



March 2026 Update

NRVRC Welcomes New Board Members

The Regional Commission welcomes new members, C.B. Andrews, an elected official representing the Town of Pembroke; Richard Gibson, a citizen representing Virginia Tech Foundation, and Mikhail Mann, an elected official representing the Town of Rich Creek.

Town of Pearisburg Comprehensive Plan

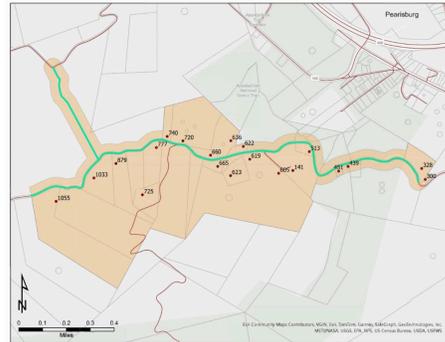
On February 9th, the Town of Pearisburg hosted a Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff for Town Council, Planning Commission, and department heads and staff. The kickoff event featured a presentation and 'Built Game' activity to explain the comprehensive plan development process and encourage participants to imagine what they want the future of Pearisburg to look like. The atmosphere during the Built Game was energetic and collaborative as attendees practiced decision-making in a simulated environment where land use priorities, similar to real-world scenarios, sometimes differed.



For more information, please contact Emma Carroll, ecarroll@nrvc.org.

Giles County Receives \$600,000 For Waterline Extension Project

This project will provide new public water service for 20 households located adjacent to Cross Avenue, in Pearisburg. Construction will include the installation of approximately 7,900 linear feet of 4-inch PVC water main line, service connections, hydrants, and all necessary appurtenances to serve the existing predominantly low-to-moderate (LMI) neighborhood. The proposed project is anticipated to directly benefit several LMI income residents and improve the community through expanded access to potable water year-round.



Several homes are currently served by natural springs that no longer provide consistent water supply. Quantitatively, 93.8 percent of residents surveyed in the neighborhood indicated existing issues with water quantity, and 75 percent indicated issues with water pressure. The Regional Commission was pleased to collaborate with county staff to prepare the successfully awarded Community Development Block Grant, funded by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

For more information, please contact Elijah Sharp at esharp@nrvc.org.

NRV Revolving Loan Fund: Flexible Financing for Growing Businesses

Access to capital can be one of the biggest hurdles for small businesses, especially in the early stages of growth. If traditional bank financing is not the right fit yet, the New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund (NRV RLF) may be a strong option to help businesses move forward.

NRV Recovery Ecosystem Collaboration with Virginia Tech

The New River Health District's mobile outreach service, Rise Above, the NRV Peer Coalition, along with the Virginia Department of Health, Carilion Clinic, and other community partners hosted open, welcoming conversations on substance use in the New River Valley, grounded in public health, lived experience, and real solutions. These free events, held at public libraries,

Managed by the New River Valley Regional Commission, the NRV RLF offers small business loans typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Funds can be used for equipment, space improvements, inventory, or working capital.

This program is designed specifically for businesses that may not meet conventional lending criteria or are assembling multiple sources of funding. There is no strict minimum credit score requirement. Instead, applications are reviewed holistically, with an emphasis on the business plan, cash flow, and growth potential. For many entrepreneurs, the program also provides a valuable opportunity to build or strengthen business credit while positioning for future financing.

The process begins with a short pre-application. If eligible, will be invited to submit a full application for committee review. All loans are approved by a volunteer committee of regional public and private sector leaders committed to supporting small business development across the New River Valley.

If you're launching, expanding, or simply need flexible capital to move forward, we encourage you to connect with us.

Learn more at www.nrvrc.org/economy and check out the Revolving Loan Fund section, or contact Leo Priddy at lpriddy@nrvrc.org.

bring together community members, families, providers, and leaders to discuss overdose prevention, available resources, and how we can work together to strengthen and save lives in the NRV.

For more information contact, Erika Slagel-Perry, eslagelperry@nrvrc.org



NRV RECOVERY
ECOSYSTEM



Top: Dr. Aparna Shah,
Dept. of
Neuroscience; Left: Dr.
Sophie Wenzel, Center
for Public Health
Practice and Research





New River Valley Regional Commission

INFORMATION SESSIONS

VIRGINIA DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDING

FEBRUARY 23RD

12 NOON, AND 6PM
PULASKI COUNTY
INNOVATION CENTER

MARCH 3RD

6PM- *HIAWASEE*
FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARCH 11TH

6PM- *MCCOY FIRE*
DEPARTMENT

Annual Livability in Action Regional Exchange

The 12th Annual Livability in Action Regional Exchange will be held March 25th at the German Club in Blacksburg. Lightning round speakers will touch on topics such as hurricane relief and recovery, housing, downtown revitalization, community-university partnerships, and more. Plus, we'll highlight how local governments used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support their communities after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a free event open to the community. [Register here!](#)

2026 DHCD Grant Management Workshop



Mark your calendars for the 2026 DHCD Grant Management Workshop, to be held **April 28-30**. This event is for grantees, grant managers, and consultants who work with the CDBG, IPR Flex, Lead, ARC, DPA (HOME and Pilot DPA) and ARS programs, and will cover fundamental components of grant management, housing rehab, and homebuyer and tenant education. The workshop is virtual and will be offered at no cost to the participants.

Registration has not yet opened, but please contact gmw@dhcd.virginia.gov for more information.

[Visit our website](#)

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvrc.org



New River Valley Regional Commission | 6580 Valley Center Drive Suite 124 | Radford, VA
24141 US