



Rappahannock-Rapidan
REGIONAL COMMISSION

***FY 2022 HIGHLIGHTS
& ANNUAL REPORT***

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Warrenton and Washington.



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BOARD MEMBERS

As of June 30, 2022

Chair: Meaghan Taylor

Vice-Chair: Paul S. McCulla

Treasurer: Greg Woods

Culpeper County: Gary Deal, John Egertson

Town of Culpeper: Chris Hively, Meaghan E. Taylor

Fauquier County: Christopher T. Butler, Paul S. McCulla

Town of Remington: Evan H. 'Skeet' Ashby III

Town of The Plains: Lori B. Sisson

Town of Warrenton: Brandie Schaeffer, William T. Semple II

Madison County: R. Clay Jackson, Jonathon Weakley

Town of Madison: William L. Lamar

Orange County: James P. Crozier, Theodore Voorhees

Town of Gordonsville: Robert K. Coiner

Town of Orange: Martha B. Roby, Gregory S. Woods

Rappahannock County: Garrey Curry, Jr., Debbie Donehey

Town of Washington: Fred Catlin



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MISSION

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission exists to serve our members by providing professional planning and technical resources, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, planning assistance with program delivery, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.

PURPOSE

"...To encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

The [Regional Commission] shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan for the future."

Virginia's 21 Planning District or Regional Commissions, of which the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) is one, provide a variety of technical services and programming to member local governments.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

RRRC continues to provide technical assistance to local governments and other stakeholders in the region with urban sector implementation of the state's Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. This effort not only benefits the Bay and local water quality, but many related local priorities, such as public health, safety, recreation, and economic development. To highlight those benefits and provide other local government specific information, staff presented the Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay to approximately 500 people, reaching close to 2,000 through downloads.

As phase two of the Upper Rappahannock Watershed Plan project, RRRC has been working with the Chesapeake Conservancy to develop a Best Management Practice (BMP) prioritization tool. In phase one, RRRC worked to compile and digitize existing data from a broad range of sources, allowing the GIS data sets to be overlaid with each other to aid in BMP planning decisions. Phase two will develop a custom GIS-based prioritization of urban and agriculture BMPs for the region, based upon new land cover and stream data the Chesapeake Conservancy is currently developing for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The prioritization could also be used for site-level conservation planning.

Friends of the Rappahannock is conducting targeted stream sampling and ground-truthing the GIS data this fall. The final tool is anticipated to be released in spring 2023. This effort fills data gaps identified by stakeholders during the WIP III process, and is primarily by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with additional funding by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The grant project is also funding John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District's ramp up of its Virginia Conservation Assistance Program in Fauquier County, as well as stormwater projects in Warrenton and Fauquier County.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

RRRC also participated in a number of local water quality efforts in Culpeper County, including development of the Mountain Run, Muddy Run and Lower Hazel River Implementation Plan and Carver Center stormwater management plan. In partnership with Friends of the Rappahannock, RRRC also administered a Virginia Trees for Clean Water Program Grant project for Lenn Park. 300 seedling trees and 48 mature trees were planted by 130 volunteers in fall 2021 and inspected by Department of Forestry staff in January.



In collaboration with the Piedmont Environmental Council, RRRC assisted in the development of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant proposal for the Town of Gordonsville to double the size of Verling Park. The project would provide green space and recreational trails in the Town's only public recreational facility and put the additional parcels under a conservation easement for perpetuity. DCR has earmarked it for approval, and it is currently being reviewed by the National Park Service with an expected announcement in September/October 2022.

Finally, RRRC is providing ongoing assistance to local governments in the region with utility-scale solar development policy, particularly to address stormwater management and land use/land preservation concerns. Staff presented an overview of local government projects, policies and concerns to the Rappahannock-Rapidan River Basin Commission Technical Committee and continues to work through the committee as it explores potential legislative options and other recommendations.

FOOD SYSTEM

RRRC Supports Locally Grown Food

This year, RRRC promoted the region's locally grown food through the expansion of Purely Piedmont, the Commission's local food and beverage marketing program. Program services are provided at no-cost to its members, which have increased this year to 45 member sites across the region.

Commission staff promoted Purely Piedmont at community events, including ConnectOrange and Madison County's Taste of the Mountains, sharing program information with approximately 275 of the attendees.

