

State Trails Advisory Committee Meeting



May 15, 2024

Welcome





Meeting Purpose

This committee was established to assist DCR in developing and implementing a statewide system of attractive, sustainable, connected, and enduring trails for the perpetual use and enjoyment of citizens. This meeting is one of two currently held annually to facilitate these efforts.

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Member Attendance
- II. VDOT State Trails Office Update
- III. Break Out Group Discussions
 - I. Standard Operating Procedure
 - I. Break
 - II. Recommended Priorities for 2024/25 Reporting Year
- IV. Fall Meeting Topics and Planning



Virginia Department of Transportation

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



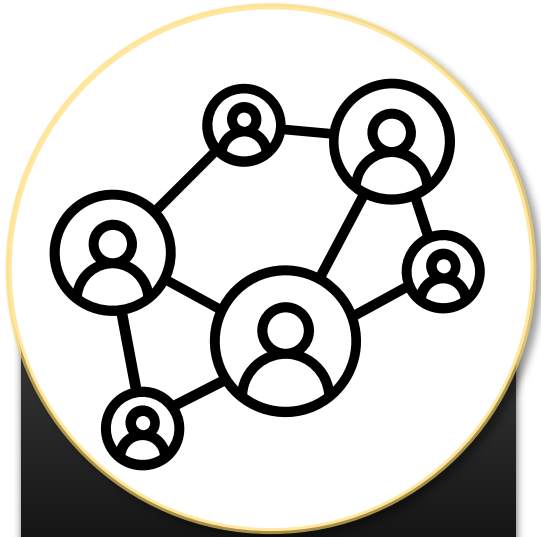
Outline next steps and best practices in multi-use trail development



Provide opportunities for community visioning and engagement

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

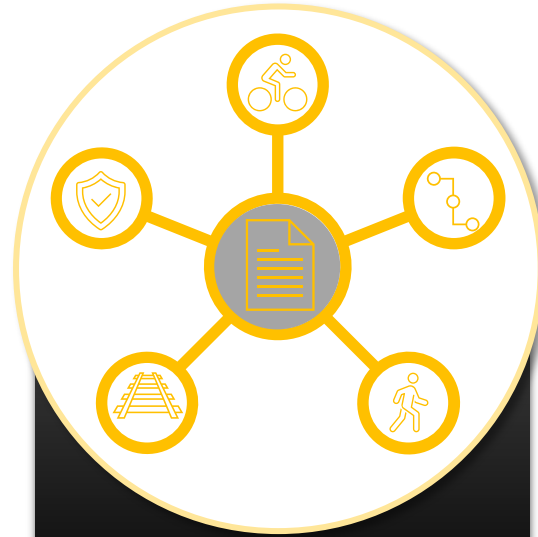
State of Trail System – Overview



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



Review data quality and attributes

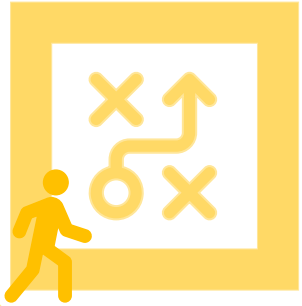


Identify high-level multi-use trail needs to inform Statewide Trail Plan

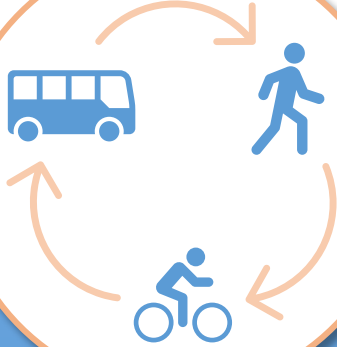


Initiate development of a statewide Resource Hub for all trails

Statewide Trails Plan – Phase 2



**Identify
physical
barriers to
trails**



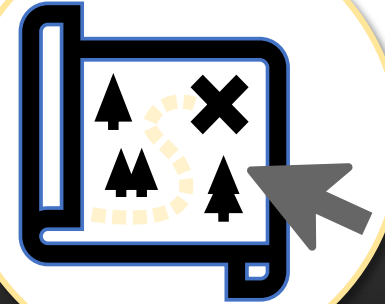
**Analyze
connections
to
multimodal
networks**



