

# 2007 UPDATE TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY CONCEPTUAL GREENWAY PLAN



Produced by  
**Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission  
and  
Roanoke Valley– Alleghany Regional Commission**

In cooperation with  
**City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Roanoke County,  
and the Town of Vinton**

## 5

5.0	<b>Greenway Network</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1	<b>Prioritization of Greenways</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.2	<b>Priority #1 Roanoke River Greenway</b>	<b>5-4</b>
5.3	<b>Priority #2 Greenways</b>	<b>5-8</b>
5.4	<b>Priority #3 Greenways</b>	<b>5-23</b>
5.5	<b>Priority #4 Greenways</b>	<b>5-26</b>
5.6	<b>On-road Connections</b>	<b>5-32</b>

## 5.0 GREENWAY NETWORK

### 5.1 Prioritization of Greenways

The 1995 Plan recommended 51 greenway routes with each route labeled as either on-road or off-road on a map. In addition, it described six other routes not shown on the map. This Update focuses on the off-road routes and endorses the 2005 *Bikeway Plan* for on-road routes (Section 5.6). The Update includes 35 routes.

In response to public input, the Steering Committee and each locality prioritized the off-road greenways and trails to provide more focus to implementation efforts.

**Priority #1 Route:** The Roanoke River Greenway was identified as the most important greenway in the regional network. It will be the only #1 priority, in order to focus efforts on finishing it within five years. This greenway offers the longest route when finished, the most opportunity for economic development on adjacent lands, the greatest attraction for tourists, the most recreation and health benefit for residents, the most opportunity for special events such as marathons, the most opportunity for water based recreation such as canoeing and fishing, the most opportunity to enhance appreciation of environmental resources, and the most opportunity to be a regional asset. Roanoke River Greenway is the "backbone" of the greenway network.

Priority #1 Greenway			
City of Roanoke	Roanoke County	City of Salem	Town of Vinton
Roanoke River	Roanoke River	Roanoke River	Roanoke River

**Priority #2 Routes:** These are important regional projects, already underway, which could be finished in 5-10 years. They include five north-south routes connecting to Roanoke River Greenway and three destination sites with clusters of trails. These routes provide the major side corridors of the greenway network.

Priority #2 Greenways			
City of Roanoke	Roanoke County	City of Salem	Town of Vinton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Ridge Parkway Trails</li> <li>• Carvins Cove Trail Network</li> <li>• Lick Run Greenway</li> <li>• Mill Mtn. Greenway</li> <li>• Mill Mtn. Park Trails</li> <li>• Tinker Creek Greenway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Ridge Parkway Trails</li> <li>• Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail</li> <li>• Lick Run Greenway</li> <li>• Mason Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Tinker Cr. Greenway</li> <li>• Wolf Cr. Greenway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail</li> <li>• Mason Creek Greenway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tinker Cr. Greenway</li> <li>• Wolf Creek Greenway</li> </ul>

**Priority #3 Routes:** These greenways are priorities within specific localities. These are important at the local level for enhancement of neighborhood values, economic development and public health. The goal is to finish these in 5-10 years. Most have already had some work done, such as planning or acquiring right-of-way. Some are neighborhood priorities.

Priority #3 Greenways			
City of Roanoke	Roanoke County	City of Salem	Town of Vinton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biomed Loop</li> <li>• Garden City Greenway</li> <li>• Mudlick Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Murray Run Greenway</li> <li>• Neighborhood Connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glade Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Mudlick Creek/Garst Mill Greenway</li> <li>• Read Mountain Trails</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glade Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Gladetown Trail</li> </ul>

**Priority #4 Routes:** These are other greenway projects to be addressed as opportunity and resources arise. Included in this group are several routes which have strong citizen support but no resources in terms of land or funding. Also included are clusters of trails on other public lands which help provide connectivity for the greenway network.

