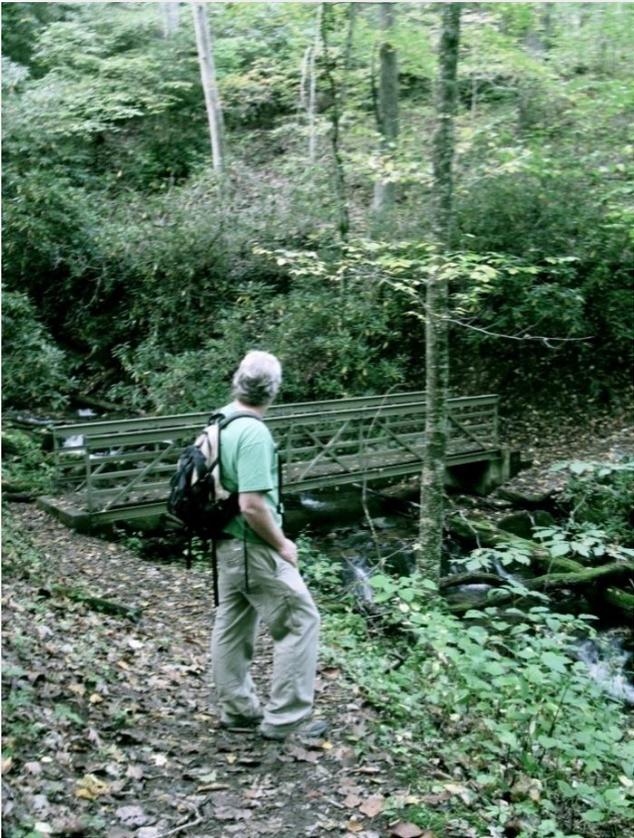




RIVERS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

PATRICK COUNTY, VA



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Patrick County, VA

2013

Prepared by:

The Dan River Basin Association

www.danriver.org

Guidance provided by:

The Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group

and Various Organizations, Residents and Officials of Patrick County and the Town of Stuart





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1: INTRODUCTION

In early 2011, a group of Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) volunteers and community members formed the Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group, made up of Patrick County citizens concerned with protecting their environment and promoting outdoor recreation. The Rivers & Trails Group soon began speaking to residents, business owners and organizations about the possibility of developing a county-wide plan to enhance amenities and protect our abundant natural and cultural resources.

In conducting research, holding public input meetings and talking with people, it became clear that there is a need to address the physical and economic health of Patrick County. Patrick has alarmingly high rates of obesity, physical inactivity, lack of access to health care and lack of medical insurance, indicating a need for more preventative health-care measures and initiatives that encourage healthy lifestyles. Aside from health and wellness trends, one in four children in Patrick County live in poverty and there is a high rate of unemployment. While it will take a host of integrated strategies to address these issues, some residents, businesses and organizations feel that recreation development is one viable option.

Patrick County is many things; it is a stronghold of cultural identity, with small, self-reliant communities, diverse geological features and well-preserved history. Given the unique characteristics that each community in Patrick have to offer and the abundance of opportunities that exist for individuals and families to get outdoors and enjoy nature, Patrick has the potential to be an attraction to the increasing number of people who equate exploration to recreation.

Within the borders of Patrick County lie abundant natural and cultural resources and pristine undeveloped areas. Protecting these resources for residents and property owners while utilizing them for economic benefit will help guard against destructive or poorly planned development.

With an earnestly unified effort and a thoughtfully developed guide, Patrick County could harness the potential of its resources to attract new visitors and businesses. The Patrick County Rivers & Trails Master Plan aspires to be that thoughtfully developed guide. This plan attempts to reflect the needs and wishes of the Patrick County community in proposing enhancements to river, trail and heritage-based recreation amenities that would increase their ease of access, visibility and ultimately, use by residents and visitors.

The Dan River Basin Association and the Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group intends that the strategic advice offered in this document inspires action that furthers the smart use and preservation of Patrick's natural and cultural resources and spawns a community-wide movement toward healthier lifestyles.

Note: Patrick County and the Dan River Basin Association fully support private property owner's rights. This plan is designed as a development tool to be used by residents and county government to help promote the smart use of public recreation amenities and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Patrick County while respecting the rights of property owners.



Components of the Rivers & Trails Master Plan:

- Inventory of Existing Amenities
- Proposed Projects
- Implementation Strategies
- Corresponding Environmental and Cultural Initiatives
- Supporting Material - The Planning Process and Community Involvement

Trail Alignment - The systems of trails, parks, and river access points proposed in this plan are sizeable projects that will require many years of planning and project coordination in order to bring to fruition. The lines drawn in this plan are conceptual and not site-specific. As the projects develop, potential alignments will be discussed with individual landowners in the area. Over time, development can take place only with the cooperation and support of landowners, additional sources of funding, and the work of multiple project partners.

This plan presents concepts for public comment and involvement and encourages new discussions about the possibilities within the community for interconnected living. Readers are encouraged to think of these proposed linkages as more than a line on a map, but as a potential winding path that will connect people to places and to nature. The pace and location at which these plan elements are developed will depend greatly on the willingness and interest of landowners and citizens and the leadership of Patrick County.

Benefits of River and Trail Amenities:

Quality of Life:

- Attractive natural settings increase mental well-being.
- Conservation of open space, parks and natural areas helps maintain clean water and air.
- Access to opportunities to be active outdoors at no cost leads to happier families.
- Trails provide alternative forms of transportation.

Economic:

- Shops and restaurants along rivers and trails enjoy extra business.
- New recreation-based business opportunities arise, such as bike or canoe rentals and outdoor equipment retailers.
- River and trail amenities attract new business owners and therefore new jobs.
- The community's ability to benefit from tourism is increased.

Tourism:

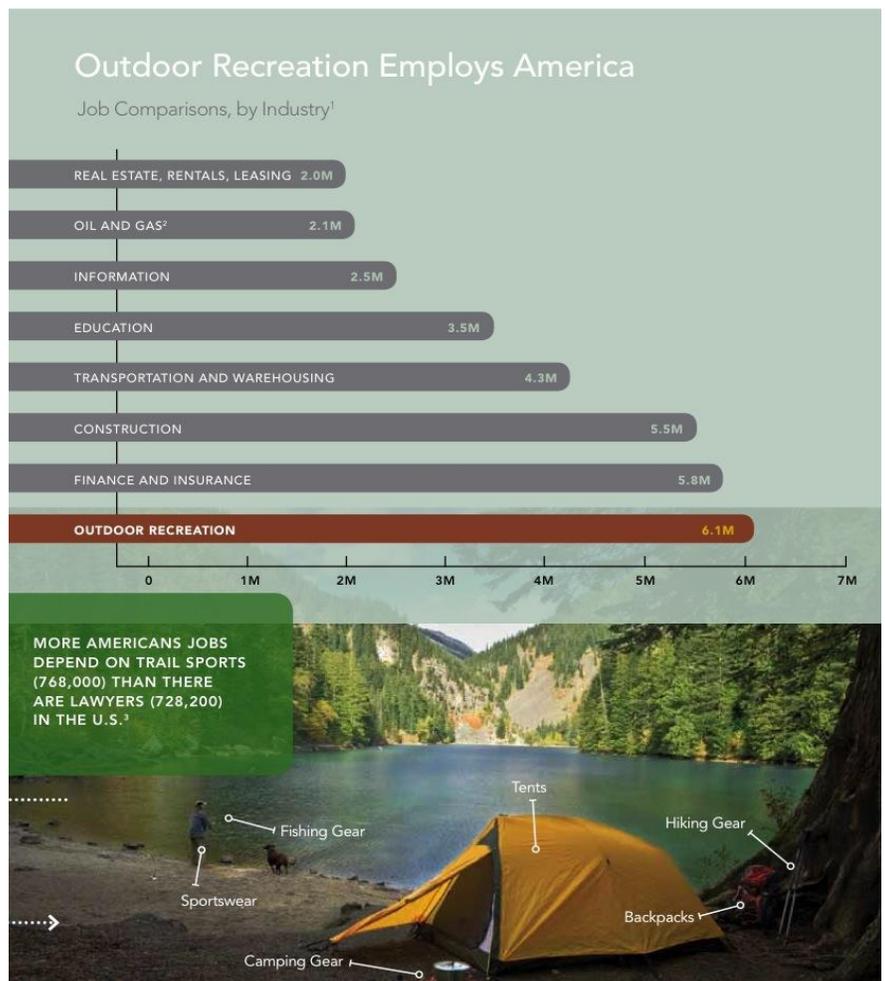
- River and trail amenities provide more opportunities for activities that highlight the unique natural and cultural characteristics of the area, attracting visitors.
- Visitor spending increases the county tax base without increasing taxes.
- In 2006 tourists spent \$860 million in Southwest Virginia; tourism is Virginia's third largest employer (Virginia Tourism Corporation).

Health:

- Trails that connect people to the places where they live, work and shop provide built-in opportunities for exercise.
- Creating environments that support physical activity is crucial to fighting obesity and related diseases.
- Trails serve as preventive health-care measures and could help reduce health-care costs. (Patrick County has a 30% adult obesity rate, higher than state and national averages (www.countyhealthrankings.org))

Environment:

- Access to rivers and trails increases appreciation for nature, encouraging people to protect it.
- Greenways serve as buffers between areas of development, protecting natural habitats and water quality.
- Trails raise awareness for natural resources and biological diversity.



(Outdoor Recreation Economy Report 2012, Outdoor Industry Association)

2: INVENTORY OF AMENITIES

The following is a list of existing recreational and cultural amenities in Patrick County. The full inventory, with more detailed information is included in the Appendices section of the Rivers & Trails Master Plan.

Federal Lands, State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas

- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Rocky Knob Recreation Area
- Fairystone State Park
- Fairystone Farms Wildlife Management Area
- Philpott Lake



Parks & Public Recreation Land

- City of Danville Property - Kibler Valley & Meadows of Dan
- Dan River Park - Ararat
- DeHart Botanical Gardens - Stuart
- DeHart Park - Stuart
- I.C. DeHart Memorial Park - Woolwine
- Fred Clifton Park - Vesta
- Lakes Townes and Talbott - Meadows of Dan
- Laurel Hill Farm - Ararat
- Mountain Top Recreation Park - Meadows of Dan
- Reynolds Homestead - Critz
- Rotary Field and JD Hooker Building - Stuart



Trails

- Fitness Trail at DeHart Park
- DeHart Mountain Trail at DeHart Botanical Gardens
- LEAF Trail at Reynolds Homestead
- Handicapped Accessible Birding and Wildlife Trail at Reynolds Homestead
- Dan River Park Trail at Dan River Park
- Little Mountain Trail System at Fairystone State Park
- Stuart's Knob Trail System at Fairystone State Park
- I.C. DeHart Trail System at I.C. DeHart Memorial Park
- Mayo River Rail Trail at Downtown Stuart
- Pinnacles of Dan & Aqueduct Trail at Kibler Valley & Townes Reservoir
- Rocky Knob Recreation Area Trails & Rock Castle Gorge Trail
- Round Meadow Creek Loop at Blue Ridge Parkway



- Mabry Mill Interpretive Trail at Blue Ridge Parkway
- Laurel Hill Trail at Laurel Hill Farm
- Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Rivers and Lakes for fishing and/or paddling:

- North Mayo River
- South Mayo River
- Smith River
- Rock Castle Creek
- Dan River/Lake Townes/Lake Talbott
- Philpott Lake/Fairytone Lake

Cultural Events:

- Patrick County Music Association Events
- Rural Music Coalition Events
- Music at Honduras Coffee Shop every Fri. & Sat.
- Reynolds Homestead Regular Events & Workshops
- Bushels & Barrels Festival
- Strawberry Festival
- Scottish Highland Games
- Covered Bridge Festival
- Hot Fun in the Summertime Beach Music Festival
- Wayside Bluegrass Festival
- Floydfest
- Virginia State Peach Festival
- Apple Dumpling Festival
- Front Porch Fest
- Patrick County Agricultural Fair
- Civil War Encampment & Living History Weekend
- Woolwine Oktoberfest
- Christmas Parade & Mistletoe Market
- Mountain Meadow Farm & Craft Market Festivals
 - Hit & Miss In the Mountains
 - Crafts in the Meadows/Meet the Authors
 - Meadows of Dan Folk Fair
 - Chinquapin Festival
 - Corn Maze Days
 - Sue's Pumpkin Patch
 - Indian Summer Days



