



VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN 2024

Rivanna River Basin Commission Annual Conference

September 30, 2026

Kristal McKelvey – Division of Planning & Recreation Resources



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

What is the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)?

Why This Matters!

- A **5-year Commonwealth-wide** planning document
- Supports **grant prioritization**
- A **recreation centric** and **conservation-oriented** planning tool
- Includes a recreation-interest **survey report of Virginia's residents** (Virginia Outdoors Survey)
- A **Land and Water Conservation Fund** requirement
 - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
 - NPS Approved Dec. 2024
 - This VOP serves 2025-2030



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF Act of 1965

- Administered by the U.S. Department of Interior – National Park Service
- A Federal, State and Local Partnership with a **State Assistance Program**
- Provides matching grants for the acquisition and development of **public outdoor recreation areas and facilities**
- Property is **protected in perpetuity** for the purpose of outdoor recreation
 - 430+ parks in Virginia LWCF protected
 - \$152 million in funding from 1965 to present



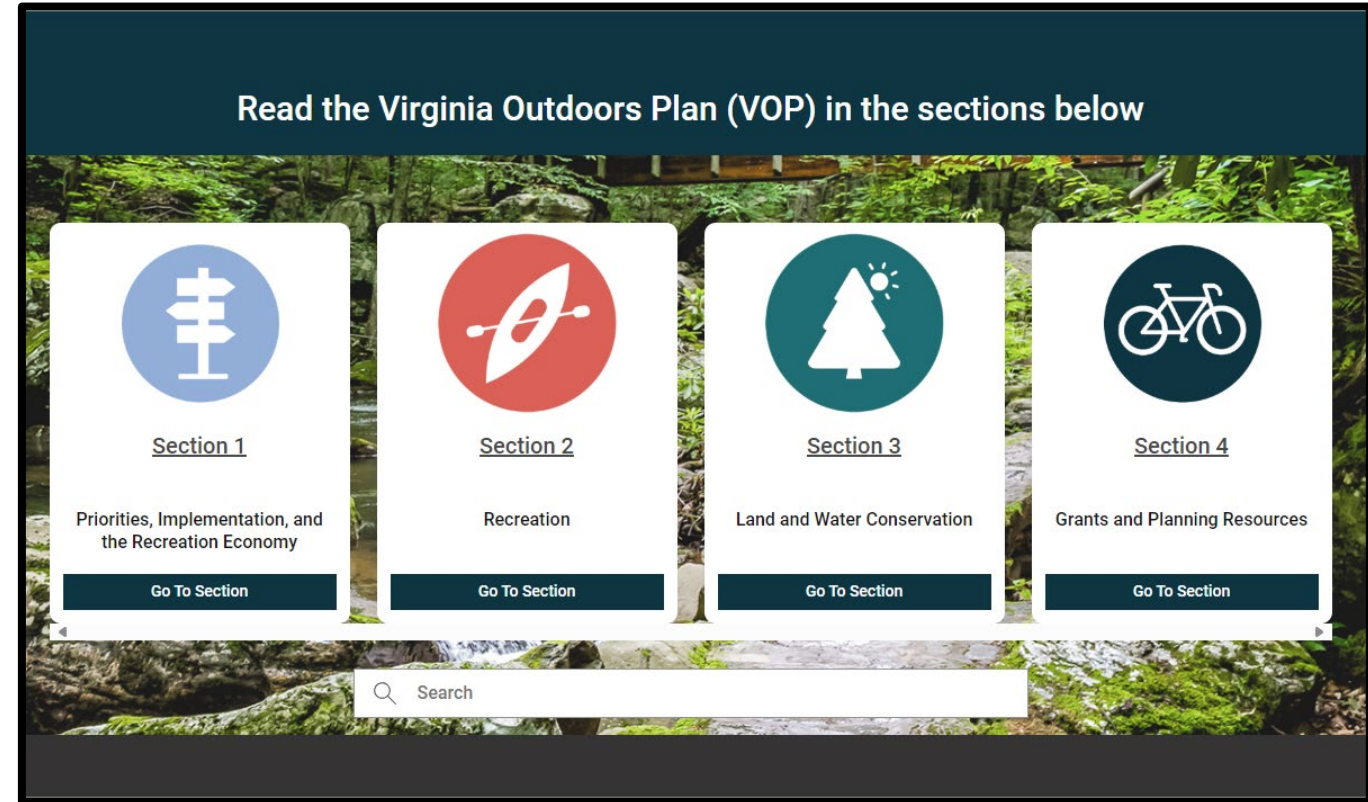
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



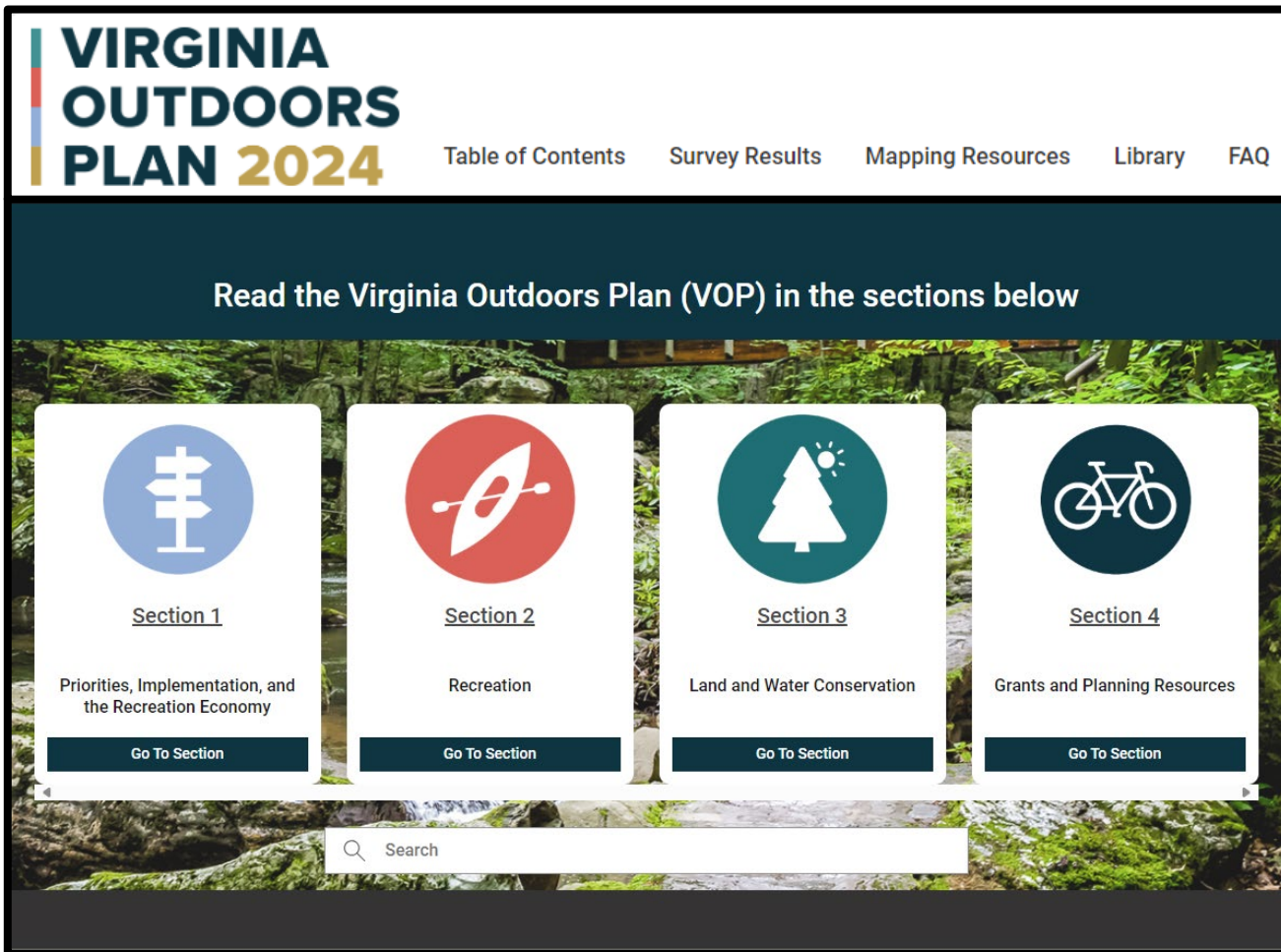
The 2024 VOP is *Distinctive*

Uses community engagement software, data, and tools by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

- The **first-of-its-kind** statewide plan, this product is a digital, living document.
 - **Hub Site with Story Maps**
- It contains the latest linked resources and partnership opportunities to **plan recreation projects and find grants**.
- **Policy-makers** can use the site to learn about recreation and conservation projects, needs, and challenges across the state.



