

**Pathways to the Future:  
The West Virginia Statewide Trail  
Plan  
2002-2005**

Prepared by the West Virginia Trail Plan Committee

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The West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan  
2002 – 2005**

Coordinated by  
The West Virginia Trails Coalition

Development and oversight by  
The West Virginia Trails Plan Committee

Design and layout by  
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The West Virginia Development Office  
The West Virginia Division of Tourism  
The West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
The West Virginia University Natural Resources Analysis Center

July 2002

# Pathways to the Future: The West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan 2002-2005

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Accepted by the West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan Committee  
Kent Spellman, chairman  
October 2002

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Endorsed by the West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Ken Ferguson, chairman  
October 2002

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Endorsed by the West Virginia Division of Commerce  
Alisa Bailey, Commissioner  
October 2002

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Bobby Lewis, Director of Community Development, West Virginia Development Office  
October 2002

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Endorsed by Governor Bob Wise  
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House

Senate

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This first West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan is the product of spirited interagency and community-based collaboration and cooperation. Implementation of the Statewide Trail Plan depends on the availability of funding and the creation of work groups to address proposed actions recommended in the plan and to implement policies, procedures and programs developed by the work groups.

The West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan Committee would like to acknowledge the following people and organizations for their support and involvement during the planning process:

**Bob Wise, governor**

**Cecil Underwood, former governor**

**Gaston Caperton, former governor**

### **Members of the West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board:**

This group provided funding and advice to the Statewide Trail Plan effort.

Ken Ferguson, chairman,	Terry Jones
Frank Proud, vice-chair	Bob Mathis
Mark Ashley	Leff Moore
Edward Bohren	Donna Printz
Gene Defabio	Mike Whitt

### **Members of the Joint State Trails Plan Process Subcommittee**

From January - March 1997, this group drafted the planning process for the first West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan. Rich Hartman facilitated the process and the following individuals represented their various agencies, organizations and constituencies.

Richard Hartman - Co-chairman, West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Lucian Schrader - Co-chairman, West Virginia Trails Coalition  
Ed Bohren - West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Gene Defabio - West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services  
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Becky Payne - West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
Peggy Pings - National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program,  
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Robert Potter - National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance  
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Joe Robles - United States Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest  
Kent Spellman - North Bend Rail Trail Foundation  
Mike Whitt - West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board

### **West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan Committee**

From March 1997 through June 2002, this group provided guidance, oversight of the process and input into the development of the first West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan. Members of the committee were selected to represent a broad diversity of trail user groups, trail management entities and state and federal agencies.

Kent Spellman - Chair, North Bend Rail Trail Foundation  
Tracy Asbury - Outdoor Adventures Limited  
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### **Regional Trail Workshops**

From February - May 1998, 12 public input workshops were held throughout West Virginia. The information obtained formed the basis of the West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan. These workshops were organized through the cooperation of many local convention and visitors bureaus and trail and environmental groups.

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Thanks to the many West Virginia citizens who made the workshops a success by providing useful information for the development of the Statewide Trail Plan.

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### **West Virginia Trail User Survey**

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Greg Wood of the Charleston Newspapers conducted research to provide the material for the extensive resource section in the plan appendices.

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West Virginia Rural Development Council  
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### **Dedication**

This document is dedicated to the memory of Lucian Schrader, the late executive director of the West Virginia Trails Coalition. Without Lu's vision and energy, this project would not have been possible.