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



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



**Create a
StoryMap
summarizing
plan content**

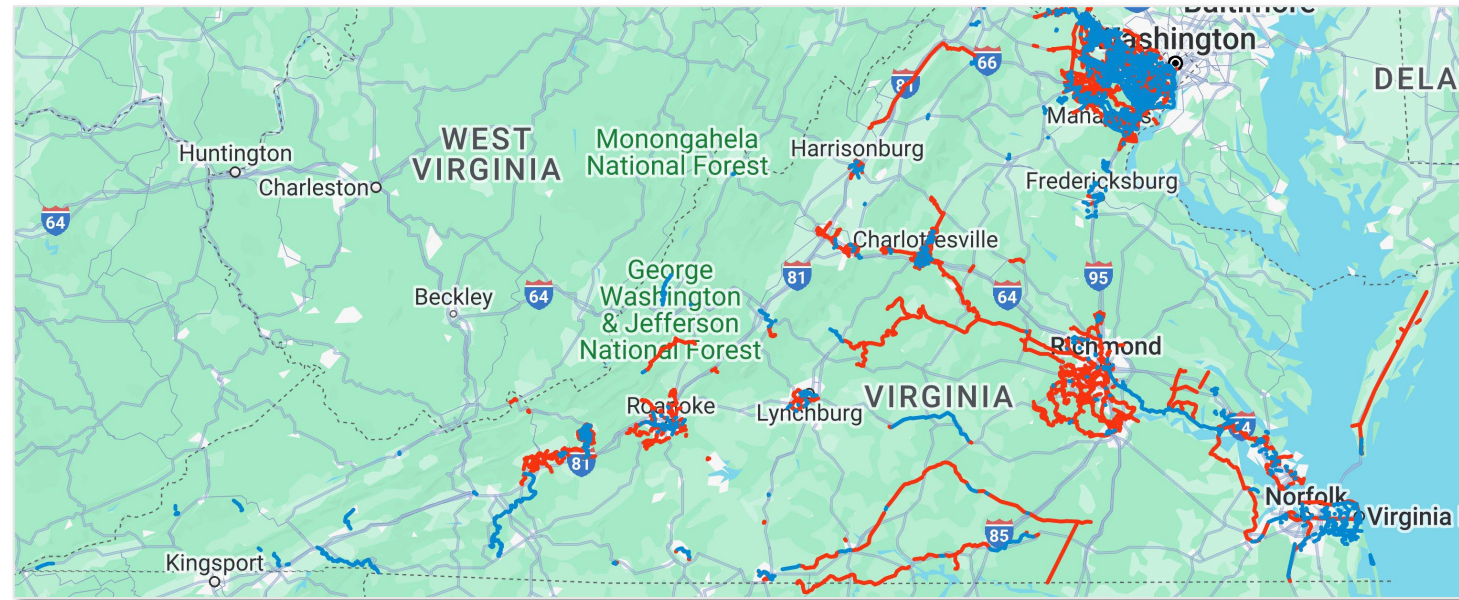
Resource Hub

- 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
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- Contact the State Trails Office: statetrailsoffice@vdot.virginia.gov



Break Out Group Discussions

Purpose: To discuss and finalize Standard Operating Procedure and identify STAC priorities to focus on in the 2024/25 Reporting Year

- **Session 1:** Standard Operating Procedure for STAC
- Break
- **Session 2:** STAC Recommended Priorities for 2024/25 Reporting Year



Session Guidelines

- Each table has one facilitator to guide discussion on assigned topic and report out for group
- Select a designate a note taker
- Roughly 20 minutes to discuss and 20 minutes to report out to group





Standard Operating Procedures for STAC

Topics highlighted in member survey and from October 2024 meeting:

- Demographics
- Number of meetings and length
- Subcommittees

Tables should review assigned topic

Facilitator to report out to group



Standard Operating Procedures for STAC

- Discuss finalization of document
- Concurrence on next steps
- Possible roll call vote

Break

STAC Recommended Priorities for 2024/25 Reporting Year

Each table should:

- Review recommendations identified in § 10.1-204.1.B
- Identify #1 priority from these recommendations and how many to focus on in the coming year
- Facilitator to report out to group



The Advisory Committee shall examine and provide recommendations regarding:

- (i) options to close the gaps in a statewide system of trails as described in § 10.1-2047 ;
- (ii) creative public and private funding strategies and partnerships to leverage resources to fund the development of trails;
- (iii) integrated approaches to promote and market trail values and benefits;
- (iv) the development of specialty trails, including concepts related to old-growth forest trails across the Commonwealth;
- (v) strategies to encourage and create linkages between communities and open space;
- (vi) strategies to foster communication and networking among trail stakeholders;
- (vii) strategies to increase tourism and commercial activities associated with a statewide trail system;
- (viii) strategies to enhance the involvement of organizations that promote outdoor youth activities, including the Boy Scouts of the U.S.A. and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and the 4-H program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension; and
- (ix) other practices, standards, statutes, and guidelines that the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation determines may enhance the effectiveness of trail planning across the Commonwealth, including methods for receiving input regarding potential trail impacts upon owners of underlying or neighboring properties.

Fall Meeting Topics & Planning

- Virtual – October 2024
(Tentative)
- Meeting topics

