



Virginia Recreational Trails Program

Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Annual Report

October 2024 – September 2025



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Completed RTP grant 337D210
Town of Fincastle – Big Spring Park Greenway Trail



Completed RTP grant 355N230
DCR Division of Natural Heritage
Big Cedar Creek Trail Landslide Repair

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 342M220
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests – Lee Ranger District OHV Maintenance

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 1993-2025, Virginia has received over \$36 million in RTP funding and awarded over 375 individual grants.

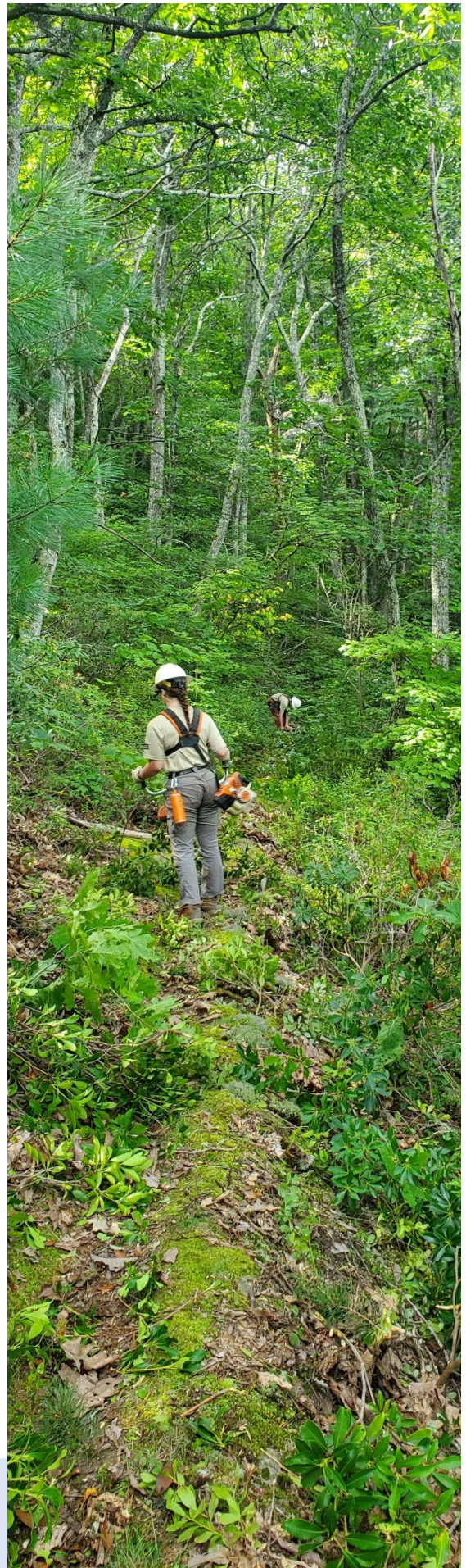
RTP Administration in Virginia

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.

In progress image of completed RTP grant 350D230
Conservation Legacy d.b.a. Appalachian Conservation Corps
Shenandoah Mountain Trails Maintenance



Federal Fiscal Year 2025



Completed RTP grant 354N230
Friends of the Rappahannock – Rapidan River Water Trail Public Access Rehabilitation

Financial Status

In FY25, \$1,238,432.28 in RTP funds were received from FHWA and reimbursed to project sponsors. The full FY25 apportionment of \$1,511,889.00 was obligated to new projects. Grant funding of \$1,034,932.85 from projects that were completed under budget or withdrawn was reobligated to new projects. As of FY25 end, remaining grant fund balances on open projects totaled \$7,509,103.26.

In FY25, \$42,253.64 in administrative grant funding was reimbursed to DCR-PRR, an additional \$1,189.21 was utilized for costs associated with the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee, and \$66,027.68 was or will be returned to open grant projects. DCR-PRR has reserved the allowable 7% of the FY25 apportionment, \$105,832.23, for FY26 program administration.