Through the Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Policy Council, RRRC has been working to foster development of food processing and distribution infrastructure, and food business training programs. Staff have provided grant writing and coordination assistance for regional-wide efforts and technical assistance for further development of the Carver Center, particularly the George Washington Carver Agricultural Research Center.

The nonprofit's George Washington Carver Food Enterprise Center is anticipated to open in 2023, as a commercial kitchen and food business incubator serving new and expanding businesses throughout the region. After supporting this effort beginning with the 2015 feasibility study, RRRC looks forward to this project coming to fruition.



FOOD SYSTEM

RRRC Expands Farm to School Programming

In summer 2021, RRRC collaborated with school districts in its region to create a Farm to School Liaison position. This position was created to increase access to nutritious, local food in the public school districts within the region. During the first year, the primary focus of the role was to promote Virginia's Harvest of the Month program through a series of taste tests of seasonal food items in school cafeterias.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the liaison conducted over 90 visits to schools, reaching over 20 schools and serving over 750 students a week on average. These events were primarily at the elementary level, however, were adjusted to meet the needs of specific districts. In Fauquier County, for example, the liaison worked with Fauquier's head start program as well as the Transitions program, which serves 18 to 22-year-olds with developmental disabilities. In Orange County, she worked with two groups of middle-school students in the alternative education program.



In addition to the Harvest of the Month, RRRC's farm to school program included district-specific priorities. During the summer of 2022, the liaison collaborated with the Culpeper Downtown Farmers Market, Culpeper Renaissance Inc, and Virginia Cooperative Extension to facilitate educational demonstrations through the I'm SOW Healthy program. She also worked with Fauquier FRESH in creating food distribution bags for their FRESH on Wheels events. In Rappahannock County, the liaison connected school nutrition officials with a representative from 4P Foods, a wholesale local produce aggregator for the region, which has led to regular Harvest of the Month-themed purchasing for RCPS.

HOUSING

RRRC Implements PDC Housing Development Program

Over the past year, the Regional Commission worked to implement a Housing Development Program designed to support creation of affordable housing units in the region. The program is supported by a grant from Virginia Housing as part of that organization's PDC Housing Development Program, which provided support to Virginia's Planning District Commissions to identify and provide financial support for affordable housing opportunities in each region.

RRRC was awarded \$2 million from Virginia Housing to develop the Housing Development Program, with objectives focused on increasing awareness of housing needs and options and incentivizing the development of a variety of affordable housing options for all the citizens in the Rappahannock Rapidan (PD9) Region. With support and guidance from the Regional Commission and regional stakeholders, RRRC staff identified potential project partners with initial interest from nine potential housing developments, with seven of those projects advancing to a formal application stage, with requests from area non-profits for over \$3.4 million in funding to provide up to 164 new units, indicating a strong interest by non-profits to address housing need-demand in the Region.

In February, the Regional Commission made tentative funding allocations to six projects, contingent upon other funding availability, project progress, and ability of partner organizations to meet deadlines for construction by Virginia Housing. As of June 2022, agreements were in place for three developments providing more than 100 new affordable housing units in Culpeper with partners Culpeper Community Development Corporation and People Incorporated and Madison, to support the renovation of the former Barbara's House (below) building in Madison into six affordable units managed by Skyline Community Action Partnership.

Additional awards are expected to be announced later in 2022.



HOUSING

Regional Housing Strategy Drafted

The PDC Housing Development Program Grant, in addition to the Housing Study prompted awareness of unmet housing needs in the region. As housing is vital to every citizen of the region, RRRC staff recognized that housing options do not align with the diverse composition and incomes of households across the region. Identifying data-driven goals and objectives, RRRC staff developed the blueprint of a Regional Housing Strategy Framework, structured to identify unmet housing needs of a regional nature, encourage regional collaboration as it seeks to complement each locality's housing goals, and identify the planning and technical support RRRC staff may provide for a region-local partnership. It is built on a forward-thinking process that allows for the Strategy to be reassessed and realigned as priorities shift and change over time.



