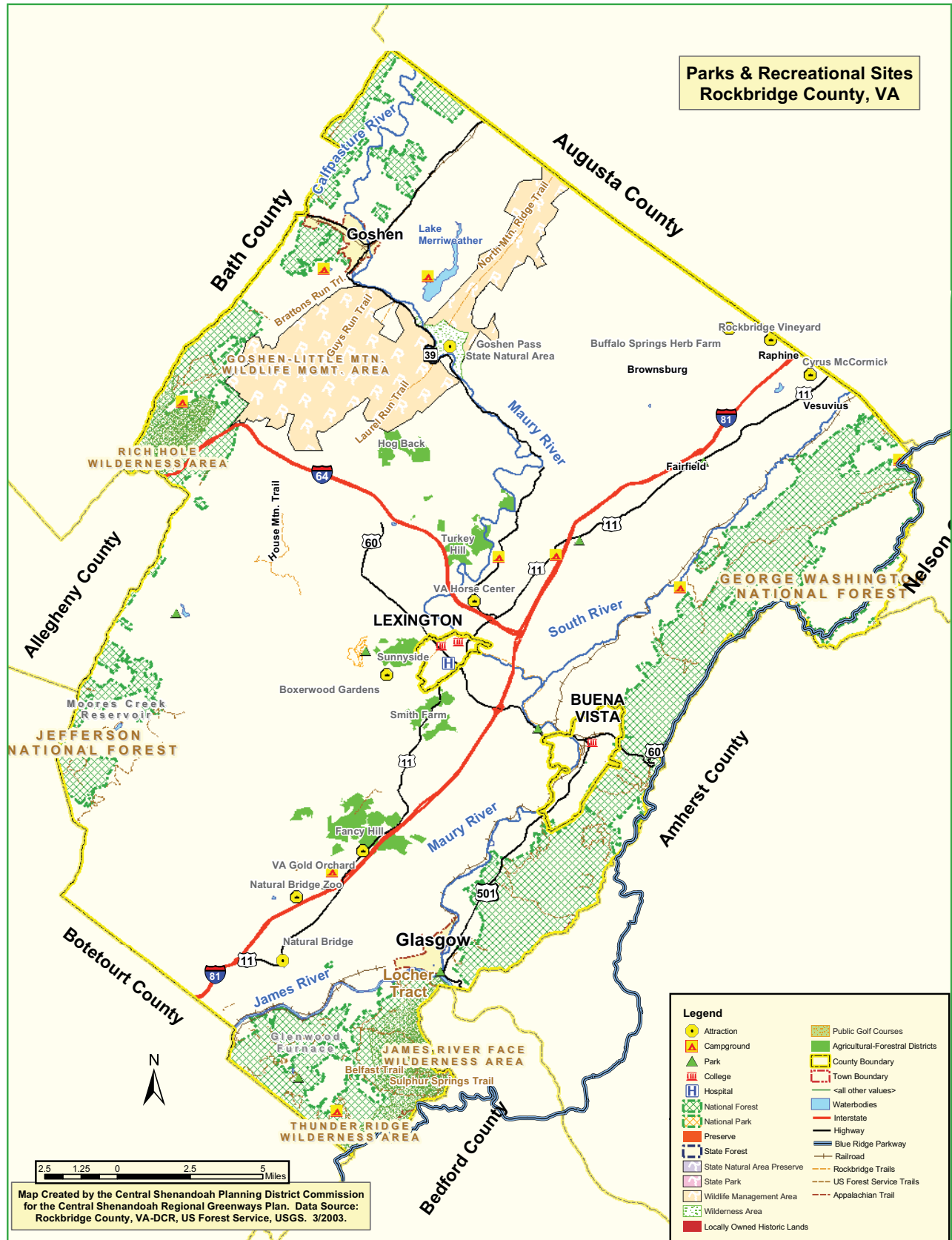
- *Abandoned Railroad Line* – from Davis (Walkers Creek District) to Fairfield.
- *Valley Railroad* – stone bridge culverts built to carry track for Valley Railroad along Plank Road (Rt. 610 south) to Botetourt County line, now ruins.
- *Timber Ridge* – stone culvert built to carry track of Shenandoah Valley Railroad to Roanoke along Long Hollow Road, part of Norfolk Southern rail system now.
- *Lenfest Train Station* – preserved exterior of old railroad station adjacent to Lenfest Center for Performing Arts on W & L campus.

Recommendations for Rockbridge- Buena Vista-Lexington

- (1) Support plans to develop a 10-mile river/trail system that would link Brushy Hills, Woods Creek Trail, Jordans Point Park, the Chessie Nature Trail, Maury River Walk, Glen Maury Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- (2) Improve access and maintenance to the Chessie Nature Trail to increase utilization. Consider multi-use travel, i.e. mountain biking, horseback riding.
- (3) Support plans to extend Brushy Hill trail system west to the national forest lands.
- (4) Support plans to develop a trail/greenway system along the Maury River.
- (5) Connect Chessie Nature Trail to Glen Maury Park and extend the connection in conjunction with the North River Branch of the Kanawha Canal and railroad to the James River at Glasgow.
- (6) Develop a heritage trail system to commemorate the founding of Jamestown as part of the Jamestown 2007 celebration; include the canal system and the Chessie Nature Trail.
- (7) Support proposed pedestrian bridge over the Maury River to connect Glen Maury Park with downtown Buena Vista along existing riverwalk trails.
- (8) Assess the potential to develop the 600 acres of open space contained on the Cyrus McCormick Farm for greenway/recreational purposes.
- (9) Refine the location of Interstate Bike Route 76 and improve route signage.
- (10) Recommend the following roadways for scenic by-way designation:
 - Rt. 11 – Raphine to Lexington
 - Rt. 608 – Natural Bridge to Buena Vista
 - Rt. 60 – Lexington to Buena Vista to the Blue Ridge Parkway
 - Rt. 252 – Brownsburg to Rt. 39
 - Rt. 780 – Goshen to I-64
 - Rt. 251 – Lexington to Collierstown

-
- (11) Consider expanding the services in the Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area to include other forms of recreation such as hiking and nature study trails.
 - (12) Assess the potential to extend trails to and into the 60 acres of undeveloped open space known as the Lackey Farm owned by Virginia Military Institute (VMI) located behind Rockbridge High School for greenways/recreational purposes.
 - (13) Develop greenway from Glasgow Landing (confluence of Maury and James Rivers) to Glasgow Park.
 - (14) Develop pocket park between 16th Street and Magnolia Avenue in Buena Vista where houses were removed from the floodplain.
 - (15) Support plans to build community recreation center in the Rockbridge area.
 - (16) Complete construction of pedestrian bridge over the Maury River at Jordans Point Park.
 - (17) Improve bicycle/pedestrian access along Route 11 in Lexington to serve high school students and guests of the hotels and restaurants in the area.
 - (18) Support plans for the development of the Mountain Waters Byway, promoting scenic Route 39 in Virginia from Lexington to Summersville, West Virginia.

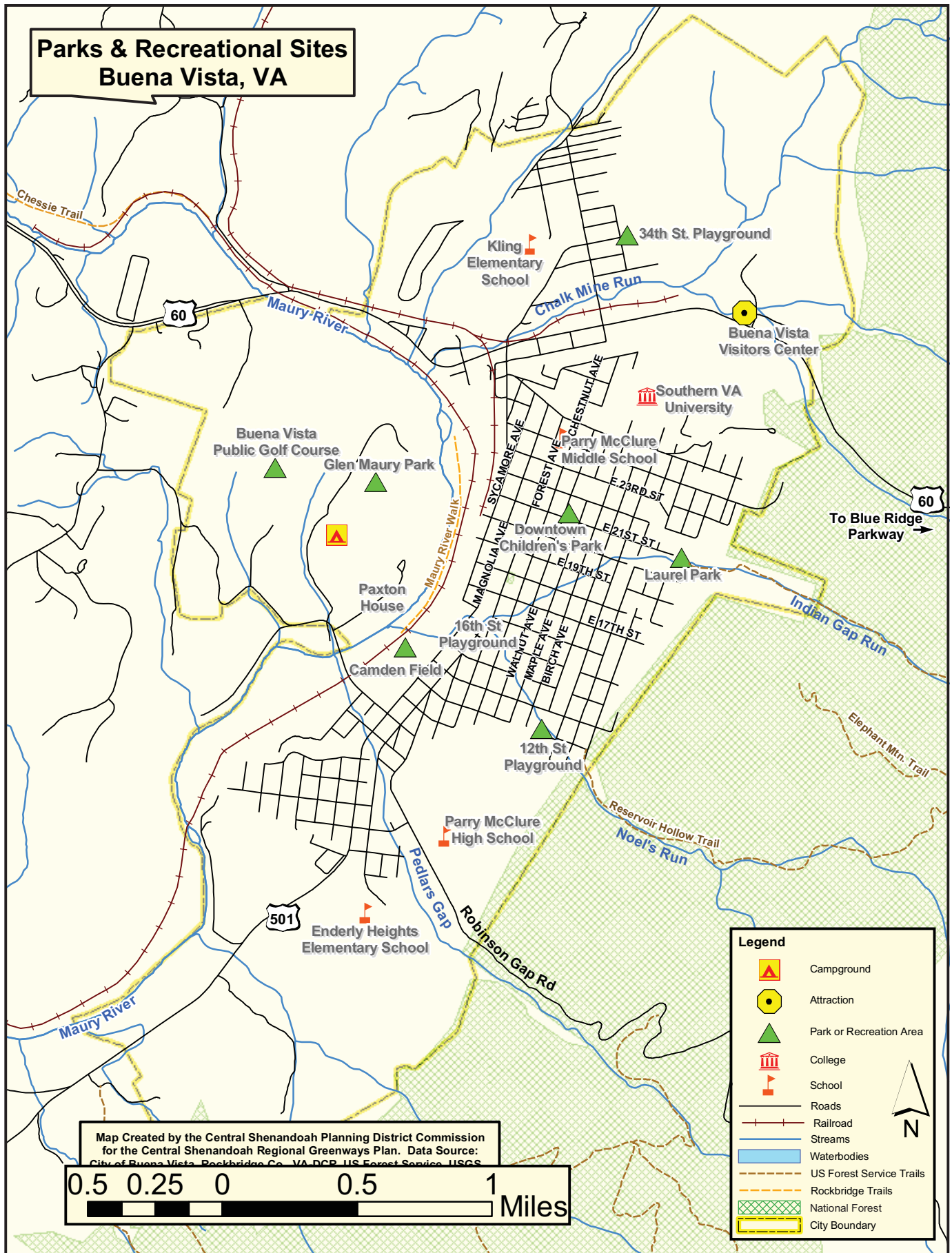
**Parks & Recreational Sites
Rockbridge County, VA**



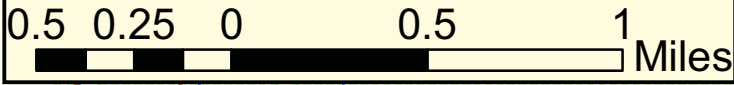
Map Created by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
for the Central Shenandoah Regional Greenways Plan. Data Source:
Rockbridge County, VA-DCR, US Forest Service, USGS. 3/2003.

- Legend**
- Attraction
 - Campground
 - Park
 - College
 - Hospital
 - National Forest
 - National Park
 - Preserve
 - State Forest
 - State Natural Area Preserve
 - State Park
 - Wildlife Management Area
 - Wilderness Area
 - Public Golf Courses
 - Agricultural-Forestral Districts
 - County Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - <all other values>
 - Waterbodies
 - Interstate
 - Highway
 - Blue Ridge Parkway
 - Railroad
 - Rockbridge Trails
 - US Forest Service Trails
 - Appalachian Trail
 - Locally Owned Historic Lands

Parks & Recreational Sites Buena Vista, VA



Map Created by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
for the Central Shenandoah Regional Greenways Plan. Data Source:
City of Buena Vista, Rockbridge Co., VA DCP, US Forest Service, USGS



Legend

- Campground
- Attraction
- Park or Recreation Area
- College
- School
- Roads
- Railroad
- Streams
- Waterbodies
- US Forest Service Trails
- Rockbridge Trails
- National Forest
- City Boundary



BATH COUNTY

Community Profile



Bath County is located in the west-central portion of Virginia in the Alleghany Mountains. It is surrounded by the Virginia counties of Highland, Augusta, Rockbridge and Alleghany and the West Virginia counties of Pocahontas and Greenbrier. It was formed in 1790 and became a nationally recognized resort center because of its soothing mineral waters. Warm Springs serves as the county seat. The population of Bath County is 5,048.



Bath County encompasses 540 square miles of mostly mountainous terrain in the upper reaches of the James River watershed. The major watercourses in the county are the Jackson and the Cowpasture Rivers. Lake Moomaw was created in 1979 with the completion of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River.



Bath County is a beautifully remote county with vast amounts of untouched, unspoiled lands. The area is sparsely populated and is defined by wooded mountain ridges with gently rolling valleys adjacent to streams and rivers. Much of Bath County is devoted to forests and farm woodlands. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of land in Bath County is forested with the majority being in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.



Tourism is the largest economic sector in Bath County, primarily dominated by the Homestead, an internationally known luxury spa and resort. Bath County also attracts the avid outdoorsman with its excellent hunting, fishing, and camping resources.



Greenways, Trails, And Natural Areas

Our area is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousand of acres of National Forest and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.

Hiking Trails

Douthat Park Trail System – more than 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails located within Douthat State Park.

Beaver Lodge Interpretive Trail – easy hiking in the Bolar Mountain Recreation Area of Lake Moomaw with 15 interpretive stops on the trail.