Open Grants

As of FY25 end, there are 43 open RTP grants with awards totaling \$9,269,017.62.

Table 1: Open Grants, awarded pre-2025

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	GRANT START DATE	GRANT END DATE
VRT302	City of Charlottesville	Meadow Creek Trail Bridge	2/12/2018	12/31/2025*
315D170	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	Bull Run Occoquan Trail	9/24/2018	9/30/2026*
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	9/30/2026*
330M190	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	Equipment Lease	9/15/2020	8/30/2025~
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
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	8/31/2026*
345N220	Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation	Four Mile Run All-Ability Water Access Point	8/29/2022	8/31/2026*
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
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

*Extension processed in FY25. ^Project withdrawn. ~Project complete but not closed.

Table 2: New Grants, awarded in 2025

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	GRANT START DATE	GRANT END DATE
366M250	New River Conservancy	New River Water Trail Recovery	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
367M250	New River Valley Regional Commission	New River Water Trail Wayfinding & Signage	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
368M250	Botetourt County Board of Supervisors	James River Water Trail Last Lock Boat Ramp	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
369M250	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	North District Equipment Purchase	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
370D250	Town of Clifton Forge	Smith Creek Sensory Trail Restroom	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
371D250	Gloucester County	Swan Bridge Replacement	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
372D250	City of Hampton	Sandy Bottom Nature Park Trail Enhancements	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
373D250	Historic Germanna	Siegen Forest & Germanna Ford Boat Launch Parking	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
374N250	Shenandoah National Park Trust	Dark Hollow Falls Restoration and Reroute	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
375N250	Town of Narrows	Mill Creek Trailhead Improvements	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
376N250	White House Farm Foundation	North Trail Reroute at Leopold's Preserve	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
377N250	Virginia Department of Forestry	Cumberland State Forest Willis River Swinging Bridge Replacement	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
378M250	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	South District Equipment Purchase	8/14/2025	8/31/2028
379A250	DCR Planning and Recreation Resources	RTP Administration	8/14/2025	8/31/2028

Grants 321M090, 330M190, 342M220, 350D230, 354N230, 355N230, and 364A240 have reached completion but are pending receipt of final reports, final reimbursement processing, and/or administrative closeout with FHWA.

Grant 332M210 was withdrawn by the recipient due to issues in securing right of way access.

Based on committee recommendation, \$676,230.76 in unspent funds on grants 321M090, 330M190, and 332M210 were transferred to the new equipment purchase grants awarded to Southwest Regional Recreation Authority.

Two separate new grants, 369M250 and 378M250, were awarded to Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for their equipment purchase proposal due to equipment location, size of awards, and timing of administrative procedures for transferring funding from their previous grants.



Trailhead parking area to be improved by new RTP grant 375N250
Town of Narrows – Mill Creek Trailhead Improvements

Completed Projects

Eight projects were administratively closed between October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025.

Table 3: FY25 Completed Projects

GRANT NUMBER	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	AWARD AMOUNT	GRANT START DATE	COMPLETION
310E170	Rockfish Valley Foundation	Trails Educational Grant	\$35,866.11	1/2/2018	4/22/2025
331M190	Town of Haysi	Riverfront Trailhead	\$406,822.79	9/15/2020	1/29/2025
335D210	Tazewell County	Cavitt's Creek Trail Expansion	\$150,315.79	9/14/2021	11/7/2024
336D210	Town of Big Stone Gap	Big Cherry-Straight Fork Ridge Trail Interconnect	\$97,271.49	9/20/2021	11/26/2024
337D210	Town of Fincastle	Big Spring Park Greenway Trail	\$62,633.47	9/20/2021	11/14/2024
339N210	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	Flax Mill Creek Trail	\$303,724.53	9/14/2021	4/11/2025
340N210	City of Richmond	Pump House ADA Trail Access and Amenities	\$195,062.93	9/20/2021	3/10/2025
341A210	DCR Planning and Recreation Resources	RTP Administration	\$99,871.03	9/14/2021	11/1/2024

FY25 Completed Projects

Rockfish Valley Foundation Trails Educational Grant

Award Year: 2017

Scope: Extension of environmental education and trail safety opportunities including educational content development and trailside amenities.