The Regional Housing Strategy Framework is informed by a synthesis of the 2020 RRRC Regional Housing Study outcomes with local comprehensive plans, state-level housing goals, and Foothills Housing Network data. Summarized activities included:

- Created a data-based picture of housing conditions within the region, the misalignment, and unmet housing needs of the Region's citizens.
- Developed data-driven goals and objectives.
- Identified best practices and models to promote community resiliency through housing stability by addressing the need-demand of the Region's diverse household population.
- Identified potential planning support and technical assistance RRRC staff can offer localities.
- Continued data collection and analysis provide a clearer understanding of the misalignment of housing and the region's citizens, residents, household income levels, and composition

FOOTHILLS HOUSING NETWORK

The Regional Commission serves as the lead agency for the Foothills Housing Network, a collaboration of partner agencies working together to ensure that homelessness is brief, rare and non-recurring. RRRC also provides Coordinated Entry services for Foothills Housing Network, serving as a first point of contact for many individuals and households experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the region. In the past year, the Regional Commission developed, reviewed and submitted grant applications to support not only those activities supported by Commission staff, but also for Foothills Housing Network partner agencies. These proposals resulted in the following successful and pending awards:

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program: \$829,688 (FY 2023-2024)

Foothills Housing Network, through the leadership of Commission staff sought February and March 2022 from all FHN member agencies and submitted the final application in April 2022. This year's application included past partners Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services (CHASS), Community Touch, People Incorporated and RRRC, and supported Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services as a new service provider for Rapid Re-Housing beginning in 2023.

HUD CoC Balance of State Competition: \$285,969 (FY 2023; \$160,416 pending)

Commission staff worked with partners at Services to Abused Families (SAFE) to propose additional funding to support Rapid Re-housing funding through the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care application to HUD. These funds will provide additional support for domestic violence victims, while allowing for increased collaboration and enhanced formalization of partnerships between SAFE and FHN.

People Incorporated was also successful in its renewal of the existing Permanent Supportive Housing project that allows for scattered site approach for permanent housing in the region. An expansion of the PSH project is pending as of October 2022.