Rough Mountain Wilderness – 9,300 acre wilderness area in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, primitive camping, rough terrain hiking, remote hunting.

Bolar Mountain Recreation Area and Lake Moomaw – 10 miles of maintained trails for hikers around Lake Moomaw, 2 scenic overlooks; wildlife viewing.

Hidden Valley Trail System – 20 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails located in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, campground, fishing on Jackson River, hunting access, wildlife trails, pre-Civil War structure (Warwickton Mansion) operates as bed and breakfast inn.

Warm Springs Ranger District Trails – nearly 90 miles of trails ranging from easy to difficult for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use, located throughout Bath County.

Gathright Wildlife Management Area – 13,428-acre wildlife management area encompassing three major mountains separated by Lake Moomaw with hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, and hiking.

Warm Springs Mountain – 9,000 acres of ecologically important forestland purchased by the Nature Conservancy in 2002. Includes rare pine barren, old-growth hickory forests; provides habitat for rare plants and invertebrates.

Birding and Wildflower Trails – these “thematic” trails are designed primarily as driving tours, but can easily be adapted for foot traffic or cycling. These trails allow the sightseer to view a variety of birds and wildflowers native to the area:

- Bolar Mountain Area/Lake Moomaw – Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 W to 600 S.
- Back Creek Pumped Storage Recreation Area – Rt. 220 to Warm Springs Rt. 39 W. to 600 N.
- Hidden Valley Recreation Area – Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 W to 621 N. to Hidden Valley Road.
- Douthat State Park – Rt. 220 to Warm Springs, Rt. 39 E to Rt. 629 S through Park and into Alleghany County.
- Poor Farm Area – Rt. 220 N. to Rt. 623 W (2.3 miles to Poor Farm).
- Walton Tract – Rt. 220 N. to Rt. 39E to Rt. 42 S. to Rt. 632 W. (Crisers Gap Rd.)
- Gillium Run Trail – Rt. 220 to Rt. 39 E. to Rt. 629 S. to FR 361.
- Piney Mountain Trail – Rt. 220 to Rt. 39 E to FR 358 N.
- Hot Springs and Warm Springs – both of these villages are registered bird sanctuaries with over 30 types of birds easily spotted.
- Williamsville Trail – Rt. 39 E. from Warm Springs onto 629 N., bear left onto 625 N. into Williamsville.
- Bluebird Trail – Rt. 220 N. from Warm Springs into Highland County. (This stretch of road is lined with bluebird houses).
- Bolar Trail – Rt. 39 E. from Warm Springs to Rt. 609 N. to Burnsville, north into Highland County.
- Back Creek Gorge Trail – Rt. 39 W. to Blowing Springs Campground. Take trail # 516 behind gate and along the river.



Parks, Campgrounds, And Recreational Sites

Our area offers a broad range of recreational facilities both publicly and privately owned and maintained. These facilities for the most part are evenly distributed throughout the county located in and around small communities and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available at a number of prominent facilities in the area. These facilities include state parks, community recreational centers, lakes, rivers, and campgrounds. These sites offer a wide range of outdoor and seasonal activities and the perfect opportunity to develop trails and greenways linking population centers with key recreational sites.

Parks And Recreational Areas

Douthat State Park – one of six state parks built in the 1930’s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); nearly 2,000 acres with large lake, cabins, lodging, 3 campgrounds, picnic shelter, fishing/boating, trails.

Lake Moomaw – 2,500 acre lake located in Gathright Wildlife Management Area, swimming beach, campgrounds, picnic area, trails, hunting, fishing and water skiing.

Bolar Mountain Campgrounds – 90 camping sites with picnic area located near Lake Moomaw.

McClintic Point – 18 campsites at Lake Moomaw, group camping available.

Greenwood Point – 5 primitive campsites reached by boat or 3.29 hike at Lake Moomaw.

Back Creek Pumped Storage Station – hydro-electric storage station built in 1985 to generate electricity, tour available, recreation area featuring camping, hiking, fishing, non-power boating, fishing tournaments, and swimming.

Poor Farm – primitive camping area located in northern Bath County; fishing and hunting.

Walton Tract – primitive camping with canoeing and fishing on the Cowpasture River.

Blowing Springs – 23 campsites with picnic area located between Warm Springs and Mountain Grove with fishing on Back Creek.

Bubbling Springs – small campground and picnic area near Millboro.

Hidden Valley – 30 campsites with fishing on the Jackson River near Warm Springs.

Homestead Ski Area – snow skiing slopes open to the public located at the Homestead Resort.

Homestead Golf Courses – private 18-hole golf courses located in Hot Springs and Cedar Creek, part of the Homestead.

River Ridge Ranch – guided horseback tours of Bath County countryside located in Millboro.

Shooting Range – shooting range operated by U.S. Forest Service east side of Warm Springs Mountain.

Greenvalley Hunter's Paradise – 2,500 acre private hunting preserve near Millboro managed for white-tailed deer and turkey, lodging, meals, stocked pond and stream.

Fort Lewis Lodge – 3,200 acre mountain estate with 3 miles of private river fishing, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and wildlife viewing; lodging; located near Millboro.

Bath County Parks and Recreation Department – provides organized sports activities such as basketball, baseball, soccer, football and volleyball as well as adult cultural and recreational programs. They also manage 2 outdoor swimming pools, athletic fields and playgrounds at various sites throughout the County.

Public Schools – Bath County's three public schools offer recreational opportunities and athletic fields for local students and residents.

- Bath County High School
- Valley Elementary
- Millboro Elementary

Destination Points And Special Events

Numerous events and festivals are held throughout the year in Bath County attracting thousands of visitors to the area. They include:

- The Civil War Re-enactment of the 1863 Battle of Warm Springs
- A Taste of Bath held in September
- Bath County Triathlon held in June
- Annual Bath County Art Show held the third week in July
- Apple Butter Festival in October
- Red, White and Blue Celebration on the Fourth of July



Historic And Cultural Sites

The many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the area provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to historic and scenic destinations. There are dozens of historically significant sites in our area. Many of the sites are found on the Virginia Historic Landmark and the National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

The Homestead – internationally famed resort and spa which catered to the socially elite in the 1920s; offers luxury accommodations, dining, health and spa activities, golf, tennis, skiing and horseback riding.

Bath County Courthouse – the present brick structure serves as the focal point in the historic core of Warm Springs. The original Bath County courthouse and jail across Rt. 39 were in use from 1791 – 1907, now operated as the Warm Springs Inn.

Jefferson Pools – two 18th-century style bathhouses with healing mineral springs; open to the public, admission required.

Garth Newel Music Center – a non-profit year-round music and entertainment center providing chamber music concerts, lectures, and residential study.

Warwickton Mansion – pre-Civil War mansion located in Hidden Valley, site of the film, “Sommersby”; privately leased and operated as a bed and breakfast inn.

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church – red brick structure built in 1838, third successor to a log church built in mid-eighteenth century, near Millboro.

Mustoe House – built in 1780, considered to be the oldest standing house in Bath County, located 6 miles south of Hot Springs.

Bath County Historical Society – located in Warm Springs, former law offices of attorney John Stephenson, moved from site of the old county courthouse in the late 1890s, houses the Bath County Historical Society Museum.

The Inn at Gristmill Square – former 19th century gristmill and blacksmith shop located in Warm Springs, restored as inn and restaurant, listed on Virginia Historic Landmark register.

Revolutionary War Sites – Bath County has three Revolutionary War sites. They include: Fort Dinwiddie on the Jackson River, Fort Lewis in Millboro, and Fort Dickinson.

Water Resources



The water resources in our area play an important role in the area's recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. The major waterways in our area are the Cowpasture River, the Jackson River, and Back Creek. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the area and feed into these larger bodies of water. Other water sources in the area include Lake Moomaw and Douthat Lake. These water bodies and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities and can add special features to trails as well.

Lake Moomaw and Gathright Dam – 2,500 acre mountain lake created with construction of Gathright Dam on the Jackson River in 1979, swimming beach, boating, fishing, fishing tournaments, managed by the U. S. Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Douthat Lake – 50 acre lake located in Douthat State Park, offers swimming, boating, and seasonal trout fishing.

Cowpasture River – scenic river that originates in Highland County and flows southward through the central and southeastern sections of Bath, drains approximately 236 square miles, fishing, swimming, boating.

Jackson River – originates in Highland County and drains the western half of Bath County, fishing, swimming, and boating, scenic river from Rt. 623 to Lake Moomaw.

Back Creek – scenic river between Mountain Grove and Gathright Dam; white water canoeing, fishing, swimming, camping.

Jefferson Pools – two historical natural rock mineral pools in Warm Springs owned by the Homestead, admission required.

Transportation And Scenic Byways

The rural character of our area with its scattered villages, beautiful farms, picturesque countryside, and magnificent vistas offer miles of scenic drives. Several road corridors in the area are included in Virginia’s Scenic Road map or designated a scenic Virginia Byway. This program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high traffic corridors. Other transportation-related infrastructure to be considered when developing greenways and trails includes abandoned railroad lines, gas lines, and engineered structures like tunnels and bridges. The following road corridors in Bath County are currently designated scenic byways:

- Rt. 39 and Rt. 39/42 – east-west corridor dissecting Bath County
- Rt. 220 – runs north and south through Bath County
- Rt. 629 – runs north and south through Douthat State Park



Recommendations for Bath County

- (1) Create brochures and trail maps for hikers, campers, spelunkers, and cyclists that promote recreation in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Lake Moomaw, Douthat State Park, Gathright Wildlife Management Area and other natural areas in the county. Ensure that these brochures do not duplicate or contradict existing efforts to promote these sites.
- (2) Consider creating scenic overlooks and vista cuts like the overlook currently being built along Rt. 39 to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- (3) Support the development of the Alleghany Highlands Horse Trail, a proposed equestrian trail that would create a 45-mile trail system centered at Douthat State Park in Bath County with a series of loop trails throughout the George Washington National Forest. The trail would include trailheads and appropriate overnight facilities.
- (4) Analyze and study the impact on Bath County if segments of the Bullpasture, Cowpasture, Jackson Rivers and Back Creek were identified as potential candidates for federal Wild and Scenic River designation and the Virginia Scenic River program.
- (5) Provide additional amenities and services at Lake Moomaw and the surrounding lands because of the lake's overcrowding. Additional development includes a visitor center, expanded campground, and trails.
- (6) Support the Douthat State Park Master Plan adopted in 2000 that recommends additional development for the park which includes improving camping facilities, developing additional equestrian and pedestrian trail opportunities, and providing environmental education facilities.
- (7) Consider expanding opportunities at the Gathright Wildlife Management Area to include other forms of recreation, such as hiking and nature study trails.
- (8) Identify and develop appropriate access to the public waters and free-flowing water systems in the county.
- (9) Create a designated bicycle route along Rt. 220 between Monterey and Warm Springs. Research possibility of utilizing old Rt. 220 roadbed, state right away and easements.
- (10) Obtain public access to Rough Mountain Wilderness.

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- (11) Encourage partnerships with private landowners for multi-use trail use by the public.
 - (12) Create tourist-friendly road and trail maps for cycling, serious hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and scenic driving.
 - (13) Explore idea of developing a multi-use trail around Lake Moomaw approximately 20 miles in length.
 - (14) Identify and utilize old logging roads for mountain biking and equestrian trails in the National Forests.



HIGHLAND COUNTY

Community Profile



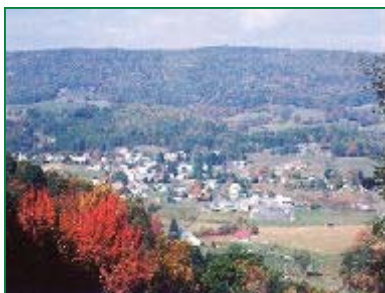
Highland County is located in the west-central section of Virginia adjacent to West Virginia in the Alleghany Mountains. Highland County is bounded on the north and west by the State of West Virginia, on the south by Bath County and on the east by Augusta County.



Formed from parts of the neighboring counties of Bath and Pendleton in West Virginia, Highland County was chartered on March 19, 1847. It is named for its high elevation and is sometimes referred to as “Little Switzerland” because of its mountainous terrain. Monterey is the County seat and was originally called Highland but was renamed in 1848. The 2000 Census population of Highland County is 2,536 - the least populated county in the state. The population of Monterey is 158.



Highland County's 416 square miles is predominantly mountainous with alternating ridges and valleys offering many scenic views. The divide of the Potomac and the James River watersheds is in Highland County and the major watercourses include the Jackson, Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers.



The northwestern section of Highland County is drained by the South Branch of the Potomac River and by two of its main tributaries, Straight Fork and Laurel Fork. This section of the county is on a very steep, rough mountain terrain. The streams that originate in these mountains have very steep gradient, small narrow floodplains, and wide variance in stream flow. The Cowpasture River drains the eastern

section of Highland County which also has rough mountain terrain. The Cowpasture River has very steep gradient, small narrow floodplains, and wide variance in stream flow.

The Jackson River and Bullpasture River drain the central and southern section of Highland County. The terrain in this section is not quite as rough and mountainous, as the other sections of the County. The gradient of these two rivers is steep, the floodplains are fairly wide and the stream flow does not vary as greatly as streams originating in the mountains. Back Creek, a tributary of Jackson River, drains the southeastern section of Highland County. This section has a rough, mountain terrain, and Back Creek has wide variance in stream flow.

