



## November 2023 Update



### NRVRC Annual Award Recipients

The New River Valley Regional Commission is pleased to announce three award winners for 2023. Citizen of the Valley is Cathy Hanks, Friends of Peak Creek / New River Conservancy; Champions of the Valley are Delegate Jason Ballard, Virginia House of

Delegates and Robert Graham, Pulaski County Schools Superintendent. Please visit our website to read the full [press release](#).

For further information, please contact Kevin Byrd ([kbyrd@nrvc.org](mailto:kbyrd@nrvc.org)) 540-639-9313.

Pictured above: Delegate Jason Ballard, Cathy Hanks, Robert Graham

# 2023 THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

ReNewing the New River  
One River, Two States  
One Bag at a Time

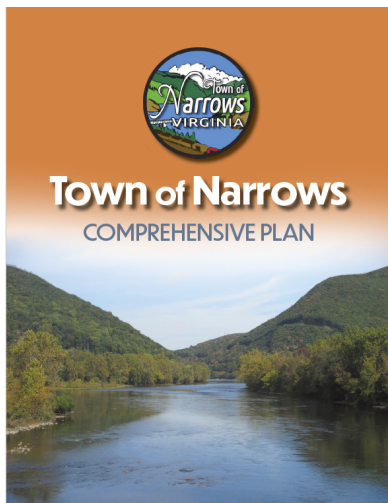


 **604 VOLUNTEERS**

 **442 TIRES**

 **15+ TONS OF TRASH**

for more information visit:  
[reNewthenew.org](http://reNewthenew.org)



## Town of Narrows Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Narrows recently completed the first draft of the comprehensive plan. One of the goals of this plan was to develop a fresh vision for the town's future, and to shape this vision, the Town gathered input from many parts of the

## NRV Commuter Challenge: Happening in November 2023 – Join us!

RIDE Solutions NRV is hosting a commuter challenge during November. All companies and commuters are invited to join this free, incentive-based transportation challenge. Participation is easy, free, and requires no long-term commitment. Participants simply download the [free ConnectingVA app](#), register, and log at least one bike, walk, transit, or carpool/vanpool trip for a chance to win fun prizes. The NRV Commuter Challenge will also recognize local businesses with the most trips logged by employees.

Hosted by RIDE Solutions, the transportation demand management

community – residents from all age groups, business owners, visitors, workers and stakeholders.

The Town is in the final phase of the planning process which includes public hearings and adoption of the amended comprehensive plan. The Town of Narrows Planning Commission and the Town Council will hold their public hearings on November 13, 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall located at 210 Main Street, Narrows, Virginia, where the public can provide comments about the plan.

For more information, contact Aphie Fancon at [afancon@nrvc.org](mailto:afancon@nrvc.org).

agency of the New River Valley Regional Commission, the NRV Commuter Challenge encourages people to consider their transportation choices and make the pledge to try at least one new transportation mode. Participants are encouraged to walk, bike, take the bus, or carpool/vanpool instead of driving alone for at least one trip to or from work during the month-long challenge period. Our goal is to reach 1,000 participating commute trips in the New River Valley.

For details about the NRV Commuter Challenge, contact Christy Straight at [cstraight@nrvc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvc.org).

To learn more about how RIDE Solutions can help commuters find transportation alternatives to driving alone, visit: <https://ridesolutions.org/>

## Regional Commission Welcomes Leo Priddy!

Welcome to our new Economic Development Planning Specialist, Leo Priddy! He previously served the region as a Small Business Advisor for the Greater Roanoke & New River Valley Small Business Development Center and has several years of experience with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Leo's background lends to his passion of supporting our region, as his curiosity and resourcefulness provide communities with someone eager to help them thrive.



Leo received his Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Virginia Tech. In support of his professional development, Leo has also graduated from the Montgomery County Chamber Leadership New River Valley program, attended three years of the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives staff development conference, and completed two years through The Institute of Organization Management.