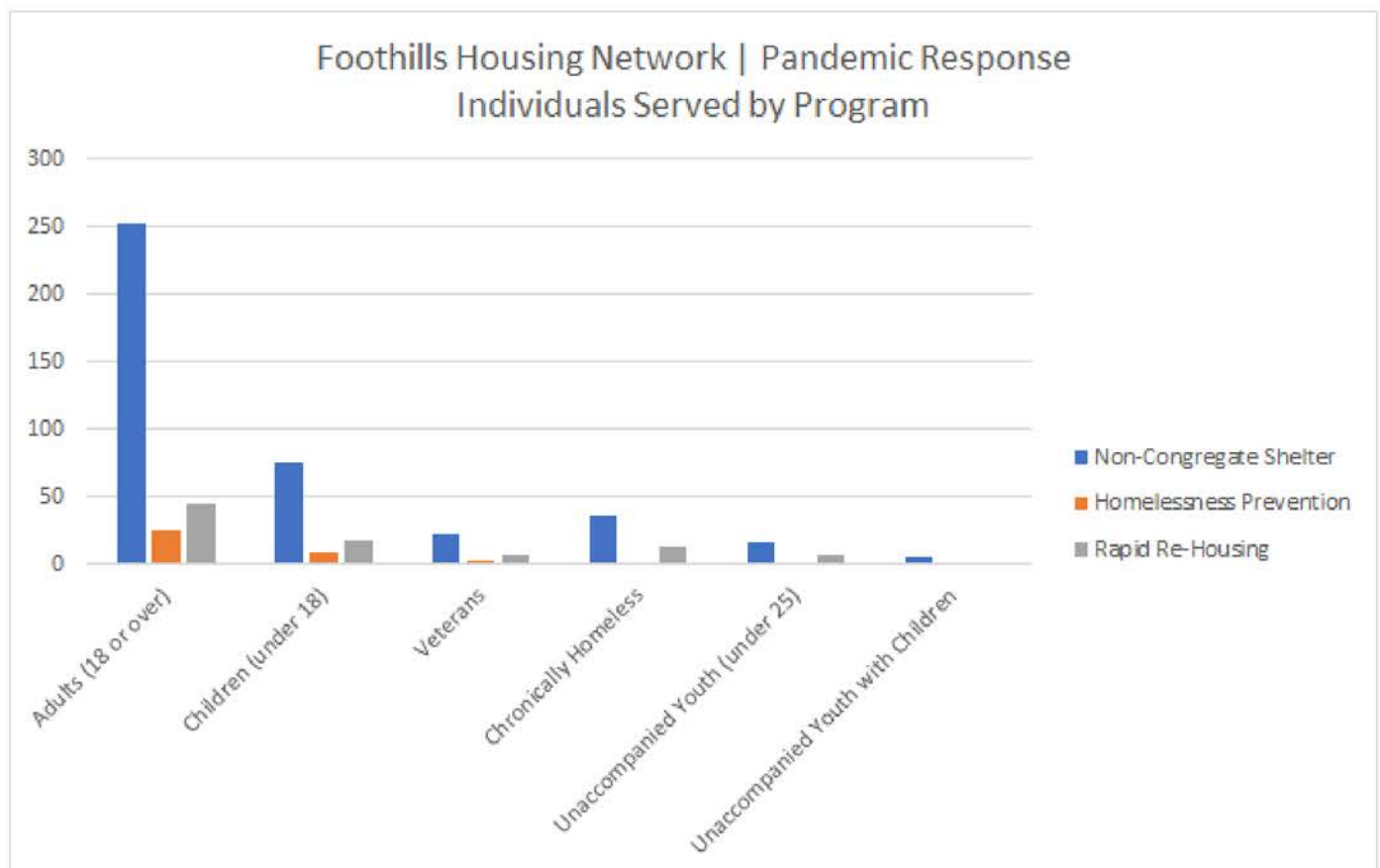
Housing Trust Fund (State): \$540,000

As part of the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program application, the Commission and FHN partners identified additional projects and activities that may be funded via the state Housing Trust Fund. As a result of FHN's successful proposal on the VHSP application, these funds that will allow for new projects to expand regional emergency shelter options, Rapid Re-housing and Homelessness Prevention are anticipated to be awarded in 2023 to Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, Community Touch Incorporated and People Incorporated.

FHN PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Foothills Housing Network partners responded to pandemic-related housing crises over the past two years. In addition to financial assistance via state and federal funding, local government, law enforcement, human services, non-profits, schools, faith-based organizations, and community members coordinated efforts in larger numbers, and diversified methods to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Federal and state funds totaling \$4,120,662 provided non-congregate emergency shelter in local motels, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing to individuals and families throughout the region. In addition, RRRC's Coordinated Entry program completed screening, prioritization, and referral services for the Emergency Housing Voucher program coordinated by Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services. Between June 2021 and May 2022, 187 screenings were completed for the Emergency Housing Voucher program.

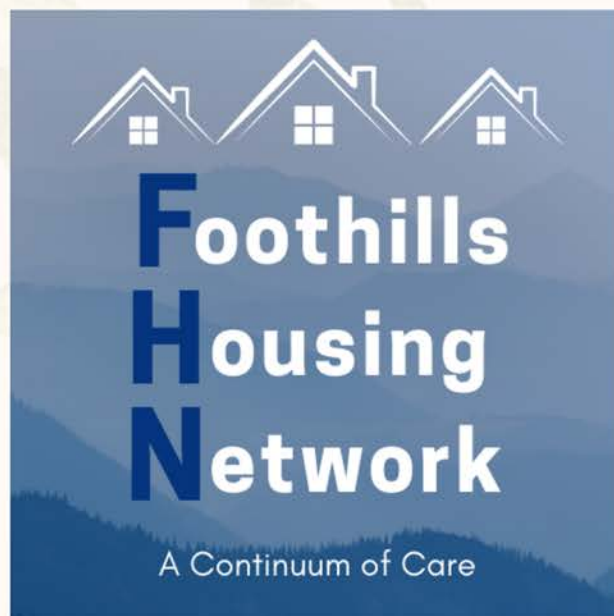


FHN REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

RRRC's Coordinated Entry maintains a By Name List - a community-wide waitlist - for when shelter space, transitional housing, and/or a Foothills permanent supportive housing slot becomes available. Across the five-county region there are currently 67 households, with 137 individuals included, on the waitlist, at least half of which are unsheltered. These are approximate numbers as no local or regional agencies have dedicated outreach workers for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

This number does not include the unduplicated 17 individuals housed in non-congregate shelter by Culpeper Housing & Shelter Services and Community Touch, 16 beds that remain full at the CHASS emergency shelter, 6 emergency shelter beds and 37 transitional housing beds at CTI, 52 emergency shelter beds at Fauquier Family Shelter, 26 bed spaces for individuals and households fleeing domestic or sexual violence at SAFE, 28 transitional housing beds at Vint Hill or the households temporarily placed in motels by DSS agencies, RRCS, churches, and other community organizations.