Highland County is a beautifully remote county with vast amounts of untouched, unspoiled lands. The area is defined by wooded ridges, agricultural landscapes and dotted with a number of compact settlements throughout the County. Approximately 28 percent (71,455 acres) of the land in Highland County is publicly held either by the Virginia Department of Inland Fisheries or the George Washington–Jefferson National Forest. The majority of Highland’s forested land is privately owned.

Agriculture is the largest economic sector in Highland County. Wool is the County’s major agricultural commodity followed by logging and lumber. Highland County also attracts the avid outdoorsman with its excellent hunting and fishing resources.



Greenways, Trails, And Natural Areas

Highland County is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousand of acres of National Forest and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.

Hiking Trails

Laurel Fork Trails – over 28 miles of hiking, mostly on historic tram logging roads, hunting, fishing, and camping is permissible, hardwood forests, wildlife, flying squirrel habitat, part of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Key trails include:

Laurel Fork Trail – 6.5 mile trail runs along Laurel Fork, well-known stream to anglers.

Buck Run Trail – 2.9 trail located on historic logging tram with spectacular views of beaver ponds, open glades and unique vegetation.

Locust Spring Run Trail – 3.1 mile trail in remote wooded area ideal for viewing deer and wild turkey and northern hardwoods, native brook trout.

Highland Wildlife Management Area – comprises over 14,283 acres of upland forests with access to 20 miles of roads and foot trails; offers good hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities; managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

McDowell Battlefield Trail – approximately one mile trail leading to the top of Sittlington Hill and the core of the McDowell Battlefield. Access from Rt. 250 at the Battlefield Park one mile from top of Bullpasture Mountain or junction of Rt. 250 and Rt. 678 in McDowell.

Confederate Breastworks Trail – 0.5 mile interpretive trail along the top of Shenandoah Mountain; connects to Shenandoah Mountain Trail.

Sounding Knob – the highest point in Highland County, at 4,390 ft, site of fire tower built in the 1930s.

Monterey Walking Tour – walking tour that takes you through historic Monterey, past Victorian style homes, the courthouse, early churches and an old-time general store.

McDowell Walking Tour – walking tour of historic town of McDowell designed for history enthusiasts and tourists.

Birding and Wildflower Trails – These “thematic” trails were developed primarily as driving tours, but could easily be adapted for cycling and walking as well. These trails allow the sightseer to view and enjoy a variety of birds and wildflowers native to the area:

- Blue Grass Valley Trail – 13 mile tour from Monterey through Blue Grass Valley and Hightown.
- Bullpasture Valley Trail – 31 mile tour from McDowell through the Bullpasture/Cowpasture Valleys.
- Blue Bird Trail – From Monterey to Bath County line on US 220. Road is lined with blue bird boxes. Approximately 15 miles one-way.
- Monterey – The Town of Monterey is a designated bird sanctuary. Bird feeders and nesting boxes are located in yards throughout the town.
- Laurel Fork – 21 miles of gravel roads in remote wooded area of Highland County; abundant wildlife.
- Highland Wildlife Management Area (Jack Mountain) – graveled road best suited to foot traffic and/or 4-wheel drive.
- Big Valley – Approximately 16 miles one-way from Monterey to Mustoe through Big Valley to Bolar.



Cycling Routes

There are no designated bikeways in Highland County, but the vast majority of the county’s state roads are ideally suited to cyclists. Some popular loops are described below:

Williamsville Loop – 21-mile loop on gravel and hard-top surface roads along Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers, 1.5 mile climb across Bullpasture Mountain.

Wallace Tract – 20 mile loop near Williamsville with views of the Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers.

Laurel Fork Trail – 18 mile loop on a combination of Forest Service roads and creek beds in the Laurel Fork Special Management Area; 30 miles north of Monterey.

Road Bike Challenge – cycling event in August that features 9 mountains and over 10,000 feet of climbing throughout Highland County.



Parks, Campgrounds, And Recreational Sites

Highland County offers a broad range of recreational facilities, both publicly and privately-owned and maintained. These facilities are evenly distributed throughout the county and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Most of the recreational facilities are located in and around small communities and within the Town of Monterey. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available on the vast amount of public lands in the area. These sites offer a wide range of outdoor and seasonal activities and the perfect opportunity to develop trails and greenways linking population centers with key recreational sites.

Laurel Fork/Locust Springs – primitive camping area located in the extreme northwest portion of the county, accessible only through West Virginia. Campground has shelter and picnic area.

Bear Mountain Farm and Wilderness Retreat – privately-owned property offering cabins, camping, custom retreats and learning vacations; located 6 miles west of McDowell.

Stonewall Ruritan Building – former school used by Ruritans in McDowell; includes multi-purpose room, softball field, and picnic shelter.

Blue Grass Ruritan Building – former school used by Blue Grass Ruritans; serves as community center for residents of Blue Grass.

Mill Gap Ruritan Club – approximately 5 acres including covered picnic area, restrooms, softball field, basketball court and children's play area.

The Needles Eye – privately-owned nine-hole golf course located 2 miles south of Monterey.

Highland Park – proposed multi-use park with swimming pool, cycling and pedestrian facilities; located adjacent to Highland County School in Monterey.

Highland Center – a multi-purpose center used for youth and civic functions, located in the County' former elementary school. The Center operates a seasonal farmers market, a fitness center, a small business resource center and houses the Chamber of Commerce, the Highland Arts Council and the Historical Society.

Highland County Recreation Commission – offers organized youth and adult athletic programs, organized group trips and a fitness center; sponsors annual road bike challenge.

Highland County Public School – grades K–12 are located on one campus; ball fields and gymnasium available for sports activities.

Annual Events – numerous events and festivals are held throughout the year in Highland County attracting thousands of visitors to the area including the *Highland Maple Festival*, an annual spring festival that attracts more than 70,000 tourists to Highland County. Festival includes maple syrup demonstrations, dances, craft shows and music. Other events include: *Hands & Harvest Fall Festival*, *Wintertide Weekend*, *McDowell Heritage Days*, *Highland County Fair*, *Monterey House and Garden Tour*, and the *Lions Club Street Dance*.



Historic And Cultural Sites

The many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the area provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to historic and scenic destinations. There are dozens of historically significant sites in our area. Many of the sites are found on the Virginia Historic Landmark and the National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

McDowell Battlefield – a significant battle during the Civil War where 4,500 confederate soldiers under General “Stonewall” Jackson defeated 2,268 Union troops on May 8, 1862. Nearby McDowell Presbyterian Church was used as hospital and soldiers were buried at the McDowell cemetery.

Confederate Breastworks – breast-high trenches built to fortify the Shenandoah Valley against Union troop advancement during the Civil War; located on Shenandoah Mountain on the Highland-Augusta line.

McDowell Presbyterian Church – built in 1856; first church established in McDowell community and used as a hospital following the Battle of McDowell.

Pisgah Presbyterian Church – white frame church built in 1877, characteristic of other churches in the county located between Hightown and Rt. 84.

McDowell Mansion – erected in 1851, used as a hotel for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War; houses the Highland County Museum and Heritage Center.

The Hull Place – historic house located in McDowell; used as housing for Confederate officers; Stonewall Jackson slept there the night of the Battle of McDowell.

Highland County Courthouse – built in 1947 to replace nineteenth-century building destroyed by fire; located in Monterey.

Monterey Hotel (Highland Inn) – three-story Victorian hotel built in 1904 in Monterey, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

William McClung House – built at Clover Creek in 1844, fine example of rural vernacular architecture of the antebellum period.

Fort George site (Clover Creek Fort site) – defense stockade built around 1757 on the Bullpasture River across from the McClung house.

Clover Creek Presbyterian Church – simple rural frame building typical of late 19th century architecture; has one of the County's oldest county's cemeteries located on hill behind church.

Devil's Backbone – unique geological formation dominating the landscape between Forks of Water and Blue Grass.

Trimble's Knob – volcanic intrusion; can be seen from Monterey.

Maple Museum – replica of an old-time sugar house featuring exhibits of maple syrup production and tools; located one mile south of Monterey.

Split Rail Fences – unique visual and cultural feature throughout Highland County; once characteristic of the area, these fences give an image of past agrarian life.



Water Resources

The water resources in our area play an important role in the area's recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. The major waterways in our area are the Bullpasture, the Cowpasture, and the Jackson Rivers. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the area and feed into these larger bodies of water. These water bodies and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities and can add special features to trails as well.

Bullpasture River and Gorge – reportedly one of the finest trout streams in the state, flows through the Bullpasture Gorge above Williamsville; swimming, fishing and picnic area; hunting allowed during season on adjacent land operated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Cowpasture River – scenic river that rises near the West Virginia line and flows southwest across Highland County; fishing, canoeing, and exceptional natural area.

Jackson River – rocky, rushing mountain stream noted for its wild scenery and good canoeing in high flows; dramatic rock outcroppings in the Jackson River Gorge.

Back Creek – scenic river that flows into the Jackson River; white water canoeing, fishing, swimming, camping.

Laurel Fork – stream that runs through national forest land, well known to fishermen. At one time the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries stocked the stream.

South Fork of the Potomac – runs through the Blue Grass Valley, one of the most scenic valleys in Highland County; approximately one mile of the river is open to the public for fishing.

Virginia Trout Company – rainbow trout fish hatchery on U. S. 220 north of Monterey.

Vista-Valley, LLC – privately-owned 400-acre outdoor recreation preserve, catering to hunters and fishermen with access to fishing on the Bullpasture River, three stocked ponds, and picnic area. Fee required.

Coursey Springs – state-run fish hatchery south of Williamsville.



Transportation And Scenic Byways

Nearly every road in Highland County could be described as a scenic road with its rural character, scattered villages, rolling farmlands and magnificent vistas. In addition there are numerous well-maintained dirt and gravel roads that still exist throughout the County. Some scenic drives include:

- Routes 678 and 614 (gravel) – roads through the Bullpasture and Cowpasture River Valleys south of McDowell.
- Routes 642 and 640 – roads through Blue Grass Valley, one of the most scenic valleys in the county, west of Monterey.
- Route 607 – winding, paved road follows narrow valley known locally as “Big Valley” located in the Jackson River Valley south of Monterey.
- Route 617 – graveled road between McDowell and Doe Hill runs along the eastern slope of Jack Mountain and parallels the Bullpasture River Valley, known as “Seldom Seen”.
- Route 624 – crosses Jack Mountain at Doe Hill; most of road is graveled and bordered by forest.
- Route 644 – known as Snowy Mountain Road, north of Blue Grass; partially paved, partially graveled, winds across Snow Mountain - a site well known for birdwatchers on the lookout for eagles.
- Route 600 – partially paved, partially graveled road that follows the length of Back Creek Valley; borders National Forest in westernmost valley of Highland County.
- Route 642 – graveled road crosses Middle Mountain into Laurel Fork and borders the National Forest.
- U.S. 250 – runs through Highland County; also known as the Staunton to Parkersburg Pike. Originally built to open up the corridor and encourage growth opportunities to the new frontier.

The Virginia Scenic Byways program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations away from high traffic corridors. Although there are no road corridors in Highland County that have been designated, there are roads in the county which could qualify for scenic by-way designation. Recommended candidates include:

- Route 220 – from the West Virginia line through Monterey to the Bath County line.
- Route 250 – from Rt. 42 at Churchville in Augusta County through Highland County to the West Virginia line.

Recommendations for Highland County

- (1) Evaluate creating scenic overlooks and vista openings, especially along U. S. 250 overlooking Blue Grass Valley, to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- (2) Create brochures and trail maps for hikers, campers, spelunkers, and cyclists that promote recreation in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Highland Wildlife Management Area and other natural areas in the county.
- (3) Consider segments of the Bullpasture, Cowpasture River, Jackson rivers and Back Creek for potential federal Wild and Scenic River designation.
- (4) Evaluate the following river segments to determine suitability for designation to the Virginia Scenic River program:
 - Cowpasture River in Highland and Bath counties from Pantala to Route 42.
 - All of the Laurel Fork in Highland County.
- (5) Market the Staunton to Parkersburg Pike as a valuable historic, cultural and economic asset for the county.
- (6) Identify and develop appropriate access to the public waters and free-flowing water systems in the county.
- (7) Protect the visual quality of land surrounding the McDowell Battlefield via landscape preservation easements and agricultural preservation efforts.
- (8) Support the development of a year-round recreational campground that will capitalize on the growing eco-tourism sector in the county. Encourage private sector development of campgrounds.
- (9) Create tourist-friendly road and trail maps for cycling, serious hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and scenic driving.
- (10) Support plans to create a multi-use recreational center and swimming pool at Highland Park (adjacent to Highland County School in Monterey) with construction of cycling and pedestrian facilities on the site.
- (11) Create a designated bicycle route along Rt. 220 between Monterey and Warm Springs. Research the possibility of utilizing the old Rt. 220 roadbed, state right-of-way and easements.



AUGUSTA- STAUNTON- WAYNESBORO AREA

Community Profile



Augusta County, formed from Orange County in 1738, is the second largest county in Virginia, encompassing 968 square miles of diverse terrain. The Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro and the incorporated Town of Craigsville are within the County's borders. The population of the total area including the two independent cities of Waynesboro and Staunton is 108,988.



Most of Augusta County lies within the Shenandoah River Drainage Basin and a small portion lies within the James River Drainage Basin. The major waterways are the South River, which flows through the eastern portion of the County; the Middle River, which passes through the north-central portion of the County; and the North River, which travels through the northwest section of the County. These three north-flowing rivers combine just north of the County to form the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. The Calfpasture River flows southward into the system which eventually forms the James River.



