

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005 the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, in partnership with the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, the City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton, decided to update the 1995 *Conceptual Greenway Plan, Roanoke Valley, Virginia*. They obtained a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation to help fund the project, set up a Steering Committee with representatives from the four localities, and in 2006 began the process of updating the plan.

The update had two components:

- An update to the routes included in the 1995 Plan and prioritization of those routes. The Steering Committee directed this effort and the results are included in this document, *2007 Update to the Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan*.
- An organizational assessment of the roles and responsibilities of the various partners. This was completed by a consultant, LandDesign, Inc., and is encapsulated in a separate volume for internal use.

This document has several parts:

- A summary of the **progress** on greenways since 1995,
- Discussion of the **issues** raised by the public and others during the update process,
- **Prioritization** of the greenway routes and information on each, and
- Implementation **strategies**.

Based on the public input and update process, the focus for the next five years will be to finish the Roanoke River Greenway. Secondary priorities will be those north-south routes that are already underway and will provide connections from Roanoke River Greenway to other public lands. The goal is to finish these in five to ten years. Other routes are listed but will be pursued only as opportunity arises.

Implementation of this plan will require continued cooperation among the many partners and will offer opportunity for all of the community to be involved. The vision of finishing the Roanoke River Greenway has been a resounding theme echoed from the citizens and corporations of the valley. The dream is laid out herein and challenges all the partners to focus efforts, not on planning, but on implementation.