Town of Haysi Riverfront Trailhead

Award Year: 2019

Scope: Construction of motorized trailhead including parking, ADA enhancements, trail amenities, and signage.

Tazewell County Cavitt's Creek Trail Expansion

Award Year: 2021

Scope: Construction of 0.77 mile trail and 0.13 mile connector trail and construction of an ADA compliant restroom.



Town of Big Stone Gap Big Cherry-Straight Fork Ridge Trail Interconnect

Award Year: 2021

Scope: Construction of 5000 linear feet of natural surface trail and installation of trail amenities.



**Town of Fincastle
Big Spring Park Greenway Trail**

Award Year: 2021

Scope: Construction of ¼ mile of new accessible trail, trailhead amenities, and signage.

**City of Richmond
Pump House Park ADA Trail Access and Amenities**

Award Year: 2021

Scope: Install ADA accessible path to access existing pedestrian bridge and trail.



**Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Flax Mill Creek Trail**

Award Year: 2021

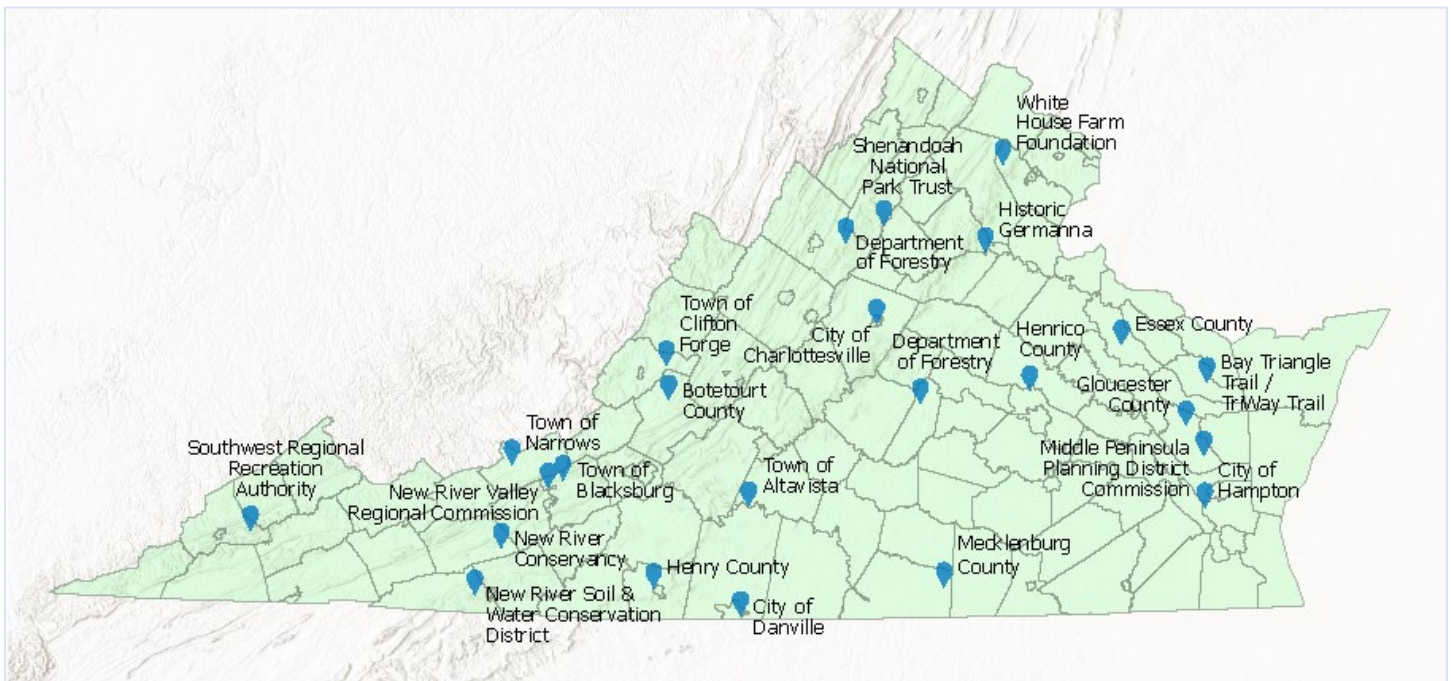
Scope: Construct approximately 2,800 linear feet of 8' wide pedestrian trail.