Several agencies and non-profits have been meeting since December 2021 on providing low-barrier emergency shelter to unsheltered residents. Talks continue with a new focus on a regional effort to provide immediate, and low-barrier emergency shelter to our most vulnerable residents in hopes of avoiding the ever-increasing mortality rate of individuals in the five-counties experiencing unsheltered homelessness.



TRANSPORTATION

The Regional Transportation Collaborative (RTC), is a unique mobility model utilized in the five-county region to collect data, analyze needs, coordinate supports, and implement transportation programs primarily serving older adults and individuals with disabilities.

RTC, formed in 2020, has become the overarching mobility program in the region, partnering with 30+ area programs and agencies to support strategic planning, fund sourcing, efficient spending, resource leveraging, and collaborative 'wrap-around' supports.

The infrastructure of the RTC is made up of a cloud-based software used for complex data collection and comprehensive service coordination. The data offers a springboard for program justification, funding, and development from a variety of local, state, and federal sources.

Transportation supports are primarily provided for the target audience to access medical and health care. Additionally, mobility programs address a variety of transportation needs including social trips to reduced social isolation and transport for critical errands - ultimately increasing community access and livability for all.

RTC's dynamic mobility model is unique to Virginia, and its utilization of an adaptive and scalable technology is the first of its kind across the state. The mobility model, cloud software, and collaborative partnership have been shared across local, state, and federal levels.

Goals:

RTC's primary goal is to foster collaboration of transportation related services across the community.

This goal branches off into several key focus areas centered around increasing mobility options for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and the community in general.

Focus Areas:

- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Fund Sourcing & Diversified Funding
- Resource Leveraging & Efficiency
- Data Collection & Strategic Planning
- Volunteer Transportation
- Pilot Programming



TRANSPORTATION

RTC mobility supports are primarily supported through volunteer programs.

Multiple volunteer driver programs provide local and cross locality pre-scheduled transportation.

The coordination of these services is managed through the RTC Mobility Center (known publicly as the FAMS Call Center). Individual requests are serviced by mobility specialists through a central phone line and access point.

The mobility center provides access to all available transportation information, routes/schedules, volunteer transportation, private providers, gas card programs, mobility programs, and more.

RTC has centralized community spending related to transportation and fostered significant collaboration among community partners to address mobility needs, especially for older adults and vulnerable populations. RTC's dynamic data collection efforts help to quantify normally intangible grant impacts resulting in the documentation and demonstration of significant community support and collaborative effort.

RTC programs' dominant impact area is the increase in access to health services for older adults – ultimately playing a significant role in improving the health of our community. RTC partnerships enable seamless wrap around service provision which helps to eliminate gaps in services and engage community resource programs.

FY22 Collaborative Regional Data

- 20k Ride Requests
- 7k Rides Given
- 3k Transportation Services
- 150+ Collaborative Meetings
- 30+ Stakeholders & Partners
- 10+ Coordinating Partners
- 10+ Staff
- 5 Driver Programs
- 150k Miles Tracked
- 10k Hours Donated
- 500k Equivalent Charitable Contribution
- 10k Calls Coordinated
- 5k Calls Referred
- 600 New Clients Served
- 5k Rides for Medical Treatment
- 1k Gas Cards Given
- 30 Case Management Referrals
- 2k Elderly Given Rides
- 2k Disabled Given Rides

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Over the past year, Commission staff has provided administrative and project management support for three technical assistance projects with funding from Virginia Department of Transportation and consultant support from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. RRRC developed application information and worked with local governments to identify areas in need of multi-modal related transportation planning meeting criteria of OIPI's Growth and Accessibility Planning Technical Assistance Program. Each project allowed for private consultants to develop concepts and high-level cost estimates as resources for future discussions in each locality.

Culpeper Small Area Plan: The small area plan focused on future transportation opportunities based on potential development scenarios in areas of Culpeper County broadly bounded by U.S. 15/29, U.S. 15/29 Business, Route 3 and the boundary with the Town of Culpeper. The report identifies potential roadway improvements, multimodal opportunities, and other long-term transportation needs based on the scenarios presented in the report.

Town of Remington Pedestrian & Traffic Calming Evaluation: The evaluation completed for the Town of Remington considered location-specific traffic calming measures and multimodal improvements along James Madison Street, Main Street and Madison Street in Remington. The evaluation also identified broad issues with the concept of a one-way Main Street alternative and associated impacts on pedestrians and existing traffic flow within Remington, along with planning level cost estimates for future consideration.

