

Sustainability Service Opportunities



in and around Blacksburg

Last Update: December 2020

Sustainability Service Opportunities



Blacksburg Community Gardens

- low-cost community gardening opportunity
- Hale Community Garden ([directions](#))
- Wong Park Community Garden ([directions](#))
- New Ellett Road garden under development (spring 2021)
- multiple on-site sustainability initiatives:
 - (solar greenhouse, fruit trees, composting, “food forest”)
- Contact: Jenny Schwanke – Community Gardens Coordinator
blacksburgcommunitygardens@gmail.com



Sustainability Service Opportunities



Citizens' Climate Lobby: New River Valley Chapter

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy seeking bipartisan climate solutions
- Focused on direct, positive engagement with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels
- [Facebook Page](#), [Website](#)
- Contact: Ingrid Mans ijmans55@gmail.com, or Alaina Coppa alainacoppa@gmail.com



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Sustainability Service Opportunities



Blacksburg Farmers Market

- Regular opportunities to volunteer, either for regular market days (Wednesday and Saturdays) or special events (Mingle at the Market, etc.)
- Volunteer with the Share the Spare booth (to collect donated produce)
- Join one of the Farmers Market Planning & Action Groups
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Email](#)



Sustainability Service Opportunities



New River Creative Reuse Center

- reclamation and reuse of art and craft materials
- repurposing of commonly discarded items for creative play and artistic expression
- helps support local teachers/schools
- [Facebook page](#)
- Contact: Ann Raridon – CRC Coordinator
Araridon@aol.com

New River
Creative Reuse
Center

Sustainability Service Opportunities



New River Land Trust



- advocacy for conservation easements
- local youth outreach programs
- nature play space in Heritage Park (maintenance service)
- Website: <http://newriverlandtrust.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewRiverLandTrust/>
- Email: office@newriverlandtrust.org
- Youth Outreach Coordinator:
youthoutreach@newriverlandtrust.org

Sustainability Service Opportunities



NRV Habitat for Humanity & Habitat ReStore

- Help build Habitat homes through the NRV
- Habitat Restore - reclamation and resale of construction and household materials/supplies helps support Habitat programs through the year
- Volunteer with Habitat: <http://www.habitatnr.org/>
- Email: volunteer@habitatnr.org
- Habitat Contact Kim Snider, Resource Development Director, Ksnider@habitatnr.org



Sustainability Service Opportunities



NRV Master Gardeners & Share the Spare

- Offers training and outreach to promote good horticultural practices
- Seed Swaps
- Plant Sale & Clinics
- Sponsors the [Share the Spare](#) program which collects donations of fresh fruits and vegetables to support local food banks
- Contact: Lynn Brammer lbrammer@vt.edu



Share The Spare



Sustainability Service Opportunities



NRV Master Naturalists & Friends of Stadium Woods

- weekly cleanups and invasive species work in Stadium Woods
- advocacy for preservation and responsible stewardship of Stadium Woods (old growth forest on VT campus)
- Save Stadium Woods [Facebook](#)
- Contact: Beth Umberger, volunteer programs fredandbeth@Verizon.net (NRV Master Naturalists) or Rebekah Paulson rebekah.paulson@comcast.net (Friends of Stadium Woods)



Sustainability Service Opportunities



NRV Repair Café

- Twice annual event (spring and fall)
- Multiple repair stations run by volunteers with skills in:
 - sewing/mending
 - furniture repair
 - small appliance/lamp repair
 - hand tool repair and sharpening
 - computer help
 - indoor plant clinic
- Held at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Christiansburg
- Contact: Ellen Stewart estewart@blacksburg.gov



Sustainability Service Opportunities



NRV TimeBank

- Regional neighbor-to-neighbor skill sharing and assistance
- Supports social equity and vulnerable populations
- Partners with local nonprofits
- Repair Café in partnership with Habitat Restore
- Contact: Ellen Stewart estewart@blacksburg.gov Or
signup online at nrv.timebank.org
- Monthly orientation meetings



