

Regional meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Provide regional examples that demonstrate the following topics:

DCR planners are gathering examples of emerging outdoor recreation activities for the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan. After introducing the following topics that will be addressed in the VOP, you will be asked to provide examples of successful projects that address: – economics and tourism; health and play outdoors; scenic resource recognition and dark skies initiatives; public-private partnerships; biodiversity & land conservation, and outdoor recreation carrying capacity. After you read or hear about each topic, please provide the project, its location and a local or regional contact for follow-up.

#### Economics and tourism

Many regions are combining tourism and outdoor recreation with local and regional economic initiatives. An example is an economic study for the Northern Neck that strongly capitalizes on the region's beauty and natural resources. Another economic initiative highlighting the benefits of outdoor recreation to tourism is My Southwest Virginia. Please let us know about projects in your region or locality addressing the economics of outdoor recreation?

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Project name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

#### Health & play

Many regions are collaborating with the Virginia Department of Health to develop projects that improve community health through outdoor recreation. We would like to hear about local partnerships in your locality or region where hospitals, doctors and health professionals are working with local parks and recreation departments. One example in Hopewell is a collaborative project with the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River and Southside Regional Hospital. Do you have an example showing how health and outdoor recreation initiatives create great partnerships?

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Project name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenic resource recognition and dark skies initiatives

Few states have the breadth and wealth of scenic resources as Virginia. The VOP is the only statewide planning document that recognizes scenic resources including scenic roads and scenic rivers. Recently there have been dark sky initiatives at Staunton River State Park located in southern Virginia and Belle Meade in Goochland County. Are there other places like Staunton River and Belle Meade that could promote their dark skies as a destination? Please note on your sheet if scenic rivers, scenic byways, other scenic resources and dark skies are helping move outdoor recreation forward in your region.

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Project name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

**Public-private partnerships**

One role of government is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. This is an important aspect of planning by local, state and federal agencies. As budgets tighten, there is growing interest in the role that the private sector and non-profits play in supporting and providing outdoor recreation.

1. What is the role of government vs. the private sector in providing outdoor recreation in your community?
2. Are there examples of successful public-private recreation partnerships in your region?

Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Project name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact \_\_\_\_\_

**Biodiversity & land conservation**

Biodiversity, environmental health and land conservation have shared interests. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' *Virginia Wildlife Action Plan* addresses statewide and regional initiatives related to biodiversity and natural resource management. DCR's Division of Natural Heritage inventories, protects and manages rare, threatened and endangered species. What fragile regional resources interfacing with outdoor recreation should be addressed in the VOP?

Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Project name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact \_\_\_\_\_

**Outdoor recreation carrying capacity**

Studies related to park carrying capacity address both the outdoor recreation experience and the health of a park's natural resources. How many people can enjoy a park before the park seems crowded, the experience is not enjoyable and the park's resources are threatened? Is it too crowded to find a fishing spot? Is the parking lot so full that the adjacent tree roots are being compacted by vehicles? Will hiking be a private, serene experience or an effort in dodging other hikers/bikers/equestrians? Are the trails being overused causing erosion? Is your favorite beach overcrowded pushing visitors onto adjacent dunes and outside the defined recreation area? We would like to hear if your region has "over-loved" public outdoor recreation areas. Please provide the park name and contact for gaining additional information about carrying capacity for this resource.

Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Project name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for sharing success stories and opportunities that highlight what is happening in your region. Contact: Janit Llewellyn Allen at [Janit.Llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Janit.Llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov) or 804-786-0887.