Priority #4 Greenways			
City of Roanoke	Roanoke County	City of Salem	Town of Vinton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnhardt Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Birding and Wildlife Trail sites</li> <li>• Glade Creek Greenway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appalachian Trail</li> <li>• Back Cr. Greenway</li> <li>• Barnhardt Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Birding and Wildlife Trail sites</li> <li>• Carvin Cr. Greenway</li> <li>• Catawba Greenway</li> <li>• Explore Park Trails</li> <li>• Green Hill Pk. Trails</li> <li>• Havens Wildlife Mgt. Area Trails</li> <li>• Jefferson National Forest Trails</li> <li>• Long Ridge Trail</li> <li>• Masons Cove Greenway</li> <li>• Murray Run Greenway</li> <li>• Perimeter Trail</li> <li>• Poor Mountain Preserve Trails</li> <li>• Roanoke River Grwy Extensions</li> <li>• Spring Hollow Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birding and Wildlife Trail sites</li> <li>• Dry Creek Greenway</li> <li>• Gish Branch Greenway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birding and Wildlife Trail sites</li> </ul>

On the map included with this Update the routes are listed and numbered in alphabetical order. The table below shows the numbering system, jurisdiction, and surface expected for each trail.

Roanoke Valley Greenway Network				
PROJECT NAME	Plan #	Localities	Priority	Class
Appalachian Trail*	1	Roanoke County	4	C
Back Creek Greenway	2	Roanoke County	4	B -C
Barnhardt Creek Greenway	3	Roanoke County, City of Roanoke	4	A-B -C
BioMed Loop	4	City of Roanoke	3	A
Birding and Wildlife Trail Sites	5	All	4	A-B -C
Blue Ridge Parkway Trails*	6	Roanoke County, City of Roanoke	2	C
Carvin Creek Greenway	7	Roanoke County	4	A-B
Carvins Cove Trail Network	8	City of Roanoke	2	C
Catawba Greenway	9	Roanoke County	4	B -C
Dry Creek Greenway	10	Salem	4	A-B
Explore Park Trails	11	Roanoke County	4	B -C
Garden City Greenway (Garnand Branch)	12	City of Roanoke	3	A-B
Gish Branch Greenway	13	Salem	4	B -C
Glade Creek Greenway	14	Roanoke County, Vinton	3	A-B -C
	14	City of Roanoke	4	A-B
Gladetown Trail	15	Vinton	3	C
Green Hill Park Trails	16	Roanoke County	4	B -C
Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail	17	Roanoke County, Salem	2	B -C
Havens Wildlife Management Area Trails+	18	Roanoke County	4	C
Jefferson National Forest Trails*	19	Roanoke County	4	C
Lick Run Greenway	20	City of Roanoke, Roanoke County	2	A
Long Ridge Trail	21	Roanoke County	4	C
Masons Cove Greenway	22	Roanoke County	4	B -C
Mason Creek Greenway	23	Salem, Roanoke County	2	A-B
Mill Mountain Greenway	24	City of Roanoke	2	A
Mill Mountain Park Trails	25	City of Roanoke	2	C
Mudlick Creek Greenway (& Garst Mill)	26	Roanoke County, City of Roanoke	3	A-B
Murray Run Greenway	27	Roanoke County	4	B -C
	27	City of Roanoke	3	B -C
Perimeter Trail	28	Roanoke & Botetourt Counties	4	C
Poor Mountain Preserve Trails+	29	Roanoke County	4	C
Read Mountain Trails	30	Roanoke County	3	C
Roanoke River Greenway	31	All	1	A-B -C
Roanoke River Greenway Extensions	32	Franklin, Montgomery Counties	4	A-B -C
Spring Hollow Trails	33	Roanoke County	4	C
Tinker Creek Greenway	34	City of Roanoke, Roanoke County	2	A-B -C
Wolf Creek Greenway	35	Roanoke County, Vinton	2	B
*Federal Jurisdiction	Class A =	Paved with asphalt or concrete (See Section 2.4.2)		
+State Jurisdiction	Class B =	Crushed aggregate stone or wood chips		
	Class C =	Natural surface, wood chips, or crushed stone		

### 5.3.8 Tinker Creek Greenway, Map #34

#### Description

The Tinker Creek corridor is one of the most historic in the valley. The creek has its headwaters in Botetourt County and is fed by Carvins Creek, Lick Run, and Glade Creek. It is one of the few urban trout streams in the east and connects seven parks and three golf courses. Historic resources include the Great Wagon or Carolina Road, Monterey, Bell Mont, numerous other historic buildings, and remains of mills near the creek.