Augusta County includes an area that reaches from the Blue Ridge Mountain in the east to the Alleghenies in the west. With its diverse landscape and unique natural resources, Augusta County offers a wide range of recreational opportunities including camping, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, swimming,



golf and cross country skiing. Tourism is a major component to the economy of Augusta County.

The City of Staunton is located in the heart of Augusta County in west central Virginia. Staunton was established as a town in 1761 and incorporated as a city in 1871. The City has a population of 23,853. The economy of Staunton and the surrounding area is highly diversified, including industry, agriculture, tourism and education.

Staunton, known as the Queen City, has five national Historic Districts and is the 2002 recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Great American Main Street award. Its downtown is compact and architecturally rich, offering numerous specialty stores, restaurants, and beautifully preserved buildings. Staunton's history, Victorian-era architecture and nationally recognized cultural events make Staunton a leading tourist destination in the State.

The City of Waynesboro is located in eastern Augusta County in west-central Virginia and has a population of 19,520. Established in 1801 and recognized as a town in 1834, Waynesboro was incorporated as a city in 1948. Located at the intersection of two major railroads and its proximity to the South River, Waynesboro prospered as an industrial community in the late 19th century. Downtown Waynesboro is a Virginia Main Street community and a Virginia Historic District. Downtown Waynesboro is home to numerous specialty shops, museums, restaurants and arts and cultural events. The South River runs through the downtown and is the focal point of the future Waynesboro Greenway. Waynesboro is also adjacent to the intersection of the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive. Today Waynesboro remains an important industrial center in the Shenandoah Valley and is a growing destination for recreation opportunities.

Greenways, Trails, And Natural Areas

Our area is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousand of acres of National Forest, National Park land and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.



Hiking Trails

Appalachian Trail – a national hiking trail that runs across the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia; winds along eastern edge of Augusta County; access at several points along the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive.

Blue Ridge Parkway – scenic road built in the 1930's along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains; accessible to the Augusta County area at Afton Mountain and near Lake Sherando. The Parkway provides beautiful vistas and access to camping and numerous foot and cycling trails.

Skyline Drive – 105 mile scenic road that winds along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Front Royal, Virginia to Afton, Virginia through the Shenandoah National Park where it meets the Blue Ridge Parkway. Offers spectacular overlooks, wildlife viewing, and access to the Appalachian Trail.

Shenandoah National Park – Nearly 200,000 acres of national parkland established by Congress in 1935; straddles the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains between the Shenandoah Valley and the Virginia Piedmont; more than 500 hiking and mountain biking trails in the Park including 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail; panoramic views, waterfalls, plentiful wildlife, campgrounds, picnic areas, and lodging.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests – forested land and open space in Augusta County managed by the U.S. Forest Service offering outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting; includes Deerfield, Dry River, and Pedlar Ranger Districts.

St. Mary's Wilderness – 10,000-acre forested and mountainous land in the George Washington National Forest near Vesuvius. Passive recreation and limited fishing permitted. Hiking trail follows the St. Mary's River.

Ramseys Draft Wilderness – 6,500 acre wilderness area in northwestern Augusta County, characterized by mostly rugged and remote mountain terrain with challenging trails and no developed facilities.

Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area – two large parcels of forested mountain land (over 33,000 acres) that join southeast of Goshen at the Maury River. The Little North Mountain parcel lies both in Augusta and Rockbridge County; offers hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Augusta Springs Wetlands Trail – short trails that allow easy access to wetlands habitat; located in Augusta Springs off Route 42 west of Staunton, part of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

Crawford Knob Trails – offers two trails, 7.8 and 3.3 miles; various degrees of terrain; located in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests of western Augusta County.

North Mountain Trail – 14.5 mile trail crosses Elliots Knob along the North Mountain Ridge in western Augusta County.

North River Gorge Trails – numerous trails between Lookout and Trimble Mountains; campground and recreational area located in northwestern portion of Augusta County.

Wild Oak Trail – 25 mile loop trail following ridge tops and circling the headwaters of the North River in Augusta County.

Trimble Mountain Trail – 4 mile loop offering excellent views of Reddish Knob and Shenandoah Mountain beginning just east of Todd Lake.

Ramseys Draft Trail – 6.5 mile scenic trail in nationally designated wilderness area; features variety of vegetation and wildlife; picnic area.

Shenandoah Mountain Trails – over 23 miles of winding backwoods trails on Shenandoah Mountain along Augusta/Highland county border; site of Civil War Confederate Breastworks.

Virginia Civil War Trails – driving/biking tour through Augusta County with stops at several Civil War sites.

McCormick Farm Trail – 0.5 mile trail located at the Cyrus McCormick Farm on the Augusta County/Rockbridge County border; historical mill site and picnic area; home of Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the mechanical grain reaper; over 600 acres of open space.

Sherando Lake Trails – numerous hiking and biking trails around and near Sherando Lake at foot of Blue Ridge Mountain in southeastern Augusta County; popular trails include Stony Run Trail, Mills Creek Trail, Big Levels and Kennedy Ridge Trail.

South River Greenway Trail – serves as the spine of the proposed greenway system in the City of Waynesboro that runs parallel to the South River; trail will eventually connect a number of other trails and link areas of interest including local parks, schools and the YMCA.

Jones Hollow Greenway Trail – proposed trail to connect downtown Waynesboro to the historic Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel at Rockfish Gap.

Frontier Museum Trail – .5 mile loop with plans to develop bluebird and nature trail on property.

Birding and Wildlife Trails – the following sites have been nominated as part of the Va. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries’ Birding and Wildlife Trails program. These “thematic” trails allow the sightseer to view a variety of birds, wildlife and wildflowers native to the area:

- ❖ Sherando Lake
- ❖ Augusta Springs
- ❖ Elliot Knob
- ❖ Braley Pond
- ❖ Todd Lake
- ❖ Hearthstone Lake
- ❖ Natural Chimneys Regional Park
- ❖ Grand Caverns Regional Park
- ❖ Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch
- ❖ Howardsville Turnpike, Rt. 610

Staunton Historic Walking Tour – self-guided tour of downtown Staunton with visual and factual cues of the City’s historic areas and structures.

Waynesboro Walking Tour – self-guided tour of Waynesboro with visual and factual cues of the City’s historic areas and structures.

Agricultural Forestal Districts – rural conservation zones reserved for the production of agricultural products, timber and open space maintenance on private property. In Augusta County, the two Ag/Forestal Districts are Middle River (8,500 acres) and Middlebrook (5,620 acres). In Staunton, the two Ag/Forestal Districts are Bell’s Lane (1,674 acres) and Merrifield (367 acres).



Cycling

Although there are no designated bikeways in the county, the vast majority of the county’s state roads are ideally suited to the advanced cyclists. There are a number of bicycle clubs and advocacy groups in the Region that have expressed a desire to see more road improvements and signage to accommodate the on-road cyclists and improve the safety of cycling on county roads. Mountain biking is also becoming an increasingly popular activity in the area with ample opportunities for mountain biking in the

national forest and other areas with mountain biking trails. Old logging roads in the national forests offer an ideal setting for developing mountain biking trails. Some popular routes both on and off-road are described below:

On-Road Bike Routes

TransAmerica Route – portion of cross-country cycling route through southern Augusta County from Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia.

Great Lakes Loops – 14 mile loop on gravel and hard-packed Forest Service roads with views of North River, Braley Pond, Elkhorn Lake, Todd Lake and North River Reservoir.

Dooms Day Ride – 14.7 loop beginning at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro through the former Dooms Crossing railroad stop.

Draft Dodge – 23 or 36 mile ride through Fishersville and Stuarts Draft in Augusta County.

Coast to the Caverns – 36.2 flat cycling route beginning in Waynesboro to Grand Caverns near Grottoes, past many small historic communities like Harriston, Mount Meridian, and New Hope.

Springhill Sprint – 18 or 23 mile loop beginning at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton to Springhill, a pre-Civil War village across Middle River.

Arborhill Arc – 37 mile loop through southern Augusta County along historic Middlebrook-Brownsburg turnpike; past old mills, historic houses, and church cemeteries.

Hebron Hop – 28 mile bicycle route around western Augusta County with various lookout points and historic houses and churches along the way.

Eastern Loop – 38.5 mile loop beginning in Staunton through the middle of Augusta County past many Valley farms and antebellum houses.

Fly Through Mossy Creek – 40 mile ride beginning in Staunton to Mossy Creek, one of the states' premier flyfishing trout streams, crosses the Middle River and former railroad boom towns of Stokesville and Mt. Solon.

Southern Augusta Ambler – 52 mile ride in southern Augusta County through Stuarts Draft, Greenville, Middlebrook and Swoope.

Milepost Zero Bicycle Club – offers cyclists (road and mountain bike) of all levels and abilities the opportunity to meet and ride with other cyclists, based in Waynesboro.

Tour de Valley – cycling event sponsored by Milepost Zero Bicycle Club that covers 100 miles throughout the Valley including Goshen Pass, Brownsburg Pike, the Valley Pike (Rt. 11) and numerous Valley towns; started in 1989, held in late summer.

Mountain Bike Trails

Reddish Knob Trail – 26 mile loop to Reddish Knob, the summit of Shenandoah Mountain.

North River Gorge Trail – 8 mile trail crossing the North River a dozen times in northwest Augusta County.

Little Bald Knob Climb – 17.4 mile physically demanding trail from Camp Todd to the top of Little Bald Knob in northwest Augusta County.

West Augusta Trail – relatively easy 7.5 mile loop near Braley Pond in northwestern Augusta County.

Deerfield Horse Trail – 18 mile shared horse/mountain bike trail along the ridge of Shenandoah Mountain, past the Confederate Breastworks.

Elliot Knob Trail – mountain bike trail to the highest peak in the George Washington National Forest; panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley.

Walker Mountain Trail – 13 mile loop to top of Walker Mountain in George Washington National Forest 25 miles west of Staunton.

Big Levels–Sherando – mountain biking trail near and around Sherando Lake includes Mills Creek, Stony Run, Slack Trail, Kennedy Ridge and Whiterock Trail.

Flagpole Knob Trail – mountain biking trail located in the George Washington National Forest.

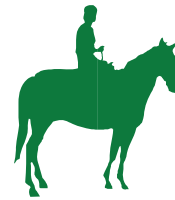
Great North Mountain Trail – mountain biking trail located in the George Washington National Forest.

Equestrian Trails

State and national surveys are finding that horseback riding is becoming an increasing popular form of outdoor recreation and the demand for horse trails is high. Our area with its beautiful scenery and large tracts of public-owned lands make the setting for horse trails very practical and attractive. Many equestrian trails are found in the George Washington National Forest and the Shenandoah National Park. There are private equestrian trails and stables found throughout the area as well. Given the high demand for equestrian trails in our area, consideration of these type of trails should be given during trail planning and development.

Shenandoah Mountain Equestrian Trails – a series of natural wilderness horse trails within the George Washington National Forest; most with exceptional views of nearby ridges. They include:

- Georgia Camp Trail
- Glenwood Horse Trails
- Marshall Tract
- Shaw's Fork Trail
- Shinault Shanty Road
- Walker Mountain Road
- Wallace Tract
- Wilson Hollow
- Benson Run
- Shenandoah Mountain Trail
- Holloway Draft Trail



Star B Stables – guided horse trail rides near Stuarts Draft in Augusta County.

Parks, Campgrounds, And Recreational Sites

Our area offers a broad range of recreational facilities both publicly and privately owned and maintained. These facilities for the most part are evenly distributed throughout the county and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Most of the recreational facilities are located in and around small communities and within our town and cities. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available at a number of prominent facilities in the area. These facilities include state parks, community recreational centers and parks, lakes, rivers, and campgrounds. These sites offer a wide range of outdoor and seasonal activities and the perfect opportunity to develop trails and greenways linking population centers with key recreational sites.



Parks And Recreational Areas

Shenandoah National Park – nearly 200,000 acres of national parkland established by Congress in 1935; straddles the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains between the Shenandoah Valley and the Virginia Piedmont; more than 500 hiking and mountain biking trails in the Park including 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail; panoramic views, waterfalls, plentiful wildlife, campgrounds, picnic areas, and lodging.

Grand Caverns – caverns discovered in 1804 located near Grottoes which feature gigantic stalactites and stalagmites; open to the public; property includes hiking and biking trails, picnic shelter, swimming pool, miniature golf, tennis courts, and gift shop. Rated # 2 caverns in the U.S. by Parade Magazine.

Natural Chimneys Regional Park – recreational area in northwestern Augusta County that includes 120 foot solid rock formation resembling enormous chimneys; Park includes campground with 145 sites, hiking and biking trails, picnic shelter, swimming pool, playground, jousting track and camp store.

Gypsy Hill Park – 218 acre urban park in Staunton with paved walking/jogging/cycling trail, swimming pool, public golf course, ball fields, tennis courts, gymnasium, skateboard park, picnic shelters, playground, bandstand, duck pond and stocked lake.

Betsy Bell Park – 70 acre park owned by the City of Staunton, offering magnificent views of Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains from its observation platform at summit; hiking and mountain biking permitted.

Montgomery Hall Park – 148 acre city park in the southwest portion of Staunton with nature and fitness trails, ballfields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, playground, public swimming pool, and activity building for rent.

Landes Park – small park near the Wharf District in Staunton with benches and garden site.

Reservoir Hill Park – walking area and benches located behind Stuart Hall in Staunton.

Ridgeview Park – 58 acre park on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro with walking, jogging trails, ballfields, tennis courts, Olympic size swimming pool, pavilion, amphitheater, boat ramp, picnic areas, and playgrounds.