A navigation block on the VOP Home Page



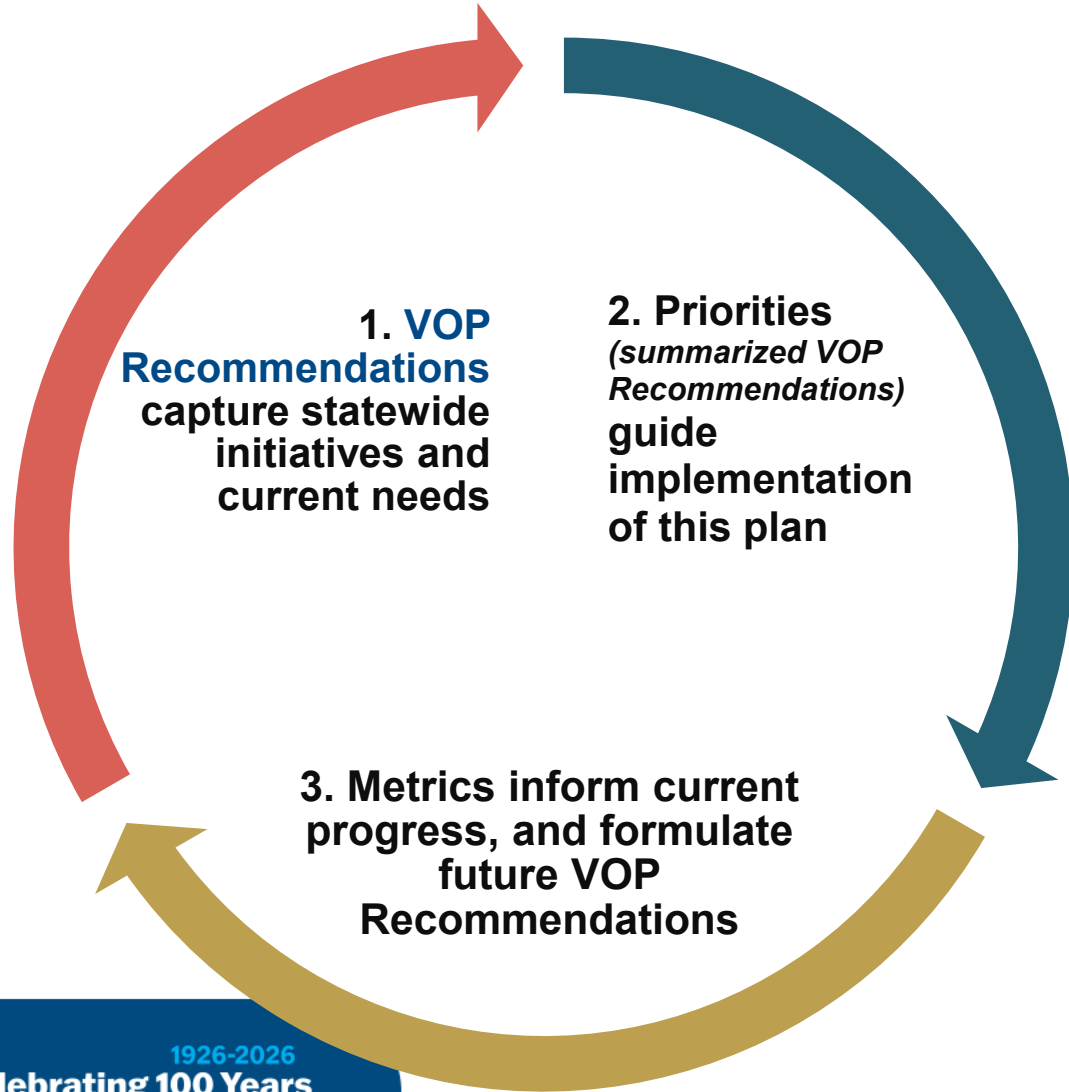
Components of the VOP

- **Four Sections**
- **Table of Contents** that serves as a site map for users and grant applicants.
- **Survey Results** page with the Virginia Outdoors Survey report (pdf), and 7 data dashboards of regionalized data and statistical findings from the report.
- **Mapping Resources** page with 5 recreation inventory dashboards, and current geospatial planning tools.
- **Library** of published papers and other agency plans used during development of the plan.



New VOP Recommendations

The Framework for Implementation



Read more in Section 1.1 - Priorities and building metrics

How Can You Use the VOP?

Mapping Resources

- Screen for resources (*i.e. wetlands, ag soils, unique habitats, cultural, etc.*)
- Plan potential development
- Enhance protection including restoration and resources management

Survey Results

- Cite statewide and regional statistics

StoryMaps (Sections)

- Align projects to meet section Recommendations
- Use in-text citations that support the project
- Find partnerships that facilitate statewide efforts in conservation and recreation initiatives

Grants

- Explore a broad variety of programs
- Find guidance on state and federal requirements

(i.e. NEPA, Section 106)



The 2022 Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS)

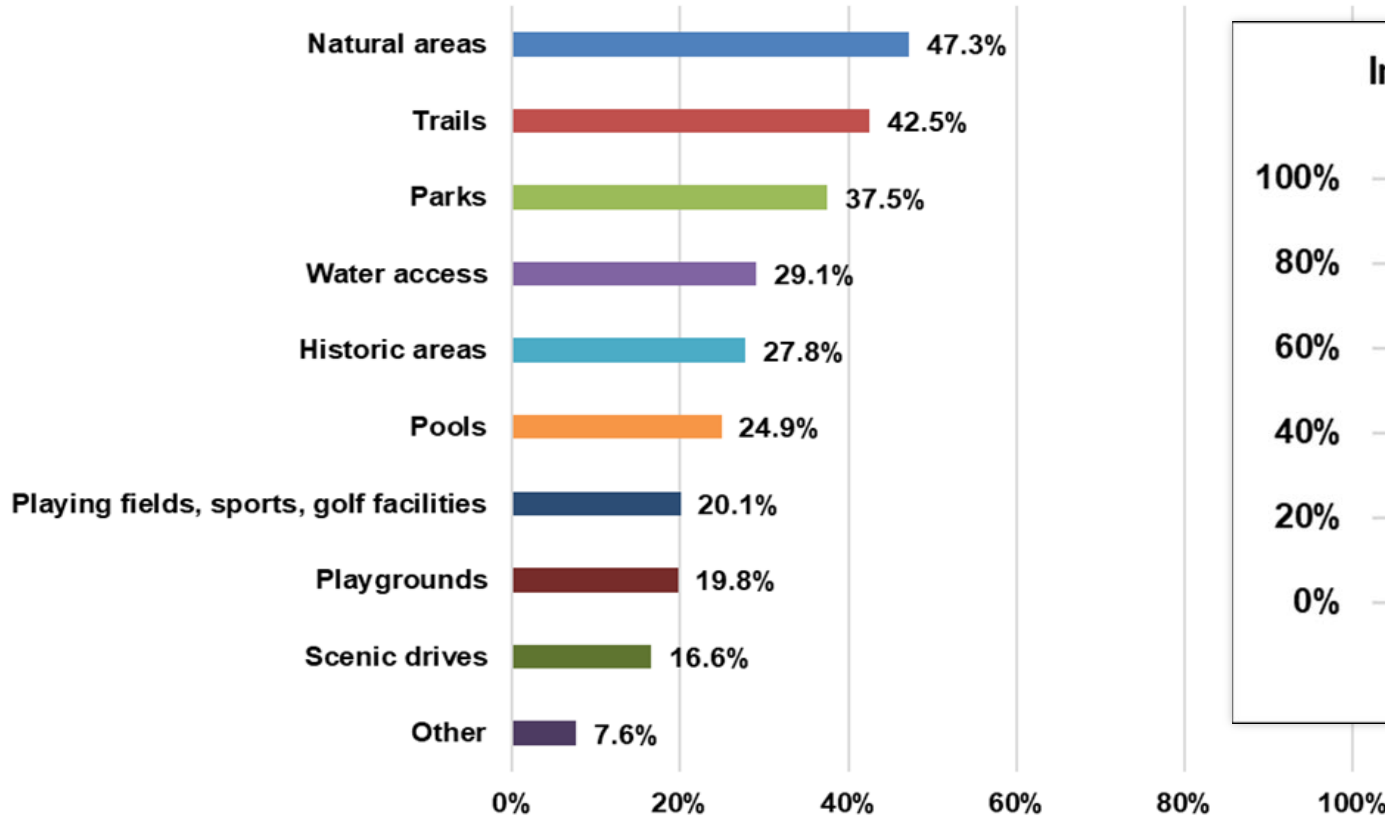
Led by Dr. Jim Ellis, Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Government and Public Affairs

- **Statistical-Probability** results for **accurate representation of Virginians by demographic and region**
- **Crowd-source online survey** captures recreation **interests of the general population** in Virginia and organized stakeholders
- **Survey results** reveal interests defined by:
 - Geography and proximity to recreation resources
 - Demographic variables
 - Activities that residents enjoy
- Results **assist outdoor recreation providers, conservation partners, locality professionals and advocates** in
 - Planning
 - Grant-seeking
 - Policy

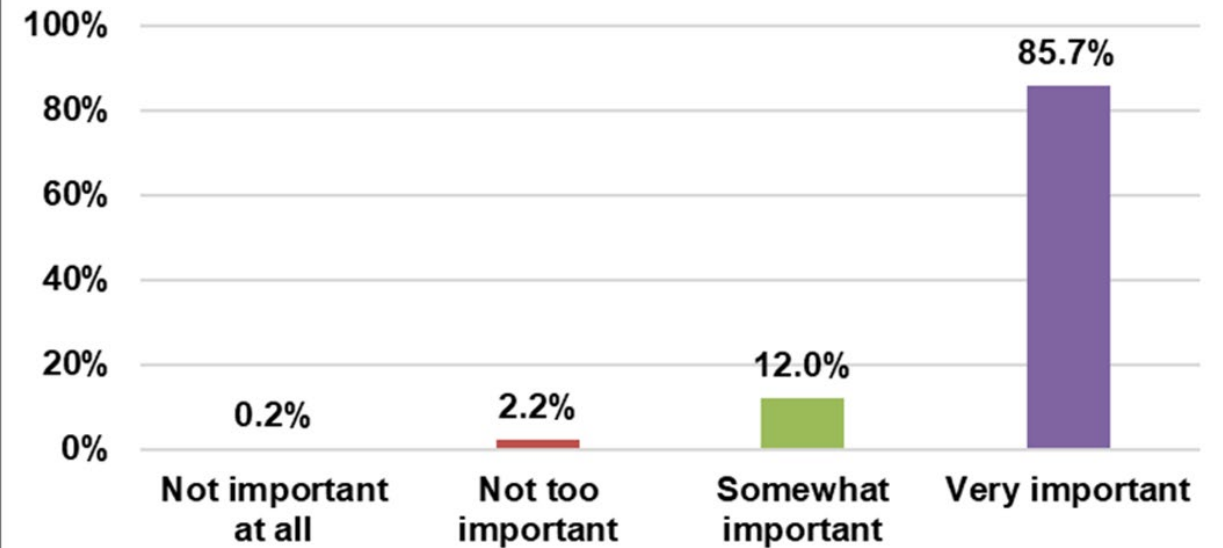


Survey Results - What do Virginians value?

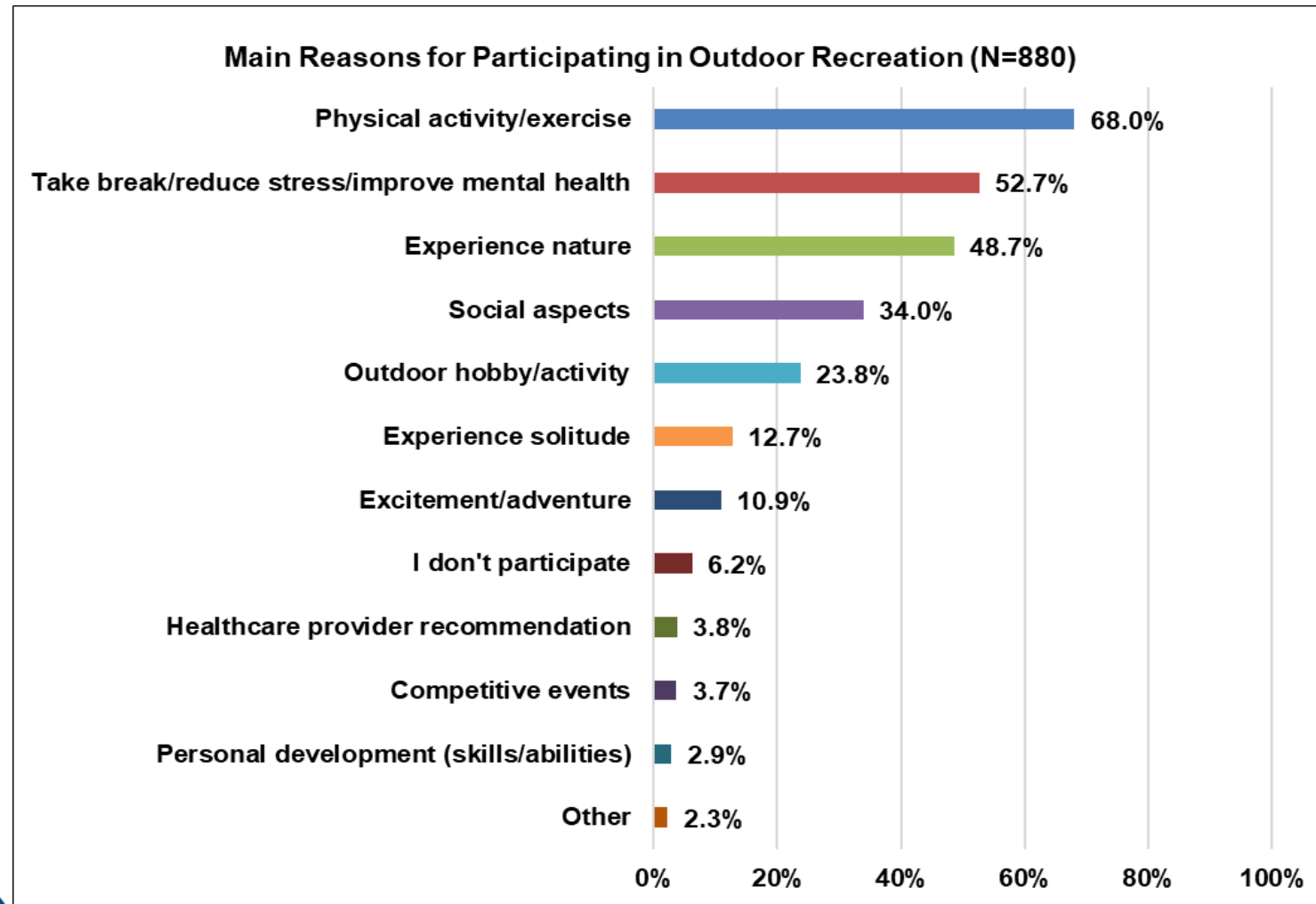
Most Needed Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in Virginia (N=793)



