



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL commission

REGIONAL REVIEW JUNE 2026



Driving Regional Progress Together

Photo: Summer day on the Roanoke River Blueway. June is National Great Doors Month - a reason to enjoy our region's many outdoor recreation assets! Photo by Jennifer Griffin, courtesy of Visit Virginia Blue Ridge.

Plan your Roanoke River Blueway Adventure with the 2026 Brochure and Map!



Explore the **Roanoke River Blueway** with the 2026 updated **brochure and map**—your go-to guide for planning a day on the water!

The brochure features **22 public access points** on the Roanoke River and tributaries, launch ramps for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, and boats, distances between access sites, areas with rapids, safety guidance, and tips for protecting the river. You'll also find information on local outfitters to help make your next Blueway adventure even easier.

Brochures are available in various locations in Roanoke Valley including:

- **Virginia's Blue Ridge Visitor Center** - 101 Shenandoah Ave NE, Roanoke
- **Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center** - 56 Roanoke River Pkwy, Roanoke
- **Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission** - 313 Luck Ave SW Roanoke
- Roanoke Blacksburg Airport
- Roanoke Mountain Adventures
- Salem Visitors Center
- Mill Mountain Discovery Center
- Colony House Motor Lodge
- Vinton Library

Want brochures? Contact RVARC at 540-863-1234 or visit our [Blueway Website](#) [Brochure PDF](#) or email info@rvarc.org to coordinate a pickup or drop off.



RIDE Solutions: 2026 Bike Award Winners

The Bike Awards is a recognition program celebrating individuals who are doing an outstanding job in making the Roanoke Region a place where bicycling is safe, inclusive and fun for everyone.

This year's bike champions:

2026 Bike Hero Award: Tom Carr

Super Volunteer, Grant Writer, Board Member

2026 Extraordinary Bike Professional: Ian Coffey

City of Roanoke Traffic Engineer

Learn More about the Winners!

Special Bike Events in the Region



A promotional poster for the USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships. The top half features a photograph of a cyclist in a white jersey and blue shorts riding a mountain bike on a paved road, surrounded by a cheering crowd. A red banner at the top left reads "MARK YOUR CALENDARS". Below the photo is a black box with the "VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE SPORTS" logo and a QR code. The bottom half of the poster is dark teal with white text. It includes the USA Cycling logo, the event title "ENDURANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS" and location "ROANOKE, VA". It lists three events: "MARATHON | JULY 12" (HOLLINS UNIVERSITY & CARVINS COVE), "SHORT TRACK | JULY 15-16" (ELMWOOD PARK IN DOWNTOWN ROANOKE), and "CROSS COUNTRY | JULY 17-19" (EXPLORE PARK IN ROANOKE COUNTY). The bottom edge has a decorative border of red, white, and blue diagonal stripes.

USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships

[More Info - Visit VBR](#)

July 12-19, 2026
Virginia's Blue Ridge

YOU'RE INVITED!



**HISTORICAL
MARKER
DEDICATION**

Monday, June 29, 2026 at 8am

Rt 779 / Catawba Road, Daleville, VA
Approximately 1 mile from Rt. 220

Join us for the dedication ceremony
of the new
VA DHR Historic Marker
commemorating the
TransAmerica Bicycle Trail
aka USBR76.

Over 4100 people from around the
world participated during the
summer of 1976, cycling roads
chosen for their rural scenic
landscapes. Virginia's 550+ miles of
USBR76 include many historic
points of interest along the way.

This historic marker highlights
Botetourt's place along this
unforgettable journey.
Come out and honor the spirit of
adventure, community, and
America's 250-year story as we
continue to welcome cyclists
visiting Daleville.



Bikecentennial76
Historical Marker Dedication
June 29, 8 AM
Rt 779/Catawba Rd, Daleville

Bike 76 VA Info



Rural Transportation Survey: Make sure your community is represented!

Residents, businesses, and community stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the **Rural Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan**.

A public survey is available at <https://engage.rvarc.org/rlrtp>.

This plan will guide transportation priorities through 2050 for Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Franklin Counties, the City of Covington, and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Fincastle, New Castle, and Rocky Mount.

