



Virtual Virginia Land Conservation & Greenways Conference

Trails Track

May 11, 2021, 11am-4:45pm

[Registration Link May 11](#)

11-12	Regional Authorities This session will explore different regional authorities that support water and land trails in Virginia and the process of setting up a regional authority from drafting legislation to becoming law. The content will include some pros and cons of establishing an authority and an analysis of the cost to establish and operate an authority. Moderator: Ursula Lemanski, National Park Service Presenters: ● Ricky Barton, Outdoor Adventure Center Trips ● Heather Barrar, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River ● Emily Allen, UVA, School of Law Student ● Chase Collins, County Attorney, Tazewell
12-12:30	Lunch break
12:30-1:20	Keynote: Earl B. Hunter, Jr. Founder & President, Black Folks Camp Too Earl B. Hunter, Jr is an experienced business leader across multiple industries. He has been widely recognized for his ebullient personality, hard work ethic and non-traditional approach to building relationships and closing deals. Mr. Hunter is driven by success and he always plays to win at whatever challenge is presented to him. Mr. Hunter is the Founder and President of Black Folks Camp Too — a marketing-driven business whose mission is to increase diversity in the out-door industry by making it easier, more interesting and more fun for Black folks to go camping. At the heart of Black Folks Camp Too is the belief that once Black folks become more active campers and begin enjoying the outdoor lifestyle — this will help break down barriers to create more inclusive communities and stronger relationships overall. Also, since camping is one of the most inexpensive ways to take a family vacation. Black Folks Camp Too assists in removing fears, adding knowledge and inviting more Black families to build memories and strengthen family bonds. Of course, expanding the camping consumer base will also help energize the outdoor industry economy. The idea for Black Folks Camp Too began when Mr. Hunter was introduced to camping for the first time in 2015 while serving as Vice President of Sales for Sylvansport, one of the world's most innovative outdoor industry companies. The idea didn't fully form, however, until Mr. Hunter and his son, Dillon, went on an epic camping road trip across the USA and Canada. They traveled for 3 months visiting 49 campgrounds in 20 states/provinces and saw precisely ONE other Black family camping.

1:20-1:30	Break
1:30-2:30	What's Ahead for Trails? Legislative Update This session will focus on what's happening at the national and state level around trail policy and the implications for funding opportunities in the future. With the new administration at the national level, and appointment of Pete Buttigieg as USDOT leader, the stage is set for a shift in national multimodal transportation policy. Starting last year the East Coast Greenway initiated national effort to include greenways and trails in stimulus funding, as critical active transportation and health infrastructure. Discussions are underway to advance complete streets, increase environmental equity, and protect natural lands and open space. Likewise, there have been evolving discussions at the state-level in terms of support for trails and greenways. What does the future hold? We've put together a panel that is tracking national and state-level policy discussions and will brief us on what they're hearing. Presentation with Q&A to follow. Moderator: Sarah Sanford, East Coast Greenway Alliance Presenters: ● Brantley Tyndall, President, Virginia Bicycling Federation, Director of Outreach, Sports Backers/Bike Walk RVA; and Chair, Richmond Families for Safe Streets ● Patrick Wojahn, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Director of Government Relations
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:00	Lessons Learned: Managing Parks and Trail Use During a Pandemic In 2020, the pandemic drove many to seek solace in our shared outdoor spaces resulting in dramatic usage spikes. Those responsible for the management of these spaces worked to meet the challenge of that demand in ways that would keep both the people and these special places safe. This session seeks to share some of the actions taken and lessons learned by park and trail managers to meet those challenges. How are park/trail managers dealing with increased visitation in the wake of the pandemic? How are they balancing increased use vs. resource impact? What strategies have worked? Which haven't? A panel of park/trail managers working in VA will share lessons learned from various strategies implemented to educate/manage new and repeat users to public lands, while continuing to protect natural resources. Moderator: Andrew Downs, Appalachian Trail Conservancy Presenters: ● Andrew Alli, Trails Manager, James River Park System, Richmond ● Daniel Jordan, Park Manager, High Bridge Rail-Trail State Park ● Karl Mohle, Park Manager, W&OD Trail, Northern Virginia ● Pat Kenney, Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park
4:00-4:05	Break
4:05-4:45	Happy Hour Moderator: Cat Anthony, Executive Director Capital Trail Foundation and Virginia Trails Alliance President. Grab your favorite happy hour beverage and join your colleagues for an informal discussion.