Historic and Cultural Sites:

- Laurel Hill, J.E.B. Stuart's Birthplace - Ararat
- Bob White Covered Bridge – Woolwine
- Jack's Creek Covered Bridge – Woolwine
- Blue Ridge Heritage Inc. - Blue Ridge Parkway
- Patrick County Courthouse –Stuart
- VA Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame – Stuart
- Cockram's Mill – Meadows of Dan
- The Hollow History Center – Ararat
- Slate Mt. Presbyterian Rock Church – Meadows of Dan
- Mayberry Presbyterian Rock Church – Meadows of Dan
- Patrick County Historical Society and Museum – Stuart
- Agee-Baliles Gristmill – Stuart
- Goblintown Gristmill – Stuart
- Mitchell's Gristmill – Claudville



Arts:

- Arts on Main Gallery and Studio – Stuart
- Dan River Books – Meadows of Dan
- The Depot Emporium – Stuart
- Meadow Mountain Farm & Craft Market – Meadows of Dan
- Patrick County Dancing Arts Center – Stuart
- Patrick County Music Association Events - Rotary Field, Stuart
- Rural Music Coalition Events - Honduras Coffee Shop, Stuart
- Reynolds Homestead Events, Workshops and Displays – Critz
- Rosewindow Studio – Woolwine
- Star Theatre – Stuart
- Round The Mountain Artisan Network
- Crooked Road Music Trail



Scenery and Wildlife:

- The Saddle Overlook at Blue Ridge Parkway
- Rocky Knob Overlook at Blue Ridge Parkway
- Lover's Leap Overlook and Fred Clifton Park at Vesta
- Angel Overlook at Squirrel Spur Road, Ararat
- The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail – Sweet Mountain Laurel Loop and Fairy Stone Loop
- Meadow Bog Wetland at I.C. DeHart Memorial Park – Woolwine



3: PROJECTS

The proposed initiatives outlined in the Rivers & Trails Master Plan can be divided into four categories:

- The Patrick Trail System
- River and Lake Access Developments
- Accessibility Improvements
- Signage and Branding

Patrick Trail System

Along the following corridors there is potential to create pedestrian and biking routes, blueways and greenways that connect existing rivers, parks, trails, historic sites, businesses, and community facilities throughout Patrick County and the Town of Stuart.

Mayo River Corridor - Potential Destinations, Connections and/or Improvement Sites include:

- Parks and Greenways: Dehart Park and Fitness Loop, Mayo River Rail Trail, Rotary Field
- Medical Centers: Pioneer Hospital, Landmark Center, Caring Hearts Free Clinic
- Schools: Patrick County High School, Stuart Elementary, Hardin Reynolds Elementary, Patrick Springs Primary School
- Businesses: Uptown and Downtown Stuart businesses, Walmart, Lowes Foods
- Community Centers: Patrick County Food Bank, Stuart Farmer's Market, Reynolds Homestead, Patrick Henry Community College, Blue Ridge Regional Library
- Attractions: Visitors Center, Courthouse, Wood Brothers Racing Museum, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Residents have expressed interest in some specific projects for the Mayo River area. They include:

- Expansion of the Mayo River Rail Trail
- Connector Trail between Dehart Park's Fitness Trail and the Mayo River Rail Trail
- Sidewalk/Pedestrian and Biking Infrastructure Improvements
- Beautification Projects
- Handicapped Accessibility Improvements

Smith River Corridor - Potential Destinations, Connections and/or Improvement Sites include:

- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Rocky Knob Recreation Area
- I.C. DeHart Memorial Park and Mountain Biking Trails
- Jack's Creek Covered Bridge

- Bob White Covered Bridge
- Deer Run Campground
- Philpott Lake and Fairystone State Park
- Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

Residents have expressed interest in some specific projects for the Smith River area. They include:

- Further development of the hiking and mountain biking trails at I.C. Dehart Memorial Park.
- Signage Improvements at the access to Rocky Knob Recreation Area and I.C. Dehart Memorial Park.
- Revitalization of Bob White Covered Bridge and Jack's Creek Covered Bridge and a trail to connect them.
- Expansion of trails and other improvements at Philpott Lake.

Dan River Corridor - Potential Destinations, Connections and/or Improvement Sites:

- Laurel Hill Farm and Interpretive Trail
- Dan River Park and Trail
- Blue Ridge Elementary School
- City of Danville Property in Kibler Valley
- Lake Townes and Lake Talbott
- Meadow Mountain Farm and Craft Market
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Round Meadow Creek Loop Trail
- Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

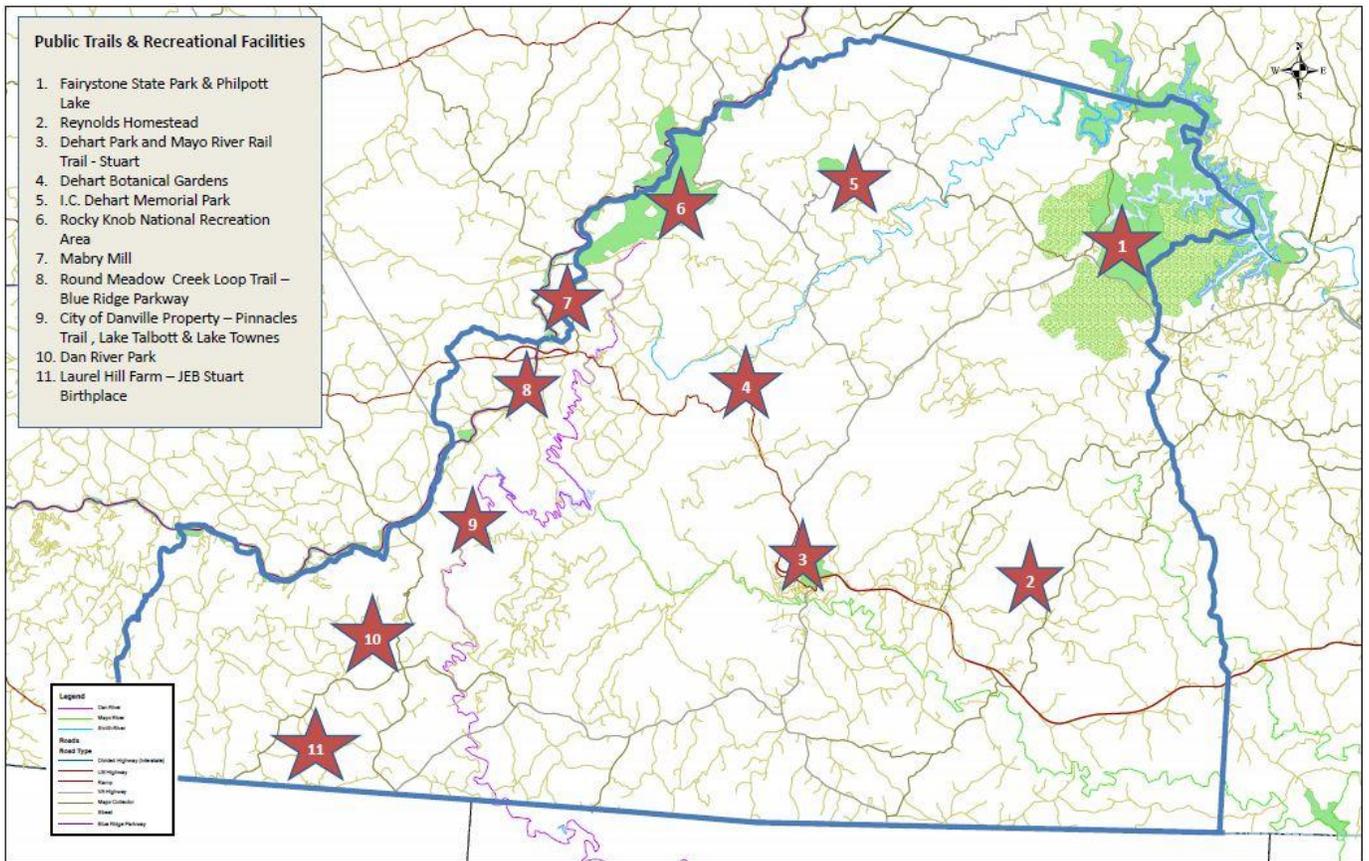
Residents have expressed interest in some specific projects for the Dan River area, they include:

- Signage and trail enhancements to the Aqueduct Trail and Pinnacles Trail located on City of Danville Property.
- Pedestrian/sidewalk infrastructure enhancements connecting the businesses in Meadows of Dan that are located near the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Route 58.

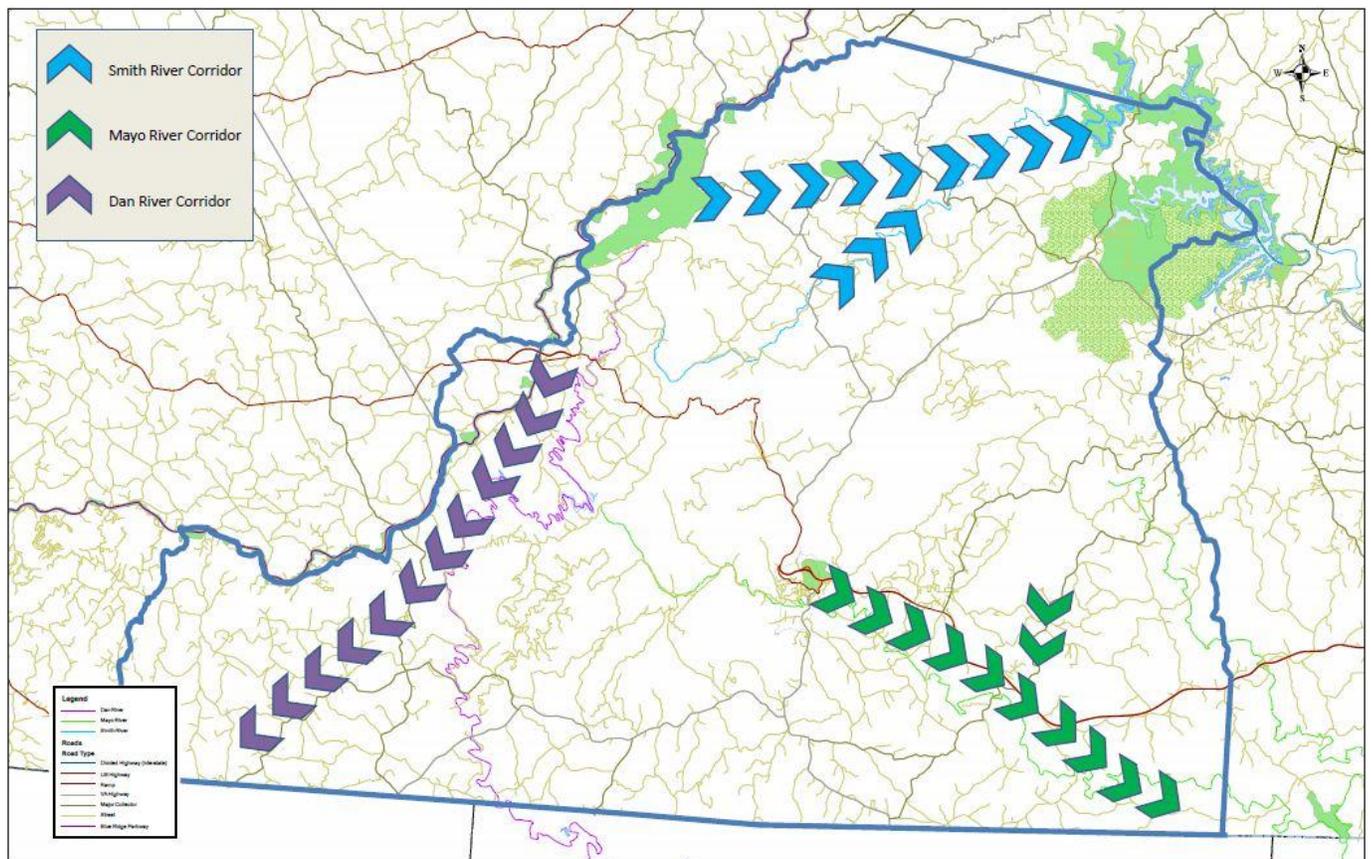
Regional Trails - These trails could connect Patrick County to regional and state-wide trail development initiatives.

