

# **Virginia Recreational Trails Program**

## **Federal Fiscal Year 2024**

### **Annual Report**

October 2023 – September 2024



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Completed RTP grant 338N210  
James River Wildlife Refuge - Universal Access Trail

Cover: Completed RTP grant 319N180  
Mendota Trail Conservancy – Mendota Trail Project



## Recreational Trails Program Overview

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established for the purposes of developing and maintaining both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trails and trail-related facilities. RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust fund and represent a portion of motor fuel excise taxes collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use.

Permissible uses of RTP funding include: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, construction of trailside and trailhead facilities, purchase or lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new recreational trails, acquisition of trail corridors, assessment of trail conditions, and development of trail safety and environmental education materials.

The RTP legislation mandates that funding be specifically divided among three categories: 30% for motorized trail uses, 30% for non-motorized trail uses, and 40% for multi-use/ diversified trail uses. Projects on both land and water trails are permissible.

The program reimburses up to 80% of eligible project costs up the award amount. Recipients are responsible for contributing a matching share of at least 20% of project costs.

The FHWA annually allocates RTP funds to each state and provides oversight to state agencies who administer the program. The agency responsible for administering the program in Virginia is the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).



In progress image of completed RTP grant 335D210  
Tazewell County – Cavitt’s Creek Trail Expansion

## RTP in Virginia

Virginia's RTP program is administered by DCR's Division of Planning and Recreation Resources (DCR-PRR).

As mandated by RTP legislation, an advisory committee representing nonmotorized and motorized trail users advises DCR-PRR on funding priorities, award amounts, and evaluation of project proposals.

Entities eligible to receive funding include town, city, and county governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, recreation agencies and regional recreation authorities, and state and federal agencies.

Projects are selected for funding through an annual competitive grant round, typically held each spring. Each summer DCR-PRR works with the selected project sponsors to obtain FHWA grant authorization. Awards are typically announced in September. Recipients have three years to complete their projects.

From 1993-2024, Virginia has received over \$35 million in RTP funding and awarded over 360 individual grants.

## RTP Administration in Virginia

FHWA awards RTP funding to DCR-PRR, who sub-awards the funds to the project sponsors through grant sub-agreements which outline the scope of work, maximum funding, deliverables, and other requirements for each project.

DCR-PRR serves a liaison between FHWA and grant recipients throughout the grant process. DCR-PRR also provides technical assistance to grant recipients and applicants, advises recipients in compliance with grant regulations, processes grant payments and reports, and develops application materials and guidance documents.

FHWA allows up to 7% of the RTP apportionment to be used for program administration. Each year, DCR-PRR allocates 7% of the annual apportionment for the next year's administration. Unused administrative funds are transferred to open projects at the end of the next federal fiscal year.

Completed RTP grant 325D190  
Chesterfield County - James River Conservation Area Trails



## Federal Fiscal Year 2024



Completed RTP grant 323M190  
Isle of Wight County – Heritage Park ATV Trails

### Financial Status

In FY24, \$1,818,411.59 in RTP funds were received from FHWA and reimbursed to project sponsors. The full FY24 apportionment of \$1,511,889.00 was obligated to new projects. Grant funding of \$695,214.56 from projects that were completed under budget or withdrawn were reobligated to new projects. As of FY24 end, remaining grant fund balances on open projects totaled \$7,289,393.01.

In FY24, \$32,167.92 in administrative grant funding was reimbursed to DCR-PRR, an additional \$1,497.34 was utilized for costs associated with the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee, and \$65,179.41 was or will be returned to open grant projects. DCR-PRR has reserved the allowable 7% of the FY24 apportionment, \$105,832.23, for FY25 program administration.

### Open Grants

As of FY24 end, there are 37 open RTP grants with awards totaling \$9,118,876.17.

