Sustainability Service Opportunities
in and around Blacksburg

Last Update: November 2020

Sustainability Service Opportunities
Blacksburg Community Gardens

Sustainability Service Opportunities

• Blacksburg Community Gardens Coordinator
  Contact: Jenny Schwanke – Community Gardens Coordinator
  (solar greenhouse, fruit trees, composting, “food forest”)

• multiple on-site sustainability initiatives:
  New Ellet Road Garden under development (spring 2021)
  Wong Park Community Garden (directions)
  Hale Community Garden (directions)
  Low-cost community gardening opportunity

Blacksburg Community Gardens

Sustainability Service Opportunities
Citizens' Climate Lobby

New River Valley Chapter

Nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy
Focused on direct, positive engagement with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels
Seeking bipartisan climate solutions

Contact: Ingrid Mans
IngridMans@gmail.com, or
Alaina Coppa
Alainacoppa@gmail.com

Facebook Page, Website
Sustainability Service Opportunities

- 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

Blackburn Farmers Market

Sustainability Opportunities
New River Creative Reuse Center

Sustainability Service Opportunities

- Reclamation and reuse of art and craft materials
- Repurposing of commonly discarded items for creative play and artistic expression
- Helps support local teachers/schools
- Reclamation and reuse of art and craft materials
- Facebook Page

Contact: Ann Raridon – CRC Coordinator

Araridon@aol.com

New River Creative Reuse Center

Sustainability Service Opportunities
Sustainability Service Opportunities

New River Land Trust

• Advocacy for conservation easements
• Local youth outreach programs
• Nature play space in Heritage Park (maintenance service)
• Youth Outreach Coordinator: youthoutreach@newriverlandtrust.org
• Email: office@newriverlandtrust.org
• Website: https://www.newriverlandtrust.org/
• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NewRiverLandTrust/
• Youth Outreach Coordinator: youthoutreach@newriverlandtrust.org

New River Land Trust

Sustainability Service Opportunities
Sustainability Service Opportunities

Volunteer at the Restore: Contact Kim Snider, Restore Manager: restorekim@gmail.com

Volunteer with Habitat: [http://www.habitatnrv.org/](http://www.habitatnrv.org/)

Email: volunteer@habitatnrv.org

NRV Habitat for Humanity & Habitat ReStore

- Habitat ReStore: Reclamation and resale of construction and household materials/supplies helps support Habitat programs throughout the year.

- Volunteer at the ReStore: Contact Kim Snider, ReStore Manager: restorekim@gmail.com

Habitat ReStore

NRV Habitat for Humanity & Habitat ReStore

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

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 (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
- Hand Tool Repair and Sharpening
- Furniture Repair
- Small Appliance/Lamp Repair
- Computer Help
- Indoor Plant Clinic
- Repair Café

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

• Monthly orientation meetings

Contact: Ellen Stewart estewart@blacksburg.gov

Or

signup online at nrv.timebank.org

Repair Café in partnership with Habitat Restore

NRV TimeBank
Sustainability Service Opportunities

Plant SWVA Natives

- Campaign to increase awareness and adoption of plantings that are native to our bioregion
- Affiliated with statewide DEQ Plant Virginia SWVA Natives Campaign
- Local organizer for Plant SWVA Natives Campaign

Nicole Hersh

Plant SWVA Natives campaign (tailored for different bioregions in VA)

Plant SWVA Natives

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 resource 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 owens@povertycreektrailscoalition.com or Tommy Oravetz oravetz@povertycreektrailscoalition.com

Facebook page:

Instagram: @povertycreektrailscoalition

Poverty Creek Trails Coalition

Sustainability Service Opportunities
POWHR: Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights

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

Sustainability Service Opportunities
Sustainability Service Opportunities

• Sponsors two annual river clean-ups along the New River (spring and fall)

• Website, Facebook

• Email: nicole@nrvrc.org, mbray@gilescounty.org

Renew the New
Sustainability Service Opportunities

• 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

Contact: discover@seedskids.org
Website, Facebook

SEEDS - Blacksburg Nature Center

Sustainability Service Opportunities
The New River Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club encompasses Craig, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, Carroll, Bland and Wythe Counties.

• Website, Facebook, Email

Policy advocacy and community engagement on a wide range of conservation issues.

The New River Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club of the NRV
Sustainable 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.

Contact: Thomas Saxton
thomasc.saxton@gmail.com
Sustainability Service Opportunities

Member-based organization working to advance community sustainability

Service projects, social events, and programs throughout 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/

Sustainable Blacksburg

Sustainable Blacksburg
New River Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society

Sustainability Service Opportunities

Brenda Graff (Chapter President)

Website, Facebook

• Field Trips, Workshops; Native Plant sales
• Community-based projects (Wong Park Project)

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month excluding January and May-August.

Virginia Native Plant Society

Chapter New River
Sustainability Service Opportunities

YMCA @ Virginia Tech & YToss

- Reclamation and resale of household items
- Helps support student and community programs throughout the year
- Hunger relief: Meals on Wheels program
- Annual YToss event keeps tons of useful dorm items out of the landfill (held during VT move-in/move-out)

Contact: Enrique Rebollo or Laurenne Blakemore
outreach@vtymca.org or engagement@vtymca.org

YMCA @ Virginia Tech & YToss

Sustainability Service Opportunities