- Beaches to Bluegrass Trail
- Henry County's Smith River Trails

Existing Public Trails and Recreation Facilities



Potential Corridors for Connecting Parks, Trails, Rivers and Historic Sites



River and Lake Access

The development of public access facilities for rivers, streams and lakes throughout Patrick County could make it easier for fishermen and paddlers to enjoy the beautiful waterways of Patrick County in a way that does not infringe on the rights of private property owners. Currently, there are many locally known river access locations for fishing and paddling; most of these are on private lands. One of the many advantages to having public access points is that it creates a clearly defined area for access and use. This allows property owners privacy and control over their land if they happen to live along a river corridor that is popular for fishing or paddling. Defined river access points are also advantageous for visitors to the area who are not privy to local knowledge about where they can go to fish or paddle. Pictured below are two public access points on the Smith River in Henry County, VA.



Accessibility Improvements - Pedestrian, Handicapped and Biking Access

While the development of trails in the Town of Stuart could greatly increase the Town's walkability, there are several areas in need of sidewalks and crosswalks that would create more accessibility for pedestrians. For example, a Stuart resident living on Glenwood Terrace could potentially walk or ride a bike to Lowes Foods by taking the Mayo River Rail Trail. However, once they reach the end of the MRRT, there is no sidewalk that would allow them to easily get through the intersection in front of Rite Aid. For an older person, or someone with a physical disability, this could deter them from walking altogether. Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements in the Town of Stuart are a critical complement to the function of the Mayo River Trail Network that would further increase pedestrian access and potentially improve aesthetics.

Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements will also greatly increase the quality of life for the handicapped residents of Stuart who use motorized wheelchairs or other devices that aid their movement. The Mayo River Rail Trail could eventually become 1.5 miles of trail that is handicapped accessible. However, these trails cannot benefit those residents if they cannot reach them. Currently, a handicapped resident living on Buena Vista Avenue and using a motorized wheelchair cannot safely reach downtown Stuart without relying on someone else and another form of transportation.

With improvements, this resident would be able to travel independently from home to the Mayo River Rail Trail and enjoy the same amenities that others without disabilities are able to enjoy. This sense of freedom and independence can make a huge difference in the quality of life of a person who is physically handicapped.

Specific Areas in Need of Sidewalk Improvements:

- Wood Brothers Drive from intersection of West Blue Ridge Street to Main Street
- Intersection of South Main Street, Commerce Street and Patrick Avenue

Just as sidewalks and crosswalks are a critical complement to trails, so are bike lanes. There is a lot of incentive to use alternative modes of transportation such as bicycle; it's cheaper, good for your health and good for the environment. In Stuart, restaurants and businesses are close together and if the infrastructure existed, many people would be inclined to bike more often. However, without bike lanes, biking can be quite dangerous, which is a major deterrent. The Patrick County Bike Club often gathers to ride in and around the Town of Stuart for leisure, exercise and to train for up-coming road-bike races. We could potentially develop infrastructure to accommodate groups such as the PCBC and residents and visitors who prefer biking over driving.

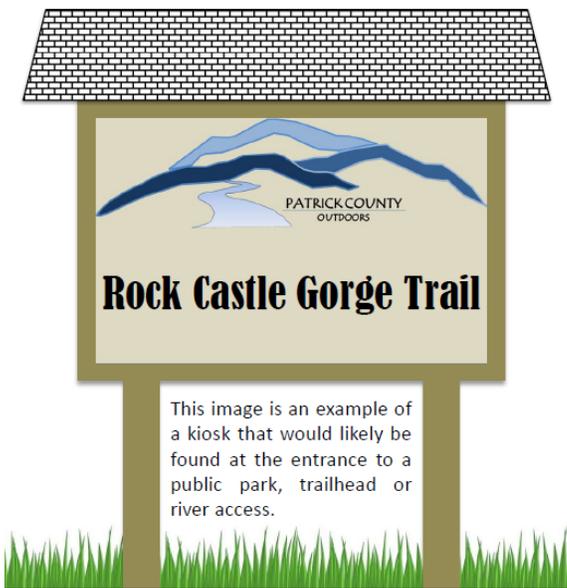


Signage and Branding

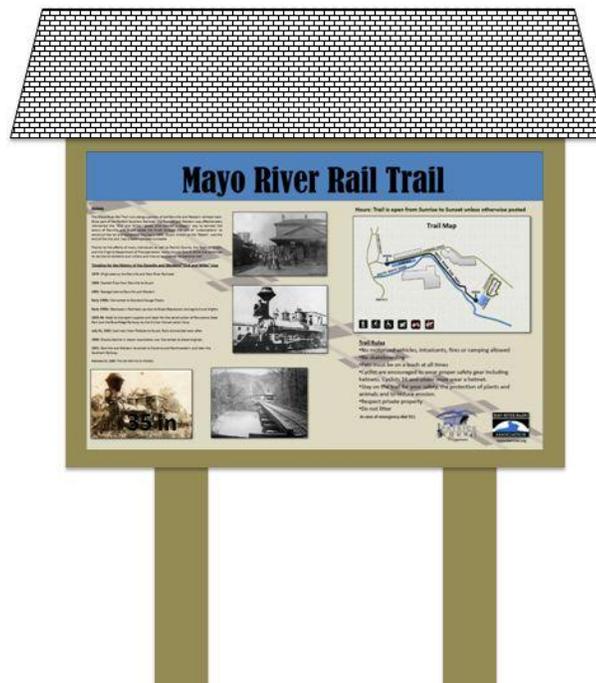
Branding Patrick County Outdoor Recreation may increase the success of recreational development efforts, making it more recognizable and easier to market effectively. There could be a designated theme and logo used for all trailhead, kiosk and directional signs. When visitors see a Patrick County Recreation sign, they know that there is a public-use trail, park or river access nearby.

Increasing access to outdoor recreation can be as simple as putting in directional signs. For example, the Rock Castle Gorge Trail has two access points, one from the Blue Ridge Parkway and one from CC Camp Road in Woolwine, which is off Route 8, a major thoroughfare in Patrick County. However, when one drives by CC Camp Road, there is nothing to indicate that there are hiking opportunities. A small sign at CC Camp Road could increase visibility and use of the Rock Castle Gorge trail. In a rural area like Patrick County, you often have to drive on small back roads to reach your destination. There are several parks and trails in the county that might benefit from having signs like the ones pictured to guide visitors.

Many of Patrick County's outdoor recreational amenities are located in rural areas of the county. Small directional signs such as the one pictured below, or branded trailhead signage shown the left, could be strategically located throughout the county to direct local residents and visitors. The signs pictured are examples only.



Pictured right: Proposed informational sign for the Mayo River Rail Trail Kiosk.



4: IMPLEMENTATION

Funding - Funding for greenway, trail, and river access projects can be obtained from a number of sources, including the following:

- **Grants** - Grants can be obtained from a wide variety of sources including government agencies, private foundations, and corporations. Obtaining this type of funding involves submitting a grant application, getting approval for the project, and reporting results back to the funding agent. Relevant funding sources include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Virginia Department of Forestry
 - Virginia Department of Transportation
 - National Park Service
 - National Trails Fund
 - Bikes Belong
- **Capital Campaigns** - Fundraising in the form of a capital campaign is an option for projects requiring funding from many donors. It is recommended that an organization raise at least fifty percent of the funds prior to making the campaign public.
- **In-Kind Donations** - Donations of materials, equipment, or labor are considered in-kind. These donations are particularly useful when obtained in conjunction with a grant and classified as matching funds.
- **Monetary Donations** - Donations of money to an organization are another method of funding a project. Many times a donor will request that his or her donation be earmarked for a specific project.
- **Government Funding** - Funding obtained from federal, state, county, or city governments can also be used for projects.

Land Acquisition - There are four main types of land acquisition techniques used for present and future greenway, trail, and river access projects. The techniques are purchase for fee simple ownership, easements, leases, and donations. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not use eminent domain to acquire property for recreational purposes. Landowners who sign these easements are protected by Virginia Law (29.1-509), which holds landowners harmless from all liability to hunters, fishers, sightseers and others, and requires the local government agency or authority to pay the cost of any necessary legal services.

- **Public Fee Simple Ownership** - This is land that the county or city has purchased outright.
- **Access Easements** - Easements can be acquired by a municipality or private entity, such as a land trust or a private organization. The landowner retains ownership of the land but allows public access to private land. Access easements can be set for a period of time. Due to the investment in trail clearing and surfacing, an easement in perpetuity is preferred. Easement deed agreements vary from one land owner to another.
- **Land Leases** - Land for recreational areas can also be leased from an owner, such as the Spencer- Penn Centre where trails are proposed to be located around leased ball fields.
- **Land Donations** - Land donated to a public entity, such as Patrick County, or a non-profit organization, such as a land trust, is another way that land can be acquired for projects. Such donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Construction/Best

Management Practices - To

effectively create a trail, greenway or blueway, efforts should be taken to ensure the sustainability of the project. One way to ensure that a trail is constructed in a sustainable and minimally invasive method, thereby protecting the natural environment of the area, is to employ best management practices such as the construction standards established by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).



Long-term Maintenance Plans- With proper maintenance and upkeep, recreational areas are a safe place for the public to enjoy the outdoors. Operation and maintenance plans are very important for designating responsible parties and detailing necessary maintenance measures. Tasks might include supplying and emptying trash receptacles, removing fallen trees/limbs, cutting back shrubs from the trail, and upkeep of the trail surface. In most cases, “Friends ” groups can be formed to assist with volunteer maintenance of a trail. Some duties can be performed by city and county staff with volunteer assistance. In other cases where access easements are granted to a non-profit group or club, volunteer labor can be relied on for maintenance or a private firm can be hired to oversee certain tasks. Either way, it is crucial for a facility to be kept clean and in working order for the public to feel secure and take pride in it.



5: ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Land Conservation - According to the Nature Conservancy, “conservation easements are one of the most powerful, effective tools available for the permanent conservation of private lands in the United States.” The organization defines conservation easements as a “voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on a piece of property now and in the future, while protecting the property’s ecological or open-space values.” DRBA is positioned to lead a watershed restoration initiative that will include a plan for educating area land owners about the importance and benefits of conservation easements along the Dan, Mayo and Smith river corridors as well as in other rural areas of the community. The benefits of conservation easements include permanent protection of family farms, wildlife habitat, open space and streams as well as some substantial tax advantages. In addition, conservation easements along the Dan, Mayo and Smith rivers and their tributaries would reduce erosion, filter surface run-off before it enters the water, and improve the rivers’ capability to be successful fisheries. According to Dr. David Jones, a member of Martinsville-Henry County’s DRBA conservation subcommittee, “the landowner can tailor any restrictions placed on his or her property to suit [personal] needs.” It is also important to point out that the landowner “still owns the property.” Conservation easements allow landowners to place limitations on growth or development on property while still using the land for a variety of purposes, including farming, timbering, and development of some structures. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation as well as many land trusts, such as the Western Virginia Land Trust, can help landowners design easements that fulfill individual needs. There are a number of federal and state tax benefits for landowners who place conservation easements on their property. Conservation easements do not necessarily allow public access to the property.

Riparian Buffer Protection - A riparian buffer is defined by the USDA Forest Service as “the aquatic ecosystem and the portions of the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem that directly affect or are affected by the aquatic environment. This includes streams, rivers, lakes, and bays and their adjacent side channels, floodplain, and wetlands. In specific cases, the riparian buffer may also include a portion of the hill slope that directly serves as streamside habitats for wildlife.” Protecting these buffers along local rivers and streams is critically important for environmental health. In Patrick County and similar surrounding areas, E. Coli contamination from livestock and improper septic systems are the largest threats to water quality. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts work to encourage agricultural producers to participate in Best Management Practices and Incentives Programs that cover the cost of fencing livestock out of rivers and streams, preventing contamination.

