

The New River Valley has a strong heritage and pride embedded in its roots. It is a dynamic area of industry and trade, partly because it is located within a day's drive to approximately three-quarters of the nation's major markets. The scenic vistas, historical and cultural attractions, and qualities inherent to the area are drawing tourists and businesses to this rapidly growing Valley. Business and industry searching for a new location will appreciate the excellent natural resources found here. A critical component of success in this region is the pride and work ethic exhibited by the residents. These are the people that drive the Valley toward accomplishing its goals, success, and sustained growth.

Committed to educational excellence, the people in the New River Valley have developed an exceptional educational system. The region's commitment to excellence in education benefits everyone; students, parents, and employers. The area is home to Virginia's largest university, Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech is ranked as one of the best engineering colleges in the nation. Radford University provides strong programs in business, geography, nursing, communications, and education. Additionally, New River Community College is dedicated to training and retraining the region's labor force. In fact, our educational institutions comprise our largest employers in the region. These higher educational centerpieces also have strong ties with the local school divisions and local business and industry.

The New River Valley also offers many facilities to help businesses grow. The Corporate Research Center provides the opportunity for innovative high-tech companies to bring their ideas to market. The New River Valley Competitiveness Center is an industrial development incubator that houses 27 tenants in the Pulaski Business Technology Park. The Jacksonville Center, a craft incubator in Floyd County, adds substantial support to the entire entrepreneurial community. Additionally, the region is home to the Radford University Business Assistance Center that promotes and supports emerging businesses.

Tourism is also an expanding economic force in the New River Valley. The region is situated parallel with the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are to the south, and the Appalachian Mountains to the north while the nation's oldest river, the New River, stretches across this fertile land. In 1998 the river was designated an American Heritage River, further advancing its status. Recreational opportunities abound in the area offering residents great places to spend a day relaxing or working.

Claytor Lake State Park in Pulaski County, located on the 4,500 acre, 21-mile long Claytor Lake, offers a wide variety of activities for water and land enthusiasts. Easily accessible from Interstate 81, the park features the only full service marina in the state park system. In addition, there are miles of hiking trails, swimming, camping facilities, cabins and a visitor center. New River Trail State Park, designated an official National Recreation Trail by the U. S. Department of the Interior and parallels 39 miles of the New River. This is a 57-mile long state park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. There are several entrances into this park. The park meanders through Grayson, Carroll, Wythe and Pulaski counties in southwestern Virginia. New River Trail is just minutes from Claytor Lake State Park. Gatewood Reservoir Recreation Area is located just to the west of the Town of Pulaski and provides facilities for picnicking, camping, fishing, boating, volleyball, and horseshoes. The Appalachian Trail and the Cascades are located in Giles County, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, easily accessed in most of the New River Valley, offers scenic views, hiking, picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities.

Numerous historical societies promote an appreciation of the region's heritage. There are many culturally significant sites in the area including the Smithfield Plantation, the Olde Newberne, Snowville, and Downtown Pulaski Historical Districts.

The people in the area are proud of the quality of life in the New River Valley. Here, surrounded by natural beauty, is a spirit of cooperation to get things done. The priorities are clear: develop and maintain a growing economy and provide jobs and personal enrichment opportunities for everyone. The vision of the New River Valley is to provide opportunities to grow and prosper in an atmosphere of cooperation while maintaining our environmental quality. We are making this vision a reality and thus creating a region worthy and enjoyable for living and visiting.

The following data provides the reader with an in-depth look at the New River Valley and its resources. It is intended to describe the living environment and activities which offer

“A GREAT FUTURE IN THE RIGHT PLACE”