Constitution Park – city park in downtown Waynesboro next to South River with arboretum and pavilion; site of Farmer’s Market and other outdoor events; open space and soccer field; urban trout fishing on the South River.

North Park – 12-acre park on South River in Waynesboro with ball fields, basketball courts, playground, and picnic areas.

Basic Park – Waynesboro city park with multi-purpose fields and picnic tables; offers public fishing access to the South River.

Coyner Springs Park – 30 acre open space park in Waynesboro with 3.5 mile trail, pavilion, picnic tables, and wildlife habitat.

Steele’s Run Park – softball field and picnic tables in Waynesboro.

Hunter Street Park – children’s play area with benches in Waynesboro.

Jackson Wilson Park – ballfields and tennis courts in Waynesboro.

Wayne Hills – former school with baseball and multi-use practice fields, basketball court.

Sunset Park – 100-acre proposed park under development; former landfill on western slopes of Blue Ridge Mountain overlooking Waynesboro; scheduled to open in 2005.

Waynesboro Country Club – 18-hole golf course along the South River.

Blue Ridge Community College Arboretum – living museum of native and naturalized plants from around the Commonwealth located on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave; open to the public.

Todd Lake Recreation Area – 20 acre recreation area nestled in secluded Trimble Mountains of northwest Augusta County; offers swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking activities.

Berry Farm – 520 acre open space west of Verona, owned and maintained by Augusta County.

Snider Park – county-owned park with ballfields, concession stand, playground and picnic area in Stuarts Draft.



Campgrounds

Sherando Lake Recreation Area – part of the George Washington–Jefferson National Forests east of Staunton at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains; 24-acre recreational lake and 7-acre lake for bank fishing; 65 family and group campsites, several nature trails. Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, swimming and boating.

Walnut Hills Campground – private campground, cabin and cottage rentals, campsites, RV sites, swimming pool, stocked fishing lake, playground, and picnic area.

Shenandoah Acres Resort – recreational area in Stuarts Draft with campground, cabins, swimming lake, and lawn games.

Shenandoah Valley KOA – 91 acre camping facility on the Middle River near Verona, shady campsites, “kamping kabins,” pool, playground, stocked fishing lake.

Natural Chimneys Campground – 145 campsites, hiking/biking trails, playground, swimming pool, fishing on the North River; located in northwest Augusta County.

North River Campground – small primitive campground with picnic tables on the North River; near Elkhorn Lake in Northwest Augusta County.

Todd Lake Campground – 20-site campground and picnic area located in Todd Lake Recreation Area in northwest Augusta County.

Waynesboro North 340 Campground – wooded camping sites beneath Turk Mountain, with swimming pool, playground.

Cabin Creekwood – secluded mountain cabins for rent near Waynesboro in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Destination Points And Special Events

Booker T. Washington Community Center – former school in Staunton now used as community center with after-school programs, sports, and community events.

Rockfish Gap Tourist Information Center – strategically located near Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail; staffed by volunteer travel counselors; over 400 brochures, menu guides, maps and travel guides available for visitors and hikers.

Shenandoah Valley Crossroads Travel Information Center – proposed multi-regional tourist information center to be located at the entrance of the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. Future plans include retail outlet, cultural and science center, and restaurants.

Rosenwald Community Center – administrative offices of the Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Department; meeting and activity rooms, gymnasium, and multi-purpose field.

Wildlife Center of Virginia – rehabilitation center for wildlife, offering educational and interpretive tours for students; located just outside Waynesboro. Manages the Bear Oak Environmental Education Center, offering outdoor environmental education to area schools.

Andre Viette Farm and Nursery – one of the largest perennial flower nurseries in the eastern United States with over 3,000 varieties of day lilies, poppies and irises as well as rare and unusual flowers; located in Augusta County between Staunton and Waynesboro.

Augusta Expoland – exhibition hall and expansive grounds used for craft, antiques and home and garden shows, as well as the county fair and carnivals.

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center – state-owned comprehensive rehabilitation center for person with disabilities located in Fishersville; expansive open space.

Blue Ridge Community College – community college founded in 1967 providing associate degrees, occupational/technical certificates, and non-credit interest classes; located in Weyers Cave. Campus includes an arboretum and two demonstration rain gardens.

Events in Staunton – Victorian Festival, Shakin’ at the Station, African-American Festival, American Birthday Celebration, Art in the Park, Staunton Farmer’s Market.

Events in Waynesboro – Virginia Fall Foliage Festival, Blue Ridge Soapbox Derby Classic, Shenandoah Valley British Car show, Riverfest, Virginia Flyfishing Tournament, Summer Extravaganza, seasonal Farmer’s Market.

Public Schools And College Campuses

Our public schools and college campuses not only offer recreational and sporting facilities, but are also key destination points for trails, bikeways, and greenways. The development of trails and bikeways to our public schools offer a safe, off road means to travel and can offer important linkages between neighborhoods and schools.

Staunton

Bessie Weller Elementary
Thomas Dixon Elementary
McSwain Elementary
Arthur Ware Elementary
Shelburne Middle
Robert E. Lee High
Mary Baldwin College

Waynesboro

Berkeley Glenn Elementary
Wenonah Elementary
Westwood Hills Elementary
William Perry Elementary
Kate Collins Middle
Waynesboro High

Augusta County

Beverly Manor Elementary
Cassell Elementary
Churchville Elementary
Craigsville Elementary
Ladd Elementary
New Hope Elementary
North River Elementary
Riverheads Elementary
Stuarts Draft Elementary
Stump Elementary
Verona Elementary

Weyers Cave Elementary
Wilson Elementary
Beverly Manor Middle
Stewart Middle
Stuarts Draft Middle
Buffalo Gap High
Fort Defiance High
Riverheads High
Stuarts Draft High
Wilson Memorial High
Blue Ridge Community College

Historic And Cultural Sites



The many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the area provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to historic and scenic destinations. There are dozens of historically significant sites in our area. Many of the sites are found on the Virginia Historic Landmark and the National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

Woodrow Wilson Birthplace – birthplace and museum of the 28th president of the United States with period furnishings, Wilson family heirlooms, and guided tours; open to the public; located in Staunton.

Blackfriars Playhouse – replica of Shakespeare’s indoor theater with year-round live Shakespearean plays and other performances; educational workshops and tours; located in downtown Staunton.

Cyrus McCormick Farm – historical site and picnic area located in Steeles Tavern, home of Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the mechanical grain reaper; gristmill, blacksmith shop museum; over 600 acres of open space.

Trinity Episcopal Church – original church built on site in 1763; replaced in 1855 with present church; early Gothic Revival architecture; stained glass windows by Tiffany Studios; self-guided tours.

Tinkling Spring Church – one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in Augusta County; first services held in 1745.

New Dixie Theatre – home of the Staunton Performing Arts Center; located in renovated historic building in downtown Staunton.

Augusta County Courthouse – on the site of the original courthouse built in 1745; designed by local architect T. J. Collins; located in downtown Staunton.

Middlebrook Historic District – 620 acres and 50 buildings included in the Virginia Historic Register for historic and architecture significance.

Staunton Historic Districts – Staunton has five recognized historic districts located throughout the city, each with distinct architectural and cultural features.

Historic Highway Markers – about 40 markers located throughout the County, including numerous Civil War Trails markers.

Western State Hospital (original site) – former state mental hospital built in 1828; used as a state prison for 25 years. Located on 83 acres in Staunton with numerous historic buildings, Antebellum style gardens and park-like grounds.

Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind – one of the Nation’s oldest and most distinguished schools for the deaf and blind. Located in Staunton, the campus includes extensive fields used by local soccer leagues.

Mount Torrey Furnace – ruins of an ironworks near Sherando Lake; now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Augusta Military Academy and Alumni Museum – constructed just after the Civil War, the museum contains weapons, uniforms, eating utensils, and other military academy relics; north of Staunton on Route 11.

Museum of American Frontier Culture – 220 acre state owned facility that interprets 18th and 19th century immigrant life in America through historic structures, artifacts, and living history. Facility includes visitors center, museum, administrative buildings, education and research center and four restored farms from England, Ireland, Germany and the Shenandoah Valley; numerous trails throughout property.

Artisans Center of Virginia – official statewide craft center located in Waynesboro; features the exhibits and works of over 140 artisans from across the state.

P. Buckley Moss Museum – art gallery and permanent collection of P. Buckley Moss, one of American’s most celebrated and popular artists, located in Waynesboro.

Plumb House Museum – historic house under renovation; interprets the Battle of Waynesboro; open to the public by appointment or special open house.

Staunton-Augusta Arts Center – art studio with children’s programs and exhibits, located at entrance to Gypsy Hill Park.

Shenandoah Valley Art Center – art gallery and artist studios located in historic house in downtown Waynesboro.

Virginia Metalcrafters – brass and cast iron factory in operation for over 100 years; viewing tours of craftsmen using colonial sand-casting techniques; located in Waynesboro.

Waynesboro Heritage Museum – historic collection of Civil War relics, antiques and Valley Native American artifacts.

Fishburne Military School – independent college preparatory school for boys founded in 1879; listed on the Virginia Register of Historic Landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places; landscaped grounds with athletic fields, gymnasium and tennis courts.

Fairfax Hall – historic railroad hotel built in 1890 overlooking Waynesboro; used as a girls' school for 55 years then restored in 1999 as affordable housing for the elderly.

C and O Train Station and Depot – historic train station and warehouse district in Staunton; unique shops and dining.

Thornrose Cemetery – 12 acre burial ground in Staunton's Newtown Historic District.

Statler Brother's Museum – renovated schoolhouse of two of the country music legends containing memorabilia, awards and gifts from their fans; located in Staunton; admission is free.

Mary Baldwin College – founded in 1842 as the Augusta Female Seminary; Greek Revival brick construction; now a 4-year liberal arts college; located in the heart of Staunton.

Staunton National Cemetery – burial ground for Union soldiers killed during the Civil War.

Stuart Hall – female college preparatory school established in 1844; named for General J.E.B. Stuart's wife, Flora Cooke Stuart; located in Staunton.

Oak Grove Theater – outdoor theater north of Staunton with music and performances in the summer.

Jumbo Museum – only surviving 1911 Robinson pumper fire engine; restored by the Staunton volunteer fire department; admission is free.



Water Resources

The water resources in our area play an important role in the area's recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. The major waterways in our area are the South River, the North River and the Middle River. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the area and feed into these larger bodies of water. Other water sources in the area include Sherando Lake and Elkhorn Lake. These water bodies and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities and can add special features to trails as well.

South River – tributary to the Shenandoah River and the southern-most headwater tributary of the Potomac watershed; runs through downtown Waynesboro connecting five City parks; future site of the South River Greenway and one of only two urban trout fisheries in the state.

North River – one of the three rivers that creates the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, runs through the northwest section of Augusta County.

Middle River – one of the three rivers that creates the South Fork of the Shenandoah River; major tributaries include Jennings Branch and Christians Creek.

Calfpasture River – flows southward through the County into the system that eventually becomes the James River; Little Calfpasture is one of its tributaries.

St. Mary's River – runs through the St. Mary's Wilderness Area in southern Augusta County; important to fly fishing and wildlife watching.

Sherando Lake – 24 acre lake built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930's; popular for camping, swimming, boating and trout fishing.

Elkhorn Lake – 54 acre reservoir stocked with brook trout; 15 miles northwest of Churchville.

Hearthstone Lake – 14 acre lake stocked with rainbow trout in the George Washington National Forest.

Todd Lake – 7.5 acre lake in northwest Augusta County; designated swimming area with sand beach, fishing, and boating.

Braleley Pond – 5 acre trout-stocked pond near Deerfield with lakeside trail, fishing, and 10 picnic sites.

Lewis Creek – main tributary in Staunton, empties into the Middle River.

Lake Tams – 3 acre stormwater retention pond in Gypsy Hill Park; contains large mouth bass and channel catfish.

Springleigh – trout farm near Greenville with pond fishing and catch and release fly fishing; wooded area for hiking, nature study, primitive camping sites; privately owned.

Cowbain Prairie Natural Area Preserve – wetland preserve on the western slope of the Blue Ridge, near Stuarts Draft along the South River; home to rare plant populations and contains the ancient South River bed; used by professional biologists and botanists.

Folly Mills Creek Fen Natural Preserve – 29 acre wetland preserve located in the floodplain of Folly Mills Creek, fed by artesian springs from an aquifer in the fractured limestone bedrock; home to rare plant populations and not open for public visitation; used by professional biologists and botanists.

South River Preserve – 14 acre spring-fed wetland near Stuarts Draft; one of the last such wetlands in Virginia; home to rare plant populations and associated wildlife.

Kennedy Mountain Meadow – rare, seasonally flooded sinkhole pond located near Sherando; fragile nature environment; not open to the public.



Transportation And Scenic Byways

The rural character of our area with its scattered villages, beautiful farms, picturesque countryside, and magnificent vistas offer miles of scenic drives. Several road corridors in the area are included in Virginia's Scenic Road map or designated a scenic Virginia Byway. This program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high traffic corridors. Other transportation-related infrastructure to be considered when developing greenways and trails includes abandoned railroad lines, gas lines, and engineered structures like tunnels and bridges.

Blue Ridge Parkway – scenic road built in the 1930’s along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Accessible to the Augusta County area at Afton Mountain and near Lake Sherando. The Parkway provides beautiful vistas, access to hunting, camping, numerous foot and cycling trails.

Skyline Drive – 105 mile scenic road that winds along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Front Royal, Virginia to Afton, Virginia through the Shenandoah National Park where it meets the Blue Ridge Parkway. Offers spectacular overlooks, wildlife viewing, and access to the Appalachian Trail.