Importance of Protecting Virginia's Natural and Open Spaces from Development (N=797)



Survey Results - Why do Virginians participate in outdoor recreation?



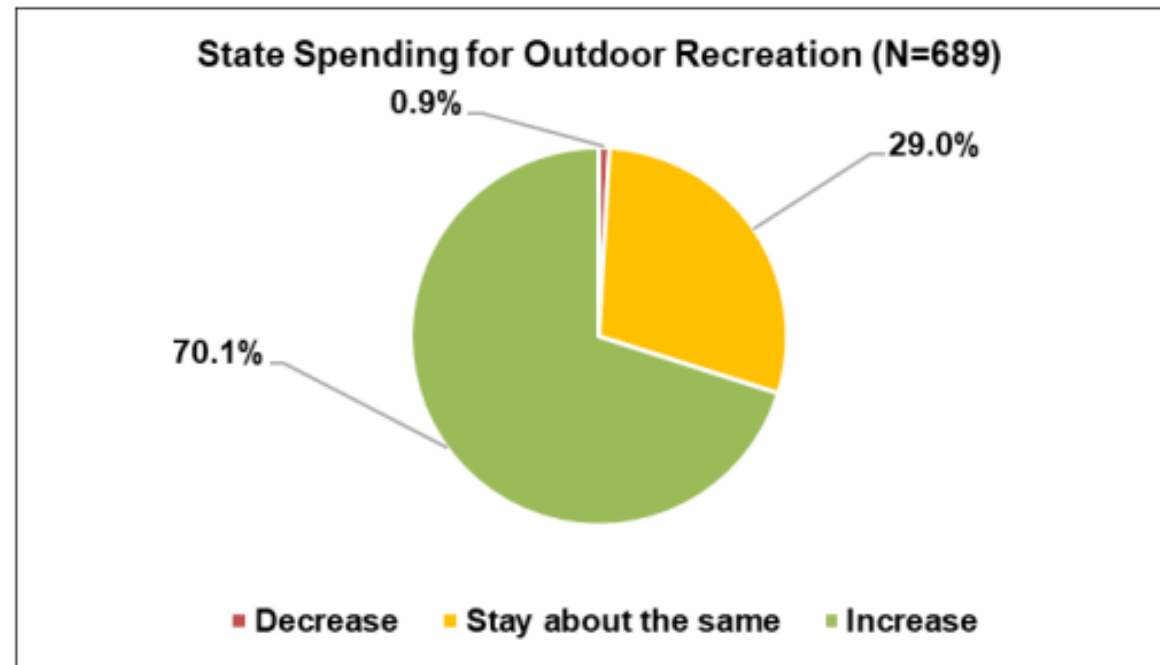
Survey Results – Support for Recreation Funding Increase

Recreation Funding and Amenities: Probability Sample

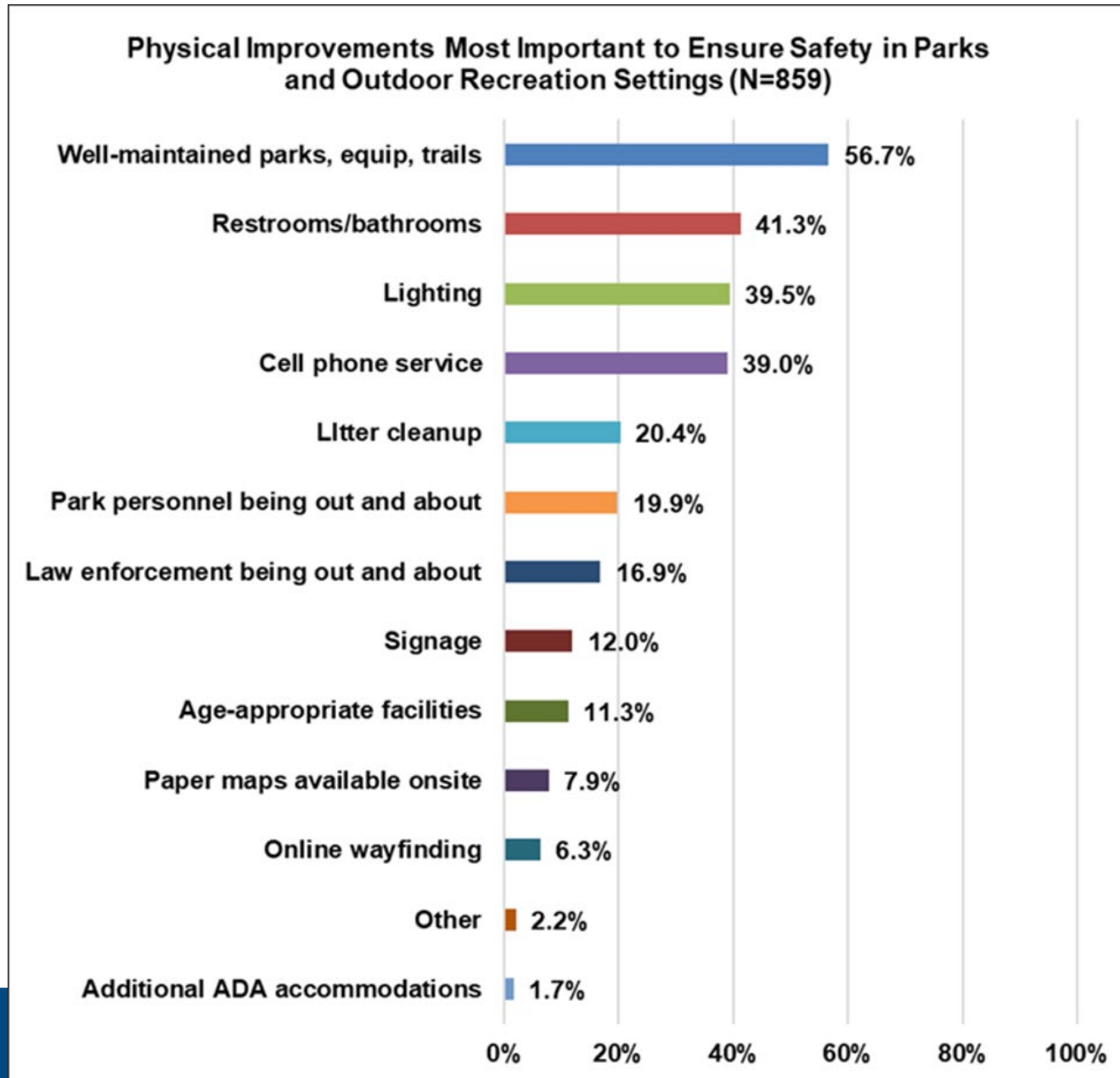
State Spending for Outdoor Recreation: Probability Sample

In Question 47, a majority of probability sample respondents (70.1%) indicated that, given all the priorities for the state to fund, state spending for outdoor recreation should increase. Almost 3 in 10 (29.0%) suggested that spending stay about the same. See Figure 41.

Figure 41: State spending for outdoor recreation, 2022 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* probability sample respondents



Survey Results – Opportunities for Improvement



Rivanna River Basin Commission Values

Values

VOP Goals:

- VOP is also **centralized on Environmental Protection**
 - **With the goal of safe inclusive public outdoor recreation access for all**
 - How a **Conservation Conscience** leads to protecting lands and ecological assets for all to enjoy
- **Promotes collaborative engagement**
- **Implementation is education**
- **Encourage funding of meaningful projects**



Section 2 – Recreation

Key Takeaways

- Focus on **recreation activities**.
- Planning priorities include - **expanding access, safety**, individual and community **health**, and **resiliency**.
- Improving **accessibility** – planning barrier-free entry-to-exit experiences.
- Recreation activities on **trails**, and the current state of trail planning, funding, and needs.

Inside the VOP HUB

Recreation

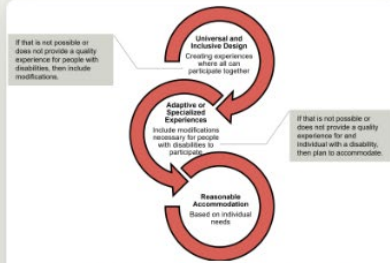
Section 2



Section 2.1 - Recreation For All

A look at how Virginians use outdoor spaces – and what they would like to see added or...

[Read StoryMap](#)



Section 2.2 - Accessible Outdoor Recreation

This planning resource can be used for discussing accessibility in the outdoors,...

[Read StoryMap](#)



Section 2.3 - Trails

Planning and Building Trails Networks in Virginia.

[Read StoryMaps](#)

Providing Accessible Outdoor Recreation

Section 2.2

Virginia offers a wealth of outdoor recreation experiences. Public outdoor spaces provide options for many to enjoy, but these opportunities have not always been available to people with disabilities.

This planning resource can be used for discussing accessibility in the outdoors, outlines common barriers people with disabilities may encounter in the outdoors, and provides best practices and resources to help improve access to outdoor recreation environments for all.



A Best-Practice Framework to Planning for Accessibility

Providing Accessible Outdoor Recreation

[Read More](#)

Page Menu

- [Entry-to-Exit Experience](#)
- [Identifying Barriers](#)
- [Common and Potential Barriers](#)
- [Quick Improvements to Reduce Barriers](#)
- [Definitions table](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)



RIVANNA RIVER BASIN PROJECT

We envision:

- a river treasured as an investment in the future of the region, a resource worth keeping healthy;
- a river occupying a vital place in the continuing history of the region;
- creeks and rivers which define what it means to be part of a special place, reinforcing residents sense of place and community;
- our streams and rivers as accessible recreational resources, providing inspiration and educational opportunities for future generations;
- a river closely integrated into the cultural life of the region;
- streambeds providing habitat for river life and containing less silt, more rocks and riffles;
- forests and trees providing habitat and shading the streams and rivers;
- a landscape that allows rainwater to seep slowly through the ground, providing recharge for summer creeks, while limiting flooding;
- clear and clean waters bound by fully vegetated stream banks, with topsoil in place;
- swimmable, fishable streams for future generations;
- a future which celebrates our need to return to the river as a source of daily pleasure, a place of commerce, and a place of occupation brought about by interested citizens and groups working together.