While originally from Roanoke, Virginia, he is delighted to call the New River Valley his home. Leo and his wife Emily, an Art Teacher for Blacksburg Middle School, live in Christiansburg with their dog, Odie, and hedgehog, Hokie Pokie. Their family enjoys exploring the New River Valley, whether it's hopping on the Huckleberry Trail or experiencing the countless community events that make this part of Southwest Virginia a great place to live. Leo can be reached at [lpriddy@nrvc.org](mailto:lpriddy@nrvc.org).

## NADO Innovation Award

The NRV Pandemic After Action Plan (live link to the library location) received a 2023 NADO Innovation Award. The awarded projects will be featured at the November 8th Impact Awards reception at NADO's 2023 Annual Training Conference in Cleveland OH. The awardees represent programs and projects that provide unique and significant tools, processes or programmatic advances in their community. The NRV Pandemic After Action Plan was awarded in the area of aging, health and human services. The Plan was developed as a reflective document to highlight lessons learned and cooperative advancements in the New River Valley during our collaborative regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, contact Holly Lesko, [hlesko@nrvc.org](mailto:hlesko@nrvc.org).



## We're Hiring!

The NRV Recovery Ecosystem program funded through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and local match will be launching programs to enhance understanding and support direct programming in the area of opioid abatement for our region. Several regional partnering organizations will be collaborating with local governments and community groups to address the myriad of needs and opportunities to support recovery in our area. The NRVRC will be providing programmatic oversight, accountability and alignment of the projects and outreach efforts. As this work kicks off, we will be hiring three positions to support the effort including a Project Manager and two Community Accountability Coordinators. Interviews began in October and these positions will remain open until filled.

For more information, contact Holly Lesko, [hlesko@nrvc.org](mailto:hlesko@nrvc.org).

## Town of Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan



The Town of Christiansburg is launching their Comprehensive Plan update process and developing a renewed vision for the Town's future. Town staff with assistance from the Regional Commission will offer multiple opportunities for community members to provide input through online surveys, quick polls, interactive maps, and focus groups. Christiansburg community members are invited to participate in the planning process which will guide the Town's future. We would like to get your input on important issues, future needs, opportunities, and preferences.

Visit <https://qrco.de/CBurg> to take the survey and share it with friends, family, and anyone you know in the community!

For more information, contact Aphi Fancon at [afancon@nrvc.org](mailto:afancon@nrvc.org).



# Virginia Statewide Trail Plan Survey

In 2022 the Virginia General Assembly directed the Department of Transportation (VDOT) to establish a [State Trails Office](#) (STO) and for the STO to develop a Statewide Trails Plan. This plan will inventory existing and proposed multi-use trails in the Commonwealth, identify key gaps in Virginia's network of multi-use trails, and outline the next steps and best practices in trail development. While Virginia has many different types of trails, the Statewide Trails Plan will focus on multi-use trails that preferably are separated from motor vehicle traffic; preferably have a hard surface; strive for a grade of less than 5%; preferably are wide enough to enable a wide variety of non-motorized users to operate safely; strive for regional connectivity by linking people to places and other trail facilities.

**Help Build Virginia's Network of Trails**  
Virginia's Statewide Multi-use Trails Plan will lay the groundwork for a network of multi-use trails in the Commonwealth. The State Trails Office invites you and your community to participate in the process.

**The Statewide Multi-use Trail Plan will:**

- Inventory existing and proposed multi-use trails in the Commonwealth
- Identify key gaps in Virginia's network of multi-use trails
- Outline next steps and best practices in multi-use trail development
- Provide opportunities for community visioning and engagement

**We want to hear from YOU!** **Get involved!**

**Learn More Online**  
vdot.virginia.gov/trails

**Take The Survey**  
publicinput.com/itp

**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

Public participation is a critical part of the planning process, and the State Trails Office just released an [online survey](#) to gather feedback from trail users, non-users, those who are "trail-curious," and the community at-large. The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete, and we encourage you to share it with your family, friends, and colleagues who reside in the Commonwealth.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how to get involved in the planning process, please reach out to [statetrailsoffice@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:statetrailsoffice@vdot.virginia.gov). Thank you so much for being a part of the first Statewide Trails Planning effort in Virginia!

[Visit our website](#)

New River Valley Regional Commission | [nrvrc.org](http://nrvrc.org)



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