

Your Regional Commission



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N R V R C . O R G

Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

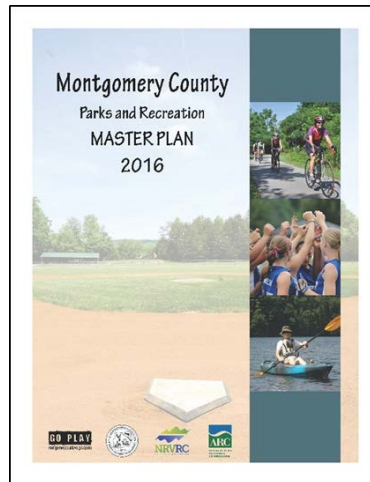
In 2015, the New River Valley Regional Commission assisted Montgomery County in updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The County maintains its own independent parks and recreation department, with dedicated staff, maintenance, programs, and facilities which serve all citizens of Montgomery County. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to provide a long-term vision for the County's Parks and Recreation Department (MCPR) in order to meet the recreational needs of citizens over the next 20 years.

To best gauge the perception of residents and users of MCPR facilities and programs, a recreation survey was distributed. A total of 358 survey responses were received in both a hardcopy and online format, with most residents representing the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and the Riner area. Respondents praised the department for the quality of its staffing and programs, and many expressed the desire for a recreation center within the County.

The Commission also inventoried each facility, park, and trail MCPR owns or maintains as well as several facilities it uses in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools. MCPR also operates recreation programs and events, and maintains partnerships with other recreational entities. Programs include athletics, aquatics, tours, active adults, community programs, and outdoor recreation. MCPR maintains regular and special events each year, and partners with outside entities to provide even more amenities. Volunteers also play a key role in filling coaching and park maintenance roles within the department.

With guidance from MCPR staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission, public input and the data gathered were analyzed to develop short-term and long-term recommendations as well as benchmarks to monitor progress. Local, state, and national trends were also taken into consideration. In April, the Master Plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for final review and approval and will be presented to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors shortly thereafter.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org) or Michael Gottfredson (michaelg@nrvc.org).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Project Updates
- NRVRC Meeting Summary
- The Competitive Edge

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 15th, 1:30 p.m.
NRVBC - Conference Room

HOME Consortium Board
Thursday, March 24th, 2:30 p.m.
NRVBC - Conference Room

Commission Board Meeting
Thursday, March 24th, 6:00 p.m.
NRVBC - New River Room

Commission Board Meeting
Thursday, April 28th, 6:00 p.m.
NRVBC - New River Room

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Transportation

In January, the Secretary of Transportation's office presented HB2 scoring results to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. A total of 287 applications were scored statewide, requesting more than \$7.0 billion. There were 37 applications submitted in the Salem District.

The draft funding scenario identified a total of four projects within or nearby the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg. If the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopts the Six-Year Improvement Program as presented, all four projects will be fully funded over the next six years. All scores and the draft funding scenario are available at virginiahb2.org.

One of the key components of HB2 scoring criteria was linking a local project to a need identified in the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan, VTrans. Commission staff actively participates in the VTrans 2040 process. Two regional forums were held in 2015, April 8th and July 28th in Wytheville. Over the next several months, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment plans to consolidate needs collected to date, prepare an executive summary, and host a final regional forum to evaluate local/regional needs relative to statewide goals.

Unlike previous versions of VTrans, the 2040 plan will identify specific policies, strategies, and projects. The final regional forum is anticipated to be in April/May 2016. To learn more about the plan update, visit: vtrans.org/2040.asp.

In other regional transportation news, the NRV Passenger Rail Study is now available online here: nrvc.org/nrvpassengerrailstudy/. The complete document includes more than 160 pages of supporting documentation, including: committees, history, economic impacts, detailed site scoring, public survey, and trip generation data.

For further information please contact Elijah Sharp (esharp@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313, ext. 210.

RIDE Solutions at NRCC New Student Orientation

RIDE Solutions had the opportunity to serve New River Community College students at new student orientation this past month. NRVRC staff discussed bus schedules and carpooling with students looking for ways to get to school when a car is not available. RIDE Solutions identified some students were already carpooling with friends or using the bus on a regular basis. However, most students needed information on where and when to find a bus connecting them to campus. Carpooling information was also shared with interested students.

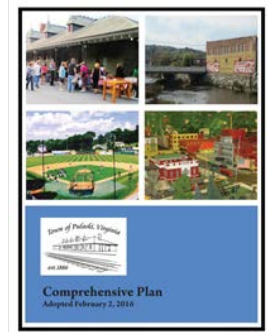
One student was using the bus to get to the Mall campus, but needed to take an evening class at the Dublin campus. When the bus is not running in the evening, carpooling is the only option left for getting to class. Because NRCC is a Workplace Partner, RIDE Solutions worked not just with the student, but also NRCC staff to find a match when the database didn't instantly yield matches. That is the value of RIDE Solutions Workplace Partner program – as the database of carpoolers going to the same destination is built, it becomes easier to make a match for an individual interested in carpooling. And in the meantime, resources not readily available to individuals are tapped to try and solve transportation challenges.