**Table 1: Open Grants, awarded pre-2024**

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	GRANT START DATE	GRANT END DATE
VRT302	City of Charlottesville	Meadow Creek Trail Bridge	2/12/2018	12/31/2024
310E170	Rockfish Valley Foundation	Trails Educational Grant	1/2/2018	12/31/2024*
315D170	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	Bull Run Occoquan Trail	9/24/2018	6/30/2025*
321M090	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	Wayfinding Grant	1/16/2019	7/30/2025*
329N190	Prince William County	Julie Metz Boardwalk and Trail	9/15/2020	9/30/2025*
330M190	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	Equipment Lease	9/15/2020	8/30/2025
331M190	Town of Haysi	Riverfront Trailhead	9/15/2020	10/31/2024*~
332M210	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	Russell County OHV Trail	9/14/2021	8/30/2025^*
333M210	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests	South Pedlar ATV Area Rehabilitation	9/20/2021	5/31/2026*
335D210	Tazewell County	Cavitt's Creek Trail Expansion	9/14/2021	8/31/2024~
336D210	Town of Big Stone Gap	Big Cherry-Straight Fork Ridge Trail Interconnect	9/20/2021	8/31/2024~
337D210	Town of Fincastle	Big Spring Park Greenway Trail	9/20/2021	8/31/2024~
339N210	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	Flax Mill Creek Trail	9/14/2021	12/31/2024*
340N210	City of Richmond	Pump House ADA Trail Access and Amenities	9/20/2021	12/31/2024*
341A210	DCR Planning and Recreation Resources	RTP Administration	9/14/2021	11/30/2024~
342M220	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests	Lee Ranger District OHV Maintenance Project	8/29/2022	8/31/2025
343D220	Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition	River to Ridgetop Trail	8/29/2022	8/31/2025
345N220	Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation	Four Mile Run All-Ability Water Access Point	8/29/2022	8/31/2025
347N220	Lynchburg Department of Parks and Recreation	Perrymont Park Nature Path and Panther Path	2/17/2023	1/31/2026
348M230	Town of Clarksville	COVE Project Phase I	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
349D230	Lancaster County	Chesapeake Trail Improvements	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
350D230	Conservation Legacy d.b.a. Appalachian Conservation Corps	Shenandoah Mountain Trails Maintenance	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
351D230	Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails	Tobacco Heritage Trail Maintenance & Amenities	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
352D230	City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation	Bennett Springs Trailhead Reconstruction	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
353N230	Grayson County Board of Supervisors	Phase V Trail System	8/16/2023	8/31/2026^
354N230	Friends of the Rappahannock	Rapidan River Water Trail Public Access Rehabilitation	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
355N230	DCR Natural Heritage	Big Cedar Creek Trail Landslide Repair	8/16/2023	8/31/2026
356N230	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests	Belfast Trail Parking Lot	8/16/2023	8/31/2026

\*Extension processed in FY24. ^Project scope change processed in FY24. ~Project complete but not closed.

**Table 2: New Grants, awarded in 2024**

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	GRANT START DATE	GRANT END DATE
357M240	Family Off-Road Riders of Prince William County	Lehigh Portland Park Motorized Trail System	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
358D240	City of Waynesboro	Sunset Park Natural Surface Trails	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
359D240	Town of Abingdon	Creeper Trail Bridge Rehabilitation	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
360D240	Town of Vinton	Wolf Creek Greenway Accessible Restroom Facility	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
361D240	City of Charlottesville	Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
362N240	Little Fork Episcopal Church	Interpretive & Recreational Trail	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
363N240	City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation	Roanoke River Blueway: Memorial Bridge Access Point	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
364A240	DCR-PRR	RTP Administration	8/21/2024	8/31/2027
365M240	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests	South Pedlar Equipment Purchase	8/21/2024	8/31/2027

The scope and project location of two grants, 332M210 and 353N230, changed this year prior to construction due to unanticipated environmental concerns at the original project sites.

Grants 331M190, 335D210, 336D210, 337D210, and 341A210 have reached completion but are pending receipt of final reports, final reimbursement processing, and administrative closeout with FHWA.

New grant 365M240 is an administrative amendment to existing grant 333M210 and no new funds were awarded.

