

## **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Releases Comprehensive Plan for Outdoor Recreation, Land Conservation**

Virginia's official guide for the planning of public outdoor recreation and land conservation has been revised and is now available online. The [Virginia Outdoors Plan](#), which is updated every five years, highlights the beautiful natural resources and historical attractions Virginia has to offer.

This is the 10th plan to be produced since the 1965 publication of "Virginia's Common Wealth," the first comprehensive study of Virginia's outdoor recreation facilities and resources. It is the first to be completely paperless, and its publication marks the debut of [VOP Mapper](#), a user-friendly online tool for mapping outdoor recreation resources and conserved lands.

[Click here](#) to view a video of First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe introducing the plan.

This plan's theme is "Virginia is for Outdoor Lovers," and recommendations focus heavily on expanding tourism opportunities and the economy through outdoor recreation and land conservation.

The **Virginia Outdoors Plan** is a requirement for Virginia to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. Since that program's inception nearly 50 years ago, Virginia has received more than \$76 million in LWCF grants through the National Park Service. DCR is tasked with dispersing these grant funds statewide for public outdoor recreation. More than 400 projects across the state have been made possible through this funding. These projects range from improvements at existing parks to land acquisitions for developing new parks.

The **Virginia Outdoors Plan** is developed using results of the [Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey](#). The survey helps gauge the level at which Virginians are participating in specific outdoor recreation activities. It also measures respondents' attitudes about the importance of outdoor recreation and land conservation, their use of technology to find outdoor recreation opportunities, and the outdoor amenities they prefer.

The survey cited in this plan was administered in 2011 by the University of Virginia Center for Survey Research. The plan was developed using the responses from 3,100 Virginia households. In addition to the survey, input about outdoor recreation and land conservation was collected during 42 public meetings around the state.