



**The
Virginia Greenways and Trails
Toolbox**

*A How-To Guide for the Organization, Planning, and Development
of Local Greenway and Trails Programs in Virginia*

October 2000

prepared for
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Trails Association

by
Parsons Harland Bartholomew & Associates, Inc.
Richmond, Virginia

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Acknowledgments

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Thanks also goes to the Brandywine Conservancy, Inc. for permission to include the sample easement found in Appendix VIII. The easement was borrowed from the Conservancy's publication, *Community Trails Handbook*, which is an excellent reference for practical steps to be taken in the promotion and development of trails.

We also found the book, *Greenways for America*, by Charles E. Little (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990) to be informative and inspirational, providing a rich sense of the greater social context in which greenways and trails are finding their place.

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Introduction

This manual has been prepared to provide Governor's Conference on Greenways and Blueways attendees a ready reference of information and contacts they will need in promoting and developing greenways and trails in their own communities. It is called "The Toolbox" because it has been designed to serve as a place to store conference session handouts and other materials that may be collected over time. The *Toolbox* is divided into six sections under the following headings:

- *Virginia Vision* - General information about greenways and trails as they relate to Virginia.
- *Organization* - Forming and sustaining a greenway or trail advocacy group.
- *Planning* - Master planning and getting the project accepted by the public and government.
- *Development* - Acquiring the right-of-way and constructing physical improvements.
- *Operations* - Administration and maintenance of completed facilities.
- *Appendix* - Supplemental items, a resource directory (*Green Pages*), and bibliography.

As you collect materials from the sessions at this conference, you can place them in the *Toolbox* in the appropriate section for easy future reference. As your collection of material grows you could move the expanded sections to a separate volume.

We feel certain that you will enjoy the conference and get much from the individual sessions. We hope that you also find this *Toolbox* to be a useful device as you pursue your greenway and trails programs.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AHRI	American Heritage Rivers Initiative
AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
ATV	All-terrain Vehicle
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
CTB	Commonwealth Transportation Board
DHR	Virginia Department of Historic Resources
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
DGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
EASI	Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement
FOP	Friends of the Potomac
TEA-21	Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21 st Century
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
USFS	United States Forest Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPS	United States National Park Service
NRCS	United States Natural Resources Conservation Service
RFQ	Request for Qualifications
RSVP	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
RTC	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
ROW	Right-of-Way
SCORE	Service Corps of Retired Executives
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
STB	Surface Transportation Board

Acronyms and Abbreviations (cont.)

USGS	United States Geological Survey
VBO	Virginia Business Opportunities
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VMRC	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
VOF	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
VOP	Virginia Outdoors Plan 1996