



Virginia Recreational Trails Program

Federal Fiscal Year 2024

Annual Report

October 2023 – September 2024



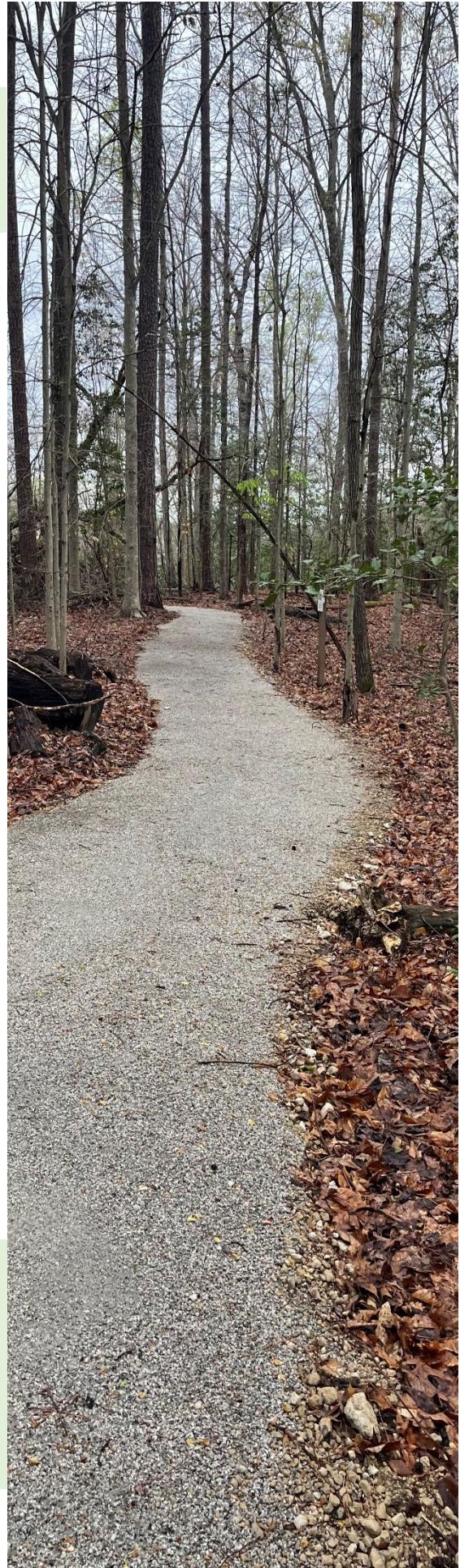
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

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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.