STATE OF THE BASIN

1998

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Darden Tower Park, Riverview Park, and publicly accessible greenways enable free public access to the Rivanna River and waterfront trails. Opportunities exist to expand and enhance these parks and greenways and to develop additional parks and trails. Opportunities also exist to support and promote increased commercial recreation operations and services that enable the public to have safe, enjoyable river and trail experiences. To build on these opportunities in ways that are environmentally sensitive and sustainable, the following recommendations are made:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve multi-purpose trail connectivity between the corridor and nearby neighborhoods and commercial facilities to provide better recreational access with special consideration for issues of equity and increasing access to recreation destinations for underserved populations.
2. Improve and expand the trail system within the urban river corridor.
3. Improve and expand the park system within the urban river corridor.
4. Increase the number and type of public access points to the river and waterfront for better public use and enjoyment of the water, with special consideration for accessibility for people with limited mobility.
5. Monitor the need and identify opportunities to expand vehicular access for recreational users.
6. Ensure that the planning and development of parks and trails in and through the urban river corridor successfully support the operations of private recreation service providers and help to facilitate increased commercial, recreational use of the river and trails.
7. Pursue strategies that will minimize the accumulation of loose trash along the urban river corridor.
8. Develop and maintain a trail network that incorporates a variety of trail facilities and specifications to accommodate users of all ability levels. Designate more rustic trails as well as wider paved trails.
9. Promote recreational wildlife-watching.
10. Use vegetation as sound barriers to urban/traffic noise to protect the sounds of nature.
11. Promote awareness of the river corridor as a natural and cultural asset throughout the broader region through programming, and information sharing.
12. Develop a comprehensive map of recreational activities throughout the corridor to include trails, boat launch swimming areas, and other recreational activities to assist with trip planning and corridor navigation.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Volunteers build new access point along the Rivanna: Image Courtesy of Gabe Silver



Urban-Rivanna-River-Plan-February-2022.pdf

26 / 46

72%



RECOMMENDATIONS | 52

BENCHMARKING | 44



People gathering along the banks of the Rivanna River: Image courtesy of dailyprogress.com

RECOMMENDATIONS INTRODUCTION

The Technical Committee developed recommendations for stewardship of the urban river corridor based on the public engagement and benchmarking research conducted, and in coordination with other related planning documents. The recommendations are intended to balance use and enjoyment of the river corridor with protection of the natural environment.

While recommendations have been categorized into topical areas, they were developed with the intention of creating cohesive guidance that will support the implementation of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles identified during the development of this plan. The environmental impacts of recreational and commercial activities were considered, and language was included in those recommendation sections to emphasize the importance of prioritizing environmental protection. Well-designed networks of trails and river access points support economic development and awareness of the rich ecological, cultural, and historic resources throughout the corridor. Integrating access to the river corridor with the larger regional transportation network promotes equity of opportunities for diverse segments of the population to engage with the river corridor and take advantage of its many opportunities. Creative and thoughtful programming encourages new visitors from the broader region to explore and experience the corridor, learn about the local history and culture, and enjoy local businesses. Wayfinding and information sharing improves user safety and confidence to plan visits, especially for those with specific accessibility needs. Public health, safety, and wellness initiatives instill a sense of awareness and confidence for users to know that they can navigate the corridor safely.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Rivanna River is an urban corridor along the City and County border that contains a rich riparian ecosystem, including unique native plant and wildlife communities and habitats. To protect, conserve, and steward this area, the following recommendations are made:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Identify and protect the most sensitive biological and ecological areas by limiting access and installing signage and appropriate barriers where possible, avoiding impacts to wildlife movement.
2. Retain and steward natural habitats and systems throughout the river corridor.
3. Identify and implement riparian restoration and mitigation projects, including removal of invasive plant species, incorporation of locally native plant communities, and the stabilization of eroding streambanks in a manner consistent with natural system function.
4. Continue and initiate activities of the City and County to improve water quality in partnership with other organizations.
5. Encourage the use of locally native plants for landscaping at parks and businesses.
6. Promote stewardship, awareness, appreciation, and education of the natural elements through interpretive and informational signage, educational tours, and river system-focused events on public property.
7. Continue to deliver a compliant and effective stormwater management program that meets or exceeds minimum state regulations. Encourage on-site mitigation measures and forest/open space protection.
8. Protect and enhance forests within the river corridor with particular focus on the 100' stream buffer zone.
9. Consider opportunities to reduce mowing and create naturalized grasslands/meadows in existing open areas.
10. Collaborate with other organizations to leverage resources for conservation and mitigation efforts and pursue funding.

Section 3 – Conservation

Key Takeaways

- Focus on **protection and stewardship** of private and recreation lands and waters.
- **Descriptions and examples** of conservation and preservation projects and partnerships.
- A view of Virginia's **Public Access Lands** for all related agencies and partners.
- Conservation programs that serve all to have a **resilient future**.
- How a **Conservation Conscience** leads to protecting lands and ecological assets for all to enjoy.

Inside the VOP HUB

Land Conservation
Section 3



Section 3.1 - Recreation Land Conservation

Recreation and Stewardship on Virginia's Public Owned Lands

[Read StoryMap](#)



Section 3.2 - Land Conservation Programs

How we can leverage Open-Space Easements, Conservation Easements, and federal...

[Read StoryMap](#)



Section 3.3 - Conservation Conscience

Using Conservation Conscience to become Best in Class

[Read StoryMap](#)

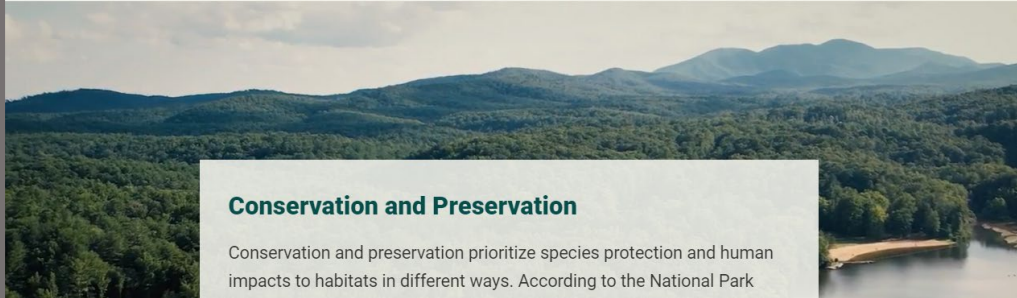
[Introduction](#) [Virginia's Public Access Lands](#) [Survey Results](#) [Foster Positive Experiences](#) [Becoming More Resilient](#) [Recommendations](#)

Introduction

Our Recreation Land

3.1.1

Recommendation - Consider conservation values, purposes, and consider how the landscape may predictably change over time in project acquisition, planning, and design.



Conservation and Preservation

Conservation and preservation prioritize species protection and human impacts to habitats in different ways. According to the National Park

Section 3

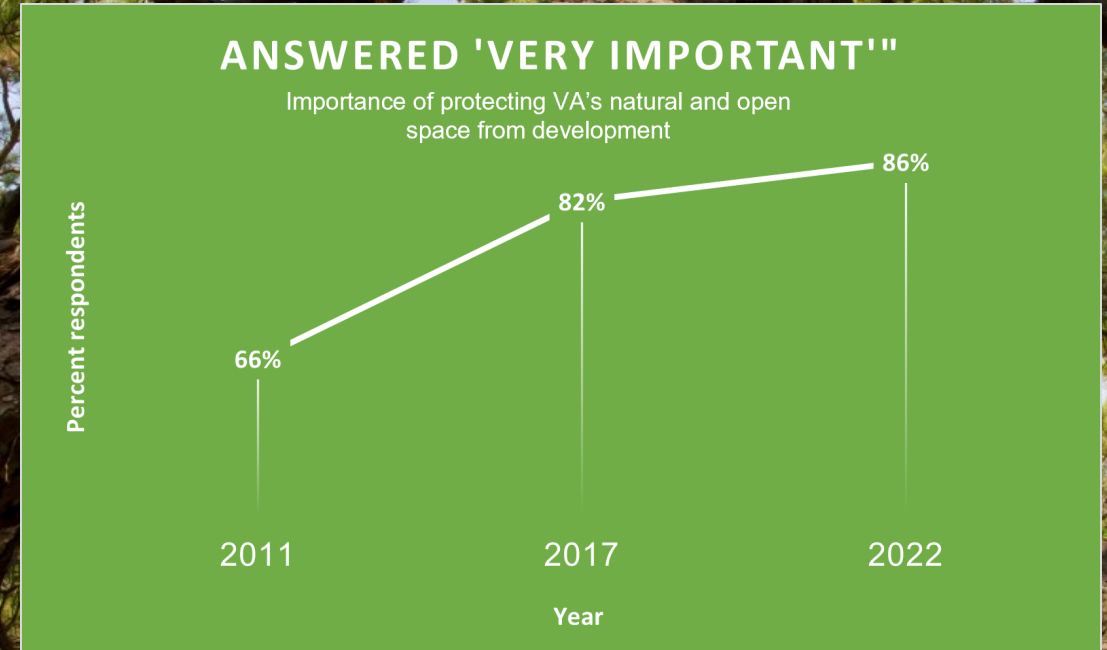
Sections 3.1 & 3.2 – In-text citations that support both private and public land conservation

Section 3.1.3

- “**Most respondents (85.7%) believe that it is important to protect Virginia’s natural and open space lands from development.**”
- “**91% of Virginians believe public funds** should be used to acquire land to prevent the loss of natural areas.”

Section 3.2.3

- “**Ecosystem services** and other appreciable values **arise from conserved tracts of land, especially connected** and conserved tracts of land.”
- “**Water quality improvement efforts** and overall **watershed integrity** significantly **influence resource conservation** and **recreation enjoyment.**”



“
Once natural lands and historic areas are lost, they are lost forever. Preserve, preserve, preserve.”

Survey respondent, Virginia Outdoors Survey Report

Section 4 – Grants

Inside the VOP HUB

Gateway for Funding - devoted to assist applicants and promote grant programs

Key Takeaways

- **Recommendations** during all **steps of planning** a recreation or conservation project
- Guidance to **achieve success** and access funding
- Navigating **agency coordination** for NEPA and Section 106 - compliance for Federal funding
- Finding grant, cost-share, and agency **programs** that suit specific planned project

Recreation Grants and Funding Opportunities

Section 4.1



Federal and State Grants - Planning Assistance

Section 4

Section 4.1 - Federal and State Grants

Looking for a grant program? Learn more about the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other grant programs that support the topics covered in the Virginia Outdoors Plan.



[Visit Page](#)



Section 4.2 - Grant Planning for Success

An overview of common grant purposes, best practices to improve eligibility, incorporating...