Rappahannock County Pedestrian Infrastructure Evaluation: Focusing on Sperryville and Flint Hill, the evaluation completed for Rappahannock County identified gaps and potential improvements to existing infrastructure with a focus on improving roadway safety and walkability. The report identifies opportunities for future improvements in each village area along with planning level cost estimates for future consideration.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Update Adopted

The Regional Commission adopted updates to the RRRC Regional Long Range Transportation Plan in April 2022. The Long-Range Plan identifies key transportation needs through analysis of regional demographic and baseline data trends within the context of statewide planning strategies, goals and funding mechanisms.

The primary purposes of the Long-Range Plan revision are to ensure that the region’s transportation network allows for, and encourages, the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, and to ensure that new and/or revised projects are included in the Long-Range Plan in order to maximize the plan's value for transportation funding through the Smart Scale, Revenue Sharing, Transportation Alternatives and other funding sources available through the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Virginia Department of Transportation and Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Commission staff utilize the plan to support local and regional Smart Scale project applications, coordination and adherence with local Comprehensive Plans, statewide transportation plans and other transportation prioritization activities.

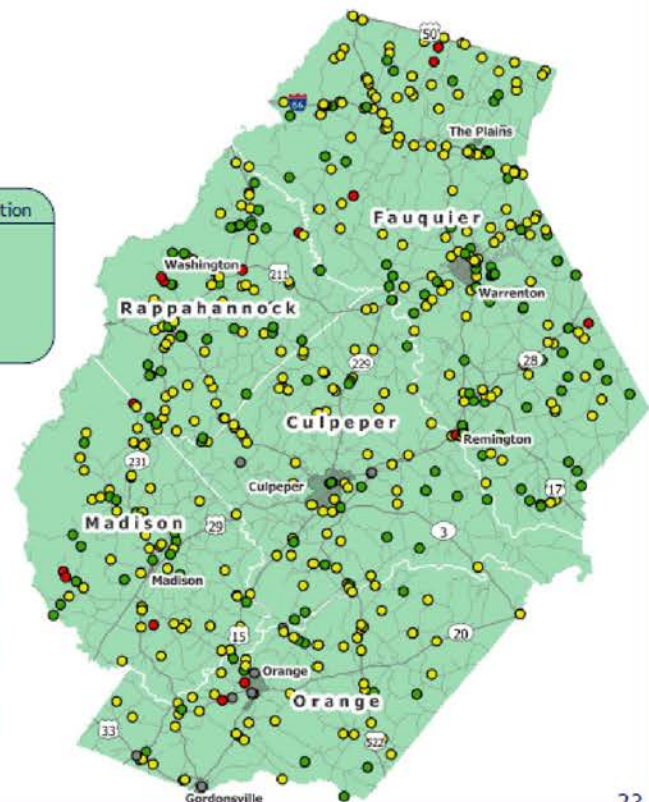
Bridge Conditions

Roadway analysis then focused on bridge conditions. Current bridge sufficiency ratings were reviewed and those structures with a rating of less than 50 were considered deficient and in need of structural upgrade or replacement. Sufficiency evaluates factors such as load, visual structural deficiencies (cracks, concrete visibly missing), adequacy of the foundation, and the remaining life of the superstructure including pavement condition.



	Functionally Obsolete	Structurally Deficient	Total Number of Bridges	Percent Impaired
Culpeper	21	1	86	25.58%
Fauquier	58	3	227	26.78%
Madison	12	6	74	24.32%
Orange	5	3	64	12.5%
Rappahannock	26	4	98	30.61%
RRRC	122	17	549	25.32%

Source: VDOT, 2020.



TOURISM

RRRC Continues to Support Regional Tourism Marketing and Partnerships

The Regional Commission has long partnered with its local Destination Marketing Organizations and tourism businesses to amplify local marketing efforts and provide additional opportunities for collaboration and tourism partnerships. As tourism business and communities have pivoted in response to the pandemic, a number of events shifted in their approach, but 2022 saw a return to many of the region's in-person festivals, street fairs, and outdoor events. During the past year, RRRC staff revised and updated the Virginia Piedmont tourism website, which serves as an introduction to the towns and counties of the Piedmont for visitors, incorporating new seasonal events and ensuring returning favorites continue to receive attention in and out of the region.