Valley Pike (Route 11) – historic turnpike traverses Augusta County with numerous historic landmarks and structures along route.

B & O Railroad – railroad running through Augusta County to Lexington, abandoned after W.W.II; some depots and stone bridges still exist.

Middlebrook Brownsburg Turnpike – designated scenic byway; one of the area’s earliest stagecoach routes; passes through historic villages of Middlebrook and Brownsburg in Rockbridge County.

Howardsville Turnpike – historic road that extends from Middlebrook to Greenville, across the gap at Stuarts Draft to Sherando, then 5 miles of gravel road to Blue Ridge Parkway on Rt. 610; extends east to Howardsville on the James River.

Blue Ridge Tunnel – 4,273 foot railroad tunnel built through solid rock mountain in 1858; designed by French engineer Claudius Crozet; western entrance located near Rt. 250 at Rockfish Gap.



Recommendations for Augusta-Staunton-Waynesboro

- (1) Support the City of Waynesboro’s Greenway Plan that includes the usage of corridors to adjoin schools, neighborhoods, parks and natural resources to the downtown area and creates better access between these locations.
- (2) Augusta County is rich in natural resources. Streams, rivers, and other unique natural features offer numerous opportunities for creating greenways and trails. Some areas for potential greenways and trails are described below:
 - *Todd Lake-Chimneys Trail* – a 7 mile greenway/trail connecting Natural Chimneys Regional Park and Todd Lake along North River; small docks and boat ramps could be constructed for access to North River for fishing and boating.
 - *Jennings Creek Greenway* – a 9 mile nature-friendly connection between Staunton and the George Washington National Forest along Jennings Creek with docking areas for small boats and canoes.
 - *Sherando Greenway* – a 10 mile waterway connection between Sherando Lake and Waynesboro; expansion into George Washington National Forest.
 - *South River Trail* – 11 mile hiking/biking trail along the South River from Waynesboro to Grand Caverns with access points along the way.
 - *Jefferson Highway Greenway Trail* – hiking/biking trail between Staunton and Waynesboro paralleling Chesapeake Railroad.
 - *Calf Mountain Road Trail* – 2 mile hiking/biking trail on gas line easement road from Augusta County through Shenandoah National Park to Skyline Drive as an alternative bike route to Rt. 250.
- (3) Staunton has a number of areas of interest that can serve as hubs and could be connected via links to create a greenways system. These hubs include Lewis Creek, city parks and historic downtown. Some areas for potential greenways are listed below:

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- *Lewis Creek Greenway* – create a loop trail around the watershed, connecting Poague Run with Lewis Creek.
 - *Tri-Park Trail* – connections between the three major parks in the City of Staunton: Gypsy Hill Park, Montgomery Hall Park and Betsy Bell Park.
 - *Academic Trail* – urban trail between Mary Baldwin College, Stuart Hall, Reservoir Hill and Gypsy Hill Park.
 - *Parkway* — develop greenway/trail between Gypsy Hill Park main entrance and Lewis Street along Churchville Avenue where VDOT plans to raze 6 houses for turn lane.
- (4) Support plans to develop Sunset Park, a 100 acre park under development, on the western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountain overlooking Waynesboro; scheduled to open in 2005.
 - (5) Consider the development of a major park located on the west/northwest side of the City of Waynesboro.
 - (6) Support the Augusta County Master Recreational Plan that calls for the development of 4 major county parks, eight community parks and 10 neighborhood parks.
 - (7) Support plans to develop the Shenandoah Valley Crossroads Travel Information Center, a multi-regional tourist information center located at the entrance of the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. Future plans include a cultural and science center, retail outlets and restaurants.
 - (8) Develop a Visitor Information Center/Service Center in the vicinity of I-64, near the intersection of the Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway. This location would accommodate the millions of visitors that visit the Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.
 - (9) Develop a Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan for the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro area that would connect residential, commercial, and natural resources sites, and would identify specific routes for future dedicated bike lanes and paths.
 - (10) Consider a rail-with-trail along the CSX railroad line from Clifton Forge to Staunton to Waynesboro used by the Railroad Historical Society for fall-color excursions. Consider conversion to rail-to-trail if line is abandoned.

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- (11) Support regional plans to open the Blue Ridge Tunnel at Rockfish Gap to visitors, linking a number of trails and communities on either side of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
 - (12) Evaluate the following river segments to determine suitability for designation to the Virginia Scenic River program:
 - St. Mary's River
 - Calfpasture River through Augusta County
 - (13) Recommend the following roadways for scenic by-way designation:
 - Rt. 250 from Churchville to Highland County
 - Rt. 42 from Rt. 39 to Rockingham County
 - Rt. 252 from outskirts of Staunton to Rockbridge County
 - Rt. 608 from intersection with Route 340 to Rockbridge
 - (14) Consider expanding the services in the Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area to include other forms of recreation, such as hiking and nature study trails.
 - (15) Explore the possibility of developing/expanding recreational/trail opportunities at the following state-owned facilities:
 - Western State Hospital
 - Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
 - Blue Ridge Community Center
 - Former Western State Hospital
 - Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind
 - Frontier Cultural Museum
 - (16) Support state efforts to incorporate Grand Caverns and Natural Chimneys Regional Parks in the state park system.



ROCKINGHAM- HARRISONBURG AREA

Community Profile



Rockingham County is centrally located in the historic and scenic Shenandoah Valley in west-central Virginia. Harrisonburg, the county seat, is an important educational, industrial, retail, commercial, and governmental center. Rockingham County is bounded on the west by the Allegheny Mountains and on the east by the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Surrounded by the Virginia counties of Augusta, Albemarle, Greene, Page, and Shenandoah, and by the West Virginia counties of Pendleton and Hardy, Rockingham County is situated at the headwaters of the Shenandoah River.



Formed from Augusta County in 1778 and named for the Marquis of Rockingham, a British statesman sympathetic with the American Revolution, Rockingham County is the third largest county in Virginia, encompassing 853 square miles of diverse terrain. There are seven incorporated towns within the County: Bridgewater, Dayton, Mt. Crawford, Elkton, Grottoes, Timberville and Broadway. Harrisonburg is the only independent city. The population of the County and the City of Harrisonburg combined is 111,400.



Harrisonburg was named in honor of Thomas Harrison, who deeded two and one-half acres of his plantation to the County for a courthouse in 1779. Harrisonburg was founded in 1780. It was recognized by the Virginia General Assembly as a town in 1849 and incorporated as a city in 1916. Harrisonburg became the focal



point for the poultry industry with the completion of the railroad and the development of one of the nation's first incubators in the nearby community of Dayton in 1884. Bridgewater College, in Rockingham County, was established in 1880. James Madison University was established by the General Assembly in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg. Eastern Mennonite College (now Eastern Mennonite University), a privately endowed liberal arts college, was established nine years later in 1917.

The entire Rockingham County-Harrisonburg area is situated in the Shenandoah River drainage basin. The major waterways in the area are the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, which flow through the northern and eastern portions of the County. The North River passes through the south-central portion of the County and the South River travels through the southeastern section of the County. Blacks Run, in the Cooks Creek watershed, is the main tributary in Harrisonburg and is the focal point of the Blacks Run Greenway.

The Rockingham County-Harrisonburg area is predominantly characterized by gently rolling and hilly valleys, with sharp mountain peaks on the eastern edge of the County.

The Massanutten ridge splits the wide valley and provides a dramatic backdrop to much of the County. The highest elevation in the County is 4,381 feet at Flagpole Knob on the western edge of the County in the Allegheny Mountains. By contrast, the lowest elevation is 900 feet in the valley at the Page County line adjacent to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

The Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area offer numerous outdoor and recreational activities, including downhill mountain biking and skiing at Massanutten Resort, and hiking on hundreds of miles of trails in the George Washington National Forest and the famous Shenandoah National Park. Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains is just 20 minutes from Harrisonburg. The small towns and villages scattered throughout the County provide an abundance of specialty stores, antique shops, country restaurants, and charming community parks. A number of key Civil War sites are located in the County, including the battlefields of Port Republic and Cross Keys. Arts and entertainment are becoming increasingly popular in Harrisonburg with the new Court Square Theatre and the Cultural & Arts District forming in downtown, as well as the facilities located on the JMU campus.



Greenways, Trails, And Natural Areas

Our area is graced with beautiful mountains, wooded landscapes, river valleys, large tracts of open space and thousand of acres of National Forest and state-maintained land, offering ample opportunity to hike, bike, camp, and enjoy the great outdoors. These natural resources offer exceptional opportunities to develop and extend greenways for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding.

Hiking Trails

Appalachian Trail – a national hiking trail that runs along the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia; access via Rt. 33 at Swift Run Gap.

Skyline Drive – scenic road built in the 1930s along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Shenandoah National Park. Access in Rockingham County is available on Rt. 33 at the Swift Run Gap entrance station. Skyline Drive offers beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Valley below; hiking, fishing, camping and biking are available in the Shenandoah National Park.

Shenandoah National Park – nearly 200,000 acres of forested and open space with more than 500 hiking and biking trails and 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail; borders eastern Rockingham County. The Park, managed by the National Park Service, offers outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, and fishing.

George Washington National Forest – over 139,000 acres of forested and open space bordering western Rockingham County; managed by the U.S. Forest Service, this area offers outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, fishing, boating and hunting.

Blacks Run Greenway – planned greenway that would run along 11 miles of Blacks Run and two of its tributaries through downtown Harrisonburg. The planned greenway will link a number of City parks and schools, as well as residential and commercial areas with walking and biking trails. Liberty Park, a universal garden under construction will serve as the gateway to the greenway.

Paul State Forest – 185 acre hardwood forest gifted to the County; used for hardwood species research, demonstration and timber production; hiking and horseback riding trails; managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Hillandale Park Trail – 1.5 mile walking/jogging trail located in Harrisonburg’s Hillandale Park; includes 20 exercise stations.

Purcell Park Trail – 1.5 mile trail located in Harrisonburg’s Purcell Park.

Heritage Forest and Gardens – a 1/2 mile walking trail in Harrisonburg where the public can dedicate trees in memory of or in honor of others.

Broadway Walking Trail – a 3/4 mile walking/jogging/biking trail located in the Broadway Community Park.

Grottoes Walking Trail – proposed walking trail along the South River in the Grottoes Town Park.

Brown’s Gap Road – historic road leading from Grottoes to Skyline Drive through Shenandoah National Park, used by hikers, equestrian riders and fire fighters.

Staunton to Harrisonburg Rail-with-Trail – proposed trail to run along the Shenandoah Valley Rail Road from Staunton to Harrisonburg.

North River Trail – proposed trail to run along the abandoned Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad from North River Gorge in Augusta County to Bridgewater in Rockingham County.

Birding and Watchable Wildlife Areas – the following sites have been nominated as part of the Va. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries’ Birding and Wildlife Trails program. These “thematic” trails allow the sightseer to view a variety of birds, wildlife and wildflowers native to the area:

- **Briery Branch Dam**
- **Grottoes Town Park**
- **Hone Quarry**
- **Lake Campbell**
- **Lake Shenandoah**
- **Leonard’s Pond**
- **Long Run Road (GWNF)**
- **Madison Run Fire Road (Shenandoah National Park)**
- **Silver Lake**
- **Paul State Forest**
- **Slate Lick Fields (GWNF)**
- **Switzer Lake (GWNF)**
- **Flagpole Knob**

Walking Tours – maps for self-guided walking tours are available for Harrisonburg, Dayton, Bridgewater, Singers Glen, and Elkton.

Agricultural and Forestal Districts – rural conservation zones reserved for the production of agricultural products, timber and open space maintenance on private property providing greater protection to open lands than agricultural zoning. Currently there are nine Agricultural Districts in Rockingham County totaling 26,218 acres.

On-Road Cycling



The City of Harrisonburg has an approved Bicycle Plan that includes 23 road sections that will connect JMU, EMU, and residential and commercial areas of Harrisonburg. Long-range plans to connect communities in Rockingham County and extend east to Skyline Drive are under consideration. Although there are no designated bikeways in the county, the vast majority of the county's state roads system are ideally suited to advanced cyclists. There are a number of bicycle clubs and advocacy groups in the Region that have expressed a desire to see more road improvements and signage to accommodate the on-road cyclists and improve the safety of cycling on county roads. Some popular routes are described below:

Neff Avenue – contains lanes dedicated solely for bicycles.

Port Republic Road – contains lanes from Devon Road to Forest Hills Drive dedicated solely for bicycles.

South High Street – dedicated bike lanes on a portion of the street near the southern city limits.

Stones Spring Road/Erickson Avenue – planned improvements to these streets include dedicated bike lanes.

Dogwood Avenue Trail (Grottoes) – bicycle trail leading from Grand Caverns to 20th Street in Grottoes with plans to extend to Grottoes Town Park.

Indian Trail Road (Rt. 717) – historic road south of Keezletown, possibly established by Native Americans prior to 1726.

Dayton Donut – a 12.5-mile loop north of the Town of Dayton, route runs past Fort Harrison.

Edom Express – a 20 mile loop that begins in Harrisonburg, then runs north to Edom, south to Dayton and then back to Harrisonburg.

Pleasant Valley Anyday – a 23.4 mile loop southeast of Harrisonburg; it begins in Harrisonburg, runs east to Massanetta Springs and then back to Harrisonburg.

Singers Glen Gallop – a 26.7 mile loop that runs west of Harrisonburg to Singers Glen and Sparkling Springs, then back to Harrisonburg.