Since Southern Virginia is not covered under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, Patrick County is currently without laws or regulations that protect the stream banks from being cleared by landowners. The establishment of riparian area laws to protect water quality can be part of the solution; however, the most efficient tool at the present time is public awareness. DRBA, with



funding assistance from entities such as Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, can work to enhance the quality of riparian buffers along the Dan, Mayo and Smith rivers and their tributaries by planting streamside trees and shrubs in various impaired areas.

Water Quality Monitoring- According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, several streams and stretches of river in Patrick County are considered impaired. Frequent monitoring of water quality conditions at each of these areas will help assess the level of assistance needed to improve environmental health of area streams and rivers.

- **Citizen Water Quality Monitors** - Volunteer monitors are very helpful in the collection of water quality data. Monitors are trained in methods standardized by Virginia Save Our Streams (SOS), a division of the Izaak Walton League of America, and their methodologies are recognized by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. DRBA volunteers hold water quality monitoring (WQM) workshops throughout the year to certify both adults and youth as monitors. Once certified, these monitors will follow the SOS procedures to sample the water quality in a specific area several times throughout the year. Data is then submitted to SOS where it can be recorded and analyzed.
- **DRBA Club** – The DRBA Club at Patrick County High School was started in 2012. The students of the club serve as ambassadors for DRBA in Patrick County and assist with furthering DRBA’s mission. They have the opportunity to participate in activities such as service projects that focus on environmental quality and community improvement, which may include water quality monitoring activities and planting stream-side trees and shrubs.
- **Trout in the Classroom** - Introduced nationally by Trout Unlimited and sponsored locally by Dr. David Jones, the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program has proven to have a tremendous impact on education and students throughout the region. The program is

facilitated by DRBA staff and volunteers. In the 2012-2013 school year, over 2,000 students from Martinsville, and the counties of Henry, Franklin, Patrick and Rockingham were served by the program. TIC’s local motto is “Creating Excitement in Education,” a goal that has definitely been met in the area. The program fosters a conservation ethic and promotes preservation of our natural resources by raising trout from eggs to fingerlings then releasing them into the Smith River. This multi-faceted program has enhanced education in a variety of curriculum areas, such as math, science, English and even art.



Schools are reporting increased test scores, higher interest in school curricula, and most importantly an awareness of water quality issues among students, teachers and parents and the desire to protect and preserve our local watersheds.

Leave No Trace - To help

protect the land used for greenways, trails, parks, and preserves, it is recommended to post signs at trailheads and river access points encouraging visitors to follow Leave No Trace ethics.

Relevant ethics should also be included in brochures and trail/river guides to assist users. "Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to assist outdoor enthusiasts with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts when they hike, camp, picnic, snowshoe, run, bike, hunt, paddle, ride horses, fish, ski, or climb. The program strives to educate all those



who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts" (Leave No Trace). The seven principles are:

- **Plan Ahead and Prepare** - Visitors should know where they are going and what to expect while there. Guides and/or signs explaining the length, difficulty, and terrain of trails and blueways will enable the public to better prepare themselves for an outing.
- **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces** - Since many trails will cross easements on private land, signs should be posted to remind visitors not to wander off the trails. By encouraging visitors to stay on the existing trail, this will greatly reduce the impacts of erosion in the trail corridor. The setting up of make-shift campsites should be discouraged along the trails, out of respect for land owners, other trail users, and the environment. At the present time there are no plans for establishing designated campsites along the trail system; however, the trail will pass by privately and publicly owned campgrounds for the benefit of thru-hikers/bikers. Information on these amenities will be published in both river and trail guides to assist users in planning multi- day trips. The trails and blueways will also provide campground owners with increased foot-traffic to their businesses.
- **Dispose of Waste Properly** - The placement of attractive trash receptacles in prominent locations near trailheads, river access points, and picnic areas will serve as a visual reminder to dispose of waste properly. Signs along trail systems can also address this issue through non-threatening messages such as "Pack it in, Pack it out", or "Please leave only footprints and take only photographs."
- **Leave What You Find** - In areas of historic or natural significance, signs can also serve as a non-threatening reminder for visitors to not remove artifacts or plants from the trail.
- **Minimize Campfire Impacts** - Campfires will not be permitted along the trail system; therefore, this LNT ethic is not relevant to the project at the present time.
- **Respect Wildlife** - Due to safety reasons and out of respect for wildlife, hunting will not be permitted within the trail corridors. Signs will be posted at trailheads to address this issue. Visitors should also be reminded via signs and/or trail guides to not feed wildlife along the trail, and keep all pets on a leash while utilizing the trail system.
- **Be Considerate to Other Visitors** - Trail and blueway users should be reminded of this ethic so as to allow all to share a positive experience in the outdoors. Word-of-mouth is the single most effective marketing tool available. If a visitor has an enjoyable experience while on the trail or blueway, he or she will share the experience with others.

Dan River Valley Heritage Initiative -The Dan River Valley Heritage Initiative (DRVHI) includes dozens of representatives from arts, cultural, historical, environmental and tourism organizations from all over the Dan River Basin. The purpose of the DRVHI is to work together to help promote existing communication materials, events and websites to market the region to tourists, new businesses and relocating families to enhance economic development in the region.



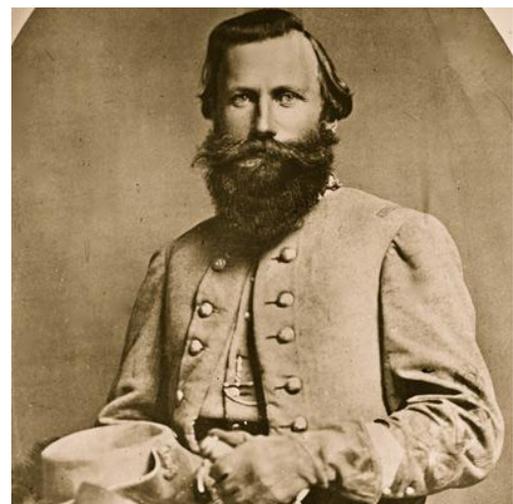
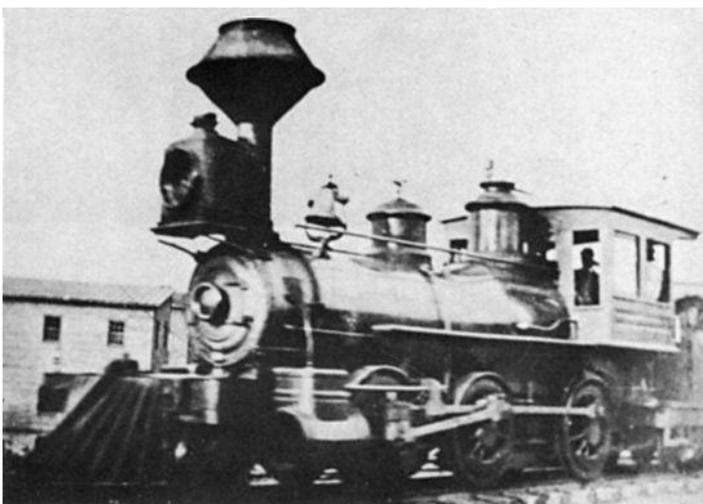
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Historic Preservation- As earlier referenced, visiting sites of historic interest was ranked in 2006 as the second most popular outdoor activity in Virginia. Preservation of historic sites and structures not only enables future generations to explore history, but also, when found along blueways and greenways, such features attract new groups of

users. Areas of cultural and historic interest in Patrick County include, but are not limited to: Laurel Hill (birthplace of JEB Stuart), Reynolds Homestead, Bob White Covered Bridge, Jack's Creek Covered Bridge, several rock churches, the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum, the Virginia Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame, several gristmills, The Hollow History Center, and the Civil War Encampment and Re-enactment held annually.

Heritage Tourism - The stories and history collected from the area can be incorporated into the proposed trail systems via trail guides, educational signs, and guided walks. Historical programs and walking trails at the Reynolds Homestead and Laurel Hill have already been proven to attract sizable audiences; therefore, it would be worthwhile to develop similar programs along other stretches of trail in Patrick County.

According to the 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey, driving for pleasure was ranked as the third most popular outdoor activity. Driving tours currently in development will address this need. A guide would provide information for readers about scenic byways and roads near the river and trail corridor so that they may enjoy visiting areas of natural and cultural significance while on a driving tour.



6: Appendices

A: Supporting Material

B: Inventory

C: Bibliography



A: SUPPORTING MATERIAL

As trails became increasingly popular in Southern Virginia and throughout the nation, the demand for trails in Patrick County as a way to promote local and regional tourism efforts and increase economic development and community wellness began. The planning process that resulted in the River & Trails Master Plan is described below.

Need for a Plan - In order to create opportunities and raise funds to expand river and trail-based recreation in Patrick County in an efficient and sustainable manner, a common vision and road map for future planning and implementation is needed. Creation of the Patrick County Rivers & Trails Master Plan enables stakeholders to understand the broader vision for the area and the benefits that the Patrick County will receive by offering enhanced recreational opportunities. It also allows the components of the plan to be developed in a coordinated manner, so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Scope; Description of Area - Patrick County, Virginia is located on the Virginia/North Carolina state boundary and borders the counties of Henry, Franklin, Floyd, Carroll and Stokes. The county is situated on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains where they taper into the rolling hills of the Piedmont. Patrick is a 486 square-mile area with a population of 19,500.

Inventory - The first step of the planning process was to gather an inventory of the existing recreational amenities in Patrick County. This provided a solid understanding of what the county is working with, making it easier to pinpoint areas where improvements are needed and where there is opportunity for the development of new amenities. The inventory includes all of Patrick County's parks and conservation areas, hiking, biking, paddling and fishing opportunities as well as historic and cultural sites and events.

Public Feedback - After gathering an inventory, the next step was to hold public meetings throughout the



county to get feedback on the inventory in order to ensure that all relevant amenities were included. Meetings were advertised in the newspaper, using social media such as Facebook and blogging, by posting flyers and through word of mouth. During these meetings, community members were asked about the types of projects that they would like to see happen in the future and where there was need for improvements. These public meetings were also used to raise awareness for the purpose behind recreational planning and how it could benefit Patrick County. A series of meetings organized by the Patrick County Rivers and Trails Group were held in each of the five districts in the county. The PCRTG also held regular bi-monthly meetings at Patrick Henry

Community College in Stuart. Several articles were published in the *Enterprise* to raise awareness for planning efforts and to ask for public input. WHEO, Patrick's local radio station, also announced meetings and hosted several segments in which recreational use planning efforts were discussed. In addition, flyers were distributed and mass e-mails were sent to potential stakeholders.

Writing the Plan - Throughout the planning process, ideas and feedback collected at widely advertised public meetings were recorded. Organizations, entities and citizens that deal with recreational and cultural amenities in Patrick County were sought out and asked to contribute their ideas and feedback to the plan. All feedback was carefully considered, and research was done to determine to feasibility of all ideas and suggestions.

Plan Support — The process of gathering the information needed to complete the plan was led by the Dan River Basin Association and a local volunteer committee, the Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group, which was formed in 2011. DRBA is a non-profit organization that works in the Dan River Watershed, a 3,300 square-mile area of Virginia and North Carolina. DRBA is funded by the Harvest Foundation and state and federal grants as well as their extensive membership, made up of community members who value their services. DRBA also relies heavily on the community volunteers who donate their time to help coordinate the programs and services offered in the areas of environmental education, stewardship of natural resources, and outdoor recreation.

