



**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation**  
**State Trails Advisory Committee**

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**State Trails Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 15th

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Cedric Rucker University Center at the University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA

**State Trails Advisory Committee Members Present**

Adrienne Kotula  
Champe Burnley  
Elliott Caldwell  
Frank Maguire  
Matthew Helt  
Max Goldman

Melicent Miller  
Nathan Hilbert  
Paul Gilbert  
Peter Krebs  
Sally Aungier  
Torsha Battacharya  
Ursula Lemansky  
Cat Anthony

**State Trails Advisory Committee Member Not Present**

Alister Perkinson  
Allison Wishon  
Andrew Downs  
Brantley Tyndall  
David Cook  
Dennis Gaston  
James Beamer  
James Thompson  
Jeff Monroe  
Jerry Nichols

Jody Shiflett  
Justin Doyle  
Kristine McCormick  
Leslie Grayson  
Michael Ullmann  
Mona Burwell  
Nikki Rovner  
Rob Campbell  
Steve (Anthony) Pike  
Timothy Hupp  
Victoria Ferguson

**DCR Staff Present**

Kellie Seaton, Recreation Grants Coordinator  
Kelly McClary, Planning and Recreation Resources  
Division Director

Samantha Wangsgard, Chief Environmental Planner  
Frank Stovall, Deputy Director of Operations  
Matthew Wells, Director of DCR  
Salim Chishti, Environmental Program Planner

**I. Welcome and Attendance**

- a. Meeting started at 8:55 by Kelly McClary. Introduction of new STAC coordinator, Salim Chishti, and other DCR staff.
- b. Welcome remarks by DCR Director Matthew Wells.

c. Meeting overview and housekeeping by Salim Chishti.

**II. VDOT State Trails Office Update**

a. Torsha Bhattacharya introduced new VDOT trails staff and gave an update on the State Trails Plan. Phase 1 is now complete and under review. Phase 2 will identify barriers to trails and develop standards for context sensitive trail design.

**III. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) discussion and finalize**

a. Discussion of SOP topics from October meeting – attendees were divided into 7 tables and spent 20 minutes discussing one of the following topics from the SOP

*i. Demographics of the STAC membership*

*ii. Number of meetings/length*

*iii. Subcommittees*

b. Facilitators report to whole group and discuss - facilitator from each table reported on that table's discussion to the rest of the group.

**IV. STAC Report Recommendations Breakout Groups**

a. Each table (same tables as in III) identified their #1 priority from Legislative Priorities and discuss – (the legislative code was provided)

b. Facilitators report to the whole group on their #1 priority identified at their table.

**V. Fall Meeting Topics and Planning**

a. First order of business at the Fall meeting will be to vote on the SOP with revisions based on discussion at this meeting

b. Other items will be voting on the priorities of STAC, discussion of subcommittees, Office of Trails update (standing item)

c. There was also a request that the membership list be provided.

**VI. Kelly McClary adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15AM**



# STATE TRAILS OFFICE UPDATES

State Trails Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024

# Agenda

- New Staff Introduction
- Statewide Trails Plan Phase 1
- Statewide Trails Plan Phase 2
- Resource Hub
- Trail Design and Cost Guidelines



*The Virginia Creeper Trail,  
Southwest Virginia*

# Statewide Trails Plan – Phase 1

## Help Build Virginia's Network of Trails

*Virginia's Statewide Trails Plan will lay the groundwork for a network of multi-use trails in the Commonwealth. The State Trails Office invites you and your community to participate in the process.*



### The Statewide Trails Plan will:



Inventory existing and proposed multi-use trails in the Commonwealth



Identify key gaps in Virginia's network of multi-use trails



Outline next steps and best practices in multi-use trail development



Provide opportunities for community visioning and engagement

**The Statewide Trails Plan will focus on multi-use trails.**

# State of Trail System – Overview



**Inventory of current statewide trail network using data from DCR, MPOs, PDCs and local jurisdictions**



**Review data quality and attributes**

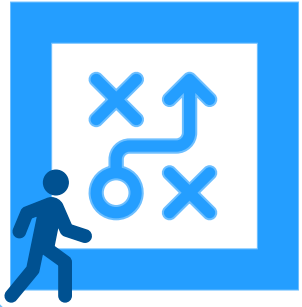


**Identify high-level multi-use trail needs to inform Statewide Trail Plan**



**Initiate development of a statewide Resource Hub for all trails**

# Statewide Trails Plan – Phase 2



**Identify  
physical  
barriers to  
trails**



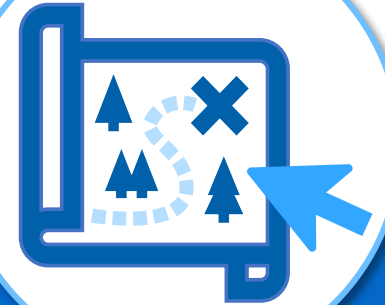
**Analyze  
connections  
to  
multimodal  
networks**