## Completed Projects

Eight projects were administratively closed between October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

**Table 3: FY24 Completed Projects**

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	AWARD AMOUNT	GRANT START DATE	COMPLETION
312D170	City of Norfolk	Elizabeth River Trailhead	\$25,600.00	9/24/2018	n/a#
316D170	City of Hopewell	Riverwalk Phase II	\$453,550.24	9/24/2018	5/15/2024
323M190	Isle of Wight County	Heritage Park ATV Trails	\$306,416.30	9/16/2019	12/7/2023
324M190	Town of South Boston	Greene’s Landing Boat Launch	\$804,267.39	9/16/2019	11/17/2023
325D190	Chesterfield County	James River Conservation Area Trails	\$196,933.47	9/16/2019	4/4/2024
334D210	Town of Purcellville	Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve Multi-use Path	\$333,700.43	9/20/2021	4/4/2024
338N210	James River National Wildlife Refuge	Universal Access Trail	\$49,999.15	9/14/2021	4/5/2024
344D220	Virginia State Parks	High Bridge Trail Pamplin Extension	\$290,967.25	9/8/2022	5/15/2024

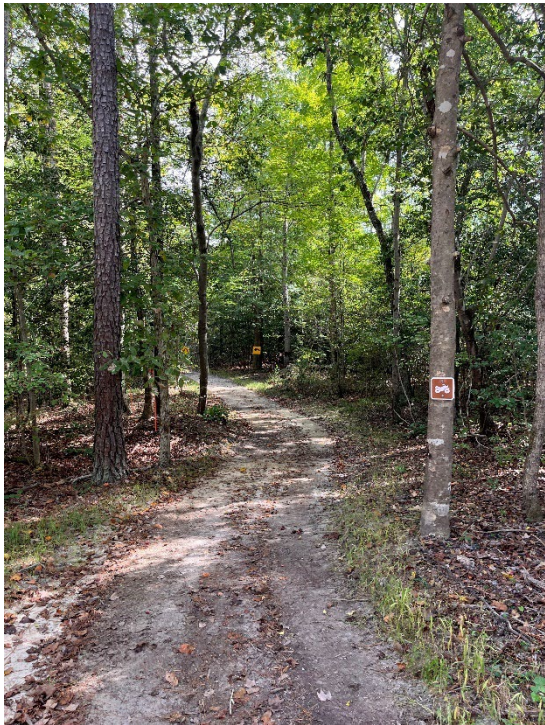
#Grant 312D170 was withdrawn by the recipient prior to construction resulting in reallocation of \$299,676.24 in diversified category funding for projects selected in the 2024 grant round.

## FY24 Completed Projects

### City of Hopewell Riverwalk Phase II

Award Year: 2017

Scope: Construction of an 8-foot wide 864 linear feet ADA compliant boardwalk to extend Riverwalk.



### Isle of Wight County Heritage Park ATV Trails

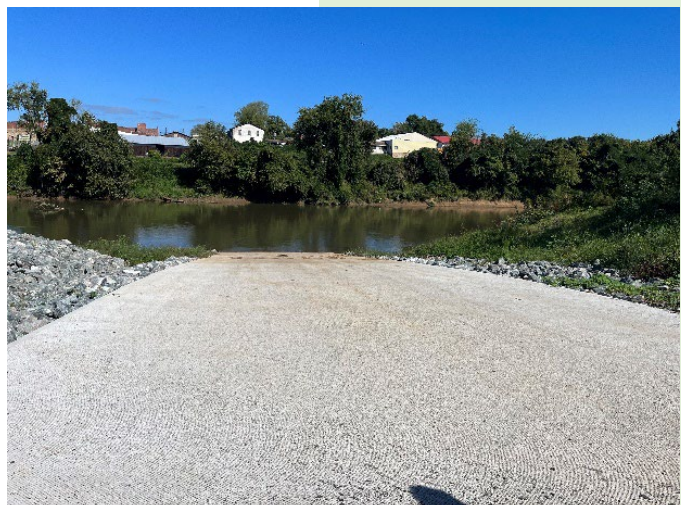
Award Year: 2019

Scope: Construction of 4000 linear feet of ATV trails, parking facility, and trail amenities.