[Visit Page](#)



Section 4.3 - Navigating Federal and State Requirements

An assistance tool for LWCF applications

[Visit Page](#)

What makes a good grant project?

1. The project plan follows current guidance from the Virginia Outdoors Plan, locality comprehensive plan, and statewide agency plans and initiatives.
2. Recreational facilities and amenities development avoids negative impacts to environmental and cultural resources described in the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and identified through online planning tools.
3. The project plan follows the grant purpose and call for proposal.
4. The project is beyond the concept phase.
5. The project has a realistic scope of work, timeframe, and budget.
6. The project is developed in tandem with strong partnerships that include volunteer groups and non-profit stakeholders, and with community engagement throughout the planning phases.

Best practices for grant eligibility

Consider the information below as what may be most ideal, but not always required.

Competitive grant rounds have key planning milestones and formal approval processes prior to any fund distribution. Eligible projects that meet all the grant program requirements and align to program goals are more likely to succeed, but application rounds typically receive more eligible projects than what the funding can support.

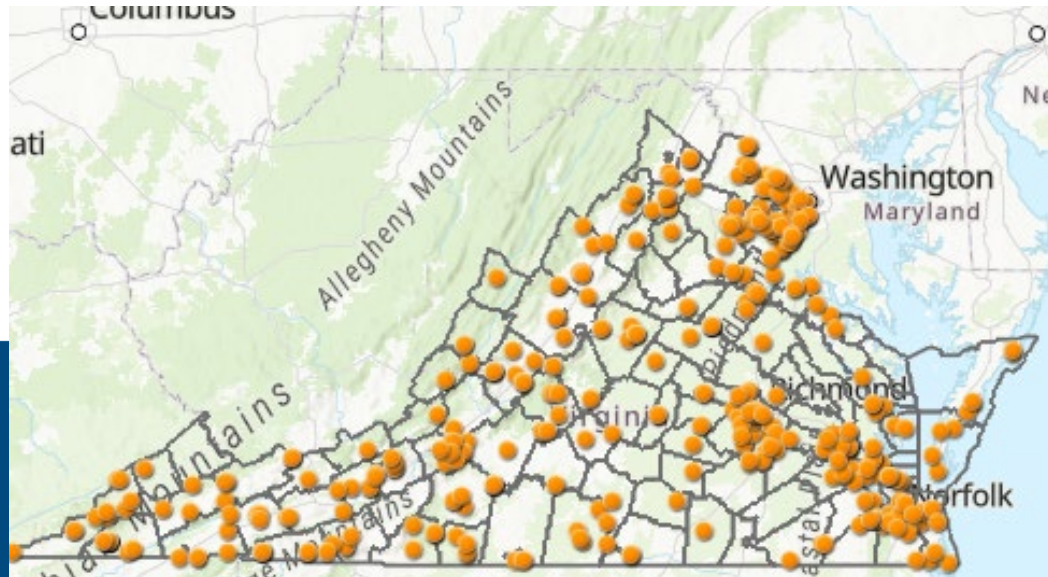
Grant manuals and grant announcements provide details on the program requirements and stipulations, and it is also common for grant managers to hold information webinars ahead of a grant round application deadline.

Grants – Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/lwcf>

Key Takeaways

- **Federal funding** apportioned to State from National Park Service
- DCR is the **pass-through liaison** to administer grant rounds and projects in coordination with sponsors (localities, recreation authorities, state agencies, tribal entities)
- 50/50% **match reimbursement program**
- Acquisition, Development, or Combination – **public lands for outdoor recreation**
 - **Must be protected in perpetuity** (no future conversions)



- Ways to be creative about match funding – apportionment between \$4-9M
- **Must meet Federal NEPA and Section 106** compliance to be awarded



Who Can Apply?

Eligible Applicants

- **Localities**
 - Town, City, County, etc.
- **State Agencies**
 - DWR, DOF, or DCR, etc.
- **Tribes**
 - Federal and/or State recognized
- **Regional Recreation Authorities**
 - Legally recorded by General Assembly

Ineligible

Non-profits, charitable organizations, businesses, and individuals are **NOT** eligible

The '**applicant**' must ultimately be able to **hold and protect** the property forever with no change in ownership required or chance of dissolution of organization.

The **applicant** also must have ability to **fully fund** the project while waiting for the reimbursed 50% amount.

The applicant must have staff available to administer the grant through closeout.



Project Type: Acquisition

Eligible

- Lands, wetlands, waters for public outdoor recreation
- Add parcels to:
 - Developed park areas
 - Undeveloped areas for passive recreation

Ineligible

- Land that is not currently available to the public – parks already owned by the applicant not eligible

The ENTIRE park property boundary will be protected

- Must be a 'Fee Simple' acquisition to ensure full ownership rights and public access with ability to ensure provisions of LWCF Act
- Can be accomplished through purchase, transfer, or donation (depends on scope of project)
- **Value** is based on [UASFLA appraisal](#)



Project Type: Development

Properties already owned/protected by the applicant

ENTIRE park property will be included in the “**LWCF Boundary**”

- Consider future uses or needs of other park areas, and individual parcels included in the LWCF boundary. Needs to be compatible with LWCF, and cannot be sold or converted to non-public recreation uses.

Fund development that provides:

- Public access to park areas and meaningful experiences
- Accessible amenities and resilient infrastructure
- Safe experiences and promotes healthy communities
- Protects the community investment of the shared area

Project type examples (review NPS manual for criteria):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ○ Parking | ○ Pools | ○ Support Facilities |
| ○ Restroom Facilities | ○ Pickleball/Tennis Courts | ○ Operation and Maintenance facilities |
| ○ Renovating Facilities | ○ Boating Facilities | ○ Shoreline Stabilization* |
| ○ Accessible Facilities | ○ Trails* | ○ Beautification |
| ○ Ball and Sports Fields | ○ Camping Amenities | |
| ○ Playgrounds | ○ Fishing/Hunting | |
| ○ Splashpads and/or Outdoor | ○ Target Ranges | |



Other Grant Opportunities:

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)

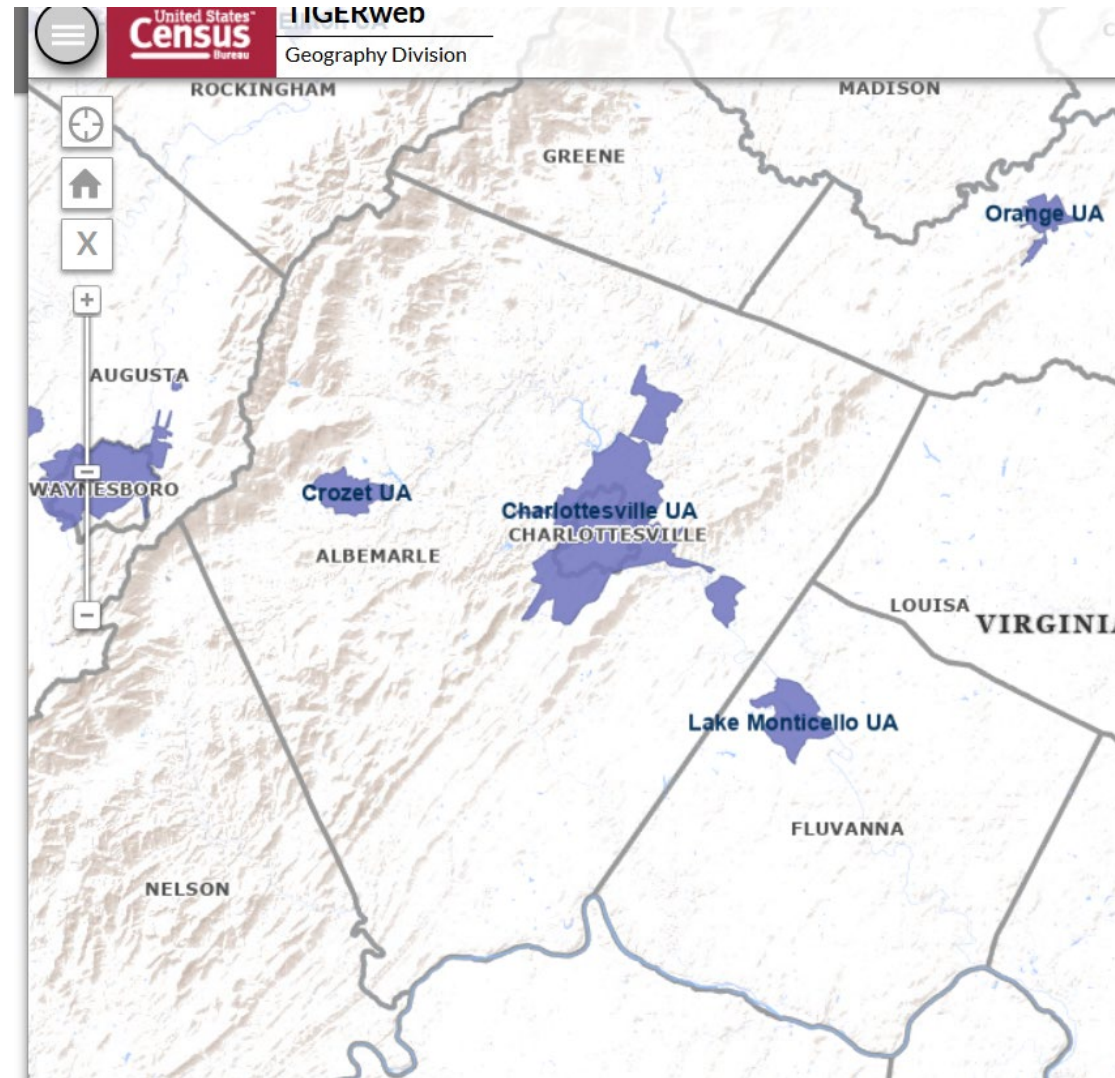
- Sub-program of LWCF
- National competition w/ its own scoring criteria
- Must be in qualifying area
- 1:1 match, awards up to \$15 million
- 2026 DCR preapplication period July 14 - September 10

ORLP qualifying areas:

- An urban area with a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census,
- Two or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of 25,000 or more, or
- An area administered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe*

**Federally recognized Indian Tribes can apply directly to NPS w/out DCR pass-through*

ORLP Eligible Areas



Grants – Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/trailfnd>



RTP 350D230 – Appalachian Conservation Corps

Purpose

To develop and maintain public recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized use.

