



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
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199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Parkway Seeks Input for Roanoke Valley Trail Plan

(Asheville)-The Blue Ridge Parkway (BLRI) is seeking public input, through December 1, to identify issues and additional study that will be needed to develop an Environmental Assessment for a trail plan for the Roanoke Valley section of BLRI. The trail plan, which would be between the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and the BLRI, would be from Stewarts Knob, Milepost 110.6 to Masons Knob, Milepost 126.2. The intent of this project is to develop a safe and integrated trail system that would provide critical linkages between the Roanoke Valley Greenway trail network, Parkway trails and the community. This trail system would provide the public with a greatly enhanced range of trail opportunities as well as provide BLRI trail planning, mapping and rehabilitation assistance from the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission.

Parkway officials said that "Visitor demands for varied use of trails and for biking access to the motor road is greater in Roanoke right now than anywhere else on the Parkway, so it is imperative that we work jointly with the public to develop a safe and comprehensive trail plan for the Valley."

The project scoping phase, now underway, is the initial step in the development of an Environmental Assessment that will analyze alternatives and their potential impacts.

For more information and to comment on this project, visit the National Park Service website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Select Blue Ridge Parkway from the park dropdown menu and then click on project title "Roanoke Valley / Blue Ridge Parkway Trail Plan Environmental Assessment." Information is also available, and comments may be made by writing to: Blue Ridge Parkway, ATTN: Suzette Molling, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Comments must be postmarked by December 1.

Comments are typically treated as a public record and made available for public review. Individuals may request that the National Park Service withhold their name and address from disclosure. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law.

Comments will also be accepted at an Open House Public Meeting to be held on Thursday, November 15, 2007. The public meeting will be held from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Virginia's Explore Park Visitor Center Auditorium, Milepost 115.1 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Members of the public may stop by at any time during these hours to meet with Parkway staff and share ideas.

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