



June 2022 Update

US EDA Leadership Visits Region

In early May, US Economic Development Administration Deputy Assistant Secretary Michele Chang visited the New River Valley to discuss collaborations in the Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant program and visit US EDA investments in Floyd County. Secretary Chang moderated a panel discussion at Volvo Trucks in Dublin with leaders in the transportation cluster including manufacturers, higher education institutions, and workforce development partners. Following the panel discussion she visited with Floyd County leaders to tour a previous EDA investment in the Floyd Innovation Center and a current EDA investment in Building 1 of the Floyd Growth Center campus. The New River Valley certainly shined bright during the visit!





New River Water Trail

The New River Water Trail Expansion (NRWT) project was recently selected by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trail and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) as one of their new community technical assistance projects. NPS-RTCA will work with the New River Valley Regional Commission and local partners across Pulaski, Montgomery, and Giles Counties along with the City of Radford to develop an organizational structure for the NRWT, perform a gap analysis to identify a strategy for increasing river access, and development of a public-private partnership program. This project will officially launch in the Fall of 2022 and run for at least a year.

[Full Article](#)



Plant SWVA

Native plants are an important and often lacking part of the built environment. Through a grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation the Plant



Radford East Main Downtown Implementation Plan

Longer days and summer weather on the horizon brings exciting times in Downtown Radford! The City of Radford in collaboration with the Regional Commission are proud to share the new Radford East Main engagement site.

[Full Article](#)



Karst Workshop

Virginia's Department of Conservation Resources, led by their Karst Protection team in partnership with the Cave Conservancy of Virginia and the

Southwest Virginia Natives Campaign has been working to increase regional access to native plants.

Regional Commission hosted a two-day Karst Workshop on May 3 and 4 at the Pulaski County Innovation Center.

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Business Continuity Team Update

The BCT continues to support schools and the community with REVIVE training on site. The impact of the pandemic on substance use disorder was dramatic and the ability to address overdoses by citizens, employers and family members can offer an important resource to literally save lives.



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NRVRC Introduces Bethany Peters

Bethany was born and raised in the New River Valley. She has a creative background with a Bachelors in Music Education from Radford University, and transitioned into the information technology field with a web development degree and design certificates from New River Community College. Bethany began with the Commission as an intern in March 2021 and now serves as a full-time Regional Planner/Information Specialist since May 2022. In her role she supports community outreach and education initiatives by communicating ideas through technology and art.

Bethany can be contacted at bethany@nrvc.org.



Virginia Rural Leadership Institute

In May 2022, the Virginia Rural Center announced 29 individuals that were chosen to make up the Inaugural Cohort of the Virginia Rural Leadership Institute (VRLI). VRLI is a leadership program that develops and supports highly skilled, highly motivated leaders who are committed to revitalizing their communities across rural Virginia.



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