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## **Roanoke County Receives 2019 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award**

Jae Valley Park Wins Silver Medal for Virginia Outdoors Plan Implementation

**Roanoke County, Virginia (March 28, 2019) –** Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism was presented with a 2019 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award today at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia Environmental Symposium at Virginia Military Institute. A silver medal was received in the Virginia Outdoors Plan Implementation category, celebrating efforts to open Roanoke County's new Jae Valley Park last year.



Jae Valley Park resulted from a partnership between Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke to develop a canoe and kayak launch facility, opening up five miles of Back Creek, which connects to the Roanoke River Blueway. Jae Valley encompasses 10 acres along Jae Valley Road with 2,200 linear feet of natural surface walking trails and 1,400 linear feet of frontage along Back Creek including several boat launch points. This effort was spearheaded by Chairman of the Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, Bill Tanger, who noticed the property sitting fallow and worked with both municipalities and the Virginia Department of Transportation to develop the park. Jae Valley Park will support watershed management protection called for in the Virginia Outdoors Plan by encouraging recreational use, protection of natural space and environmental stewardship.

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