### Town of South Boston Greene's Landing Boat Launch

Award Year: 2019

Scope: Construction of a 500 foot long, two lane motorboat ramp and associated parking for access to the Dan River Water Trail.







**Chesterfield County  
James River Conservation Area Trails**

Award Year: 2019

Scope: Construction of 2500 linear feet of 10 foot wide asphalt paved shared use path and 800 linear feet of 8 foot wide gravel surface shared use trails.

**James River National Wildlife Refuge  
Universal Access Trail**

Award Year: 2021

Scope: Develop nature trail with support signage.



**Town of Purcellville  
Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve  
Multi-use Path**

Award Year: 2021

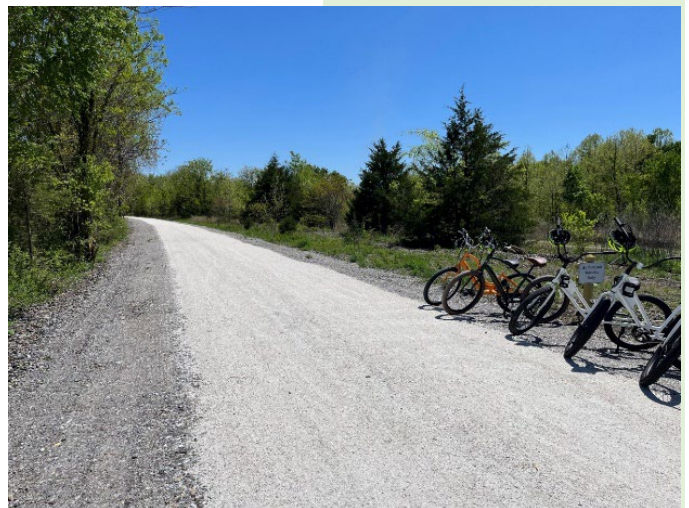
Scope: Construction of 2100 foot multi-use asphalt path, trailhead parking improvements, wayfinding signage, trailside amenities, and ADA accessibility.



**Virginia State Parks  
High Bridge Trail Pamplin Extension**

Award Year: 2022

Scope: Convert and construct 5280 feet of existing railroad bed into 10 foot wide multi-use trail.