Throughout 2022, RRRC's Tween Rivers Trail has continued to advertise local agritourism businesses throughout the region. Tween Rivers Trail has over 100 members across five counties, including wineries, breweries, farm-to-fork restaurants, historical sites, bed-and-breakfasts, farms, artisans, and farmers markets. This year, Regional Commission staff have attended community events to promote the program including the Prince Michel Outdoor Adventure Expo, ConnectOrange, and Taste of the Mountains. In recent months, new businesses have joined the trail, including Beer Hound Brewery, Seek Lavender, Fieldstone Trails, Horton Vineyards and Gold Hill Blueberry Farm.

Finally, the Regional Commission supported the formation of a regional VA 250 committee to support the upcoming 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Events are beginning to be planned for the next several years, and the Commission looks forward to building on its work with our local tourism departments in support of that effort!



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

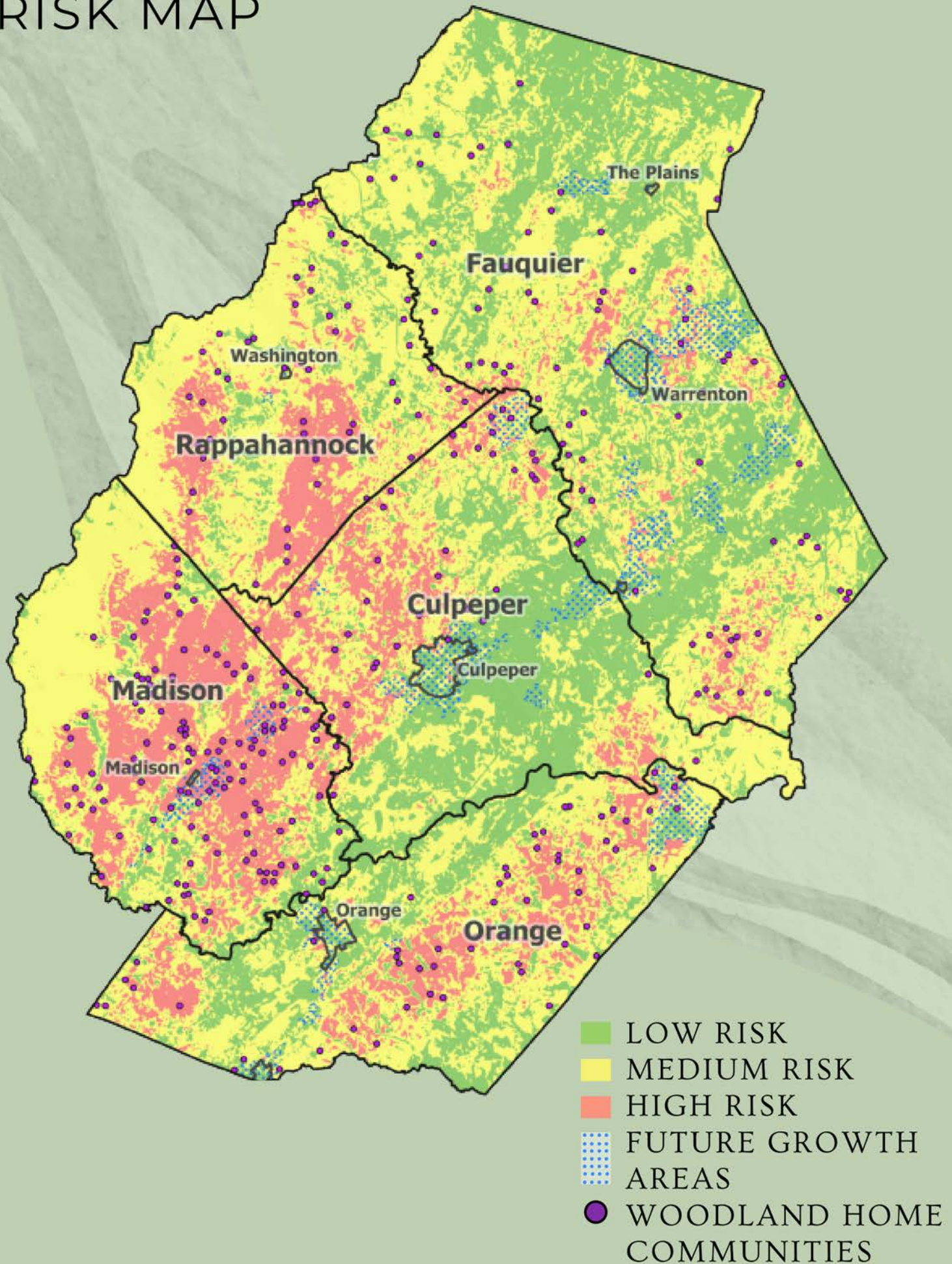
Regional Wildfire Analysis Released

In 2022, the Regional Commission completed a regional Wildfire Risk Analysis report designed to utilize updated data to document the region's wildfire risks. The Rappahannock-Rapidan region's 1,965 square miles includes large tracts of forests and wildlands, including Shenandoah National Park. Much of the region is located near or adjacent to these wooded areas, where heavy and dense vegetation can serve as a source to fuel wildfires. In addition, growth and development changes the Wildland-Urban interface and, along with other natural factors such as topography, wildfire can pose a risk to many parts of the region. The 2018 regional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies wildfire as one of the region's moderate risk hazards.

The risk analysis incorporated new population data, land cover data, and historic wildfire information, and other data sets as part of the study process. Using GIS tools, data sets were input into a weighted model and classified into low, moderate and higher risk areas. Comparisons with historic wildfire locations and previous analyses were used to provide context. In addition, the map below shows woodland home communities and future growth areas, which may assist in identifying opportunities for local wildfire education and outreach.



REGIONAL WILDFIRE RISK MAP



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Regional Commission staff engage with member jurisdictions and other stakeholders on various local priorities and technical assistance opportunities focused on emerging topics of mutual interest or in providing capacity where possible each year. Such tasks have included providing data collection and compilation for local planning, GIS mapping and analysis, as well as stand-alone plan updates for Comprehensive Plans and other state and federally-mandated planning requirements. During FY 2022, Commission staff assisted in numerous local and regional efforts, some of which are listed below:

- Smart Scale Application support for Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Madison County, Orange County, Town of Culpeper & Town of Warrenton
- Redistricting support for Culpeper County, Orange County, Rappahannock County & Town of Warrenton (GIS mapping and voting district ordinance descriptions)
- Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant with Culpeper County and partners
- Grant writing support for Town of Gordonsville Land & Water Conservation Fund application
- Coordination of meetings with Rappahannock County, VAPDC, and multiple counties for telecommunications-related issues
- Coordinated meetings between DHCD and Town of Remington related to downtown revitalization opportunities
- Blueway access discussions with Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Orange County and Town of Orange
- Transportation Survey with LOWLINC, Orange County and Culpeper County related to transportation needs of seniors and disabled populations along Route 3
- Participation on numerous local government and non-profit committees, including with PATH Foundation, GO Virginia Region 9, Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development, MWCOG Commuter Connections
- GIS technical assistance for Culpeper County TMDL, Town of Warrenton septic inventory, Town of Remington Zoning map, Rappahannock County, and Rappahannock River Basin Commission
- Coordinated interest meetings for Urban Land Institute technical assistance with Town of Orange
- Regional Legislative Program coordination
- Regional Chief Administrative Officers roundtable

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The RRRC annual Distinguished Leadership–Citizen & Government Awards were initiated in 2007 to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of member jurisdiction citizen and government leaders who have gone above and beyond in their promotion and encouragement of enhanced regional communication, coordination, collaborative governance and regional planning across the region.

Following a year without leadership awards due to the pandemic, the Regional Commission honored five individuals in 2021.

Past commission Treasurer Jerry Wood was honored posthumously with a Distinguished Leadership Award in honor of his lifelong spirit of engagement and leadership on behalf of his beloved Warrenton, and the region as a whole, which continue to serve as inspiration for Commission members, staff and partners on the importance of collaborative governance and stewardship of regional resources.

Sean Polster, Town of Warrenton Councilmember and Paige Read, Town of Culpeper Economic Development and Tourism Director were honored with Government Leadership Awards. Mr. Polster was honored in part for being a tireless proponent of good governance who has taken up opportunities for local, regional and national conversations to share local success stories and to bring innovative ideas back to the region. Ms. Read was honored for her collaborative nature which allows her to embrace working on projects the cross jurisdictional and regional boundaries that support the economic health and vitality of the Rappahannock-Rapidan region.

Tom O'Halloran and Linda Stouffer were selected for Citizen Leadership Awards. Mr. O'Halloran was selected for his stewardship of the region's natural resources and service to numerous regional boards including the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District and Rappahannock River Basin Commission. Ms. Stouffer was honored as a champion for mobility programs and services across the region, and for wraparound services for vulnerable populations, as well as her steadfast leadership for VolTran during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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