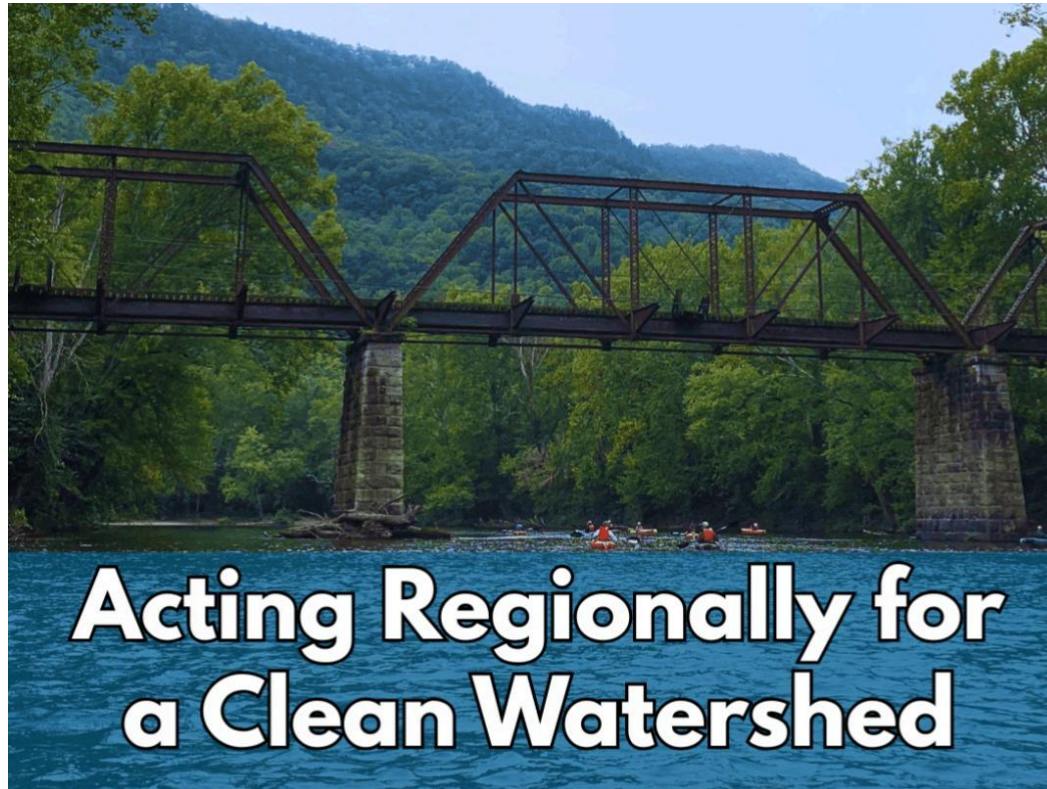
Feedback is crucial for identifying transportation needs, such as road conditions, safety, and connectivity. Public input will help develop strategies to enhance safety, maintain infrastructure, and improve access to jobs, schools, and healthcare.

Your perspective is important - whether you drive, walk, bike, ride transit, or rely on community transportation in our region's rural areas!

Please help us spread the word to make sure all rural localities in our region are represented on through your organization's social media or newsletter. See the link for our media kit.

For assistance, call 540-343-4417 or email Alison Stinnette, astinnette@rvarc.org.

Take the Survey!



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week was June 6-14, celebrating the largest estuary in the United States. Waterways within the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region feed into the **Upper James River**, then flow nearly 350 miles to the Chesapeake Bay.

 **How we Act Regionally for a Clean Watershed:**

 **Supporting Tree Plantings in the Region**

Tree plantings enhance water quality by slowing rainfall, increasing infiltration, and reducing stormwater runoff. They absorb water and remove nutrients and contaminants like nitrogen and phosphorus, while stabilizing erosion and improving watershed health along streambanks.

Rain Barrel Workshops

Rain barrels improve water quality by capturing rainwater from rooftops before it flows into storm drains and nearby streams as polluted runoff. This helps reduce erosion, flooding, and the amount of fertilizers, sediment, and other pollutants that reach local waterways.

Septic Pump-Out Program

Regular septic maintenance prevents system failures that could release untreated wastewater into groundwater, streams, and lakes. By removing accumulated solids, pump-outs reduce the risk of contaminants reaching nearby water, protecting drinking water sources and help keep watersheds healthier.