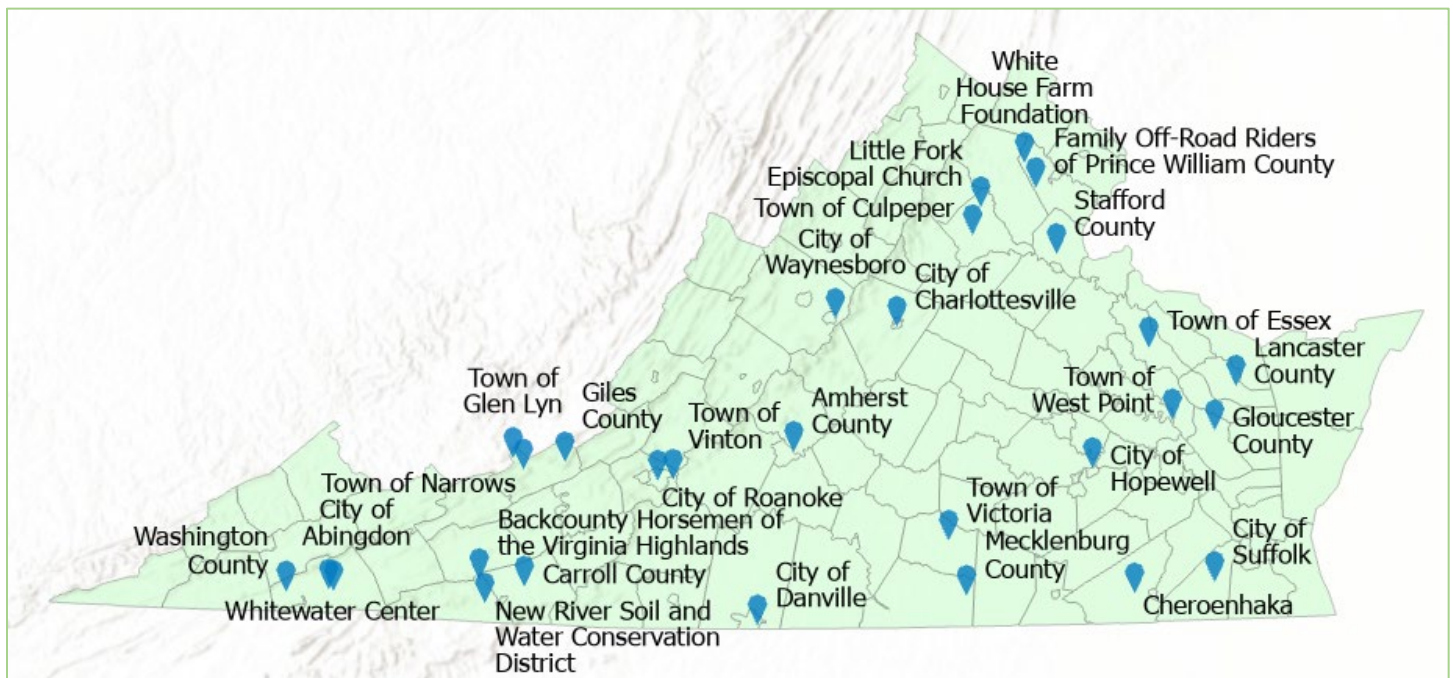


## 2024 Grant Round

Applications were accepted for the 2024 grant round from March 12 – May 7, 2024. The grant round was announced via press release and direct email to DCR-PRR recreation grants contact list. Application materials were available for download from the DCR RTP website. An informational webinar and applicant workshop was held on April 2. In total, \$2,101,271.15 RTP funding was available split among the three categories: diversified: \$1,025,065.69 available; non-motorized: \$438,317.88 available; and motorized: \$637,887.58 available.

## Application Review

Twenty-nine applications were received and scored by the five person RTP Advisory Committee representing trail users from across the state and one DCR-PRR representative. Application ranking was based on an average of the six scores.



### 2024 RTP Applicants and Proposed Project Locations

## Committee Recommendations

In the motorized category, the committee recommended to fund the one application received at full request: Family Off-Road Riders of Prince William County.

In the diversified category, the committee recommended funding the top three projects at their full request: City of Waynesboro, Town of Abingdon, and Town of Vinton; awarding \$307,639.69 to City of Charlottesville; and transferring \$62,114.76 in funding to City of Roanoke to fully fund their non-motorized project that includes elements supporting diversified trail users.

In the non-motorized single use category, the committee recommended funding the top two projects at their full request: Trustees for Little Fork Episcopal Church and City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation, utilizing additional funding transferred from diversified category.

## Grant Awards

DCR moved forward with funding amounts in accordance with the committee's recommendations. The new grants were authorized by FHWA in August and subgrant agreements executed in September.

## Unawarded Applicants

Applicants not selected for funding were notified in late July and invited to meet with DCR-PRR grant coordinators to review their applications and obtain feedback for future application submissions. Eleven of the 22 unawarded applicants elected to participate in this process.



Site of future trail funded by RTP grant 362N240  
Little Fork Episcopal Church – Interpretive & Recreational Trail