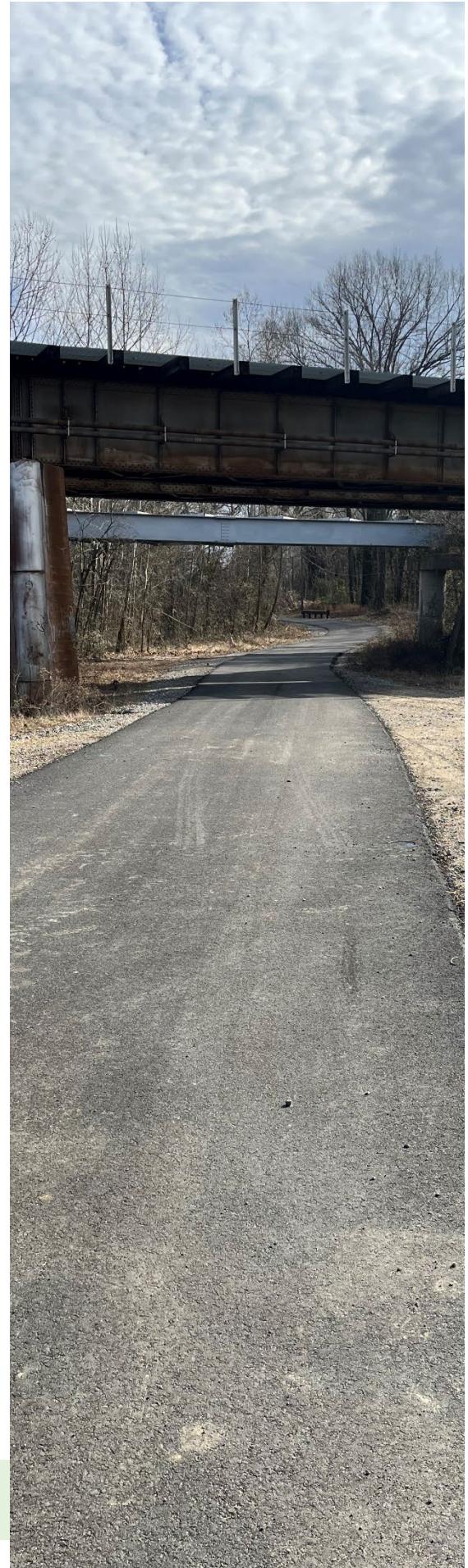
RTP Administration in Virginia

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 |

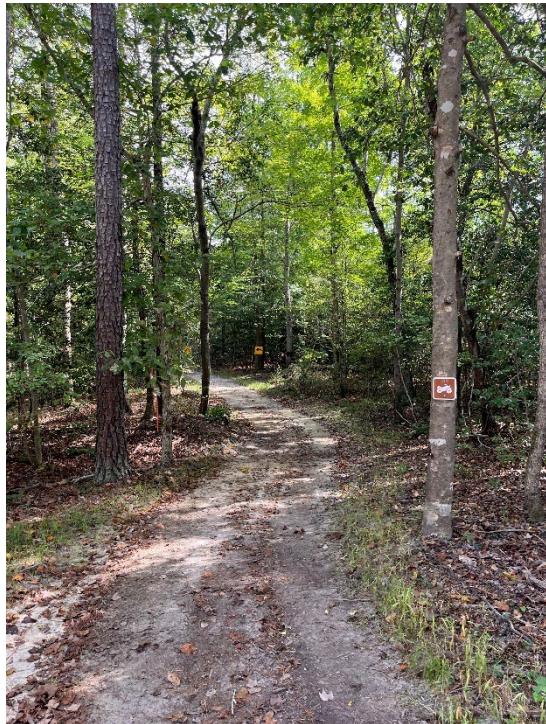
#Grant 312D170 was withdrawn by the recipient prior to construction resulting in reallocation of \$299,676.24 in diversified category funding for projects selected in the 2024 grant round.

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.



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.

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.

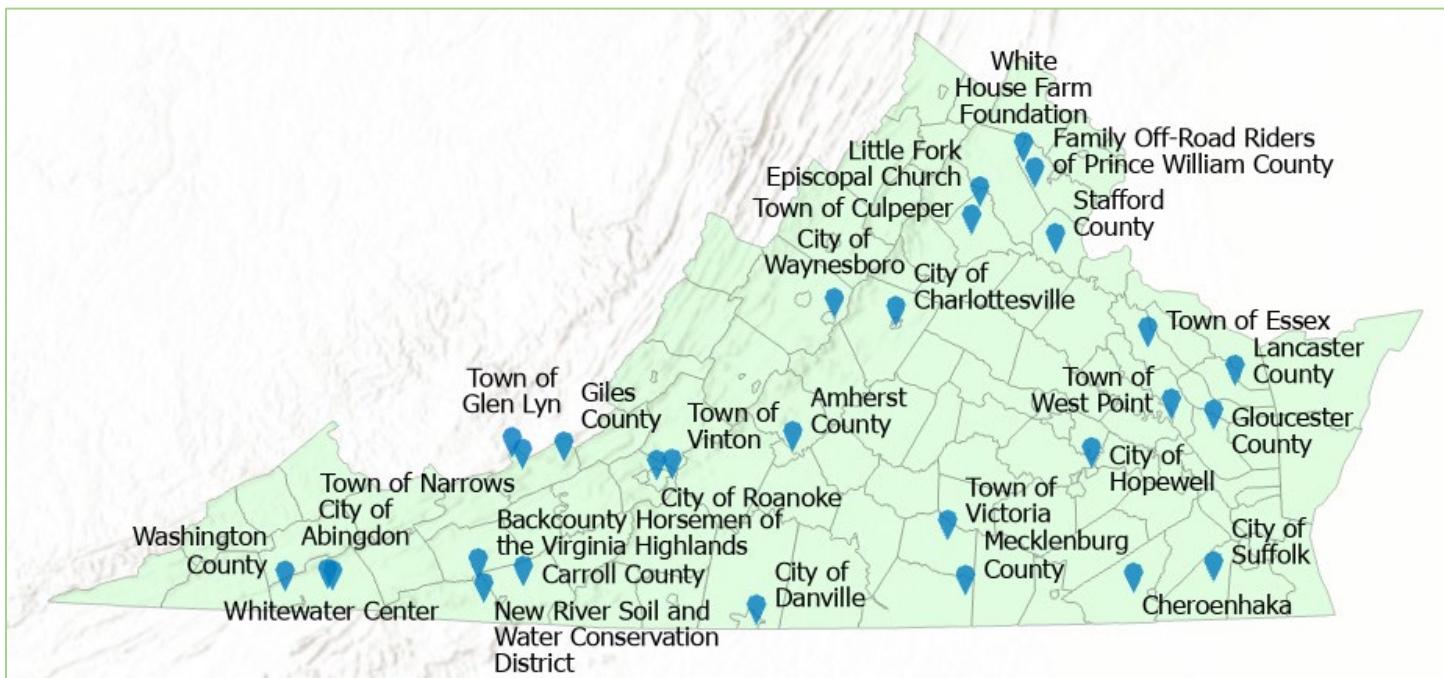


2024 Grant Round

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.

