



## Heather Barrar, BS Forestry Recreation Management, Master of Environmental Planning & Policy

### Regional Trails Program Director

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Barrar brings strong project management and implementation experience regarding trails for the joint Richmond and Tri Cities region. She has been involved with the Fall Line and the Appomattox River Trail projects since their inception and will play a key role in ensuring these two separate, but closely related, projects are in sync. Barrar is experienced in public engagement and a fellow of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

#### PROJECT EXPERIENCE

##### **Chesterfield County Bikeways & Trails Plan, Chesterfield County, VA, 06/2013–11/2015**

*Project Manager.* Led a multidisciplinary team through a multiyear and contentious public process to successfully adopt the first comprehensive Bikeways and Trails Plan for Chesterfield County. This plan resulted in a new ordinance passed in 2016 and many miles of new bike and trail infrastructure planned and built in the county.

##### **Appomattox River Trail Master Plan, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Petersburg, VA, 01/2016–06/2017**

*Project role title.* If your prior experience was contract-facing—As an employee of Company X, Ms./Mr. Last Name Brief description of role responsibilities. Brief overview of project, including success stories or important metrics.

##### **Plan RVA & Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, 11/2018 – Current**

- *Regional Trails Program Director.* Oversees and manages all aspects of the Appomattox River Trail development including land acquisition, easement agreement, trail design and construction oversight including signage, landscaping and trailside amenities. Serves as local government liaison for the 6 localities of the FOLAR service area ensuring consistency of trail implementation. Provides regional planning direction for issues relating to the trail and river including establishing special zoning districts and

#### Qualifications Highlights

- Lead implementer for regional Appomattox River Trail
- Project Manager for Appomattox River Trail Master Plan
- Project manager for bike and trail plan for Chesterfield County

#### Education

- BS Forestry, Recreation Management, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1997
- MIS, Environmental Planning & Policy, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005

#### Certifications and Trainings

- Certified Arborist, International Society of Arboriculture, 2024
- Virginia Certified Pesticide Applicator

*Regional scale planning and implementation of trail networks and community engagement*

programs as well as environmental policy. Provides technical expertise and coordination on all environmental projects, including citizen science and volunteer events. Assists with coordination of programming and events held on the Appomattox River Trail. Oversees and directs all internal and external communication regarding the Appomattox River Trail. Participates in the business and fund development planning and implementation for the organization.

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### *Presentations*

Barrar, H N and Hepp-Buchanan, M. (2017, June 13 -16). *An Uphill Battle: Adoption of a Bike and Trails Plan in a Rural/Suburban County in Virginia* [Conference presentation]. Velo City, Arnhem-Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Barrar, H N and Hepp-Buchanan, M. (2016, September 12-15). *An Uphill Battle: Adoption of a Bike and Trails Plan in a Rural/Suburban County in Virginia* [Conference presentation]. Pro Walk Pro Bike, Vancouver, Canada.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Board of Directors, Capital Region Land Conservancy (2019 – present)

Board of Directors, Virginia United Land Trusts(2024 – present)

Fellow, Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute (2008)

## AWARDS

Planning Department Employee of the Year Chesterfield County, 2015

Friend of the River, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, 2016

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Plan RVA and Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), Regional Trails Planning Director, 11/2018 – Present

Chesterfield County Planning Department, Principal Planner, 8/2014 – 11/2018

Chesterfield County Planning Department, Senior Environmental Planner, 9/2008 – 8/2014

Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, 5/2003 – 9/2008

Virginia Department of Forestry, Forestry Technician, Forestry Assistant Senior, 2/1999– 5/2003