**Table 4: 2024 Applications Received and Award Amounts by Category**

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	GRANT REQUEST	AWARD AMOUNT
Family Off-Road Riders of Prince William County	Lehigh Portland Park	M	\$637,887.58	\$637,887.58
City of Waynesboro	Sunset Park Natural Surface Trails	D	\$241,463.20	\$241,463.10
Town of Abingdon	Rehabilitation of Critical Items for Creeper Trail Phase I	D	\$236,630.54	\$236,630.54
Town of Vinton	Wolf Creek Greenway Accessible Restroom Facility	D	\$177,217.78	\$177,217.78
City of Charlottesville	Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge Construction for Connectivity	D	\$350,000.00	\$307,639.69
Town of Narrows	Mill Creek Trailhead Improvements	D	\$80,000.00	
Town of Culpeper	MRC Trail	D	\$350,000.00	
Amherst County	Sara Lu Christian Trail Extension	D	\$349,600.00	
Gloucester County	Beaverdam Park Multi-Use Trail Bridge Replacement	D	\$87,650.00	
Carroll County	Carroll County Explorer Trail	D	\$120,000.00	
Mecklenburg County	Tobacco Heritage Trail La Crosse Repaving Project	D	\$160,000.00	
Town of West Point	Riverwalk Park Multi-Use Trail Improvements	D	\$350,000.00	
Lancaster County	TriWay Trail	D	\$134,400.00	
Backcountry Horsemen of the Virginia Highlands	Multi-Use Lands Trail Integration – Mount Rodgers NRA	D	\$264,000.00	
Essex County	Pathways to Progress: Rotary Poor House Park Trail Renovation Project	D	\$173,600.00	
City of Danville	Improving the Riverwalk Trail at Anglers Park	D	\$185,941.34	
City of Suffolk	Cypress Park Trail	D	\$172,800.00	
Town of Victoria	Airport Expansion of Tobacco Heritage Trail	D	\$243,950.00	
Washington County	Mendota Trail – Slope Repairs / Streambank Stabilization along Wolf Run Creek	D	\$252,000.00	
Stafford County Parks, Recreation, Facilities, and Tourism	Musselman Park	D	\$350,000.00	
Trustees for Little Fork Episcopal Church	Little Fork Church Interpretive & Recreational Trail	N	\$168,780.00	\$168,780.00
City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation	Roanoke River Blueway: Memorial Bridge Access Point	N	\$331,652.64	\$331,652.64
White House Farm Foundation	Trail Building at Leopold’s Preserve	N	\$169,032.00	
New River Soil and Water Conservation District	New River Hill Trail Project	N	\$73,360.00	
Giles County	Mountain Lake – Dirty Dancing Recreational Trails Project	N	\$76,880.00	
City of Hopewell	Engineering Services Riverwalk Phase III	N	\$224,000.00	
Cheroenhaka Nottoway of Southampton County Indian Tribe	Cheroenhaka Nottoway Ancestral Lands Walking Trail	N	\$50,250.00	
Whitewater Center	Whitewater Bike Ranch	N	\$254,400.00	
Town of Glen Lyn	Mary Ingles Walking Trail	N	\$47,250.00	

## FY25 Preview

### Projects Nearing Completion

A number of projects are expected to be completed and administratively closed out in early FY25, including:

- 2015 – Charlottesville – Meadow Creek Trail Bridge
- 2017 - Rockfish Valley Foundation - Education Grant
- 2019 - Haysi - Riverfront Trailhead
- 2021 - Tazewell County - Cavitt's Creek Trail Expansion
- 2021 - Big Stone Gap - Big Cherry Straight Fork Ridge Trail Interconnect
- 2021 - Fincastle - Big Spring Park Greenway Trail
- 2021 - Hampton Roads Sanitation District - Flax Mill Creek Trail
- 2021 – City of Richmond – Pump House ADA Trail Access and Amenities
- 2023 - Natural Heritage - Big Cedar Creek Trail Landslide Repair

An additional eight projects have project end dates in late FY25.

### Advisory Committee

DCR-PRR aims to increase advisory committee membership from the minimum five to seven volunteers to provide a designated backup in each of the representative categories and expand membership to include additional types of trail users from across the commonwealth.

### Past Project Records

DCR-PRR is working to update our data on past RTP-funded projects with the goal of mapping all 360-plus Virginia RTP projects. When complete, this information will be accessible via the RTP page of the DCR website.

### 2025 Grant Round

As started in 2023, DCR-PRR will continue to hold odd-year grant rounds for maintenance and amenity project applications. New trail construction will be eligible in 2026 and even-year grant rounds. DCR-PRR aims to hold the grant round from mid-March to mid-May. The advanced notice of funding from FHWA indicated funding levels should be the same as in 2024. It is likely some funds will be rolled over from projects that complete under budget and no major eligibility or scoring changes are anticipated.

Back Cover: Completed RTP grant 336D210  
Town of Big Stone Gap – Big Spring-Cherry Fork Ridge Trail Interconnect



Preparation of this report was supported by RTP state administrative grant 364A240.