

Environmental Performance
Standards Advisory Committee:
Update to City Council

February 27, 2018



EPSAC Members:

- Richard Baugh, City Council Representative
- Tom Benevento
- Daniel Downey
- Deb Fitzgerald, School Board Representative
- Jeff Heie
- Doug Hendren
- Benjamin Meredith
- Mikaela Schmitt-Harsh
- Deirdre Longacher Smeltzer
- Bradley Striebig
- Johann Zimmermann

Sustainable Action Plan Working Group

Purpose: Develop an integrated sustainable action plan intended to offer a roadmap for the City of Harrisonburg. The plan will:

- Identify short-term and long-term goals that aim to promote environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, social equity, and collective responsibility.
- Lay out strategies and initiatives that could be developed to deliver intended outcomes.
- Identify tools and strategies needed to track progress.
- Provide a platform for collaboration to strengthen programs and partnerships.

Sustainable Action Plan Working Group

Researched sustainability plans developed by other cities, including:

- Blacksburg
- Charlottesville
- Roanoke

Consulted with:

- Nell Boyle – Roanoke Sustainability Coordinator (July & October 2017)
- Carol Davis – Blacksburg Sustainability Manager (September 2017)
- Chris Brown – Harrisonburg City Attorney (June 2017)
- Brian O'Dell – General Manager of Harrisonburg Electric Commission (December 2017)

Key “initiatives” in Harrisonburg’s Sustainable Action Plan

Goals, strategies, and tools to promote environmental stewardship efforts in an economically efficient way.

Six initiatives:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Recycling & waste management
- Land use and planning
- Water quality
- Food and forest canopy



Next Steps: Sustainable Action Plan Development

1. Research existing programs and strategies to understand baseline conditions.
 - GHG emissions inventory: ICLEI ClearPath program
2. Recommend short- and long-term **goals** for reducing greenhouse gas emissions & increasing use of renewable energy.
3. Identify key **initiatives** and appropriate **strategies** to reach goals.
4. Develop a timeline & benchmark(s) for each key initiative.
5. Solicit **citizen feedback** to prioritize and clarify strategies.
6. Finalize and adopt the plan.
7. Create a monitoring system to **track progress**.

Building Energy Standards Working Group



Develop a proposal for City-owned and operated buildings to

- Build high-performing buildings;
- Create energy-efficient buildings;
- Save local taxpayer money;
- Save environmental resources;
- Fuel sustainable growth in city infrastructure;
- Set an example for the private sector.



Researched energy & environmental standards being used by

- Other cities
- Universities
- Government and private sector businesses and agencies

Consulted with

- Harrisonburg Public Works
- Harrisonburg City School's facility managers
- Harrisonburg City building officials
- Harrisonburg Electric Commission
- Local building experts and engineers

Studied current VA Energy Conservation Code and implications of adopting most recent national code (IECC)

Effective Measures Used by Other Cities, Universities, and Businesses

- Create an “Internal Energy Team”
 - Train current staff members to a high level of proficiency in HVAC, electrical and plumbing skills, specifically focusing on energy efficiency
 - The team’s knowledge allows for integrated design & maintenance program
 - A trained in-house team is cost-efficient and results in tax savings.
- Establish an Energy Efficiency Policy
 - Standards apply to design and construction of all municipally-owned buildings/facilities
 - Construction and retrofit decisions based on cost-analysis that considers life-cycle costs of system or construction type