Community Developments - There are several community organizations that encourage outdoor recreation and health and wellness in Patrick County:

- **Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group**
- **Reynolds Homestead**
- **FIT Stuart**
- **Patrick County Bike Club**
- **The Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County**



Future Community Involvement - It is highly recommended that the Town of Stuart, Patrick County, and DRBA's Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group continue to involve the public in plans for trail development and build partnerships with community organizations. Additional public meetings need to be held to introduce the specific trail projects to all the different communities within Patrick County. Often these public meetings will lead to future volunteers, so contact information should be collected at each of these meetings. While future trails may be shown with generalized swaths and not parcel-specific denotation, landowners along the different trail corridors should be contacted to address any concerns they may have and to develop ways to overcome any barriers to trail development. Whenever possible, a trail corridor should be obtained through fee simple purchase or by securing recreational easements.

A user survey should also be considered after the construction of the trails to evaluate the user's trail experience and collect any suggestions for improvement. Additional forums may be used for the same purposes, and contact information should be posted at the beginning of the trail and on trail guides to give users the opportunity to offer comments.

Additional public involvement should be encouraged through volunteer opportunities such as trail clean up days, trail maintenance days, or a regular trail watch group. Volunteer groups such as scouts, faith-based groups, garden clubs, adopt-a-street participants, the Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists, and many others should be included in these opportunities. Other activities along the trails include events such as charity walks, river festivals, flotillas, art displays, or music festivals.

Terminology - A key component to guiding the general public, local officials and corporate contributors through the development of a greenway, blueway, or trail plan is the identification of common definitions for its central features. The following definitions for the terms greenways, trails, and blueways have been accepted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and can be found in their 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan.

- **Greenways** - Greenways are linear corridors of open-space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridge line, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road or other route. They can be a natural or landscaped course for pedestrian, equestrian, or bicycle passage. The corridors typically link parks, nature preserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. (Adapted from Charles Little, Greenways for America. 1990. The Johns Hopkins Press.) Greenways can be designed for recreational use, to serve as a transportation corridor, or exclusively for environmental protection. Greenways are created primarily through local or regional initiatives reflecting community needs, and are defined by the people who create them. They can be publicly or privately owned, and are significant components of each community's green infrastructure.
- **Trails** - According to the Virginia Outdoors Plan, a trail is defined as the treadway and shoulders of a cleared or improved path. There are many types of trails that have been developed with specific user groups in mind. Due to the increasing number of trail users and the variety of use types, many trails have become multi-use instead of single purpose trails. The majority of trails lie on public lands in parks, forests, refuges, on abandoned railroads acquired for the purpose, and along roads. In some localities, trails have been developed in stream valleys and across private lands through the use of easements and lease agreements. Trails can provide close-to-home, accessible recreational opportunities with resulting health benefits. Trails can also serve as non-polluting transportation routes and a means of connecting community resources.
- **Blueways/ Water Trails** - The term blueway and water trail are used synonymously. Blueways and water trails are managed systems of access points and support facilities that allow trail users to plan multi-day river trips with assurance that access points, camping sites, rest stops and re-supply sites are clearly identified on maps and on signs visible from the water. The most significant limitation to the public's ability to use the natural waterways in Virginia is access. To address this need, many public agencies have acquired land along waterways and have developed a system of access points and supporting structures including parking areas and boat-launching ramps.

Trail Function- According to the Virginia Greenways and Trails Toolbox, the types and functions of trails are as diverse as the organizations that create and maintain them. Trails are used for relaxation, for physical workouts, for access to specific places, as well as for getting to and from work. Trails can occur as individual routes between two points, but often occur in groups, comprising a trail system.

Most trails can serve a variety of users, as long as volumes are low. However, as the level of usage increases on a trail, the various methods that people use to propel themselves may need to be separated. The functional description of a trail defines the type of trail being developed, with each type having numerous implications related to feasibility, design, cost, and management.

- In general, a trail can be categorized as either a single-use or a multi-use trail. The categorization of a trail can change over the life of the trail. For example, many trails established in the past were intended for a single use such as walking.
- As their popularity grew and use increased, the variety of modes of transportation used on the trails also increased, and the trails that were once single-use trails became multi-use trails.
- When planning a new trail, it is best to plan to accommodate design for the nature of future uses, or to design it with specific limitations as to use. When use of an existing trail changes, the trail should be modified so that all intended activities are accommodated. Where space permits, single-use trails can be properly converted to multi-use by adding treads, or surfaces, that are designed and marked for specific uses. A list of trail types with definitions can be found in the Appendix of this plan. In some combinations, these trails can properly function on a single tread or side by side. In other situations, these types of trails should have at least a separate tread or a completely separate route.

B: Inventory

The following is an inventory of Patrick County's outdoor recreation opportunities as well as cultural and historic sites and events.

Federal and State Lands, Parks and Wildlife Management Areas

Blue Ridge Parkway - The [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) is a National Parkway and an All-American Road. It meanders in and out of Patrick County for a 30-mile stretch and extends 469 miles along the crests of the Southern Appalachians. The

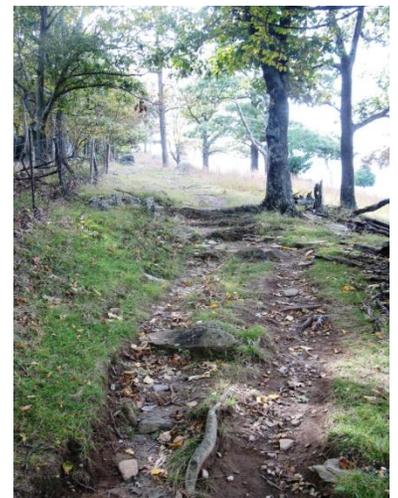


Parkway's spectacular natural beauty, wildlife and foliage are highlighted by picnic facilities, camping, hiking trails, waterfalls and sweeping overlooks. The Parkway runs from Shenandoah National Park in northern Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in western North Carolina.

Rocky Knob Recreation Area - Rocky Knob Recreation Area in Floyd and Patrick counties is a 3,589 acre area adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway that offers camping facilities, hiking and fishing, which can be accessed from



Woolwine or the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are several short hiking trails located near the camping facilities, as well as the Rock Castle Gorge Trail, which is a 10.8-mile trail that highlights every feature of the area. Rocky Knob boasts a wonderful mix of high-elevation meadows, craggy-summit views, deep coves, scenic streams, and startlingly poignant reminders that this and many a now-wild



Appalachian wilderness were once places where isolated mountaineer families lived out their lives.

Fairy Stone State Park - [Fairy Stone State Park](#) was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 and named after the legendary cross-shaped stones that are prevalent in the area. Located in the northeastern corner of Patrick

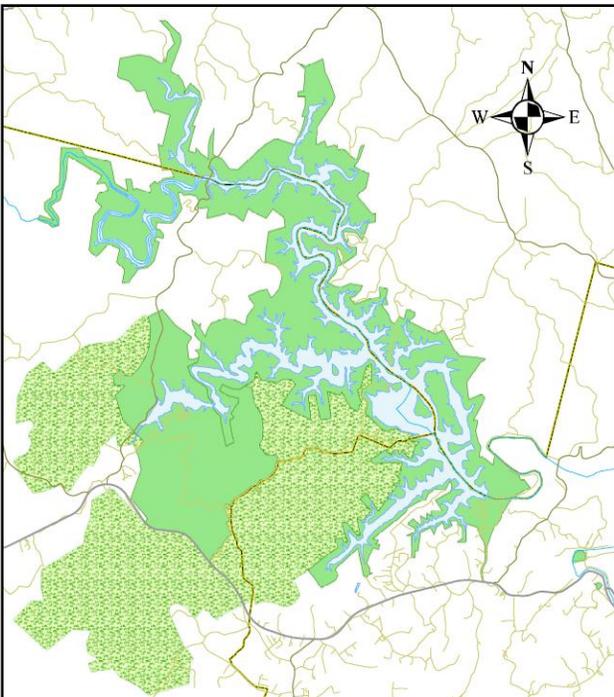


County, Fairy Stone State Park's 4,868 acres include 18.5 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, 57 campsites and 24 cabins for group and family camping, a 168-acre lake for fishing, non-motorized boating, swimming, four group picnic shelters and a conference center, as well as 5,321 acres of separate land parcels designated for hunting.

Plans for future facilities include additional trails and an equestrian village where horses and their owners can be housed for overnight trips. Fairy Stone State Park is maintained and operated by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Fairy Stone Farms Wildlife Management Area - The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) manages this area of 5,321 acres in Patrick and Henry counties. Potentially, it could also be the site of hiking trails and wildlife viewing in addition to the hunting during season. The area connects to Fairy Stone State Park and Philpott Lake. Nestled in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge, it features steep slopes and small areas of bottomland. The woodlands in the area are predominantly a mix of oak, hickory and pine. Forest management stresses maintaining habitat suitable for turkey, deer and a variety of small game and non-game wildlife. An eight-acre marsh impoundment is a refuge for migrating waterfowl.

Philpott Lake - Construction of the dam creating Philpott Lake started in 1948, with the dam capable of providing



flood relief as early as 1951 and generating power by 1953. Philpott Lake takes its name from the nearby village in Henry County and consists of 3,000 acres of water and 6,000 acres of surrounding land in Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. Philpott Lake offers a wide variety of water and land activities including campgrounds, stocked water for fishing, 6,000 acres of managed land for hunting, picnic shelters, hiking trails, and boat launching/marina facilities for motorized and non-motorized boating. The facilities along Philpott Lake are maintained and regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with assistance from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, which enforces state laws and laws regulating boating, fishing, and hunting.

Local Parks and Recreation Lands

Dan River Park - Hiking/walking trail, baseball diamond with score board & lights, restrooms, concessions,



playground set, horse shoe pits, soccer field, pavilion with picnic tables, great for parties and reunions

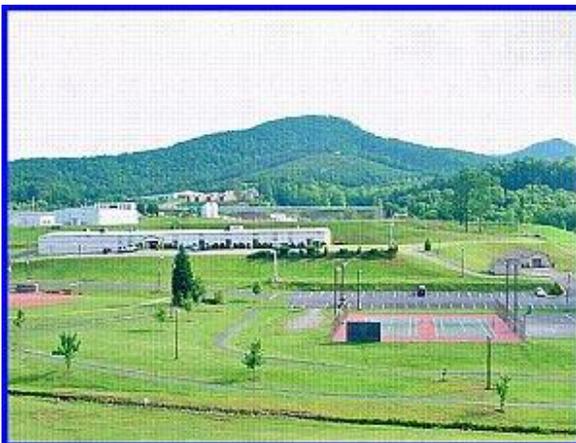
Location: 419 Raven Rock Road, Ararat, VA

Website: <http://www.danriverpark.com/>

DeHart Botanical Gardens - Private land preserve open to the public for hiking on the DeHart Mountain Trail – a 4-mile difficult trail that includes a waterfall and an old home site in addition to a spectacular birds-eye view of the valley. There are also many species of rare wildflowers.

Location: Route 58 West between Stuart and Vesta on right-hand side of road, shortly before reaching Fred Clifton Park

DeHart Park - Swimming pool, tennis courts, multi-purpose basketball courts, little league ball fields, concession stand, picnic shelter, playground, volleyball area, ½ mile paved circular trail



Location: 214 Johnson Street, Stuart, VA 24171

I. C. DeHart Memorial Park - Meadow bog wetland, tennis court, basketball court, regulation soccer field, volleyball courts, mountain biking/hiking trails, picnic shelter, birding trail, ½ mile paved walking trail

Location - 2631 Charity Highway, Woolwine, VA 24185

City of Danville Property - Kibler Valley Road follows the Dan River Gorge in Ararat, VA. All land in Kibler Valley is privately owned and is not considered a public recreation facility. However, the City of Danville owns a large area of land surrounding the Pinnacles Hydro Complex, which is open to the public for hiking but requires that users obtain a permit. The Pinnacles Trail and Aqueduct Trail traverse the rugged terrain of the Dan River Gorge and take hikers to the top of

the conical summit referred to as the Pinnacles. There are also a limited number of camping spots along Kibler Valley Road, located on property owned by the City of Danville, for which permits are also needed. Permits for hiking and camping can be obtained at the Hydro Station located at the end of Kibler Valley Road. There is a public river access point just below the Hydro Station for fishermen and paddlers. White-water enthusiasts enjoy scheduled recreational water releases from the Pinnacles Hydro-Electric Plant every Saturday in July. River access for fishing and paddling (outside of land owned by the City of Danville) is by individual agreement with private landowners only. The “Kibler Valley River Run” (organized by the Red Bank Ruritan Club) is held annually on the last weekend of July. The starting point for the race is at the Pinnacles Hydro Station and the finish line is located on private property downstream, to which the landowner allows temporary access on the day of the race.