#### Status

In spring 2000 a conceptual plan for an 11-mile Tinker Creek Greenway was completed, for the City of Roanoke, with assistance from Virginia Tech. This plan inventoried natural and cultural resources and land uses, explored alternative trail locations, and included a public input meeting with landowners and neighbors. The plan recognized that beyond Mountain View School right-of-way would become more problematic. Thus a connection from Tinker Creek to Carvins Creek near LaMarre Drive was proposed, allowing utilization of Hollins University properties to reach Carvins Cove.



The first mile of Tinker Creek Greenway was built in the City of Roanoke along a utility corridor, opening in January 2003. There are connections to southeast via Kenwood Boulevard and to Fallon Park. Parking lots on Dale Avenue, Wise Avenue and Fallon Park provide ample access. The City has done extensive riparian planting within the corridor.

Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded funding to begin design of a bridge to cross the river and tie Tinker Creek Greenway to Roanoke River Greenway. In Roanoke County, right-of-way for the greenway was dedicated at Villages of Tinker Creek, and Hollins has included the greenway in its master plan. Further engineering and right-of-way acquisition for other sections have not been initiated.



#### Benefits

When Tinker Creek Greenway is completed, it will provide a direct linkage from Roanoke River Greenway to Carvins Cove trail network. It will also attract significant tourism traffic because of its historic resources.

#### Challenges

Significant challenges include right-of-way acquisition and location of the trail along 13<sup>th</sup> Street, where the road is adjacent to the creek.

### Next Steps

Several willing landowners, such as Hollins University and Community School, have stepped forward in support of this greenway, and development of a partnership should be explored. Ideally, a more detailed master plan of the greenway would be created to specifically address acquisition, corridor design, and multi-year capital outlay.



### 5.3.9 Wolf Creek Greenway, Map #35

#### Description

This greenway corridor parallels Wolf Creek from the Blue Ridge Parkway to Roanoke River. The creek is the boundary between the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County. Development of this greenway as a joint project was initiated early in the greenway program because of the availability of land within parks, along sewer corridors, and next to Vinton's well fields.

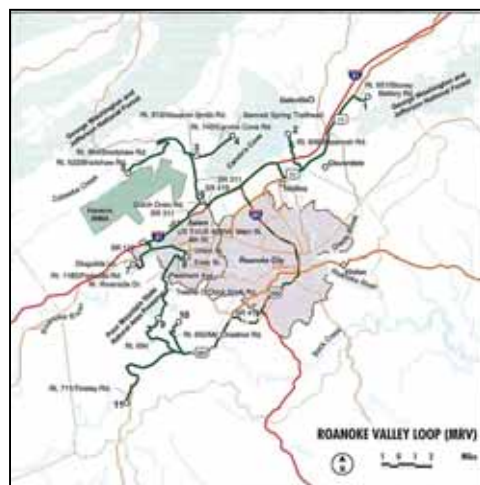
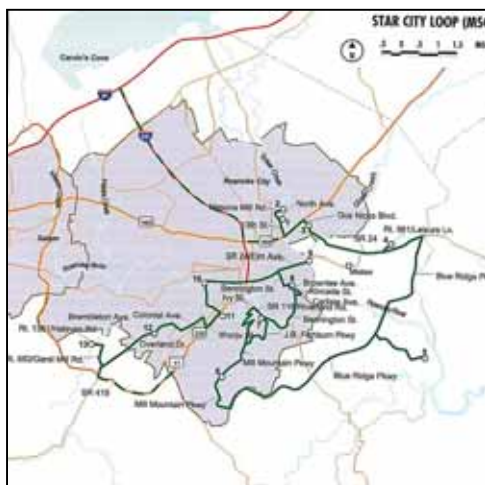
#### Status

The section of the greenway in Vinton from Hardy Road to Washington Avenue was completed in 1999 using Virginia Recreational Trails Grant funds. The 80' bridge crossing the creek was built by volunteers, and the ribbon cutting for the trail was incorporated into the first Governor's Conference for Greenways and Trails. Vinton has continued to utilize volunteers for greenway maintenance and enhancement, with the addition of flower beds, kiosks, benches, additional parking, and a Police fitness course. In 2001 Hardy Road was widened from two lanes to five, and bicycle lanes and sidewalks were included with connection to the greenway. Extensions from Hardy road south to Vinton Business Center and down the creek to Roanoke River Greenway are options in the future.



