The Clinch River Valley Initiative is a collaborative multi-year planning effort to build local economies in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia, focusing on the Clinch River, one of the most biodiverse river systems in North America. Working at a watershed scale, this grassroots effort has developed significant ownership and momentum.

Using a consensus-based approach, project partners are articulating and prioritizing goals for connecting downtown revitalization, outdoor recreation, water quality, entrepreneurship and environmental education along the Clinch River and developing an action plan to realize the prioritized goals as part of the effort. Strategies are being identified to connect downtown revitalization with outdoor recreation along the Clinch River Valley.

Quarterly meetings regularly draw 50 or more people who work in action teams toward the following vision, largely centered on developing the communities and their economies around a growing ecotourism market.

For more information, to read the action plan, or attend an upcoming meeting, visit www.clinchriverva.com .

## Helpful Links

- Clinch River Valley Initiative (CRVI)