



December 2020 Update



BCT supports Hokies Gives Back Program

The Business Continuity Team supported the Virginia Tech Women's Center and Graduate Life Center to provide free masks to children and adult participants in the Hokies Give Back program on November 11-12, 2020. This program provides free children's clothing, toys and supplies to international student and staff families. This year, the program was opened to all university staff and students who had need of these supplies. The free masks were well received and with the governor's new expanded mask mandates to children 5 and older, these resources couldn't come at a better time. Be committed and be well.

For more information about resources and programming support for businesses, schools and families, please contact Holly Lesko (hlesko@nrvc.org).



NRV Road to Wellness Website Overhaul

The Commission is working with Uncork It and the New River Valley Public Health Task Force to overhaul the New River Health District's Road to Wellness site (nrroadtowellness.com). The website houses resources such as the District's weekly COVID Q&A with Dr. Noelle Bissel, our regional COVID dashboard, and information on other topics, such as rabies. Stay tuned for updates in the next couple of weeks!

Business Continuity Team Update



The Business Continuity Team (BCT) has been working with the NRV Public Health Task Force to ensure that businesses can remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since August the team has been answering commonly asked questions regarding COVID-19, reviewing and developing business continuity plans, fielding calls from the New River Health District, performing N-95 fit tests, on-site testing coordination, and contact tracing. In October, the position of Public Health School Liaison was filled by Holly Lesko who has been responding to school mitigation and case response protocols.

[Full Article](#)

The BCT will continue to assist the businesses in the NRV and will strive to keep these businesses safely open during this pandemic. For further information, please contact Ashley Briggs (abriggs@nrvc.org), or Melanie Morris (mmorris@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Workshop Recap

On October 26-28th, the Town of Pembroke and Giles County hosted a series of virtual workshops as part of the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) program. The workshop sessions are the focal point of the planning process, bringing together federal and local partners to discuss local outdoor recreation and economic development needs and potential solutions, and to work collaboratively to prioritize goals, identify the most impactful projects, and think through the next steps to bring those projects to implementation. The planning process began in late 2019 and later adapted to an online format. During the sessions, 25-30 participants spent 10+ hours together over the course of several sessions, working together to identify a vision, goals, and specific actions to realize the locally set goals.

[Full Article](#)

For further information, please contact Patrick O'Brien (pobrien@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

Pulaski County Parks

The Commission recently began working with Pulaski County providing design assistance for the parks across the County. The technical assistance will include support in designing placement of elements like walking trails, playgrounds, picnic benches, ballfields, etc. In September the project was launched with a tour of O'dell Park in Hiwassee and Draper Park in Draper. In partnership with County Supervisors, County staff, local citizens, and community groups, the Commission will create conceptual designs that will be used to guide the County in park improvements for years to come. The Commission looks forward to continuing work with Pulaski County at Scheffe Park, Smith Farm, and Fairview Home Pocket Park in the coming year.



For further information, please contact Nicole Hersch (nicole@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

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