Funding

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
FY21-26 – IIJA/BIL

RTP in Virginia

Since 1993, over 380 projects awarded

80/20% match reimbursement program - Approx \$1.45M annually

Applicant Eligibility



RTP 326N190 – Shenandoah Valley
Bicycle Coalition

- Local governments
- State agencies
- Tribal governments
- Federal government agencies
- Public recreation government entities (park authorities, park agencies, etc.)
- Non-Profit Organizations (must have letter of support from local government body)

**2026 Grant Round awarded project in Rivanna River Watershed =
Albemarle County – Old Mills Trail - \$210,000**

Grants – other opportunities

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/grants-funding>

- **Trail Access Grants:** when funding is available – increase access to trail opportunities for people with disabilities (100% reimbursement)
- **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP)** – LWCF
Competitive program for urban designated places development outdoor recreation areas with community impact especially for underserved communities.
- **Virginia Land Conservation Fund:** purchase or conservation easements for open spaces and parks, lands of historic or cultural significance, farmlands and forests, and natural areas
- **Community Flood Preparedness Fund** – support for regions & localities to reduce impacts of flooding – in alignment with Coastal Resilience Master Plan; funding can include for staffing and planning purposes



Conserving Virginia's Diverse
Landscapes for 25 years

Farmland | Forestland | Natural Areas
Historic Areas | Open Spaces & Parks

LEARN MORE

VLCF Program Information

DCR Land Conservation Office

- Annual funding determined by General Assembly (\$12 M for FY27)
- Fee simple acquisition or conservation easement for certain purposes:

Five categories:

Farmland Preservation

Forestland Preservation

Historic Resources Preservation

Natural Area Preservation

Open Spaces & Parks

State funding can be used to match
Federal (LWCF) funding.





General VLCF Program Requirements

- Applicants can seek up to 50% of the purchase price + due diligence costs, unless a state agency or Virginia Indian Tribe (100%).
- Project must protect a specific site, with the boundaries clearly identified in the application.
- Projects by nonprofits must have an open-space easement held by a public body.
- Project should be completed within two years; a one-year extension may be granted.
- Grant payments made as a reimbursement at closing, or afterwards; land must be conserved prior to grant payment.

VOP Tools

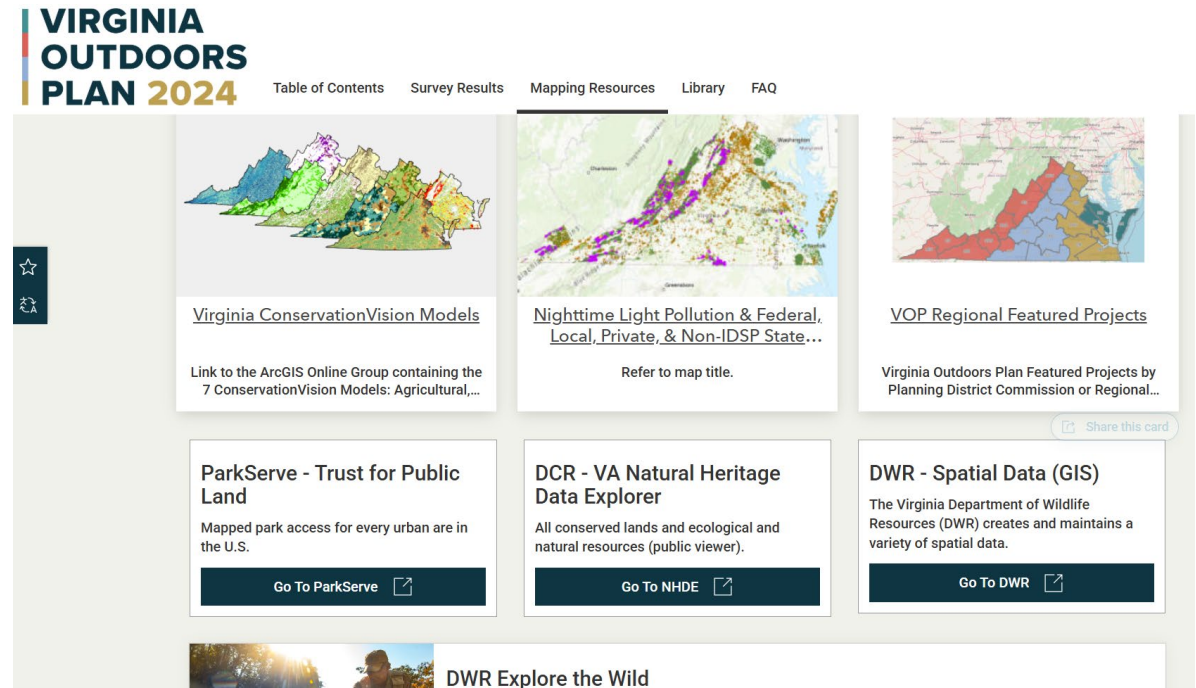
Inside the VOP HUB

Mapping Resources – partner tools for exploration and planning purposes

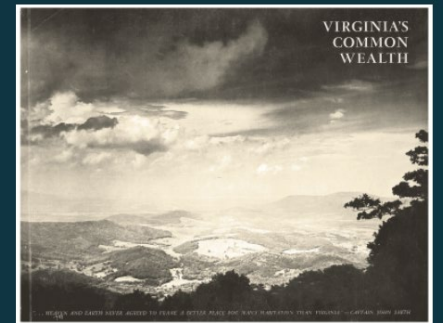
Library – resources contributed to plan contents

Key Takeaways

- **VOP Regional Featured projects** planned and in progress by PDC
- The VOP is not a printable document but there is a **VOP Summary**
- Refer to **Table of Contents**
- Click icon to return home anytime



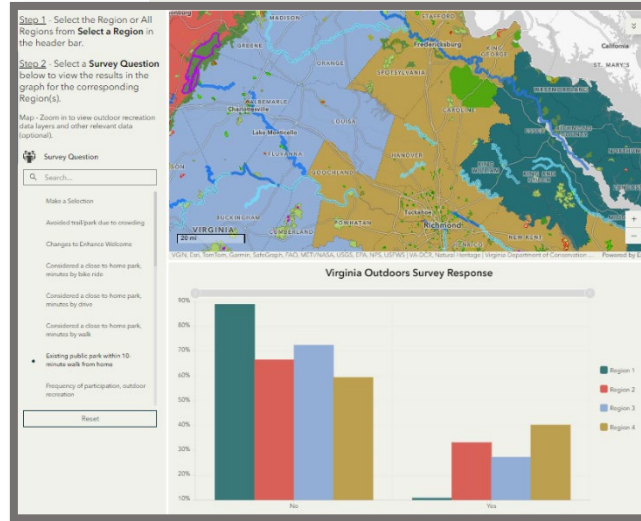
Read the 1965 Virginia Outdoors Plan



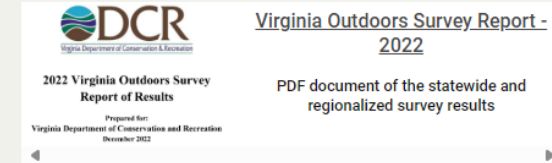
Click image to open document

New Survey Results in Dashboards

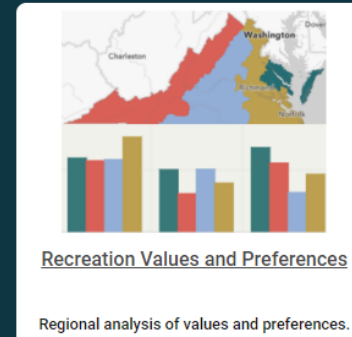
- Regionalized survey results alongside recreation data for simultaneous **spatial analysis**.
- A **demographic variables** dashboard shows results that stood out between statistically weighted demographic groups – a first for the Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- Surveyed activities are **easier to find, filter, and interpret** in regional dashboards



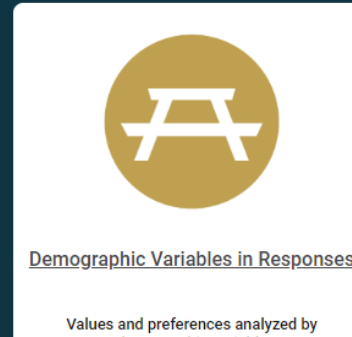
Activity	Percent Response (%)	Regional Significance
Swimming/outdoor pool	40.20	
Viewing the water	34.30	
Pools	33.40	Yes
Swimming beach, lake, river	28.80	
Fresh water fishing	28.10	
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	27.10	
Salt water fishing	26.40	Yes
Canoeing/kayaking	25.00	
Paddling on scenic rivers	19.30	
Tubing on water	11.30	
Paddle boarding	9.80	
Power boating	7.60	
Sailing	6.40	



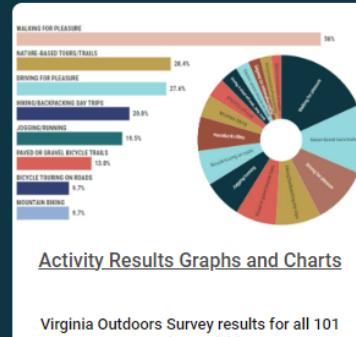
Virginia Outdoors Survey Results Dashboards



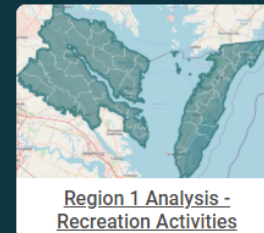
Regional analysis of values and preferences.



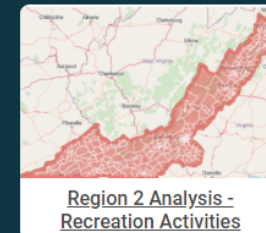
Values and preferences analyzed by demographic variable



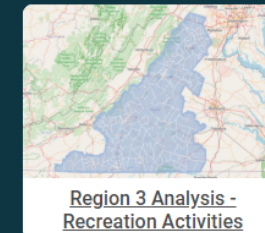
Virginia Outdoors Survey results for all 101 recreation activities.



Region 1 Analysis - Recreation Activities



Region 2 Analysis - Recreation Activities



Region 3 Analysis - Recreation Activities



Region 4 Analysis - Recreation Activities

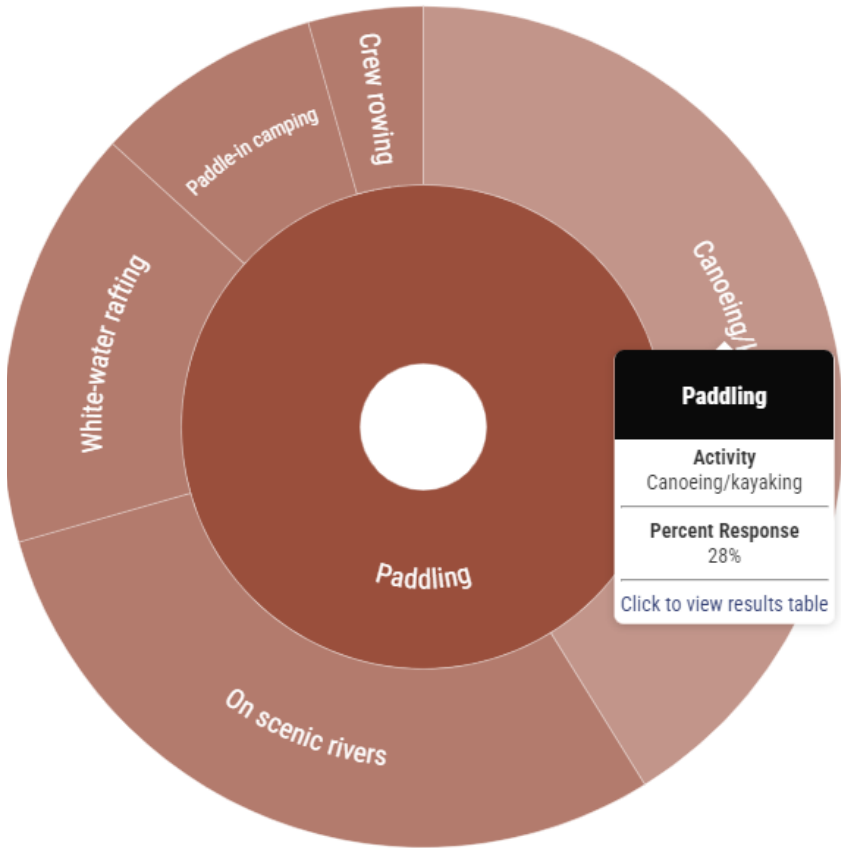
New Survey Results in Dashboards - 101 Activities

Water-Based Activities VOS Respondents say are 'Most Needed'
Click on the wedges to reveal weighted statistical results for each activity within the group.
Use the arrow to go back one step.