For further information, please contact Christy Straight (cstraight@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313, ext. 209.

Local Technical Assistance

Town of Pulaski Comprehensive Plan: The Pulaski Town Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan on February 2, 2016. Drafting of the plan document was a collaborative effort involving the Town Planning Commission and Town staff with technical assistance from staff of the New River Valley Regional Commission. Citizen input received through a community survey and community meetings helped shape the goals and objectives included in the plan. Congratulations to the Town of Pulaski!

Town of Narrows Comprehensive Plan: The Narrows Planning Commission and Town Council held a joint public hearing on the Town's Draft Comprehensive Plan on February 8, 2016. Recommendation by the Planning Commission and adoption by the Town Council will be considered by those bodies in the March-April timeframe.



For further information, please contact Patrick Burton (pburton@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313, ext. 217.

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board



The purpose of the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is to prepare eligible Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth for entry into the labor market. The New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board (NR/MR WDB) oversees these programs in the New River Valley and Mount Rogers Planning Districts. The Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, under Title I of WIOA, are designed to provide quality employment and training services to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for employment in occupations that are "in demand" and pay a family sustaining wage. Through these programs the NR/MR WDB works to ensure that regional businesses get the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in their marketplace.

With the large number of regional layoffs occurring, a lot of interest is in the Dislocated Worker Program (DLW). The DLW program is for individuals 18 years of age or older who are authorized to work in the U.S and who are unemployed through no fault of their own, or who have received an official layoff notice. The program provides the following free career and training services to help job seekers in attaining long-term, living wage careers.

Along with regular WIOA funded programs, the NR/MR WDB oversees some discretionary grants that serve a particular population, such as the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. The POWER initiative is a consortium approach to workforce and economic development in Southwest Virginia – presenting a holistic initiative to address the negative impacts of the decline of the coal industry on the region. This funding opportunity is part of a new federal interagency effort to assist communities and workers negatively impacted by changes in the coal industry and power sector. The POWER National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) is a grant funded by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and awarded to the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The POWER NDWG team proposed a multi-faceted bundle of workforce activities with short and long-term strategies that will support and prepare displaced coal and energy sector workers for positions in emerging and promising higher-wage industry sector areas identified as part of the region's ongoing economic transition efforts. In our region grant will serve approximately 50 displaced workers affected by coal industry (and supply chain industries) layoffs.

For further information please contact Marty Holliday (marty.holliday@nrmrwib.org), 540-633-6764.

NRVRC Meeting Summary

January 28, 2016 Meeting

Economic Development:

- The Go Virginia economic development program was formally introduced as legislation in the current General Assembly session.
- The FY16 Federal Omnibus Bill included \$50 million in new funding for coal-impacted communities through the Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Plus program.

Transportation:

- The Commission recently completed the NRV Passenger Rail Study and presented findings to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- The transportation projects for House Bill 2 were recently ranked by VDOT staff and released.

Regional:

- The Commission is facilitating a discussion among county/city leadership regarding the expansion of Renew the New, a Giles County bi-annual river clean up that engages approximately 400 volunteers.
- The New River Valley region will be hosting the Southwest Virginia Outdoor Expo in the Spring of 2017.
- In January the Commission was successful in obtaining funds through the Building Collaborative Communities program for the purposes of regional tourism.

Commission:

- Winter VAPDC Conference was held February 11-12 in Richmond.

February 25, 2016 Meeting

Economic Development:

- The Go Virginia economic development program is moving quickly through the General Assembly. The program is starting to take shape and regions will play an important role. The Regional Commission Board and partners will need to begin conversations soon regarding regional geography.
- The NRV and Roanoke Valley are collaborating on a Department of Labor grant called, Tech Hire.

Transportation:

- The Commission recently prepared a grant application for the MPO to submit to the VA DRPT for a Rail Traffic Control Model. The study will evaluate whether the busy freight corridor between Roanoke and the NRV can accommodate passenger service.
- As a part of the Rural Transportation Program with VDOT, the Commission is tasked with developing a regional future land use map.

Regional:

- The Livability in Action regional convening was held 2/29. Approximately 120 people attended and learned what communities are doing across the region.

Commission:

- Mark your calendars, the Commission Annual Dinner will be on May 11th at 6:00pm at the Draper Merc!