Location: Kibler Valley Road, Ararat VA

Fred Clifton Park - Picnic area, scenic overlooks, Birding and Wildlife



Location: US Route 58 West adjacent to Lover’s Leap Overlook

Lakes Townes and Talbott - Hand-carried boat access for fishing and paddling



Location: Townes: Lower Dam Road, Meadows of Dan

Talbott: Ramp Hollow Road, Meadows of Dan

Laurel Hill Farm - This seventy-five acre site, owned by the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, is open to the public dawn to dusk for self-guided walking tours and annual events including a Revolutionary War encampment in the spring, and a Civil War encampment in the fall.

Location: 1090 Ararat Highway, Ararat, VA 24053 - Website: <http://www.jebstuart.org/>

Mountain Top Recreation Park - Baseball field, concession stand, restrooms, playground, tennis courts,

basketball courts, horseshoes pitching area, picnic shelter
Location: Route 58 West, 3800 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120



Reynolds Homestead - 1-mile interpretive trail, 0.1-mile ADA Handicapped Accessible & other opportunities for

hiking, classes, seminars, events, Reynolds Homestead is a continuing research facility operated by Virginia Tech.

Location: Homestead Lane, Critz

Website: <http://www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/>

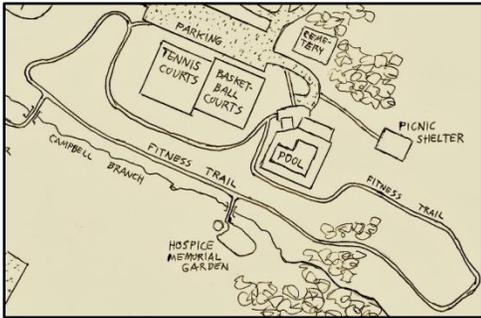


Rotary Field and JD Hooker Building - Two soccer fields and one baseball field and two large buildings for events. Site of Patrick County Agricultural Fair.

Location: 420 Woodland Drive, Stuart, and VA 24171

Trails

Fitness Trail at Dehart Park



0.5 mile paved closed-loop trail at Dehart Park in Stuart

Type: walking/running

(Map by Greg Aarens)

Dehart Mountain Trail at Dehart Botanical Gardens



4.3-mile loop trail from the top of the ridge to a waterfall at the base of the mountain. Evidence of a pioneer mountain home is along the way. Hiking to the ridge-top provides a scenic view of Smith River Valley and the only complete view of Rocky Knob anywhere from US 58. The entire loop is strenuous. About 400 species of flora and fauna have been catalogued. A tour guide can be arranged or more information provided by calling (919) 496-4771. Type: hiking

Laurel Hill Trail at JEB Stuart Birthplace

Information for a self-guided walking tour is provided near the entrance to the property. Laurel Hill is located less than a mile from the Virginia-North Carolina border in Ararat, Virginia. Laurel Hill is owned and maintained by the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust Inc. and welcomes visitors during daylight hours, each day of the week. Type: hiking, walking

LEAF Trail at Reynolds Homestead



1-mile interpretive forest tour trail that combines learning about natural resource use and heritage tourism. The trail is open throughout the year from dawn until dusk and offers seasonal observers an opportunity to experience the changing habitat of native flora and fauna. An informational kiosk is located at the top right of the upper parking lot at the Continuing Education Center. There are brochures, bird sighting records, and more information there. The trail begins just to the right of the kiosk.

Type: hiking/walking

Handicapped Accessible Birding Trail at Reynolds Homestead



1-mile, out-and-back, flat trail through a stand of pines that ends with an observation deck for bird-watching, ADA certified handicapped accessible

Type: walking, handicapped accessible

Little Mountain Trail System at Fairy Stone State Park

The Little Mountain trail system is located on the side of the lake where most of the park's amenities are situated. It offers about 13 miles of trails that are intended for multiuse, hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Beach Trail – The Beach Trail is a 0.74 mile moderate hiking trail that connects the campground to the beach area. The trail can be accessed from the campground, shelter 2, the upper beach parking lot, and the Visitor Center. The Beach Trail is part of the Little Mountain trail system. Type: hiking

Horse Camp Trail – The Horse Camp Trail is a 1.75 mile, moderate difficulty trail that takes you to the Horse Camp and is accessible from the Mountain View Trail. Type: hiking, biking, horseback riding

Lakeshore Trail – This 0.81 mile out-and back trail runs alongside the lake and is wooded along most of its length. This trail has some steep sections but is mostly broad and flat. In some locations the Lakeshore Trail shares a common right-of-way with the Turkey Ridge Trail. The Lakeshore Trail is part of the Little Mountain trail system. Type: hiking, biking, horseback riding

Little Mountain Falls Trail – The Little Mountain Falls Trail is a 3.3 mile difficult, multi-use trail loop. The trail climbs a very steep incline to an overlook and the halfway point. In either direction the climb is roughly the same. On the northern section of the trail there are some level areas as well as the trail's namesake, Little Mountain Falls. The trail is fairly wide with few obstructions; however, it is very steep overall. Little Mountain Falls Trail is a part of the Little Mountain trail system. Type: hiking, biking, horseback riding

Mountain View Trail – The Mountain View Trail is a 2.1 mile difficult multi-use trail. It is a wide paved road but it is very steep and winding as it ascends to Goose Point Road. This trail is gated as no motorized vehicles are permitted on this trail. For much of its length this trail parallels the Little Mountain Falls Trail while connecting to it at several points along the way. The trail features numerous views of the area and its smooth surface is ideal for bicyclists who are

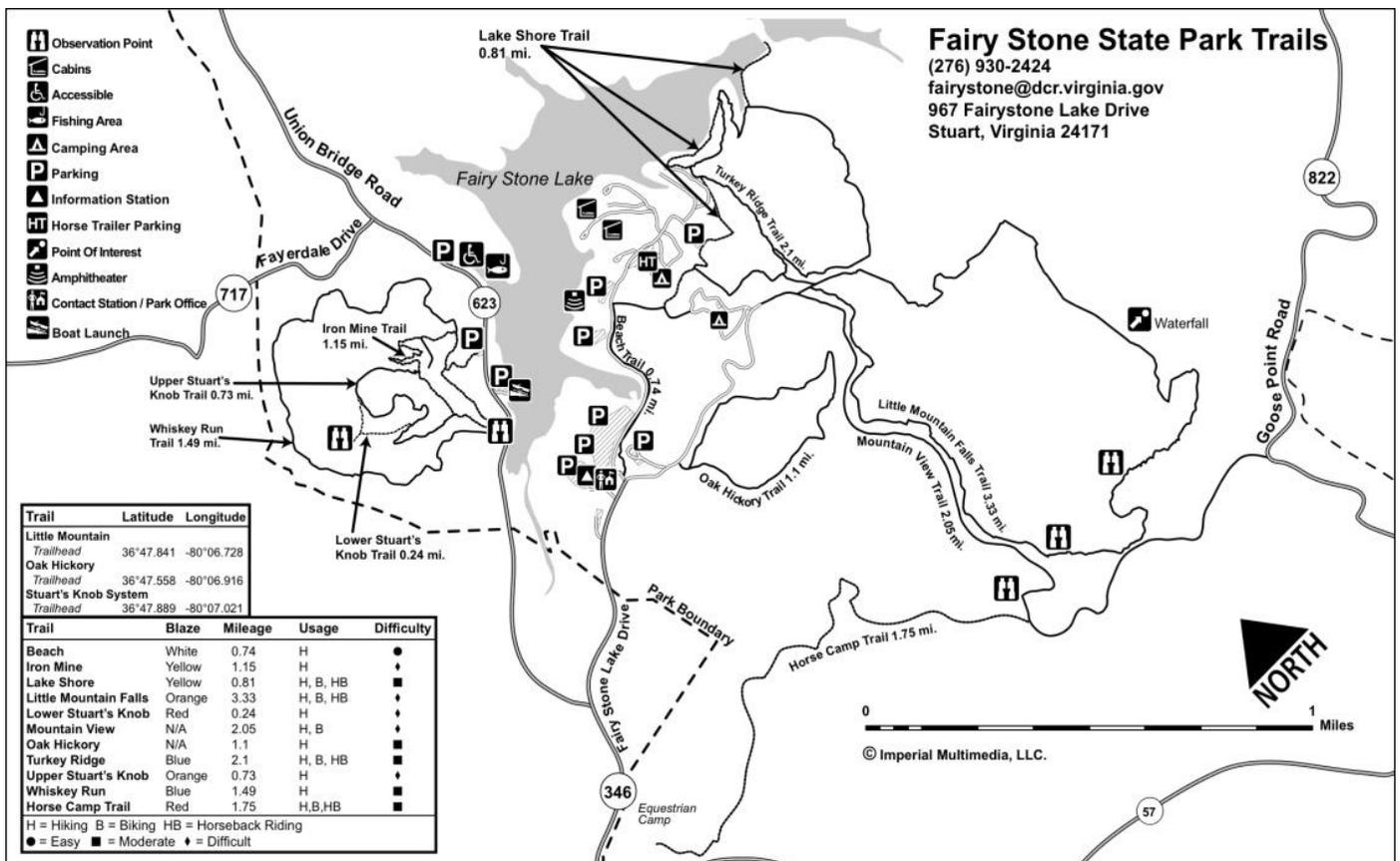
Stuart's Knob Trail System at Fairystone State Park

The Stuart's Knob system consists of about 5 miles of trails accessible on the far side of the lake near the boat launch. They are for hiking only and range in difficulty from moderate to hard. Several old iron mines may be seen in this area.

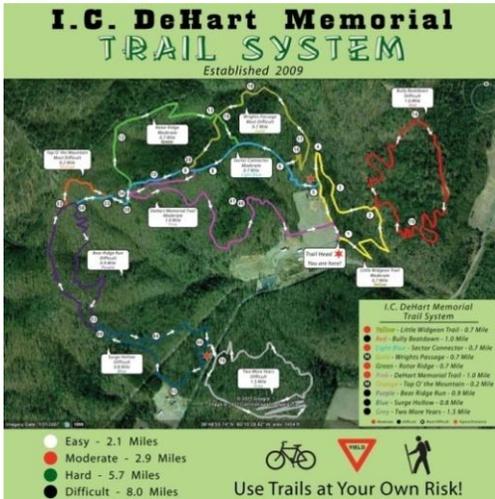
Iron Mine Trail – The Iron Mine Trail is a 1.1 mile difficult hiking trail that is accessible from the trailhead parking and provides access to the three other trails in the Stuart's Knob system. This trail offers some stunning views of Fairy Stone Lake and the surrounding mountains. Type: hiking

Stuart's Knob Trail – The Stuart's Knob Trail is a 0.97 mile difficult hiking trail that is accessible from the Iron Mine Trail. It consists of two connected loops, the Upper Stuart's Knob Trail and the Lower Stuart's Knob Trail. The .75 mile upper loop is more difficult than the shorter lower loop, with a narrower, steeper trail and more switchbacks. The lower loop features an overlook at its midpoint with seating and a nice view to the west. The Stuart's Knob Trail is part of the Stuart's Knob trail system. Type: hiking

Whiskey Run Trail – The Whiskey Run Trail is a 1.5-mile difficult hiking trail loop that encircles the other trails in the system with only slight elevation changes. The trail passes through secluded wooded areas where abandoned mines are visible. Hikers may access this trail from the Iron Mine Trail. Whiskey Run is part of the Stuart's Knob trail system. Type: Hiking



I. C. Dehart Trail System at I. C. Dehart Memorial Park

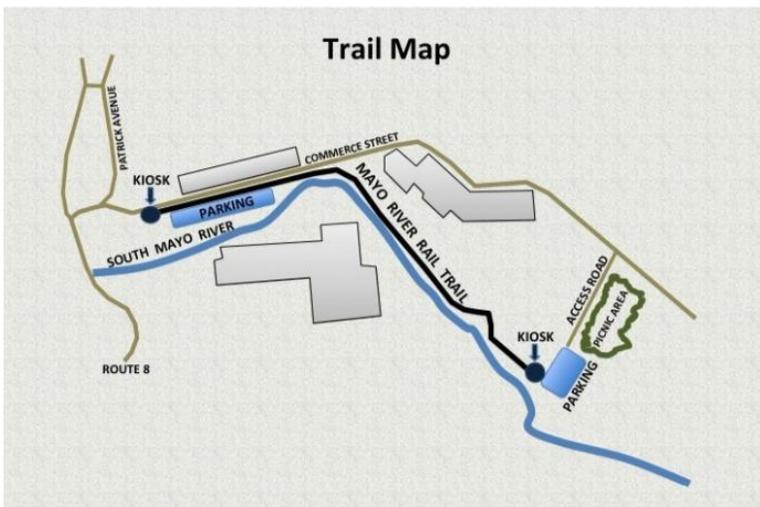


15 miles of natural surface trails with some challenging climbs. Trails were built specifically for mountain biking and include several features geared toward mountain bikers. Kiosk and signs are posted to help navigate.