**Aggregate  
local, state,  
and federal  
funding  
resources**



**Develop  
standards  
and guidance  
for context  
sensitive trail  
design**



**Create a  
StoryMap  
summarizing  
plan content**



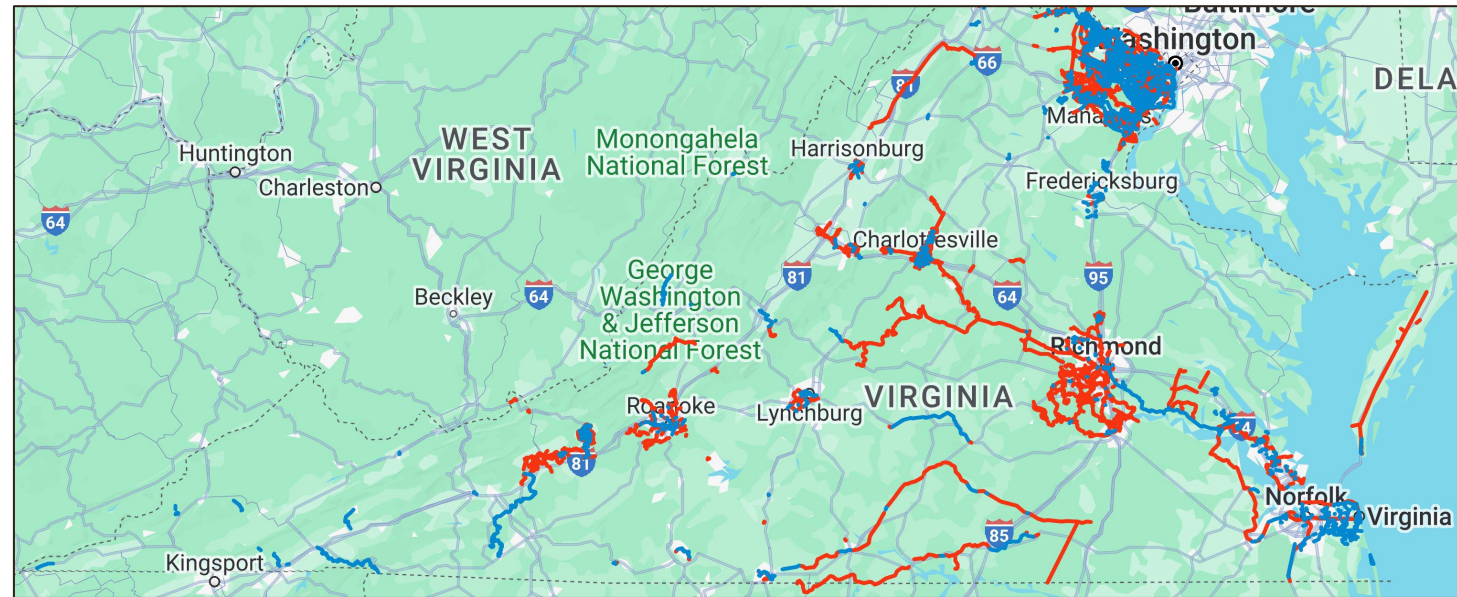
# Resource Hub

- **A resource site for all types of trails in Virginia**
- **Map existing trail facilities**
  - Shared-use paths
  - Rail-to-Trail/Rail-with-Trail
  - Single track
  - State Park trail
  - Publicly and privately owned-publicly accessible trails
- **Collaborate with stakeholders to refine content that best meets the needs of end users.**
- **Standardize trail input attributes**
- **Spatialize trails data and develop an interactive mapping interface**



# Resource Hub – Initial Steps

- 1500 miles of existing multiuse trails
- 2900 miles of planned multiuse trails
- **Attributes:**
  - Trail Name
  - Trail Surface Type
  - Trail Use
  - Width in Feet
  - Segment Length
  - Trail Open Date
  - Locality Name
  - Ownership and Maintenance Structure



Trails Data Inventory (January 2024)

# Trail Design and Cost Guidelines

- **Context sensitive design guidelines**
- **List the different trail contexts in Virginia**
  - Coastal
  - Mountain
  - Environmentally sensitive areas
  - Urban, Suburban, Rural
- **Identify trail criteria and attributes that impact cost**
  - Surface material
  - Width
  - Structures
- **Decision matrix for trail development based on location, design, and federal/state funding eligibility criteria**





# Contact Us:

Website: [vdot.virginia.gov/trails](https://vdot.virginia.gov/trails)

Contact the State Trails Office: [statetrailsoffice@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:statetrailsoffice@vdot.virginia.gov)