‘Activity Wheels’ of the Virginia Outdoors Plan

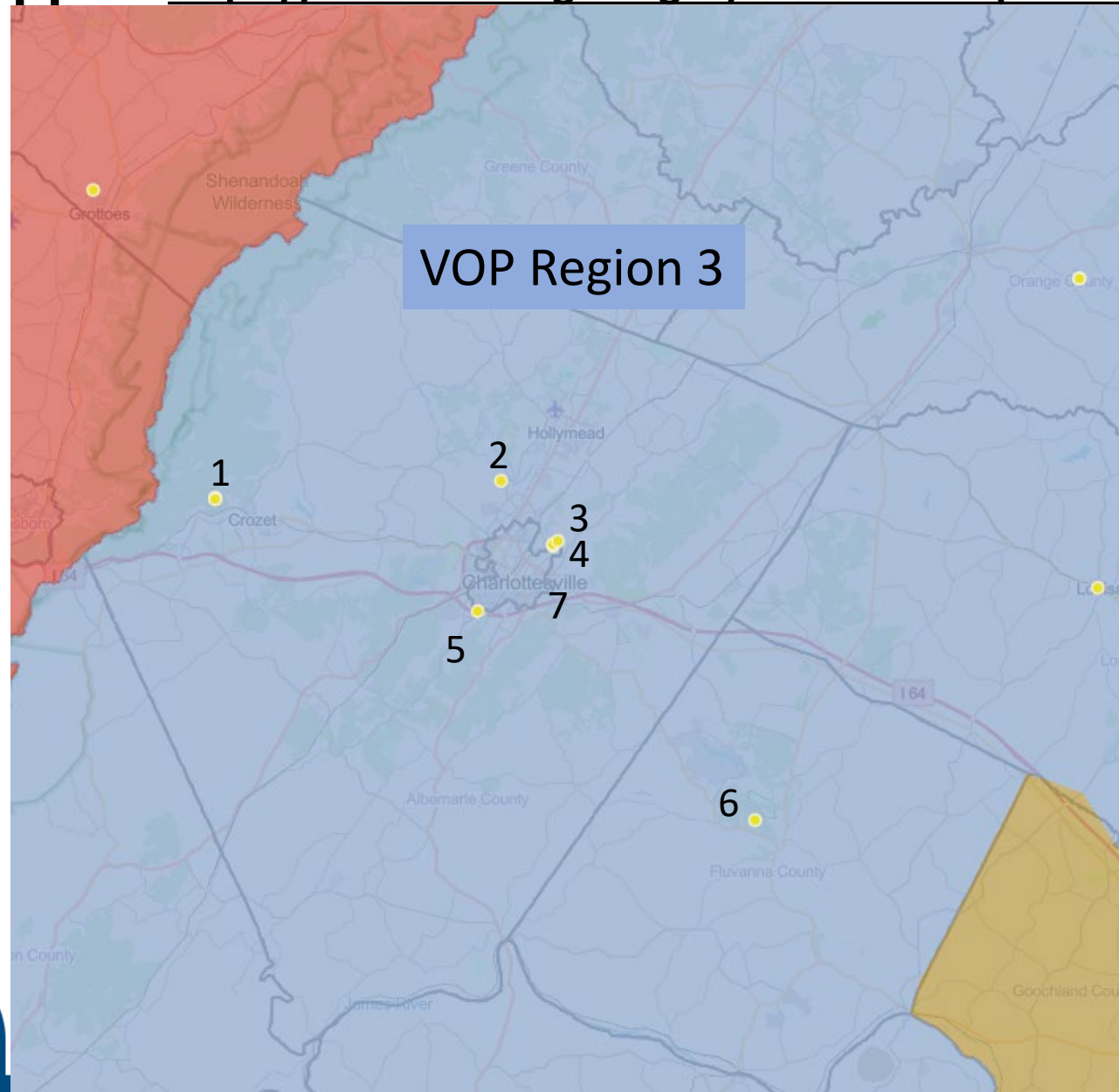
Water-Based Activities VOS Respondents say are 'Most Needed'
Click on the wedges to reveal weighted statistical results for each activity within the group.
Use the arrow to go back one step.



VOP Mapper <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vopmapper>

LWCF Sites:

1. Albemarle - Chris Greene/Mint Springs Development project in 1972
2. Charlottesville & Albemarle - **Ivy Creek Natural Area** Acquisition & Development 1981
3. Charlottesville - **Wayland Park** Acquisition & Development- 1972



LWCF Sites:

4. Charlottesville – Pen Park Playground & Tennis Courts - 2006
5. Charlottesville – Azalea Park Improvements - 2015
6. County of Fluvanna – Pleasant Grove Sports Complex Development – 2003

Not on VOP Map yet:

- 7. Charlottesville Moore's Creek Acquisition

Recently approved 2025 Grant Round application:

- Charlottesville – Tonsler Park Fitness Court

Featured Projects

VIRGINIA
OUTDOORS
PLAN 2024

Sign In

VIRGINIA
OUTDOORS
PLAN 2024

Regional Featured Projects

Planning District Commission

Filter Featured Project
By Project Type

Filter Featured Projects
By Project Status

Filter Featured Projects
Select a VOP Region

Filter by PDC
Thomas Jefferson Planni...

Virginia Outdoors Plan Featured Projects List

Search...

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Project Type: Water access

Project Name: **Regional water access**

Project Status: In progress

VOP Region: Region 3

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Project Type: Water trails

Project Name: **Rivanna River Blueway**

Project Status: In progress

VOP Region: Region 3

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Project Type: Water trails

Project Name: **Rapidan Blueway**

Project Status: Started

VOP Region: Region 3

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Project Type: Water trails

Project Name: **Rockfish River Blueway**

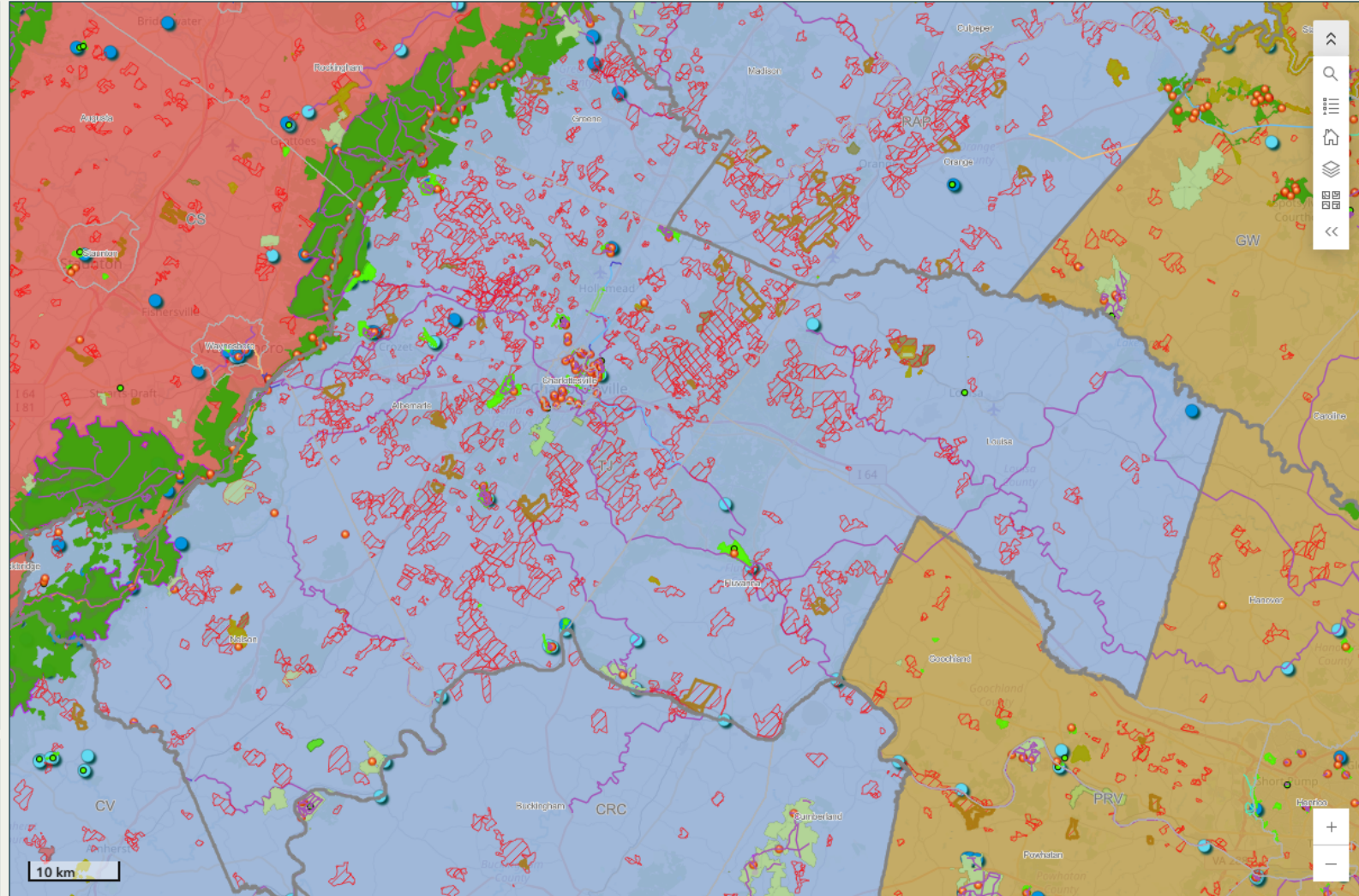
Project Status: In progress

VOP Region: Region 3

Featured Project Status



In progress 8
Removed 1
Started 4



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA | Layer was created using the following sources: High Definition National Hydrography Dataset. U.S. Geological Survey. - For all river and creek ce... Powered by Esri

This map and associated table depict the recreation projects recommended for the 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan at the regional meetings held between 2019-2021, and solicitation for updates in 2023.