I.C. Dehart Memorial Park is located in Woolwine

Type: hiking, biking

Mayo River Rail Trail in Downtown Stuart



0.5 mile section of paved trail along Mayo River in downtown Stuart at Commerce Street, has parking lots at both end ends. The trail follows the route of the Danville & Western Railway.

Type: walking/running, biking

Pinnacles of Dan Trails at City of Danville Property



1.4-mile Pinnacles Trail can be accessed above the Pinnacles Hydro Complex in Kibler Valley and connects to the 3-mile Aqueduct Trail, which is accessed from the Lower Dam at Townes Reservoir. This is a strenuous hike due to tough climbs and rugged terrain. Proper equipment is required; make sure to bring plenty of water. There is no hiking permitted during inclement weather. The trail traverses the Dan River Gorge and overlooks the Pinnacles of Dan above Kibler Valley.

Type: strenuous hiking

Rocky Knob Recreation Area Trails at Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 169 and CC Camp Road

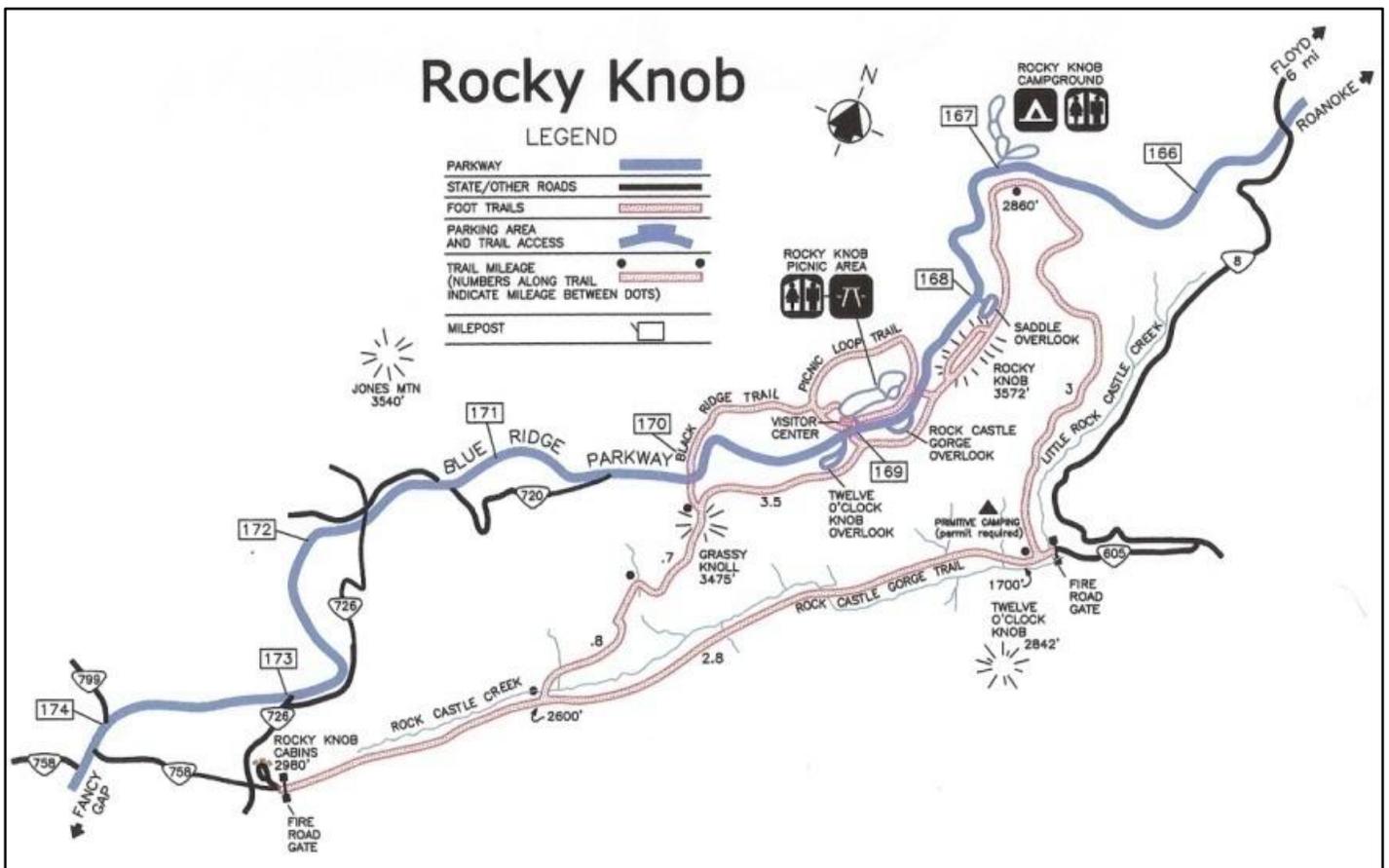


Hardwood Cove Self-Guided Nature Trail - 0.8 miles, moderate, accessed via Parkway. Type: hiking

Rocky Knob Picnic Loop Trail - 1 mile, easy, accessed via Parkway. Type: hiking

Black Ridge Trail - 3.1 miles, moderate, accessed via Parkway. Type: hiking

Rock Castle Gorge Trail – 10.8-mile natural surface loop trail in the Rocky Knob Recreation Area that has been given National Recreational Trail status. Elevations range from 1,700 to 3,572. A few small historic structures are visible along the trail, including a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Trail can be accessed from the Rocky Knob Campground around milepost 167 on the Blue Ridge Parkway or from Rock Castle Road off Route 8 in Woolwine. There is a backcountry camping area at the bottom of the gorge near the Woolwine entrance, which requires a permit that can be obtained at Rocky Knob Campground, Ranger Station, or Visitor Center. In the springtime to early summer, nearly 200 varieties of wildflowers are visible along the trail area. Type: hiking, backpacking



Round Meadow Creek Loop at Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 179.2

½-mile, moderate hiking trail that drops into a narrow valley, follows a small river, then climbs back toward the Parkway.
Type: hiking



Mabry Mill Interpretive Trail at Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 176.2

The Mabry Mill Trail is a half-mile, easy, paved and boardwalk trail that takes walkers to the gristmill, sawmill, moonshine display and blacksmith shop. Rustic skills are demonstrated in the summer during the weekends. Type: walking, interpretive



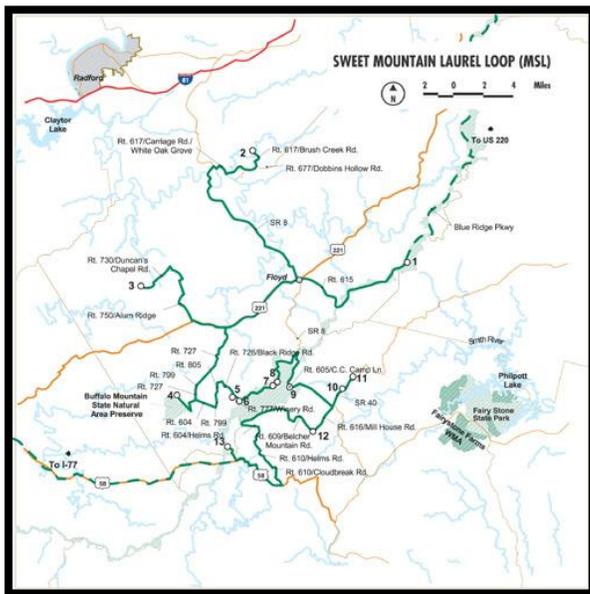
Dan River Park Trail at Dan River Park

The Dan River Park Trail is a multi-use walking trail that connects all of the features of the park to Blue Ridge Elementary School

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail - Mountain Trail

"Within Virginia's 43,000 square miles of diverse natural habitat, you can find some 400 species of birds, 250 species of fish, 150 species of terrestrial and marine mammals, 150 species of amphibians and reptiles, and a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail celebrates this diversity. In fact, it is the first statewide program of its kind in the United States. In Virginia, three phases of the trail link wildlife viewing sites throughout the state."

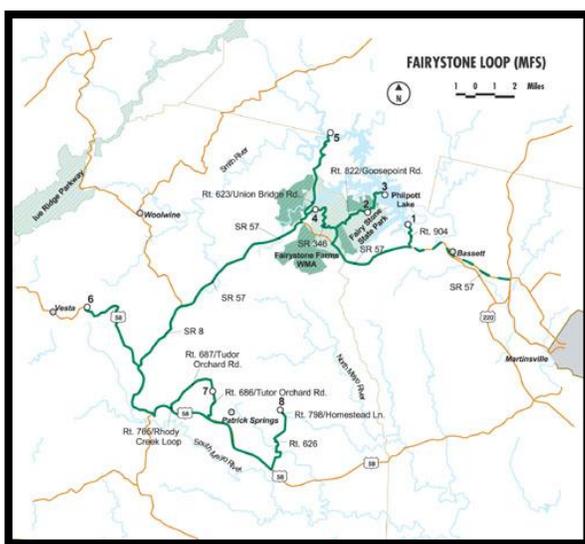
"The Mountain Phase was the second phase to be developed. It features expansive mountain vistas, endless forest trails, large inland reservoirs and a taste of the western Piedmont. There are 34 loops for you to explore. Don't forget your binoculars!"



Sweet Mountain Laurel Loop

Located partially in Patrick County, the sites in this loop are on or near the southern portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. The scenery is breath-taking, and each of these sites offers an unusual glimpse into the beauty of the Blue Ridge. Please be aware that while the Parkway may be closed during winter months, during the rest of the year, this area will overwhelm you with its natural beauty. This loop provides a nice amalgam of private and public lands, outdoor recreation, wineries, and bed-and-breakfasts.

[\(http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/\)](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/)



Fairystone Loop Trail

In addition to the unique geology, the Fairy Stone area combines a mix of wildlife known from the western mountains and the central piedmont. Whether searching for brown-headed nuthatches and yellow-throated warblers in the area's pine trees or scanning the reservoir from every available vantage for unusual waterfowl, wildlife watching opportunities abound throughout this loop. As the visitor travels from site to site, the rolling foothills of the Piedmont gradually give way to the Blue Ridge, providing a vantage to look back and survey the path traveled. Even without finding any Fairy Stones, the searching will surely provide wildlife watching experiences long to be remembered.

[\(http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/\)](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/)

Fishing

North and South Mayo River - Flowing throughout the southern part of Patrick County, the Mayo River provides exceptional trout fishing. The North and South forks of the Mayo River are frequently stocked with species such as the brown trout and rainbow trout. In addition to stocked fish, the Mayo River hosts many native fish. Trout caught in the river usually average around 12 inches in length. Poorhouse Creek, which flows into the Mayo River in Stuart, VA, is another great stream for avid fishermen to visit. This stream is stocked regularly, providing various trout species for anglers. Access Points: The river can be accessed from various points along Dobyns Road near Stuart.

