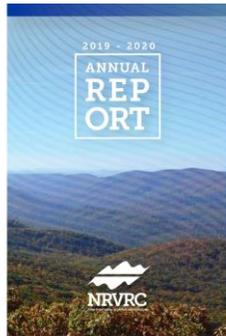




November 2020 Update



The New River Valley Regional Commission is pleased to present its [2019-20 Annual Report](#). This report highlights the projects and programs that took place over the past fiscal year.

Virginia Outdoors Plan Survey

The Virginia Outdoors Plan Survey is currently available. Completion of this survey provides useful information about the activities and desires of outdoor recreation for all Virginians. Reports on this crowd-sourced survey will be included in the 2023 Virginia Outdoors Plan which is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Comments from the New River Valley will inform future planning needs and provide a greater understanding of recreation needs at the local and state level. This survey will replace the regional public meetings that usually inform the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Learn more about the Virginia Outdoors Plan



here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop> Complete the survey before Nov 30, 2020: <https://conta.cc/31NUq10>
photo credit: Alisa Moody

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

New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan



The Regional Commission recently received notice of a grant award from the Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER Initiative! We'll use this support for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*, which will develop a plan to cultivate natural assets around the New River to increase talent attraction, tourism, and job growth. The project will formulate a strategy to improve river accessibility and trail signage, provide a market analysis of user groups and

potential partners, and create a marketing strategy for the water trail. The strategic plan will develop an expansion model that can be applied throughout Virginia and its surrounding Appalachian states. This is one of 51 recently announced POWER projects aimed at strengthening and diversifying Appalachia's coal-impacted communities.

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

Giles County hosts Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Workshop

On October 26-28th, the Town of Pembroke and Giles County 'hosted' a virtual workshop as part of the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) program. Through RERC assistance, a planning team appointed by EPA and its federal counterparts will help partner communities create an action plan to grow the local outdoor recreation economy in ways that promote sustainable resource management and environmentally friendly community development. Recreation Economy for Rural Communities is sponsored by the USDA-Forest Service, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and EPA.

[Full Article](#)

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

Blue Ridge Virtual Eco Fair

Sustain Floyd is hosting the Blue Ridge Virtual Eco Fair November 14th and 15th. This year's Eco Fair is a well-curated educational program consisting of panels, live lessons, and workshops in subjects of homestead start-up, perma-culture design, earth systems awareness, organic gardening, as well as simple construction techniques to increase a building's energy efficiency and livability. In conjunction with the event, RIDE Solutions was brought on to moderate a live panel discussion regarding alternative transportation. This panel discussion will discuss the latest innovations and trends regarding alternative transportation and will include multiple transportation experts.



For further information, please contact James Jones (jjones@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.



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