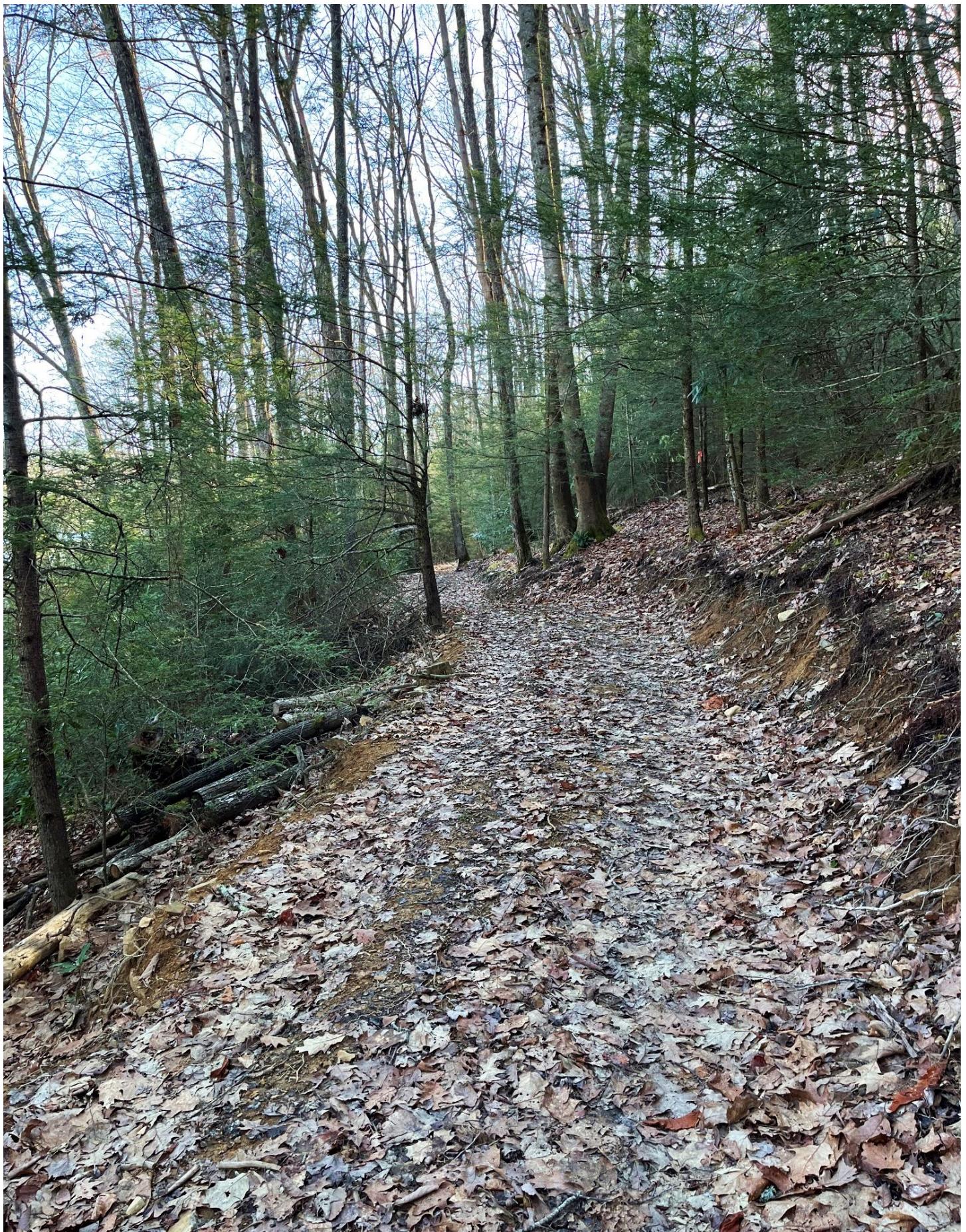
Past Project Records

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.