Water Quality Education

We engage in public education and outreach to promote environmental sustainability and encourage participation in water protection efforts. We partner with nonprofits, schools and public agencies throughout the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region.

Learn more about regional water quality and sustainability initiatives at rvarc.org/resiliency.

Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission meets at RVARC



The first **Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission** meeting at the Regional Commission office took place on May 27, joined by the **new Greenway Coordinator, Molly Maxwell**.

Molly shared that it was "an honor to finally meet the full membership of the Greenways Commission, the efforts of whom have culminated into hundreds of miles of trails throughout the Roanoke Valley over the past 30 years. I'm looking forward to working with this dedicated group to continue expanding this important community asset."

Upcoming Meetings



Roanoke Valley TPO
June 25, 2026 @ 1 PM
313 Luck Ave SW
Roanoke, VA 24016



Regional Commission
June 25, 2026 @ 3 PM
313 Luck Ave SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

Meeting Calendar

Public participation is encouraged in these meetings, with a designated time for public comments.

Tune in virtually: Regional Commission and RVTPO meetings are available to watch later within two business days on our [YouTube](#) page.



Public Comment open for RVARC 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Community members, organizations and businesses in the region are invited to review and comment on the **proposed 2026 draft of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** through **June 21st**.

The regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a planning document and process that brings the public and private sectors together to create a regional economic roadmap.

✓ View the draft CEDS document and other project information at <https://engage.rvarc.org/CEDS>

An official public hearing on the draft CEDS will be held at the June 25, 2026 3:00 pm

everblue



Two ways to benefit from one program

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant



START A CAREER IN CLEAN ENERGY

*Earn 3 nationally recognized credentials.
Real field experience in your community.*



FIND OUT WHERE YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS ARE GOING

*Free professional home energy audit
No Cost. No Obligations.*

APPLY TODAY!

Full details and applications, eecbg.everbluetraining.com/virginia

The Towns of **Rocky Mount** and **Vinton**, along with **Botetourt County** and other participating Virginia localities, have received funding through the federal **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)** program. In partnership with **Everblue**, the program will provide no-cost home energy audits to residents while offering hands-on workforce training for those interested in building careers in energy efficiency.

This effort is designed to meet two needs at once: helping homeowners better understand and reduce their energy use, and building a local workforce equipped with industry-recognized credentials.

Participants selected for the **workforce training program** will complete a two-phase process and earn three nationally recognized credentials: Building Science Principles, BPI Building Analyst Technician, and BPI Building Analyst Professional. The program is open to contractors, tradespeople, and residents interested in entering or expanding within the energy efficiency field.

At the same time, **homeowners in participating localities can apply to receive a professional home energy audit at no cost.** These audits evaluate how energy is used in the home and identify practical steps to improve efficiency and reduce monthly utility bills. There is no obligation to complete any recommended improvements.

Training will begin in late June, with additional sessions scheduled throughout the summer. Application deadlines vary and space is limited for both workforce participants and homeowners.

More information, including application details, can be found through participating local government websites or the program portal at <https://eecbg.everbluetraining.com/virginia>

APPLY HERE



Blue Ridge Commerce Park, Roanoke

Roanoke Regional Partnership: RINGANA Chooses Roanoke for its U.S. Headquarters

RINGANA's announcement that it will invest \$85 million and create 435 jobs here over the next five years is the largest capital investment of any Foreign Direct Investment project in the Roanoke Region's history, and the largest jobs announcement

by a newly locating manufacturer in more than 30 years.



[Read More](#)
Douthat and other Virginia State Parks Celebrates 90 Years and honor the CCC

June 13 marked a special anniversary celebrating 90 years of **Douthat State Park** the **Civilian Conservation Corps**—the men whose hard work and dedication built the foundation of the park we enjoy today in the **Alleghany Highlands**. Opened in June 1936, Douthat was one of Virginia's original state parks and stands as a lasting testament to the CCC.

[Learn More](#)

The Regional Commission is a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of this region.

Connect with Us!



www.RVARC.ORG

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
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Phone: 540-343-4417