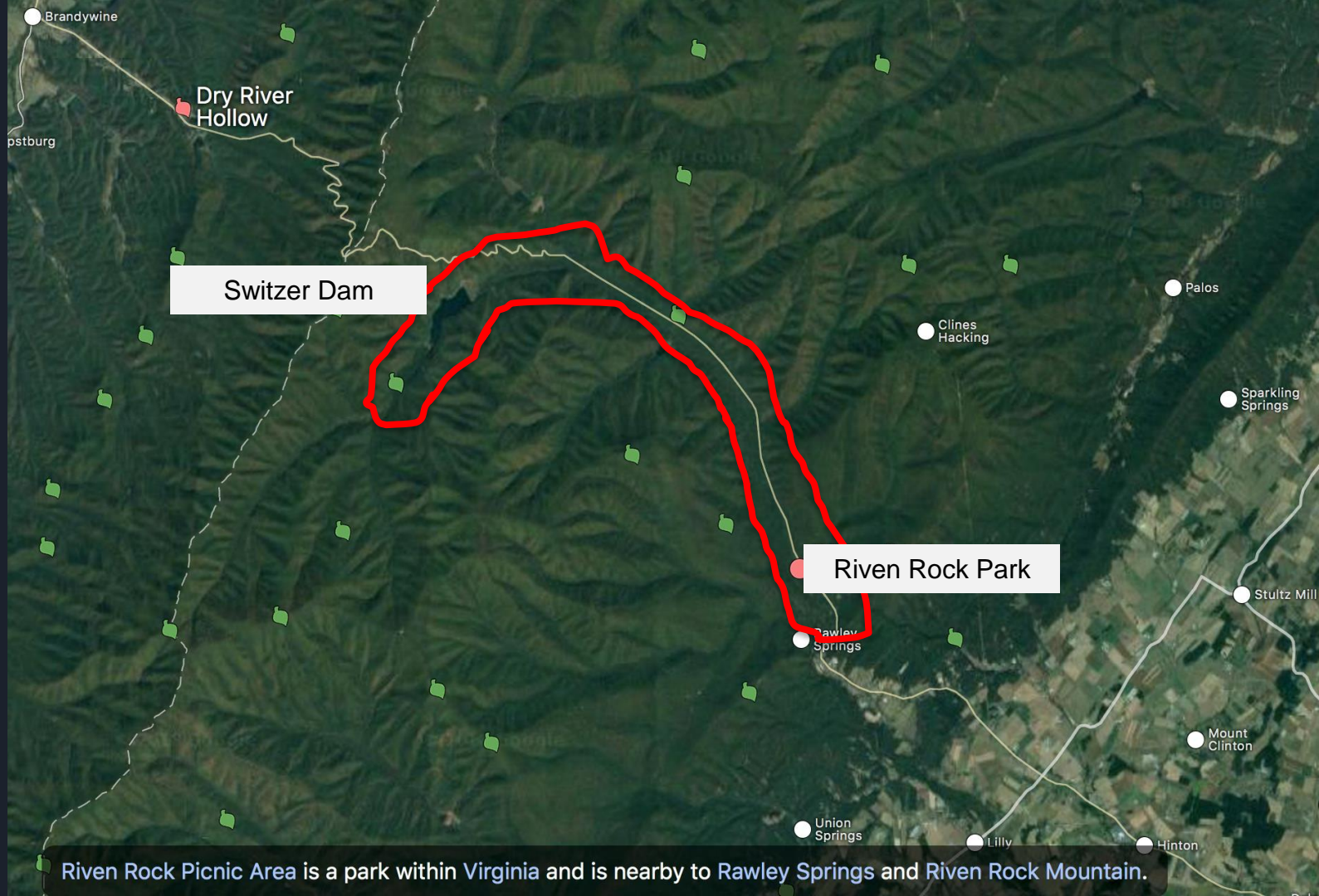
Effective Measures Used by Other Cities, Universities, and Businesses

- Establish on-site Energy Generation
 - Solar energy results in net operational savings & use of unused real estate on roofs
- Create incentives for Higher-Performing Privately Owned Buildings, such as
 - Local tax incentives
 - Reduced real estate taxes
 - Promotional advertising of high-performance buildings in real estate market

Purpose: Protect Dry River Water Supply

Develop a multi-use plan to protect and preserve the environmental services provided by the Dry River Drainage

Preserve, enhance, and protect drinking water and natural resources in a cost-effective manner that provides opportunities for residents and tourists to appropriately value resources in the Shenandoah River Basin (Dry River, North River, & Shenandoah River)



Switzer Dam

Riven Rock Park

Riven Rock Picnic Area is a park within Virginia and is nearby to Rawley Springs and Riven Rock Mountain.

Strengths



- Provides nearly 5 – 8 MGD of drinking water to Harrisonburg and surrounding areas
- Biologists from the VA DGIF and the Forest Service have stated that it is one of the most densely populated wild brook trout streams in the Mid-Atlantic.



Threats

- Historical lack of awareness & respect for local natural resources
- Corruption of drinking water quantity and quality (road building, illegal off-road use, chemical contamination)



Regional Development Opportunity



- Develop a multi-use watershed protection plan
- Learn from regional success stories (Such as Luray Greenway, Whitetop Laurel – VA Creeper Trail, Waynesboro South River Restoration)
- Introduce Ecosystems Services Modeling for cost/benefit determination



Questions?

Thank you for your time!