AGENDAS AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.NRVRC.ORG

Regional partnership addresses issues of substance abuse during pregnancy

The Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG) is leading a project to track regional trends in substance abuse during pregnancy, and identify the resources that regional partners can provide to women and children at risk in order to help reduce the troubling increase in this trend. The team of regional partners includes the New River Health District (NRHD), the New River Valley Community Services Board, New River Community Action, the New River Valley Regional Commission, as well as local social services agencies, physicians, nurses and other health providers.

The NRVRC and the NRHD are analyzing hospital, insurance and other medical records to try to identify regional trends related to this issue, as well as specific locations or groups of women who may be at greater risk. Virginia Tech IPG, with support from the regional public health community, are researching promising strategies and programs that can help to prevent substance abuse during pregnancy, or provide treatment to the mothers and children to end the cycle of addiction and related social issues that result. More information at: <http://www.smartbeginningsnr.org/article/prenatal-substance-abuse-new-river-valley-fact-sheet>.

The project was funded by a grant to the Virginia Tech Institute of Policy and Governance from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and is expected to be complete in May 2016. The project partners are pursuing additional funding through this and other sources in order to continue their work on various aspects of this important community health issue.

For further information, please contact Patrick O'Brien (pobrien@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313 x206

Economic Indicators

Car Registrations			
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2015	% Change
Floyd County	97	93	-4.1%
Giles County	120	106	-11.7%
Montgomery County	593	474	-20.1%
Pulaski County	171	160	-6.4%
Radford City	92	78	-15.2%
Total	1,073	911	-15.1%

Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.

Truck Registrations			
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2015	% Change
Floyd County	48	42	-12.5%
Giles County	47	45	-4.3%
Montgomery County	102	96	-5.9%
Pulaski County	69	40	-42.0%
Radford City	22	18	-18.2%
Total	288	241	-16.3%

Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.

New Vehicle Registrations

Car registrations decreased in all localities between the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2015 with Montgomery County showing the largest decrease. Truck registrations decreased in all localities with Pulaski County showing the largest decrease of 29 registrations.

Population Estimates

New River Valley	US Census 2010	Change since 2010 Census	
		July 2015 Estimate	% Change
Floyd County	15,279	15,430	1.0%
Giles County	17,286	17,179	-0.6%
Montgomery County	94,392	98,121	4.0%
Pulaski County	34,872	34,841	-0.1%
Radford City	16,408	17,420	6.2%
NRV Total	178,237	181,835	2.0%

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics & Workforce Group, www.coopercenter.org/demographics/, 1/27/16.

Population Estimates

The New River Valley population has grown based on the July 2015 estimates. The City of Radford saw the largest increase of 6.2% or 1,012 residents, while Giles County saw the largest decrease in our region -0.6% or 107 residents.

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

Publication of the New River Valley Business Center
A Small Business Incubator

Doug Hudson
Michael Solomon
Incubator Managers

March – April 2016

NRV Business Center Tenant Profile- United DHIA

The NRV Business Center is proud to host the office and testing lab for the United Federation of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA). United DHIA is an organization of herds from 5 states working together to offer a cost effective way to provide dairy management records, to help producers maintain a healthy herd and return a profit. United DHIA has over 60 years of experience as an organization providing information to member and non-member dairymen, including of milk samples for a variety of milk quality and herd health indicators, and education on how to use this information effectively. Field technicians visit member herds to collect samples, and send to the NRV Business Center offices for testing. The facility tests around 72,000 samples per month. More information on testing services and United DHIA is available at their website: <http://www.uniteddhia.com/index.html> .

The New River Valley Business Center has space available for businesses looking for a flexible option for production or office space with lease rates including utilities, and access to meetings spaces and other shared amenities. More information at: <http://www.nrvdc.org/nrvbc.html>.

For further information on the New River Valley Business Center, please contact Michael Solomon (incubatormanager@nrvdc.org), 540-633-6730.

For Business Center information contact:

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Pulaski Adult Day Service and Fall Prevention Center

Construction is underway for the Pulaski Adult Day Service and Fall Prevention facility, funded through the Community Development Block Grant program. Pulaski County has procured Roanoke-based F&S Building Innovations to construct the building, which is located on the site of the former Dublin Elementary School. Construction began in November of 2015, and the contractor has been making excellent progress despite the weather conditions common in late fall and early winter.

The finished building will be approximately 4,200 square feet and is designed to serve 30 elderly or disabled participants in addition to two exam rooms designated for the fall prevention clinic. A large common room will host an assortment of activities as well as dining space with tables and chairs. A smaller room provides options for small group activities or resting. There are also plans for a fenced-in outdoor space and therapy garden. The operating agency, Pulaski Adult Day Service & Fall Prevention Center, Inc., successfully reached its Capital Campaign goal of \$500,000 by the end of 2015. The facility is projected to open for service in the fall of 2016. More information on the project can be found at <http://www.pulaskiadultdayservice.org/>

For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313, ext. 204.

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