North to Zenda – a 27.8 mile loop that runs north from Harrisonburg to Zenda, south to Keezletown and then back to Harrisonburg.

Where's the Cave – a 47.1 mile loop that runs southeast from Harrisonburg to Grand Caverns in Grottoes, west to Bridgewater, north to Dayton, then back to Harrisonburg.

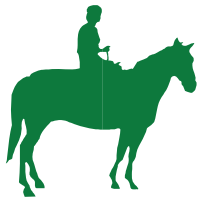
Journey to Mount Jackson – a 72.4 mile loop from Harrisonburg to Mount Jackson, then south to Singers Glen and back to Harrisonburg.

Getting Centered – a 13 mile loop from Bridgewater to Centerville, then east to Mount Crawford and back to Bridgewater.

Dry River Run – a 15.3 mile loop from Bridgewater northwest to Hinton, then east to Dayton and back to Bridgewater.

Fort Harrison Frolic – an 18.3 mile loop that begins in Dayton at the Daniel Harrison House/Fort Harrison and runs northwest to Mount Clinton, then south along the Dry River and back to Dayton.

Springhill Sojourn – a 50 mile loop that begins in Bridgewater and runs southwest to Sangersville, Natural Chimneys, Todd Lake and Stokesville. The route then runs east to Mount Solon and Springhill, turning north to Mount Crawford and then back to Bridgewater.



Hiking, Mountain Biking, And Equestrian Trails

Mountain biking and horseback riding are becoming increasingly popular activities with ample opportunities for enjoying these sports in the area. There are hundreds of miles of dirt and gravel trails in the George Washington National Forest and Shenandoah National Park suitable for mountain biking and horseback riding, many of these with exceptional views of nearby ridges. There are also a number of private facilities with backcountry trails and stables located throughout the Region. Hiking is also popular on these trails.

Hidden Rocks Trail – 1.6 mile trail from FDR 62 to Hidden Rocks, the trail is one way and is closed to bikes and horses.

Bennett’s Run History Hike – interpretive trail along Bennett’s Run west of Bergton, trail includes 7 stopping points that depict early life in the mountains.

Cliff Trail – 2.2 mile trail that begins near Hone Quarry and connects Slate Springs Trail and Pond Knob Trail, making it about a 10-mile loop.

Anthill Trail – 2.8 mile trail near Slate Lick that follows the top of the Ridge from FDR 240D to FDR 423.

Big Hollow Trail – 2 mile trail near Hone Quarry, trail begins at FDR 62 and intersects Hone Quarry Trail. An optional loop can be made using Hone Quarry Trail and Heart Break Trail.

Heart Break Trail – 1.1 mile trail that connects Hone Quarry Campground with Hone Quarry Trail.

Maple Springs Trail – 5.1 mile trail that leaves FDR 492 and ends at Union Springs, the Old Jeep Road climbs Chestnut Ridge/Blacks Run area to private land on Dundore Mountain.

Hone Quarry Trail – begins at Heart Break Trail FDT 435A and ends at FDR 85. Easy ridge trail with a great view of Hone Quarry, trail does not extend past FDT 435A because there is no right-of-way across the private land.

Lynn Trail – 1.4 mile trail that begins at FDT 378 and ends at State Rt. 924; foot trail descends into Briery Lake drainage.

Cookie Trail – 1.6 mile ridge top trail on Narrowback Mountain; trail begins at FDR 432 and ends at FDR 439.

Meadow Knob Trail – 3.3 mile trail that begins where Hone Quarry Trail and Mud Gap Pond Trail intersect, from there climbing the ridge to Meadows Knob.

Mines Run Trail – 2.1 mile trail that follows an old jeep road from Rt. 924 to FDT 435 in the Hone Quarry Ridge system.

Mongold Hollow Trail – a short .3 mile trail developed for hunter access to Mongold Hollow, the trail begins at FDR 424 and ends at FDR 424A.

Mud Pond Gap Trail – 1.5 mile trail that begins at FDR 225 and ends at FDT 428; the trail is an old road to Mud Pond.

Pond Knob Trail – a 1.4 mile steep ridge trail that begins at FDR 62 and ends at Pond Knob; trail intersects with Meadow Knob Trail.

Rader Mountain Trail – 2.2 mile trail that begins on Rader Mountain and ends at Little Laurel Run.

Slate Lick Trail – 4 mile trail that connects Slate Lick Lake with Gauley Ridge; trail begins at FDR 230 and ends at FDR 423.

Slate Springs Trail – 2.3 mile trail connecting Hone Quarry with Shenandoah Mountain; trail begins on Hone Quarry Road and ends between Flagpole and Meadow Knob.

Lake to Lake – 34 mile loop that begins at Switzer Lake; travels around Shenandoah Mountain and ends near Hone Quarry Lake.

Slate Lick Lake – a 19 mile loop that begins and ends at Slate Lick Lake.

Long Run – a 10 mile loop includes a 6 mile ascent to Long Run Road.

Blueberry Trail – a 4 mile loop, including a 2 mile ascent to Mud Pond Gap.

Shenandoah Mountain Trail – follows the Virginia/West Virginia line from Rt. 33 to FDR 85A; provides access to the High Knob Fire Tower, 1 mile south of Rt. 33.

Rocky Run ATV Complex – 12 mile loop circling the headwaters of the Rocky Run Drainage near Rawley Springs in the George Washington National Forest; open to ATV, motorbikes and mountain bikes. Most of the trail is also open to full size 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Parks, Campgrounds, And Recreational Sites

Our area offers a broad range of recreational facilities both publicly and privately owned and maintained. These facilities for the most part are evenly distributed throughout the county and serve the local residents as well as the many tourists that visit the area. Most of the recreational facilities are located in and around small communities and within our city. Fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and camping are readily available at a number of prominent facilities in the area. These facilities include nearby state parks, national forests, community recreational centers and parks, lakes, rivers, and campgrounds. These sites offer a wide range of outdoor and seasonal activities and the perfect opportunity to develop and expand trails and greenways linking population centers with key recreational sites.



Parks And Recreation Areas

Shenandoah National Park – nearly 200,000 acres of forested and open space land bordering eastern Rockingham County. There are more than 500 hiking/biking trails and 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail. The park is managed by the National Park Service. It offers outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, and fishing.

George Washington National Forest – forested and open space land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Offers outdoor recreation, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting; bordering western Rockingham County.

Hone Quarry Recreational Area – in the George Washington National Forest west of Dayton; camping, fishing, hiking and boating.

Hillendale Park – 75-acre park with a large wooded area located in Harrisonburg. Includes picnic shelter and sites, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, grills, public golf course, and a 1.5 mile walking/jogging exercise trail.

Purcell Park – 67 acres in Harrisonburg containing picnic shelters, “Kids Castle” playground, handicapped-accessible playground area, 2 comfort stations, tennis courts, volleyball area, 1.5-mile trail, 3 lighted Little League baseball/softball fields, pond, grills and a lighted basketball court.

Ralph Sampson Park – 32 acre park in Harrisonburg containing a picnic shelter, comfort station, playground equipment, spray pool, volleyball area, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, 2 lighted basketball courts, multipurpose sports field and baseball/softball field.

Kiwanis Park – 3.8 acre park in Harrisonburg containing playground equipment, volleyball area, and basketball court.

Morrison Park – 6 acre park located in Harrisonburg containing picnic shelter, grills, lighted basketball court, 2 tennis courts, playground equipment and a comfort station.

Westover Park – 42 acre park in Harrisonburg includes playground equipment, grills, picnic area, comfort station and horseshoe pits; also includes Price Rotary Senior Center, Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center, and a 15,000 sq. ft skateboard park.

Edith J. Carrier Arboretum – arboretum located at JMU in Harrisonburg, includes a spring walking garden, forested slopes, low land swale, pond and forested savanna.

National Guard Armory – located at the intersection of Grace and Willow Streets in Harrisonburg; includes a gymnasium, classrooms, and adjacent multipurpose field.

Riven Rock Park – 28 acre City-owned park that adjoins the George Washington National Forest; contains 4 picnic shelters and a walking trail.

Smithland Road Property – 148 acre parcel of mostly former pasture and cropland in Harrisonburg; 25 acres have been developed with 3 large soccer fields; development plans for remaining property call for additional athletic fields, trails and complimentary amenities.

Bridgewater College Property – 43 acre parcel adjacent to Hillandale Park (east of Heritage Oaks) in Harrisonburg; currently undeveloped with future plans to create trails, picnic sites and other similar uses.

Liberty Park – planned handicapped-accessible park with raised garden beds and benches; gateway to the Blacks Run Greenway in Harrisonburg.

Riverside Park – open space park on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River in Elkton with picnic shelter and canoe/kayak river access.

Stonewall Memorial Park – 5 acre community park in Elkton with large picnic shelters, 2 ballfields, ¼ mile walking trail, playground, volleyball court and horseshoe pits; additional acreage available for planned soccer fields.

Junior Order Park – open field with shelter facilities for carnivals, horse shows, and Little League baseball; located in Elkton.

Oakdale Community Park – over 36 acres in Bridgewater adjacent to Mount Crawford Avenue; includes ball fields, picnic shelters and a playground.

Harrison Park – located at the corner of Green and Grove Streets in Bridgewater; site of many special events such as horse shows, carnivals and the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department’s annual lawn party, also includes playground equipment, basketball court, and two indoor tennis courts.

Sandy Bottom Park – located near East Riverside Drive in Bridgewater; the area has been developed as a par 3 golf course.

Wildwood Park – 11 acres along the North River located on West Bank Street in Bridgewater; contains picnic shelters, playground equipment, woods and open spaces. A dam in the river provides a pool for fishing.

Wynant Park – 1.4 acre park adjacent to College Street in Bridgewater containing trees and grassed areas.

Edgebrier Park – 0.5 acres located on East Riverside Drive in Bridgewater; includes picnic tables, and a basketball court. Large trees along the North River provide shade for fishing.

Cooks Creek Arboretum – 8 acres of green space located along Cooks Creek in the Town of Bridgewater.

Timberville Community Park – includes a swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, 2 softball diamonds, 86 picnic tables, basketball court, 2 shuffleboards, playground, 3 picnic shelters, horseshoe pits, barbecue pit, fishing and boating.

Broadway Community Park – 10 acres located in Broadway containing an athletic field and picnic area.

J. Frank Hillyard Garden and Field – 1 acre scenic garden with a gazebo, often used for special events. Includes 5 acre field with softball field, horseshoe pit, basketball court and picnic area; located in Broadway.

Grottoes Town Park – 54 acres along South River with a boat ramp, horseshoe pits, wetlands area and picnic area.

Dayton Community Parks – 5 potential areas exist in town where parks could be developed. One park has been developed along Cooks Creek at the intersection of College Street and Bowman Road. A 2-acre park has been developed at the intersection of Thompson Street and Westview Street.

Albert Long Park – 6-acre park located on Reservoir Street off Port Republic Road; contains a baseball field and picnic shelter.

Bergton Community Recreation Center – 8-acre area with playground equipment, picnic tables, picnic shelter and horseshoe pits. The building contains a fully equipped kitchen, restrooms, library and a multipurpose room.

Singers Glenn Community Recreation Center – outside are picnic tables, baseball/softball field, barbecue pit and playground equipment. Inside are restrooms, gymnasium, kitchen and a meeting room.

Broadway Community Center – facility used for meetings and special events.

Arey Assembly Hall – located in Bridgewater; includes a full kitchen and dining area with seating for 150 people.

Sports Facilities



Heritage Oaks Golf Course – 18 hole municipal golf course and driving range in Harrisonburg.

Westover Swimming Pool Complex – contains three different pools:

- Olympic Pool – open in the summer only; has 10 foot, 12 foot and 16 foot water slides.
- Diving Pool – open year round; has 2 1 meter diving boards.
- Tots Pool – open in the summer only; for children ages 6 and under.

Broadway Community Pool – outdoor pool open in the summer; located at Sunset Drive and Turner Avenue.

Ramblewood Fields Softball Complex – lighted softball field on Ramblewood Road in Harrisonburg.

Purcell Park Baseball/Softball Fields – located at Purcell Park in Harrisonburg.

Eastover Tennis Courts – four lighted courts located across from Spotswood Elementary school in Harrisonburg.

Purcell Tennis Courts – four courts located at Purcell Park in Harrisonburg.

Morrison Park Tennis Courts – two courts located at Morrison Park in Harrisonburg.

Ralph Sampson Park Tennis Courts – two courts located at Ralph Sampson Park in Harrisonburg.

Willow Street Tennis Courts – four courts located on Willow Street behind Harrisonburg High School.

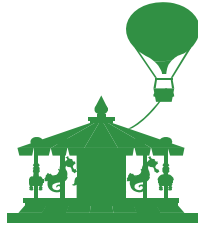
Smithland Road Soccer Fields – three fields located at 1542 Smithland Road in Harrisonburg.

Grottoes Ball Field – baseball/softball field located at 6th Street and Elm Avenue in the Town of Grottoes.

James Madison University – college campus in Harrisonburg with football stadium, basketball stadium, baseball field, tennis courts, soccer field, etc.

Eastern Mennonite University – college campus in Harrisonburg with tennis courts, softball field, gymnasium, track facility, etc.

Bridgewater College – campus in Bridgewater with an athletic complex including football field, baseball field, track facilities, soccer field and separate facility for lacrosse and field hockey.