Sustainability Service Opportunities



Plant SWVA Natives

- Campaign to increase awareness and adoption of plantings that are native to our bioregion
- [Plant SWVA Natives Campaign](#)
- [Nicole Hersh Email](#) (Local organizer for Plant SWVA Natives Campaign)
- Affiliated with statewide DEQ Plant Virginia Natives [campaign](#) (tailored for different bioregions in VA)

Sustainability Service Opportunities



Poverty Creek Trails Coalition

- collaborates with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain, improve and expand the Poverty Creek Trail System.
- works to develop a dedicated volunteer resources to foster and advance responsible trail management
- typically 3-4 hour work days, tools provided. Wear sturdy boots, dress in layers and bring water/snacks
- contact: Scott Owens owensjs@gmail.com or Tommy Oravetz tommy.oravetz@gmail.com
- [Facebook page](#)
- Instagram: @povertycreektrailscoalition



Sustainability Service Opportunities



POWHR: Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights & Preserve Montgomery Co VA

- Coalition of individuals and groups from VA and WV working to protect water, local ecology, heritage, land rights, human rights and communities from the harms caused by the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Site monitoring/documentation
- Engagement with lawmakers and regulators
- Community advocacy
- Montgomery County Chapter: [Preserve Montgomery Facebook](#)
- Contact: contact.pmcva@gmail.com or mountainvalleywatch@gmail.com
- [Preserve Montgomery website](#), [Mountain Valley Watch website](#)

POWHR
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights



Sustainability Service Opportunities



ReNew the New

- Sponsors two annual river clean-ups along the New River. (spring and fall)
- [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
- Email: nicole@nrvrc.org, mbray@gilescounty.org

Sustainability Service Opportunities



SEEDS - Blacksburg Nature Center

- Youth engagement:
(classes, mentoring, summer nature camps)
- Freshwater Heritage of Blacksburg, programs & clean-ups
- Nature Center activities, exhibits, art-in-nature collaboration
- Teacher support and service learning
- [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
- Contact: discover@seedskids.org



Sustainability Service Opportunities



Sierra Club of the NRV

- The New River Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club encompasses Craig, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, Carroll, Bland and Wythe Counties.
- Policy advocacy and community engagement on a wide range of conservation issues.
- [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Email](#)



Sustainability Service Opportunities



Stroubles Creek Coalition



- Mission is to improve the water quality of Stroubles Creek and get it removed from the Impaired Waterways list
- Volunteer opportunities: stream cleanups and restoration activities along Stroubles Creek and its tributaries
- Tree plantings in the Stroubles Creek watershed
- Community engagement on water quality issues
- [Facebook](#)
- Contact: Thomas Saxton thomascaxton@gmail.com

Sustainability Service Opportunities



Sustainable Blacksburg

- Member-based organization working to advance community sustainability
- Service projects, social events, and programs through the year
- Sustainability Week key partner (13 years and counting!)
- Contact: Ann Raridon araridon@aol.com or Brenda Springer brendacpa4603@aol.com
- Website: <http://sustainableblacksburgva.org/>



Sustainability Service Opportunities



NEW
RIVER

chapter

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Virginia Native Plant Society New River Chapter

- Meets on the second Tuesday of each month excluding January and May-August.
- Community based projects ([Wong Park Project](#))
- Field Trips, Workshops, Native Plant sales
- [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
- [Brenda Graff Email](#) (Chapter President)

Sustainability Service Opportunities



YMCA @ Virginia Tech & YToss

- reclamation and resale of household item
- helps support student and community programs through the year
- Hunger relief: Meals on Main program
- annual YToss event keeps tons of useful dorm items out of the landfill (held during VT move-in/move-out)
- Contact: Enrique Rebolledo outreach@vtymca.org or Lauren Blakemore engagement@vtymca.org