2025 Grant Round

Applications were accepted for the 2025 grant round from March 11 – May 6, 2025. 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 March 25. In total, \$1,798,344.72 RTP funding was available split among the three categories: diversified: \$636,993.08 available; non-motorized: \$469,417.40 available; and motorized: \$691,994.24 available.

Application Review

Twenty-four applications were received and scored by the seven-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 eight scores.



2025 RTP Applicants and Proposed Project Locations

Committee Recommendations

In the motorized category, the committee recommended to fund three applications for work on motorized water trails at their full requests: New River Conservancy, New River Valley Regional Commission, and Botetourt County. The committee recommended to award the remaining motorized category funds to Southwest Regional Recreation Authority (SRRA) to purchase equipment for maintaining their motorized trail system. The committee also recommended SRRA be offered the opportunity to transfer unused funds from three open grants awarded in previous years towards their equipment purchase proposal.

In the diversified category, the committee recommended funding the top four projects at their full requests: Town of Clifton Forge, Gloucester County, City of Hampton, and Historic Germanna and transferring \$26,078.20 in funding to non-motorized category applicants for projects that support diversified trail users.

In the non-motorized single use category, the committee recommended funding the top four projects at their full requests: Shenandoah National Park Trust, Town of Narrows, White House Farm Foundation, and Virginia Department of Forestry, utilizing additional funding transferred from diversified category for the Town of Narrows' project that includes elements supporting diversified trail users. The remaining balance of \$10,545.60 was reserved for unanticipated environmental review costs on open projects.

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. In the motorized category, in addition to \$321,769.24 in FY25 grant round funding, SRRA elected to transfer \$676,230.76 in unused funding from three open grants towards new equipment purchase grants. In the non-motorized category, the remaining balance of \$10,545.60 was added to previously awarded grant 360D240 which had incurred unexpected archaeological review costs.



Unawarded Applicants

Applicants not selected for funding were notified in late July and invited to meet with the DCR-PRR grant coordinator to review their applications and obtain feedback for future application submissions. Six of the 12 unawarded applicants elected to participate in this process.

Each year applicants that previously participated in this process are successful in obtaining funding. Three of the 2025 awarded applicants had gone through the feedback process in 2024.

Multi-use trail bridge to be replaced by new RTP grant 371D250 - Gloucester County - Swan Bridge Replacement