Destination Points And Special Events

Special events and annual festivals are held throughout the area attracting thousands of tourists and local residents. These events and their venues can offer compatible linkages when developing greenways. Nearly every town and community hosts an annual event or festival that highlights the uniqueness of that community. Some of the larger events are described below:

Shenandoah Valley Beer and Wine Festival – annual beer and wine festival which attracts local participation from area beer distribution centers, breweries and vineyards; sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival – annual weeklong festival celebrating the music of J.S. Bach; includes activities and concerts held at various places throughout Harrisonburg.

Rockingham County Fair – annual county fair held at the fair grounds on Rt. 11 south of Harrisonburg; numerous exhibitions, shows and events are held on the fair grounds throughout the year.

Dayton Days – annual arts and crafts festival held in the Town of Dayton with over 200 local and regional exhibitors, craft demonstrations, children’s activities, entertainment and food.

Blue Grass Festival – musical event held annually at Grand Caverns near Grottoes.

Croquet Tournament – world class championship croquet lawn located behind Turner Ham Factory in Fulks Run with croquet games on Sunday afternoons.

International Festival — annual festival held in Hillandale Park in Harrisonburg to celebrate cultural diversity in the community with a wide variety of ethnic foods, music, and dance.

African-American Festival — held in April at Lucy Simms School and Ralph Sampson Park; features local and statewide artists, musicians, and food vendors.

Mid-Atlantic Wheel Chair Games — held in April at several venues in Harrisonburg; features Olympic-type competition for wheelchair athletes in events such as track and field, bowling, weightlifting, swimming and other sports.

Public Schools And College Campuses

Our public schools and college campuses not only offer recreational and sporting facilities, but also are key destination points for trails, bikeways, and greenways. The development of trails and bikeways to our public schools offer a safe, off-road means for students to travel and can offer important linkages between neighborhoods and schools.



Rockingham County

John Wayland Elementary
Elkton Elementary
Fulks Run Elementary
South River Elementary
Keezletown Elementary
Linville-Edom Elementary
MaGaheysville Elementary
Mountain View Elementary
Ottobine Elementary
Plains Elementary

Pleasant Valley Elementary
John C. Myers Elementary
Lacey Springs Elementary
Wilbur Pence Middle
Elkton Middle
Montevideo Middle
J. Frank Hillyard Middle
Spotswood High
Broadway High
Turner Ashby High
Bridgewater College

Harrisonburg

Keister Elementary
Spotswood Elementary
Stone Spring Elementary
James Madison University
Eastern Mennonite University

Waterman Elementary
Thomas Harrison Middle
Harrisonburg High



Historic and Cultural Sites

The many historical and culturally significant sites located throughout the area provide the perfect opportunity to develop greenways and open-space corridors that connect people to scenic destinations. There are dozens of historically significant sites in our area. Many of the sites are found on the Virginia Historic Landmark and the National Register of Historic Places. These sites attract thousands of tourists from throughout the country and offer compatible linkages when developing greenways.

Rockingham County Courthouse and Springhouse – historic landmark built of limestone, located on Court Square in Harrisonburg; replica of springhouse on site.

Daniel Harrison House/Fort Harrison – located in Dayton and built around 1749 by Daniel Harrison, brother of Thomas Harrison, the founder of Harrisonburg. The house was used as a fort in the 1750's.

Virginia Quilt Museum – located in the Warren-Sipe House in downtown Harrisonburg; contains a collection of traditional quilts as well as information on the role of quilting in society.

Hardesty Higgins House – historic structure located on Main Street in Harrisonburg; renovations planned for a history and transportation museum/visitor's center.

Lucy Simms School – currently utilized by the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisonburg and Rockingham; renovation plans for this building include an African American History museum, conference/meeting space, and educational classrooms.

Shenandoah Valley Folk Art and Heritage Center – located in Dayton; contains seasonal exhibits of cultural and regional history and Native American artifacts; also includes a 12-foot lighted map of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.

Reuel B. Pritchett Museum – houses over 10,000 items and artifacts, including a 15th Century Venice Bible; located in Bridgewater.

Port Republic Museum – contains information on Port Republic's Civil War history as well as its geographic and river history; located in the Kemper House (also known as the Turner Ashby House.)

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp – located in the Shenandoah National Park near Grottoes; used by the CCC in the 1930’s when the Shenandoah National Park facilities and Skyline Drive were being built.

Port Republic Battlefield – site of the Battle of Port Republic where Stonewall Jackson defeated General Shields on June 9, 1862; includes the Kemper House Museum.

Cross Keys Battlefield – site of the Battle of Cross Keys where Confederate troops under General Stonewall Jackson defeated Federal troops under General John C. Fremont.

Turner Ashby Monument – site where Turner Ashby, in charge of Stonewall Jackson’s cavalry, was mortally wounded; 1 mile east of I-81 on Port Republic Road.

Agrarian Historic Sites – there are numerous historic mills, furnaces and limeworks scattered throughout Rockingham County documenting the agrarian history of the area.

Court Square Theater – major entertainment venue in downtown Harrisonburg; hosts various dramatic, musical, and other events.

James Madison University (JMU) – State university in Harrisonburg with facilities for cultural events including Zirkle House and Masterpiece Season.

Bridgewater College – 4-year private college in Bridgewater; includes Cole Hall Auditorium used for community events.

Valley Playhouse – community theater in Harrisonburg where many different types of live performances are held.

Harrisonburg Children’s Museum – interactive, hand-on learning for children ages 2-12; located in Harrisonburg.

M. T. Brackbill Planetarium – houses Spitz A-4 projector that presents the sun, moon, major planets, 1,200 stars and other celestial phenomena; located at the Suter Science Center on the EMU campus in Harrisonburg.

Our Art Space In the Shenandoah (OASIS) – artist co-op with paintings, sculpture, jewelry, fabric, etc. on display and for sale; located in Harrisonburg.

Miller-Kite House – built in 1827 and donated to the Town of Elkton in 1984; restored as a Civil War museum.



Water Resources

The water resources in our area play an important role in the area's recreational and outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, and swimming. The numerous stocked streams in both the national forest and national park make Rockingham County an excellent and attractive place for anglers and fly-fishing. The major waterways in our area are the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, the North River and the South River as well as Blacks Run and Linville Creek. Numerous smaller rivers, streams and creeks traverse the area and feed into these larger bodies of water. Other water sources in the area include Lake Shenandoah and the many lakes created by the flood control dams like Hone Quarry. These water bodies and their floodplains offer an excellent opportunity for creating greenways and linking population centers and other recreational facilities, and can add special features to trails.

North Fork of the Shenandoah River – flows through the northwestern part of the County. Fishing, swimming, and canoeing.

South Fork of the Shenandoah – begins near Port Republic where the North and South Rivers come together; it then flows north along the base of the western slope of the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountain; fishing, canoeing, and rafting.

North River – flows from Augusta County through Bridgewater and the southern part of Rockingham County to Port Republic; it then joins the South River to form the South Fork of the Shenandoah.

South River – flows from Augusta County through the Town of Grottoes and joins the North River near Port Republic to form the South Fork of the Shenandoah.

Blacks Run – 11-mile tributary that flows through the City of Harrisonburg and joins Cooks Creek.

Linville Creek – flows through the Town of Broadway and is used for fishing and boating.

Dry River – flows through the southwestern part of the County and empties into the North River near Bridgewater.

Lake Shenandoah – natural lake southeast of Harrisonburg; stocked for trout fishing; managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Blue Hole – offers stream fishing and a picnic area with restroom facilities in the George Washington National Forest near Bergton.

Flood Control Lakes – flood control dams form 9 different lakes throughout the county. All are located in the George Washington National Forest and are stocked for trout fishing:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Slate Lick | Union Springs |
| Shoemaker | Skidmore (Switzer Dam) |
| Hog Pen (handicapped accessible) | Dry Run |
| Hone Quarry | Dry River |
| Briery Branch | |

Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – a 668-acre area protected wetland and natural community located in Rockingham County; managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.



Transportation and Scenic Byways

The rural character of our area with its scattered villages, beautiful farms, picturesque countryside, and magnificent vistas offer miles of scenic drives. Several road corridors in the area are included in Virginia’s Scenic Road map or designated as a scenic Virginia Byway. This program recognizes road corridors containing aesthetic or cultural value near areas of historic, natural or recreational significance and encourages travel to interesting destinations and away from high traffic corridors. Other transportation-related infrastructure to be considered when developing greenways and trails includes abandoned railroad lines and depots, gas lines, and engineered structures like tunnels and bridges.

Skyline Drive – completed in 1939, the scenic route covers 105 miles on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Route 42 – the old Harrisonburg–Warm Springs Turnpike from just south of Harrisonburg to the Augusta County line.

Route 11 – the old Valley Turnpike from the Augusta County line to just south of Harrisonburg and north of Harrisonburg to the Shenandoah County line.

Route 33 – from Harrisonburg east to the Shenandoah National Park and from Harrisonburg west to the West Virginia border.

Recommendations for Rockingham ~ Harrisonburg

In order to protect, preserve, and enhance the area's vast natural resources and contribute to the Region's open space and recreational opportunities, the following recommendations are suggested:

- (1) Support plans to complete the Blacks Run Greenway and Liberty Park. Blacks Run Greenway would run along 11 miles of Blacks Run and two of its tributaries through downtown Harrisonburg, linking a number of City parks and schools, as well as residential and commercial areas with walking and biking trails. Liberty Park, a universal garden under construction, will serve as the gateway to the greenway.
- (2) Support the Harrisonburg Bicycle Plan which includes 23 road sections that connect JMU, EMU, and residential and commercial areas. Long-range plans will connect to communities in Rockingham County and extend east to the Skyline Drive.
- (3) Support the Staunton to Harrisonburg Rail-with-Trail, a proposed trail to run along the Shenandoah Valley Railroad from Staunton to Harrisonburg.
- (4) Support the North River Trail, a proposed trail to run along the abandoned Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad from North River Gorge in Augusta County to Bridgewater in Rockingham County.
- (5) Encourage partnerships with private landowners and non-profits like Friends of Blacks Run, Massanutten Resort, and Trouts Unlimited for multi-use trail use by the public.
- (6) Create tourist-friendly road and trail maps for cycling, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and scenic driving.
- (7) Identify and develop appropriate access to the public waters and free-flowing water systems in the County.
- (8) Identify and utilize old logging roads as mountain biking and equestrian trails in the National Forests.
- (9) Evaluate the South Fork of the Shenandoah River to determine suitability for designation to the Virginia Scenic River program.
- (10) Support Rockingham County's Comprehensive Plan that calls for designating greenways along the 100-year floodplains and linking towns and planned growth areas in the county with a system of trails and bikeways.

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- (11) Develop a Bicycle Facilities Plan for Rockingham County that would connect residential, commercial, and natural resources sites and would identify specific routes for future dedicated bike lanes and paths.
 - (12) Support plans to develop a horse-drawn buggy trail along Rt. 42 from Bridgewater through Dayton to Harrisonburg.
 - (13) Support plans to develop a designated bikeway/wider shoulders along Rt. 42 from Bridgewater to Dayton.
 - (14) There are numerous opportunities for creating greenways and walking and biking trails in the County. Some areas for potential greenways and trails are described below:
 - *Broadway to Harrisonburg* – a 14-mile greenway/trail connecting the Town of Broadway and the City of Harrisonburg along Linville Creek; small docks and boat ramps could be constructed for access to Linville Creek for fishing and boating.
 - *Grottoes to Port Republic* – 5 mile greenway hiking/biking trail along the South River or historic trolley line easement from Town of Grottoes to Village of Port Republic.
 - *Broadway to Timberville* – 2 mile trail from Broadway to Timberville along North Fork of the Shenandoah River.
 - *Bridgewater to Dayton* – horse-drawn buggy trail between Bridgewater and Dayton with extensions to Harrisonburg along Rt. 42.
 - (15) Support plans to develop two new pocket parks in the City of Harrisonburg: Denton Park and Liberty Park.
 - (16) Locate, identify, and map public waysides, picnic areas and historic roadside markers/landmarks for scenic driving/biking tours of the county.
 - (17) Support plans to acquire additional land in the City of Harrisonburg to develop city parks and playing fields.
 - (18) Support plans to develop a handicapped accessible walking trail in Grottoes Town Park with access to the South River.
 - (19) Support plans to develop a loop trail from Grottoes Town Park to Grand Caverns, along the bicycle path (Dogwood Avenue) and South River.
 - (20) Promote and expand usage of Brown's Gap, a historic road that leads from Grottoes to the Shenandoah National Park.

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- (21) Identify an east-west greenway corridor along the North River from the Shenandoah National Park to the George Washington National Forest that would preserve and protect open space, environmentally sensitive areas, and important wildlife habitat from future development or disturbance. This corridor would also serve as a natural floodplain, act as a riparian buffer, and assist with erosion and flood control.
 - (22) Support efforts to remove Deadhead Dam, an old power dam near Island Ford on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River near Elkton. This unsafe, ineffective structure is an impedance to water flow, aquatic life and river traffic and a major hazard to river recreation.

References

A variety of information was collected and reviewed to help characterize the region and its natural resources. Most of the information was obtained from existing sources, i.e. comprehensive plans, recreational and greenway plans, brochures, maps, and websites. Below is a list of the pertinent documents and sources used to develop this plan.

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2. Glen Maury Park Master Plan – Buena Vista, Virginia 2002.
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6. Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trails, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
7. Harrisonburg–Rockingham Environs – Hiking and Recreational Guide, June 1995.
8. Mid-Atlantic Highland Action Program, Canaan Valley Institute, July 2002.
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Photo Sources and Credits:

Most of the pictures used in this document were obtained from websites of various organizations and local governments. They are listed and sourced below:

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Canoe - James River Basin Canoe Livery
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