Roanoke County's section of the greenway was initiated by an Eagle Scout as a trail project in 1995. The County obtained a Virginia Recreational Trails Grant to upgrade the trail to greenway standards from Stonebridge Park to Goode Park. Improvements included an aggregate stone surface, culverts and bridges at stream crossings, benches, and a trail shelter. Volunteers have helped with construction of two bridges, two kiosks, bluebird boxes, tree identification signs and a seating area for William Byrd classes.

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail Guides are available from the Virginia Tourism Corporation at 1-866-VABIRDS (1-866-822-4737). Additional information is available at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/vbwt/index.asp>.



#### 5.5.5 Carvin Creek Greenway, Map #7

The 1995 *Plan* included a greenway route (#9) from Carvin's Cove Reservoir to Tinker Creek. Exploration of the corridor, setting of priorities, and recognition of the extensive acquisition that would be needed has led to shortening the corridor. There are two feasible sections. One is from Brookside Park to Tinker Creek. The second section is being incorporated into the Tinker Creek Greenway corridor from LaMarre Drive through Hollins University campus to Carvin's Cove.

#### 5.5.6 Catawba Greenway, Map #9

This greenway has been added to the Greenway Plan through this Update at the request of citizens. It would run from Masons Cove, cross the Appalachian Trail on Sandstone Ridge, descend through the Catawba Farm owned by Virginia Tech, and connect to Catawba Hospital and the National Forest.

#### 5.5.7 Dry Creek Greenway, Map #10

This corridor (Route #12 in the 95 Plan) follows a small tributary of Roanoke River. The drainage begins in Havens Wildlife Management Area, goes through the municipal golf course, and connects several Salem neighborhoods and a park along Shanks Street. It goes underground and resurfaces near Timber Truss, with connections to Union Street near Moyer Complex.

#### 5.5.8 Explore Park Trails, Map #11

Virginia's Explore Park is 1,100 acres of state owned land managed by the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA). The park includes an historic interpretive area and many recreation opportunities like canoeing, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and mountain biking.

# Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan

## LEGEND

- Roanoke River (Priority 1)
- Priority 2 Greenways
- Priority 3 and 4 Greenways
- Proposed Multi-Use Route
- Appalachian Trail
- Existing Greenways
- Existing Trails
- Equestrian Facility
- Greenway Number
- Public Lands

- 1-Appalachian Trail
- 2-Back Creek Greenway
- 3-Barnhardt Creek Greenway
- 4-BioMed Loop
- 5-Birding and Wildlife Trail Sites
- 6-Blue Ridge Parkway Trails
- 7-Carvin Creek Greenway
- 8-Carvins Cove Trail Network
- 9-Catawba Greenway
- 10-Dry Creek Greenway
- 11-Explore Park Trails
- 12-Garden City Greenway (Garnand Branch)
- 13-Gish Branch Greenway
- 14-Glade Creek Greenway
- 15-Gladetown Trail
- 16-Green Hill Park Trails
- 17-Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail
- 18-Havens Wildlife Management Area Trails
- 19-Jefferson National Forest Trails
- 20-Lick Run Greenway
- 21-Long Ridge Trail
- 22-Masons Cove Greenway
- 23-Mason Creek Greenway
- 24-Mill Mountain Greenway
- 25-Mill Mountain Park Trails
- 26-Mudlick Creek Greenway (& Garst Mill)
- 27-Murray Run Greenway
- 28-Perimeter Trail
- 29-Poor Mountain Preserve
- 30-Read Mountain Trails
- 31-Roanoke River Greenway
- 32-Roanoke River Greenway Extensions
- 33-Spring Hollow Trails
- 34-Tinker Creek Greenway
- 35-Wolf Creek Greenway