Table 4: 2025 Applications Received and Award Amounts by Category

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	GRANT REQUEST	AWARD AMOUNT
New River Conservancy	New River Water Trail Recovery	M^	\$146,625.00	\$146,625.00
New River Valley Regional Commission	New River Water Trail Wayfinding and Signage	M^	\$63,600.00	\$63,600.00
Botetourt County	James River Water Trail Last Lock Boat Ramp	M^	\$160,000.00	\$160,000.00
Southwest Regional Recreation Authority	Equipment Purchase	M	\$690,000.00	\$321,769.24*
Town of Clifton Forge	Smith Creek Sensory Trail Restroom	D	\$148,400.00	\$148,400.00
Gloucester County	Swan Bridge Replacement	D	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
City of Hampton	Sandy Bottom Nature Park Trail Enhancements	D	\$136,065.60	\$136,065.60
Historic Germanna	Siegen Forest and Germanna Ford Boat Launch Parking	D	\$76,389.28	\$76,389.28
Essex County	Paving Pour House Tract: Advancing Accessibility in Essex County	D	\$80,000.00	
City of Charlottesville	Pollocks Branch Urban Trail Maintenance and Amenities Enhancements	D	\$350,000.00	
City of Danville Parks and Recreation	Improving the Riverwalk Trail at Anglers Park	D	\$349,600.00	
Town of Blacksburg Parks and Recreation	Brush Mountain Park: Trails and Parking Lot Improvement	D	\$87,650.00	
Henry County	Dick & Willie Passage Trail Repair and Improvements	D	\$120,000.00	
Henrico County Recreation & Parks	Meadow Farm Trail Project	D	\$160,000.00	
Mecklenburg County	Tobacco Heritage Trail La Crosse Repaving Project	D	\$350,000.00	
Bay Triangle Trail dba TriWay Trail	Lancaster County TriWay Trail Phase I Repairs	D	\$134,400.00	
Town of Altavista	Jenks River Trail Expansion	D	\$264,000.00	
Virginia Department of Forestry	First Mountain State Forest Boone Run Replacement Bridge Crossing, Parking, and Creek Realignment	D	\$173,600.00	
Shenandoah National Park Trust	Dark Hollow Falls Restoration and Reroute	N	\$101,200.00	\$101,200.00
Town of Narrows	Mill Creek Trailhead Improvements	N	\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00
White House Farm Foundation	North Trail Reroute at Leopold's Preserve	N	\$37,750.00	\$37,750.00
Virginia Department of Forestry	Cumberland State Forest Willis River Swinging Bridge Replacement	N	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
New River Soil & Water Conservation District	New River Hill Trail Project	N	\$91,500.00	
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Captain Sinclair's and Guinea Marsh ADA Accessible Kayak Launch and Interactive Self-Guided Ecotour	N	\$120,000.00	

*total grant higher than FY25 award amount due to transfer of unexpended funds from previously awarded grants.

^applicants had originally applied in diversified category but were eligible in motorized category due to motorized water trail user benefits.

FY26 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
- 2019 – Southwest Regional Recreation Authority – Wayfinding Grant
- 2019 – Southwest Regional Recreation Authority – Equipment Lease
- 2022 – George Washington and Jefferson National Forests – Lee Ranger District OHV Maintenance Project
- 2023 – Conservation Legacy d.b.a. Appalachian Conservation Corps – Shenandoah Mountain Trails Maintenance
- 2023 – Friends of the Rappahannock – Rapidan River Water Trail Public Access Rehabilitation
- 2023 – Natural Heritage – Big Cedar Creek Trail Landslide Repair

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

Advisory Committee

DCR-PRR aims to maintain an advisory committee roster of five to seven members. Currently at seven members, when members elect to leave the committee, replacement priority will first consider adequate representation by motorized and non-motorized trail users as required by program legislation, followed by any gaps in areas of trail expertise and geographic dispersion from across the commonwealth.

Past Project Records

Originally planned for FY25 but delayed, DCR-PRR will continue to update our data on past RTP-funded projects with the goal of mapping all 370-plus Virginia RTP projects. When complete, this information will be accessible via the RTP page of the DCR website.

2026 Grant Round

Both new trail construction and maintenance and amenity projects on existing trails will be eligible in 2026 and future even-year grant rounds. DCR-PRR will continue to hold odd-year grant rounds for maintenance and amenity project applications only. DCR-PRR aims to open the grant in mid-March, with applications due in mid-May. The advanced notice of funding from FHWA indicated funding levels should be the same as in 2025, subject to federal release. 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 339N210
Hampton Roads Sanitation District – Flax Mill Creek Trail



Preparation of this report was supported by RTP state administrative grant 379A250.