Smith River and Rock Castle Creek - The Smith River is often accessed at Iron Bridge Road near Charity; however, land-owner permission is required. Rock Castle Creek is a stream located near Woolwine, VA. Fishermen will find a variety of fish including pickerel, pumpkinseed sunfish and redear sunfish here. It can be accessed via CC Camp Road off of Route 8 in Woolwine.

Dan River - Originating in the mountainous region of Patrick County, the Dan River begins north of U.S. Highway 58 and slightly northeast of Meadows of Dan. In this section of the river you will find fishing for native brook trout in waters classified as wild trout waters by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Just above and below U.S. Highway 58 the river is a put-and-take trout stream - Category B. Traveling farther east, the river flows through a deep gorge within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project owned by the City of Danville. This area has been dubbed the Grand Canyon of Virginia, rugged and spectacular country that appeals to the hardy. It is in this area that the trout fishing becomes first class for rainbow and brown trout in the six-mile section between Talbott Dam and Townes Reservoir. To reach the upper stretches of this prize water take Secondary routes 614 and 601 south from the Meadows of Dan to Talbott Dam. The stream becomes still water once it enters the reservoir and the lower stretches are best reached by boat across Townes Reservoir. Ramps for hand-carried boats are found on both lakes. The stream from Townes Dam to the Pinnacles Powerhouse has been designated as catch-and-release trout water. Secondary Route 648 off of Routes 773 and 103 leads to the powerhouse where you can get a free permit to fish all the sections of the Dan River and the reservoirs within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project. These permits are also available from the City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P. O. Box 33007, Danville, VA 24543, telephone 434/799-5270. The Dan from the powerhouse several miles downstream (Kibler Valley) is a popular Category A put-and-take trout stream. The trout fishing eventually fades as the river passes under Route 103 and flows into North Carolina.

Fairy Stone Lake - This 168-acre lake offers good largemouth bass fishing, with numerous fish between 12-15 inches. The surrounding woods and weeds provide good cover for fish, and multiple fish shelters have been built to increase cover. Crappie, Redear Sunfish, and Bluegill are also available to anglers. Boats are allowed in the lake, but gasoline motors are prohibited. Battery powered trolling motors are permitted. Row boats, paddle boats, and kayaks may be rented as well.

Philpott Lake - This lake is Patrick County's largest fishery, and presents the largest variety of game species for anglers. Largemouth bass are plentiful, and can be caught on rock structures as well as downed trees. Weed beds and riprap also provide for good fishing. Smallmouth bass are not as common as largemouth, but they can be caught on rocky outcroppings. Deep fishing for smallmouth can be effective, especially in the summer months. Walleye fishing in Philpott Reservoir is exceptional for Virginia lakes, with average length of 18-21 inches. These fish are stocked annually, and feed heavily in late spring. Boats are permitted here, with multiple boat access ramps available.

Paddling

Fairy Stone Lake - The park's boathouse allows visitors to rent canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, rowboats, plus hydrobikes and barracudas. This boathouse provides renters with all the necessary equipment, including life jackets. Those bringing their own boats may launch them at the boat ramp on the opposite side of the lake, close to the Stuart's Knob Trail System. Gasoline motors are prohibited on this 168 acre lake, and all boats must be off the water at dark. The park offers some guided canoeing trips, contact the park office for more details.

Philpott Lake - There are several access points around the Lake from which anyone can launch hand-carried boats or boats with gasoline motors.

Lake Townes - Hand-carried boats are allowed on Lake Townes, which can be accessed from Lower Dam Road, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Meadows of Dan.

Lake Talbott - Hand-carried boats are allowed on Lake Talbott, which can be accessed from Ramp Hollow Road, off Bent Road in Meadows of Dan.

Dan River - While paddling on the Dan River is water-dependent, the Pinnacles Hydro Complex releases water every Saturday in July, which can produce technical Class III rapids. The river can be paddled whenever the Power Station is releasing water, typically during the summer months and on days when the outside temperature exceeds 100 degrees. One can call the City of Danville Pinnacles Hydro Station to inquire as to whether or not there are any scheduled releases for that day or week. There is a public river access point at the Pinnacles Hydro Station; however, outside of City of Danville property, river access is by individual agreement with private landowners only. The "Kibler Valley River Run" (organized by the Red Bank Ruritan Club) is held annually on the last weekend of July. The starting point for the race is at the Pinnacles Hydro Station and the finish line is located on private property downstream, to which the landowner allows temporary access on the day of the race.

Smith River and Mayo Rivers - Paddling on the Smith and Mayo rivers is water dependent. There are no public accesses on the North or South Mayo rivers, and there is one access point on the Smith River at Iron Bridge, which requires land owner permission. However, there are no public areas to take out until you reach Philpott Lake. There are Class II & III rapids on the Smith River between Iron Bridge and Philpott Lake. Rafting is also possible on the Smith River, depending on water levels



Events

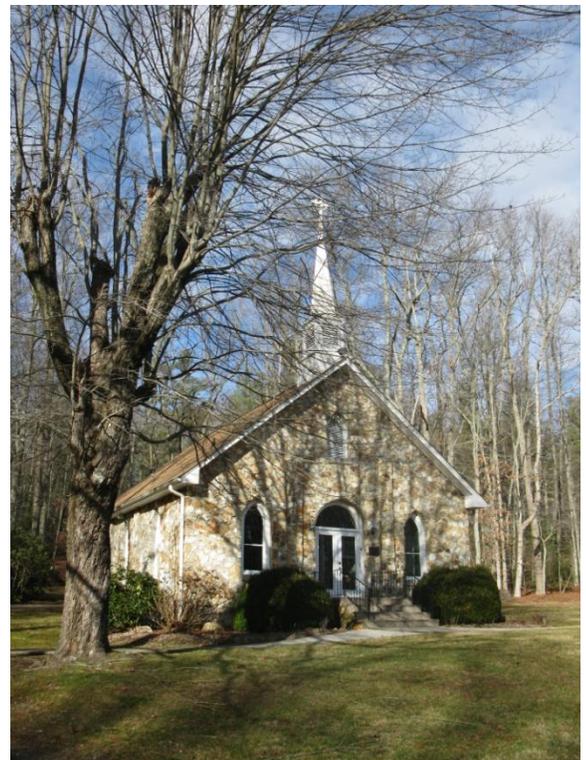
- **Patrick County Music Association Events** - Third Saturday of each month at Rotary Field, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Rural Music Coalition Events** - First Monday of every month 6pm-9pm at Honduras Coffee Shop, Stuart, VA
- **Reynolds Homestead Regular Events & Workshops** - Critz, VA [website](#)
- **Strawberry Festival** - May at Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Scottish Highland Games** - Early June at Laurel Hill, Ararat, VA [website](#)
- **Covered Bridge Festival** - Mid-June at Jacks Creek & Bob White Covered Bridges, Woolwine, VA [website](#)
- **Hot Fun in the Summertime Beach Music Festival** - June at Wayside Park, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Wayside Bluegrass Festival** - July at Wayside Park, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Floydfest** - Late July at Blue Ridge Parkway [website](#)
- **Kibler Valley River Run** - last weekend in July
- **Virginia State Peach Festival** - August at Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Apple Dumpling Festival** - October at Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Front Porch Fest** - Labor Day Weekend at Spirit Haven Farm, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Patrick County Agricultural Fair** - September at Rotary Field, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Civil War Encampment & Living History Weekend** - Early October at Laurel Hill, Ararat, VA [website](#)
- **Woolwine Oktoberfest** - October at Woolwine Fire Department, Woolwine, VA
- **Christmas Parade & Mistletoe Market** - First Saturday in December at Main Street & Farmer's Market, Stuart, VA [website](#)
- **Mountain Meadow Farm & Craft Market Festivals** - Blue Ridge Parkway, Meadows of Dan, VA [website](#)

Historic and Cultural Sites:

- **Laurel Hill, J.E.B. Stuart's Birthplace** - Ararat, VA
- **Bob White Covered Bridge** – Woolwine, VA
- **Jack's Creek Covered Bridge** – Woolwine, VA
- **Blue Ridge Heritage Inc.** - Blue Ridge Parkway
- **Patrick County Historical Society & Museum** – Stuart, VA
- **Patrick County Courthouse** – Stuart, VA
- **Virginia Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame** – Stuart, VA
- **Mayberry Presbyterian Rock Church** – Meadows of Dan, VA
- **Slate Mt. Presbyterian Rock Church** – Meadows of Dan, VA
- **Cockram's Mill** – Meadows of Dan, VA
- **The Hollow History Center** – Ararat, VA
- **Agee-Baliles Gristmill** – Stuart, VA
- **Goblintown Gristmill** – Stuart, VA
- **Mitchell's Gristmill** – Claudville, VA

Arts:

- **Arts on Main Gallery and Studio** – Stuart, VA
- **Dan River Books** – Meadows of Dan, VA
- **The Depot Emporium** – Stuart, VA



- **Meadow Mountain Farm and Craft Market** – Meadows of Dan, VA
- **Patrick County Dancing Arts Center** – Stuart, VA
- **Patrick County Music Association Events** - Rotary Field, Stuart, VA
- **Rural Music Coalition Events** - Honduras Coffee Shop, Stuart, VA
- **Reynolds Homestead Events, Workshops, and Displays** – Critz, VA
- **Rosewindow Studio** – Woolwine, VA
- **Star Theatre** – Stuart, VA
- **Round the Mountain Artisan Network** – Hidden Treasures Artisan Trail
- **Crooked Road Music Trail**

Scenery & Wildlife:

- **The Saddle Overlook** - Blue Ridge Parkway
- **Rocky Knob Overlook** – Blue Ridge Parkway
- **Lover’s Leap Overlook and Fred Clifton Park** – Vesta, VA
- **Angel Overlook** - Squirrel Spur Road, Ararat, VA
- **The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail** – Sweet Mountain Laurel Loop & Fairy Stone Loop
- **Meadow Bog Wetland at I.C. DeHart Memorial Park** – Woolwine, VA



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Dan River Basin Association

History - Outdoor Enthusiasts and concerned citizens organized the Dan River Basin Association in 2002 to preserve and promote the wilderness-like rivers of the border region of Virginia and North Carolina. Faced with the decline of tobacco and textiles, our traditional economic bases, leaders in the Basin's counties recognize the increasing importance of the abundant high-quality water in the 3,300 square mile region. In addition to its economic value as a water source and its historical significance as a means of transportation, the river system can provide excellent recreational opportunities to the 1.5 million citizens who live within an hour's drive.

The Association's founders are promoting the rivers for multiple uses, including recreation and commercial and municipal growth. We believe that, with careful planning, natural and cultural preservation and economic development can occur hand-in-hand. The rivers, the region's unique and greatest resource, will be at the center as the sixteen counties of the Basin build a diverse economy, which must be based in part on new ideas. The Dan River Basin Association believes that providing outdoor recreation is essential to the region's quality of life and its ability to draw new investment.

Mission - The Dan River Basin Association preserves and promotes the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin through stewardship, recreation and education.

Vision - The Dan River Basin Association envisions an economically vibrant bi-state community with a regional identity, where people enjoy easy access to healthy rivers, parks, trails and heritage attractions.

Goals - The Dan River Basin Association works to: preserve the river corridor with a series of municipal, county and state parks and trails; increase public access to rivers; build constituency for the rivers and outdoor recreation through monthly outings; protect water quality by instituting stream monitoring across the Basin; promote regional nature and heritage tourism; and bridge boundaries to create a bi-state borderland community.

The Dan River Basin Association has four key program areas:

- Stewardship
- Recreation
- Education
- Regional Identity

The Dan River crosses the Virginia-North Carolina state line eight times on its way from its headwaters in Patrick County to John H. Kerr Reservoir. The 3,300 square-mile Dan River Basin comprises approximately one-third of the Roanoke River Basin. Major tributaries of the Dan River are the Mayo, Smith, Sandy, Bannister and Hyco rivers.

The Dan River Basin includes all or most of eight counties: Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Halifax in Virginia, and Stokes, Rockingham, Caswell and Person in North Carolina. Smaller portions of eight more counties lie in the Dan River Basin: Floyd, Franklin and Mecklenburg in Virginia, and Surry, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange and Granville in North Carolina.