Legend

Layer symbols will appear below when they are turned on

Local
Non-Profit

VAConservationLands

MANAGEMENT LEVEL

DESIGNATION
COHOLD
EASEMENT
FEE-FEDERAL
FEE-LOCAL
FEE-PRIVATE
FEE-STATE
FEE-TRIBAL

Scenic Rivers

Water Access

Predominant category

Fishing Access
Boating Access
Swimming Access
General Access

VOP Region

all features

Region 1

Recreation Activities

Region 3 Analysis

VOP Category
Reset Data Table

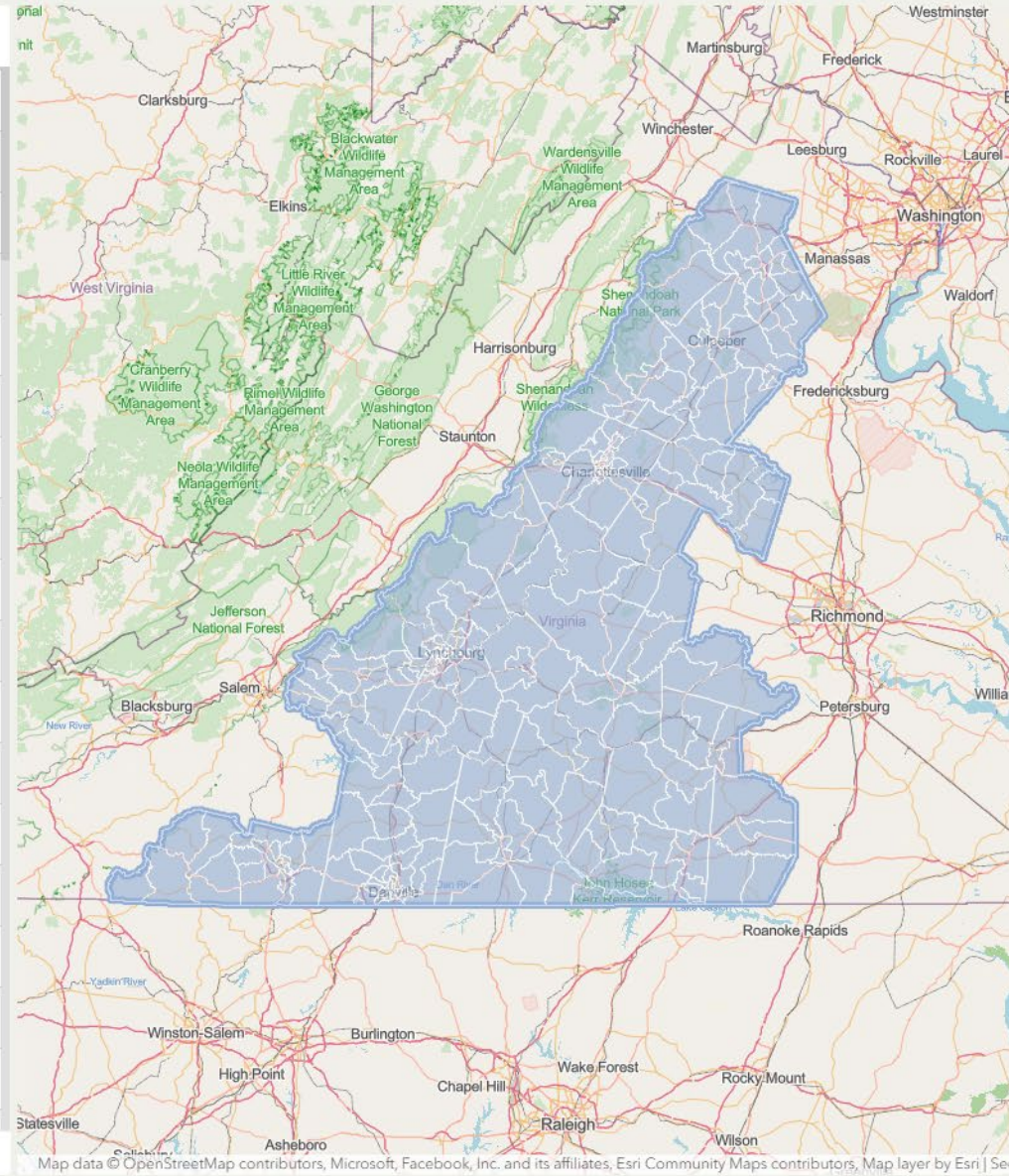
Sports and Free Play

Trails

Water Access

Wildlife and Nature-Oriented

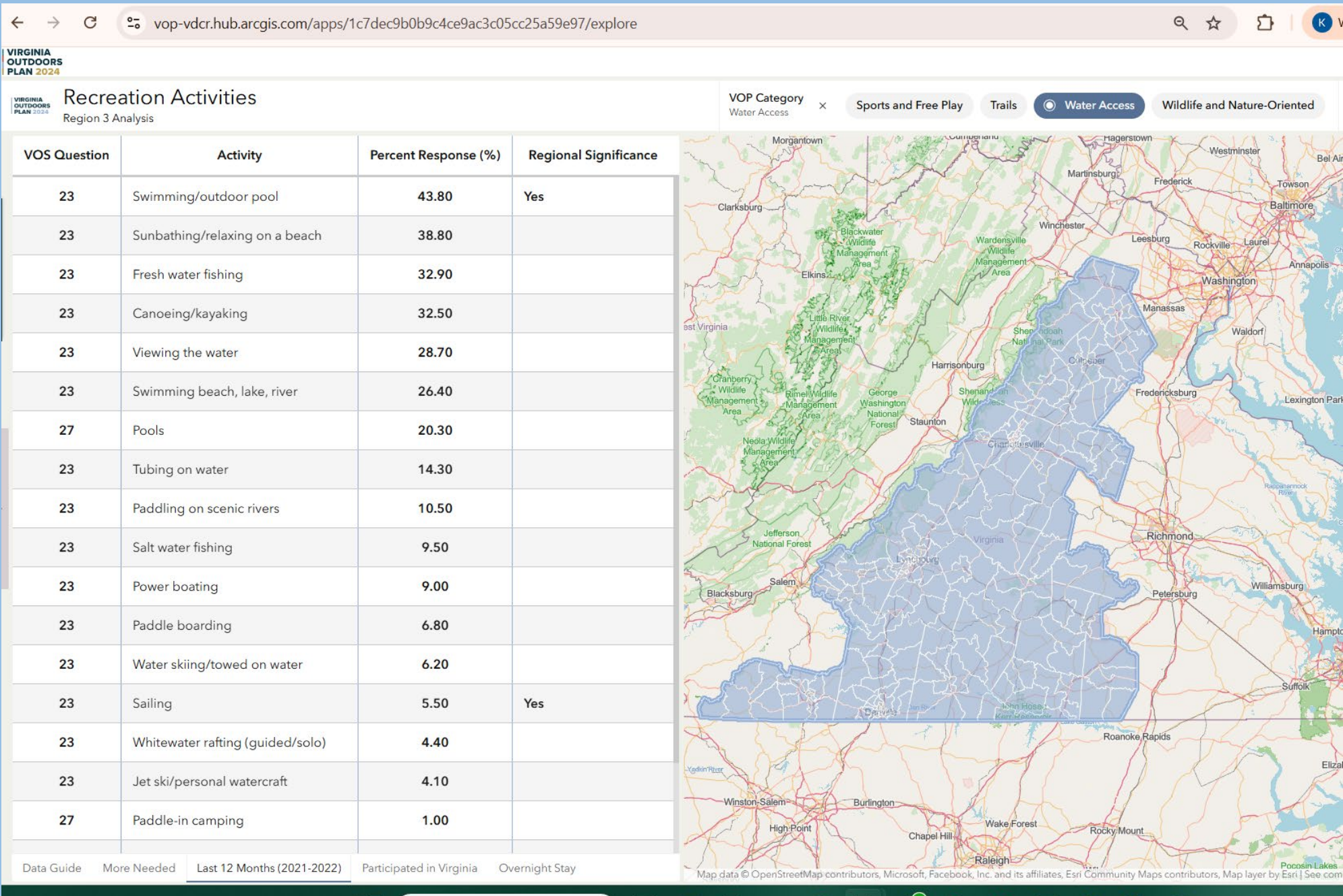
VOS Question	Activity	Percent Response (%)	Regional Significance
28	Walking for pleasure	46.40	
25	Outdoor festivals	38.70	
23	Swimming/outdoor pool	38.20	
25	Music festivals	36.30	
27	Visiting parks (local, state, national)	35.30	
23	Fresh water fishing	35.00	
23	Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	32.60	Yes
27	Visiting gardens/arboretums	32.50	
25	Visiting working farms, etc.	30.80	
22	Snow sledding/tubing	27.90	
28	Hiking/backpacking day trip	27.50	
24	Basketball	27.00	
27	Stargazing, dark skies, astronomy	26.60	
24	Shooting range	26.50	
25	Driving for pleasure	26.20	
24	18-hole golf	26.10	Yes
27	Pools	25.90	



Survey Results Dashboards

Region 3 analysis:
More Needed
overall recreation activities

‘Yes’ indicates a response in this region is statistically significant comparable to statewide results for same activity



Survey Results Dashboards

Region 3 analysis:

Participated in Virginia

Water access recreation 2021-2022 (year leading to VOS)

2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan



[Table of Contents](#) [Survey Results](#) [Mapping Resources](#) [Library](#) [FAQ](#)

[VIEW THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN](#)

[Reference this](#) (PDF) for more information about how to navigate and cite the VOP.

VOP Mapper

View recreation data on a variety of interactive maps with the [VOP Mapper](#).

2022 Virginia Outdoors Survey

DCR conducts the survey every five years to gauge the level at which Virginians participate in specific outdoor recreation activities. The survey was conducted by the Survey and Evaluation Research Laboratory in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The survey was conducted with a probability sample (of 6,100 households invited to participate, 888 responded) in addition to a crowd-source survey with 3,567 responses.

[Download the entire survey.](#)

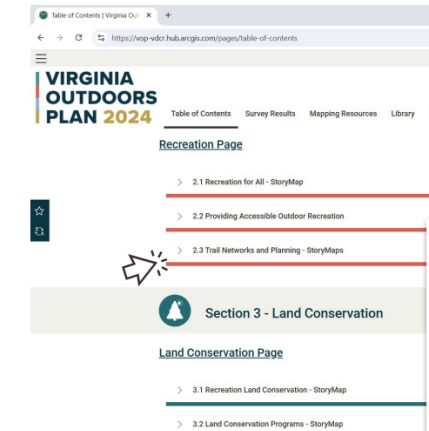


[HTTPS://VOP-VDCCR.HUB.ARCGIS.COM/PAGES/TABLE-OF-CONTENTS](https://vop-vdcr.hub.arcgis.com/pages/table-of-contents)

USING THE VOP TABLE OF CONTENTS



Table of Contents and Project Narrative Example



Expand a subsection to view topics and to quickly navigate to a topic in the VOP. The subsection and title can be used in your citation.

Use the links below to jump to a topic in the StoryMap

1. [Introduction - Outdoor Recreation in Virginia](#)
2. [Recreation Inventory](#)
3. [Data and Survey Results](#)
 - [Participation, Interests, and Needs](#)
 - [Outdoor Recreation Activities](#)
4. [Outdoor Recreation Priorities](#)

Example Project Scenario

If your project contributes to recreational water access (i.e.



Computer and mobile friendly; screen reader accessible

Thank you!

Kristal McKelvey

Kristal.mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov

804-508-8896

<https://vop-vdcr.hub.arcgis.com/>

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants>