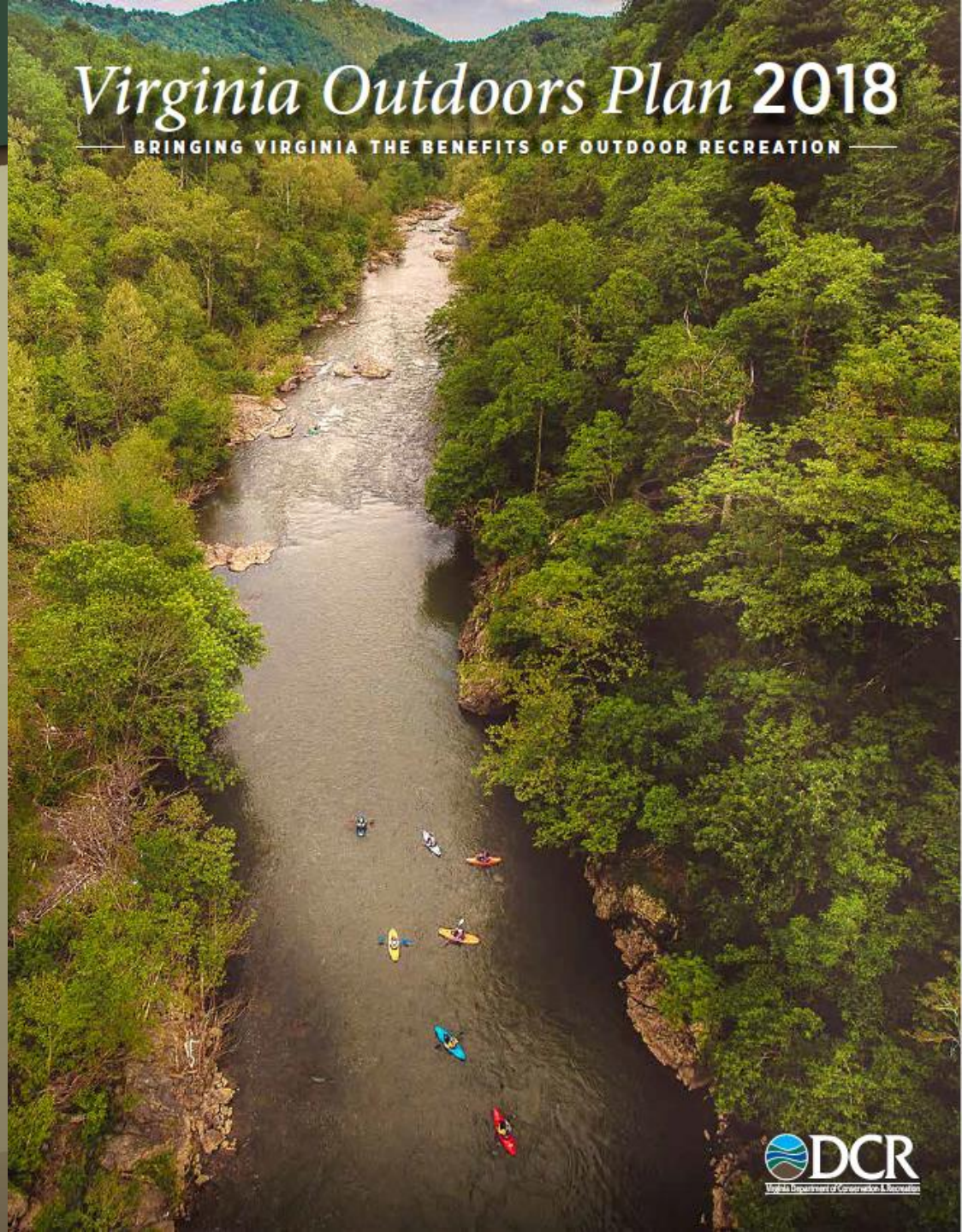


# 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan

Virginia's 11th Statewide  
Comprehensive Outdoor  
Recreation Plan



## Objectives: Outdoor Recreation Land Conservation

Provides guidance to all levels of government and the private sector in meeting the state's conservation, outdoor recreation and open space needs.

Provides guidance for land protection through actions of the *Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF)*

Produced in accordance with §10.1-200 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Produced in accordance with §10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia*



## *Virginia Outdoors Plan*

- Produced approximately every 5 years since 1966
- Since 2013 the plan is totally digital
- Budget for the 2018 plan was 328,000
- Plan development takes 2 years and begins with the **Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey (VODS)**



# *Virginia Outdoors Survey*

- First step in completing the VOP
- Public polled in a series of questions about their outdoor recreation preferences
  - 4,000 Virginians contacted by mail
  - 3,252 responded
  - 23% response rate
  - Margin of error 2.3%



## Most popular activities

Activity	% of households	
	2011	2017
Visiting natural areas, preserves, refuges	50	71
Driving for Pleasure	-	67
Walking for pleasure	82	67
Visiting parks (local, state, national)	51	56
Swimming/ outdoor pool	43	48
Sunbathing/ relaxing on a beach	41	47
Viewing the water	-	38
Swimming—beach/ lake/ river	38	37
Visiting historic areas	64	35
Freshwater fishing	24	34

## Citizens view of most needed outdoor recreation facilities

Most Needed Facilities	% of households
Natural Areas	54
Parks	49
Trails	43
Water access	43
Historic areas	39
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	29
Playing fields, sports and golf facilities	22

# Importance of Natural Resources

96% ranked protection of Virginia's natural areas & open space resources as "important" or "very important"





## Public Opinions about Recreation

**96%** *Important to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources*

**93%** *Important to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities*

**74%** *Support state funding for outdoor recreation; 44% of those support an increase in funding*



## Hampton Roads: Most Popular Activities By Participation

Activity	% Household
• Visiting natural areas	65
• Walking for pleasure	65
• Driving for pleasure	63
• Visiting parks (local, state & national)	57
• Swimming/outdoor pool	48
• Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	47
• Viewing the water	43
• Visiting historic areas	41
• Outdoor events of all kinds	40
• Swimming/beach/lake river (open water)	35

## Hampton Roads: Most-Needed Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Activity	Region	Statewide
• Parks	56	49
• Natural areas	47	54
• Water access	43	43
• Trails	42	43
• Historic areas	42	39
• Sports Facilities and golf	21	22
• Scenic drives	28	29

# Regional Featured Projects

- Implement regional greenway plans including the Stony Run Greenway and the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway and Water Trail.
- Connect regional multi-use trails including South Hampton Roads Trail, Dismal Swamp Connector Trail and the Virginia Capital Trail from Jamestown to Fort Monroe and Jamestown to the South Hampton Roads Trail.
- Develop the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail as a regional water trail.
- Create recreation opportunities at Fort Monroe.
- Implement the Eastern Branch Restoration Plan for the Elizabeth River.
- Initiate development of the Birthplace of America Trail, connecting the Hampton Road Region to Richmond Virginia.



## Survey Summary

- Natural areas, parks, trails, and access to waterways remain among the top recreational needs in Virginia
- Increased participation in freshwater fishing and paddle sports
- Increased visitation to natural areas and preserves
- Strong support (74%) for public funding for outdoor recreation
- Importance of scenic resources in travel planning



**Visit the Virginia Outdoors Plan at:**

**[www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational\\_planning/vop.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vop.shtml)**

***Thank you!***