



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Ralph S. Northam
Governor

February 13, 2019

Dear Fellow Virginians,

It is my great honor to introduce the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), a five-year roadmap for increasing access to outdoor recreation and conserving our natural resources.

Since the original plan was published in 1965, the VOP has served localities, government agencies and the private sector as a valuable planning tool.

This plan identifies long-term needs for parks, natural areas and land conservation while highlighting the importance of the outdoors to our health, economy and quality of life. It also addresses the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise, the defining issues of our time.

Leaders in outdoor recreation, land conservation, public health, planning and education joined together to develop this VOP. I thank them for their input and for what they do every day to make Virginia the best state in which to live, work and play.

Each of us has an opportunity to protect and preserve Virginia's natural resources for current and future generations. I invite you to join those efforts, and the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan is an excellent place to begin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam