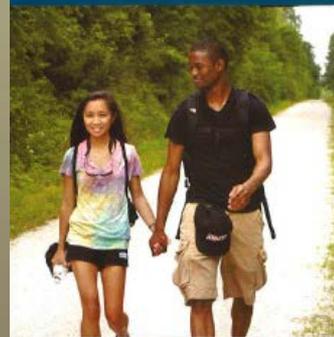


# 2013 *Virginia Outdoors Plan*

Virginia's 10th Statewide  
Comprehensive Outdoor  
Recreation Plan (SCORP)



2013  
Virginia Outdoors Plan



VIRGINIA  
*is for*  
**OUTDOOR**  
*Lovers*

# Outdoor Recreation Objective

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

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



# Land Conservation Objective

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

Identify potential conservation lands in each planning district (region)

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



# Land & Water Conservation Fund

Requirement of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Provides guidance for grant fund allocation to state and local projects.





# Results from the 2011 Virginia Outdoor Demand Survey

Center for Survey  
Research, University of  
Virginia  
Virginia Department of  
Conservation and  
Recreation

# Methods

- 13,880 randomly selected addresses
- Representative at planning district level
- 3,150 usable responses (22.7% overall)
- Weighted data (planning district, age, gender, race)
- Overall margin of error approx. 2.4%

# Most popular activities

Activity	% of households	
	2006	2011
Walking for pleasure	72	82
Visiting historic areas	56	64
Visiting parks (local, state, national)	44	51
Driving for Pleasure	55	--
Visiting natural areas, preserves, refuges	44	50
Swimming/pool	44 (all)	43
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	36	41
Swimming/beach	44 (all)	38
Jogging/running	24	34
Using a playground	25	30
Picnicking away from home	26	28

# Most popular activities

Activity	% of households	
	2006	2011
Visiting gardens/arboretums	22	26
Hiking/backpacking	16	25
Fresh water fishing	20	24
Camping	18	24
Visiting natural preserves	-	19
Golf	15	16
Canoeing/kayaking/rowing	9	16
Salt water fishing	15	14
Off-road/multi-use bicycling	5	13
Fitness Trail (not jogging)	11	13
Basketball	13	13
Hunting	8	13

# Public Perception of What Outdoor Recreation Facilities are Most Needed

Activity	% of households	
	2006	2011
Hiking and walking trails	49	67
State waters: fishing, swimming, beach	50	60
Natural areas	42	55
Bicycling trails	40	54
Historic areas	33	51
Canoeing, kayaking	--	46
Wildlife watching and nature study	--	45
Playing fields for outdoor sports	36	40
Public pools	--	38
Tennis and basketball courts	25	32



## Opinions about recreation

*How important is it to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities?*

Rating	% of households	
	2006	2011
Very important	51	<b>56</b>
Important	42	<b>36</b>
Not important	8	<b>8</b>

# Importance of protecting resources

*How important do you feel it is to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources?*

Very important	66%
Important	28%
Not important	1%
Don't know	5%



## Spending to preserve natural areas

*Should the state spend public funds to acquire land to prevent the loss of natural areas and open spaces?*

<b>Yes</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>18%</b>





## Protection strategies

*When spending public monies to protect Virginia's natural areas and open space resources from development, which protection strategy is best?*

Outright purchase and management	68%
Purchase of easements, some public use	25%
Purchase of easements, no public use	5%
Other	3%



## Summary

- Survey indicates shift in recreation trends
- Wide range in participation for outdoor recreation activities
- Importance of state park facilities
- Strong support for public purchase, management and access to natural areas and open space

# Public Access to Waterways

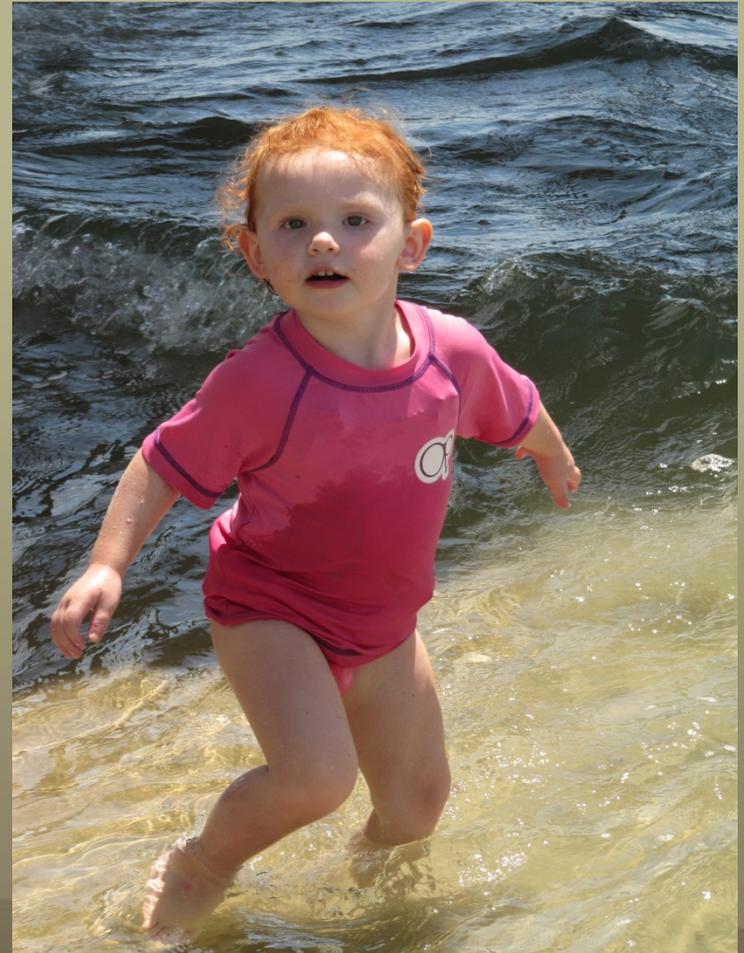
*The second most needed recreation opportunity in Virginia*





# Public Tidal Beaches

- 17 in Virginia
- Represent 43 miles of beachfront land
- Account for less than 1 percent of Virginia's shoreline





# Fishing in Virginia

- Freshwater fishing ranks 13<sup>th</sup>; saltwater fishing 18<sup>th</sup> in VOS
- Approx. 450,000 anglers annually
- Spend over \$1.14 billion



# Water Trails & Blueways

Growing in Virginia

- Approximately 1,930 miles existing water trails
- 1,878 miles proposed
- Embraced by localities and planning districts
- Partnerships—local and regional tourism efforts



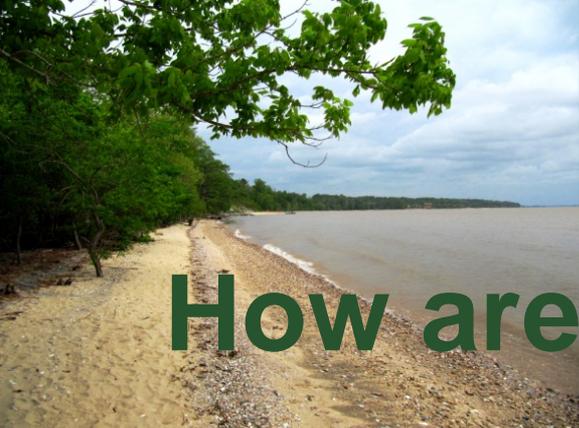


# Public Access to Waterways

*Tools for enhancement*

## Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

The Strategy for protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed established a watershed-wide public access goal to “increase public access to the Bay and its tributaries by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025.”



# How are Access Sites Defined?

Sites that are owned, operated, or managed expressly for a type of public access by:

- Unit of federal, state, or local government; or
- A NGO operating under an agreement with a government agency
- Located along a tidal stream or bay
- Located along a 5<sup>th</sup>-order or larger stream, or may be considered on streams smaller than 5<sup>th</sup> order when part of a water trail

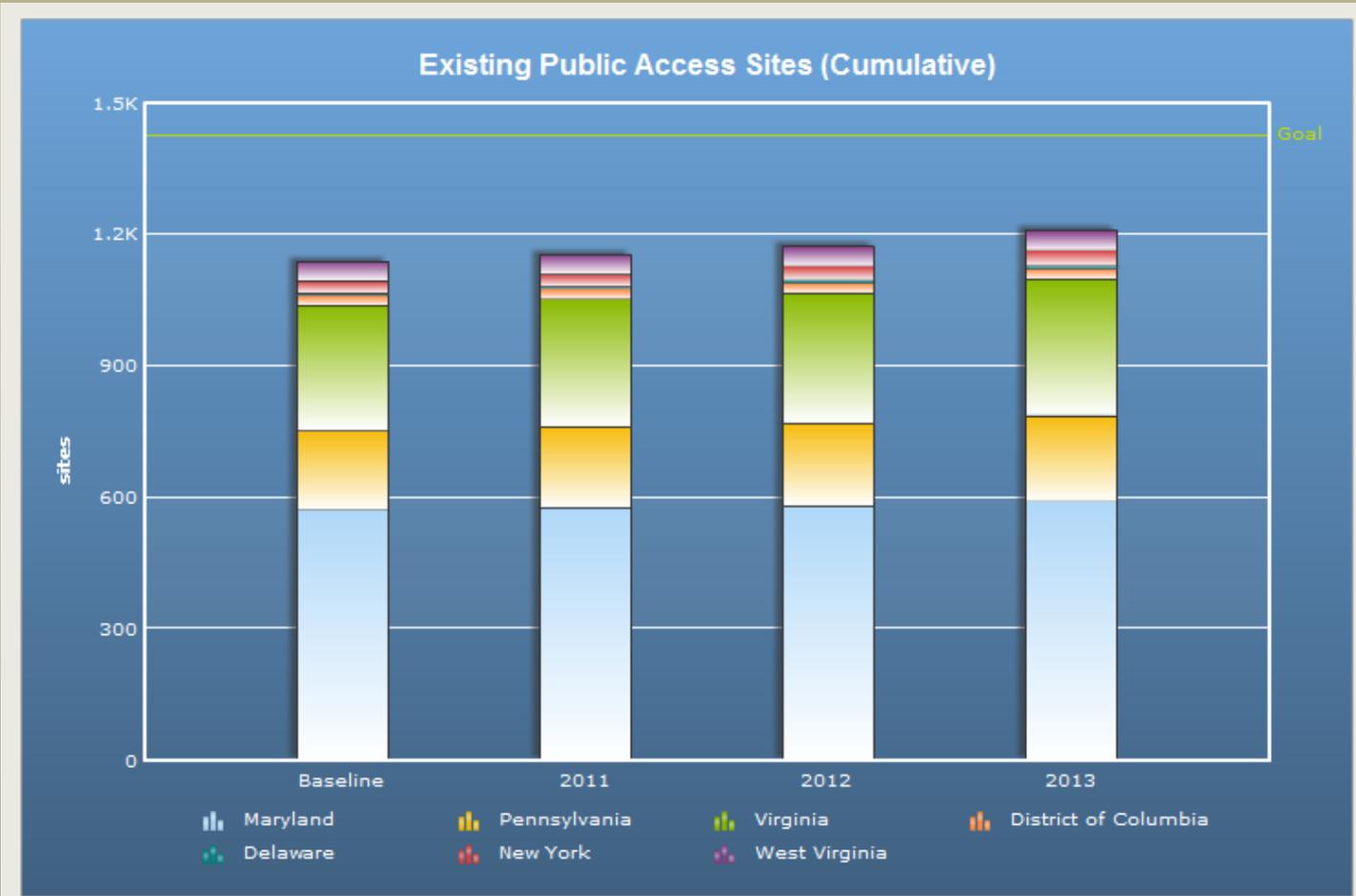
# Types of Access

- Boat: ramps, car-top launches, soft launches (for paddle craft, motor, and/or sail boats)
- Swimming: designated areas
- Fishing: piers, bank fishing facilities or easements, and parking adjacent to the water
- Viewing access for water, wildlife, and shoreline areas: nature trails, hiking or biking trails, waterfront trails, boardwalks, and observation decks located at or leading to the water's edge.



# Chesapeake Bay

## 1,208 public access sites as of 2013





# Public Access to Waterways

## *Additional Tools for Enhancement*

- Public Access Authorities
- MOU for access at bridge crossings
- DGIF Grants to Localities Boating Access
- Coastal Zone Management grants
- Recreational grants through DCR
- NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways grants
- Water Trails and Scenic River designations

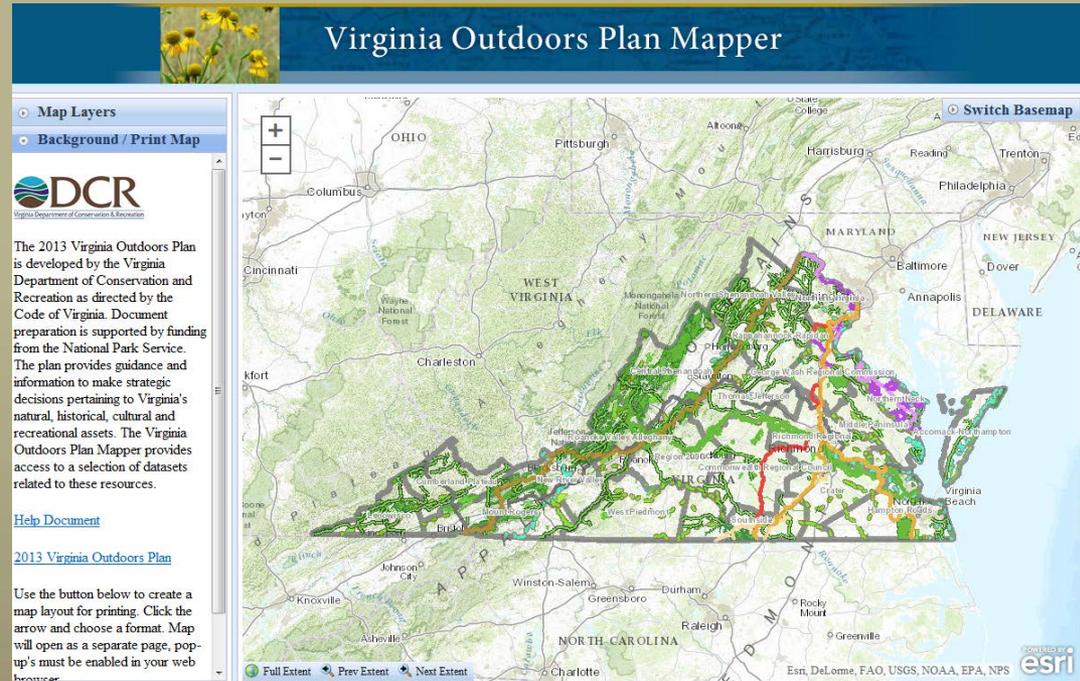
# A New Face for the VOP

- Web-based with active links
- Interactive mapping component
- Annual engagement by staff with:
  - Planning Districts
  - Technical Advisory Committee
  - Localities to provide technical support & foster plan implementation



# VOP Mapper

- First VOP-focused interactive mapping program
- Provides access to key information about Virginia's recreation resources
- Identifies public access sites



The screenshot displays the 'Virginia Outdoors Plan Mapper' interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the title 'Virginia Outdoors Plan Mapper' and a small image of yellow flowers. Below the header, the interface is divided into a left sidebar and a main map area. The sidebar contains a 'Map Layers' section, a 'Background / Print Map' section, and a 'DCR' logo. The main map area shows a map of Virginia with various colored overlays representing different outdoor resources. The map includes labels for major cities, states, and geographical features. At the bottom of the map, there are navigation controls for 'Full Extent', 'Prev Extent', and 'Next Extent', along with a 'Switch Basemap' button. The map is powered by Esri, as indicated by the logo in the bottom right corner.



Search DCR Site

GO

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## RECREATION PLANNING

### Virginia Outdoors Plan

 First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe introduces the new Va. Outdoors Plan
 


Dorothy McAuliffe

The Virginia Outdoors Plan is the state's comprehensive plan for land conservation, outdoor recreation and open-space planning. The document helps all levels of government and the private sector meet needs pertaining to those matters.

The plan is required for Virginia to participate in the federal [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) program. In addition, it provides guidance for the protection of lands through the [Virginia Land Conservation Foundation](#).

The 2013 edition is the 10th to be produced and the first to be completely paperless. It features a custom-built online mapping tool



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

# Questions?

