

VIRGINIA'S NEW RIVER VALLEY



ECLECTIC MIX OF SMALL TOWNS & WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES



INNOVATIVE & COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



CONNECTION TO NATURE & THE OUTDOORS

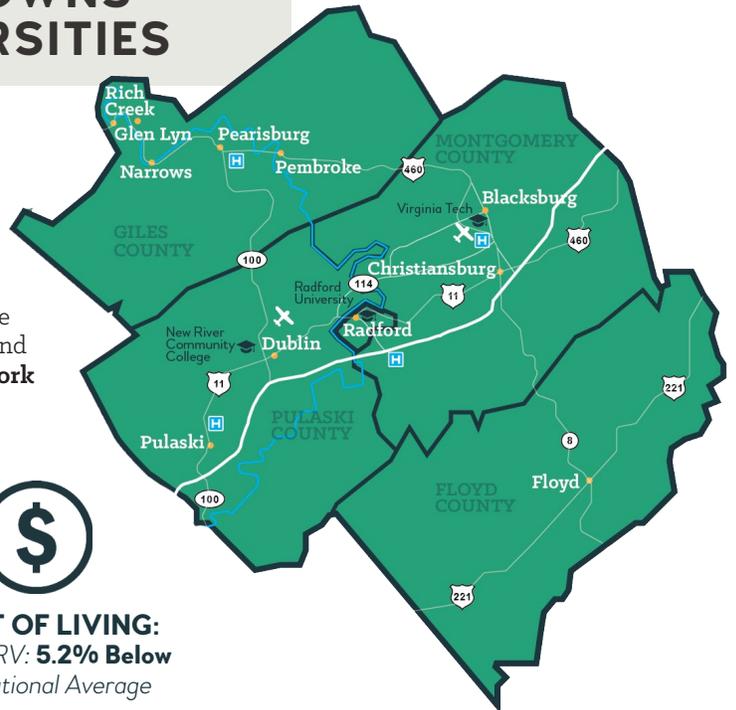


VIRGINIA'S
NEW RIVER VALLEY

ECLECTIC MIX OF SMALL TOWNS AND WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES

OUR REGION

When a community fits, you feel it. The scenery inspires, the people connect, the work feels easy. In Virginia's New River Valley there is no need to sell. The benefits of living here surround you. The region is an eclectic mix of interconnected towns and world-class universities that produce an abundance of social and cultural offerings and a steady supply of talent. The New River Valley is at once: organic and innovative, technical and agricultural, artistic and scientific. **People choose to live and work in Virginia's New River Valley** and it's not hard to see why. It's simply **"A Natural fit"**.



POPULATION:

In the NRV: **183,054**
1 hr. drive time: **641,286**



EMPLOYMENT:

In the NRV: **76,800**
1 hr. drive time: **258,904**



COST OF LIVING:

In the NRV: **5.2% Below**
the National Average

TALENT



ACCESS TO TALENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND ALUMNI NETWORKS

The strength of higher education in the NRV generates a talented workforce and supportive ecosystem. Virginia Tech, New River Community College, and Radford University produce a steady supply of talent for companies to pull from. During the 2016-2017 school year, the following institutions produced **11,309 graduates** from their programs. Companies in the region also have success recruiting alumni from these universities back to the area, especially in Northern Virginia/ DC, to fill mid and senior level positions. Virginia Tech and Radford University have a combined **324,000 living alumni**.



VIRGINIA TECH.

33,170 enrolled

RADFORD
UNIVERSITY

9,401 enrolled

NEW RIVER
Community College

4,456 enrolled

INNOVATIVE & COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



SUB-SECTORS

1. Automotive
2. Electronics & Components
3. Chemicals
4. Materials



SUB-SECTORS

1. Specialty Food & Beverages
2. Breweries, Wineries, & Distilleries
3. Value-Add Agriculture
4. Packaging



SUB-SECTORS

1. Software Development
2. Cybersecurity
3. IT Support Services
4. Digital Creative



SUB-SECTORS

1. Component Manufacturing
2. Software & Cybersecurity
3. Research & Development
4. Unmanned Vehicle Systems Assembly

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The talented and loyal workforce of Virginia's New River Valley is proud to manufacture using the highest levels of technology and robotics. Manufacturing has many faces in the NRV - the industry currently provides over 12,000 jobs in our comparatively low-cost region. The NRV is ready and willing to welcome new manufacturers to put down roots.



Celanese

CORNING



VOLVO TRUCKS

FOOD PROCESSING & AGRIBUSINESS

The bounty of workforce, water and affordable land, and a good culture for niche markets, the NRV is a Natural Fit for companies in Food Processing & Agribusiness. Plus, the Virginia Tech Food Science & Technology Department offers R&D facilities such as a 7,100 square-foot food processing pilot plant and a sensory evaluation lab that allows partners to explore emotional responses to products.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Virginia's New River Valley is a natural fit for companies in software development, cybersecurity, IT support services, digital creative firms, and other sectors in the Information Technology industry. With exceptional education programs out of local universities, the NRV is producing some of the best IT workforce in the country who can flourish here, in a region with such excellent quality of life and low cost of living.



UNMANNED SYSTEMS

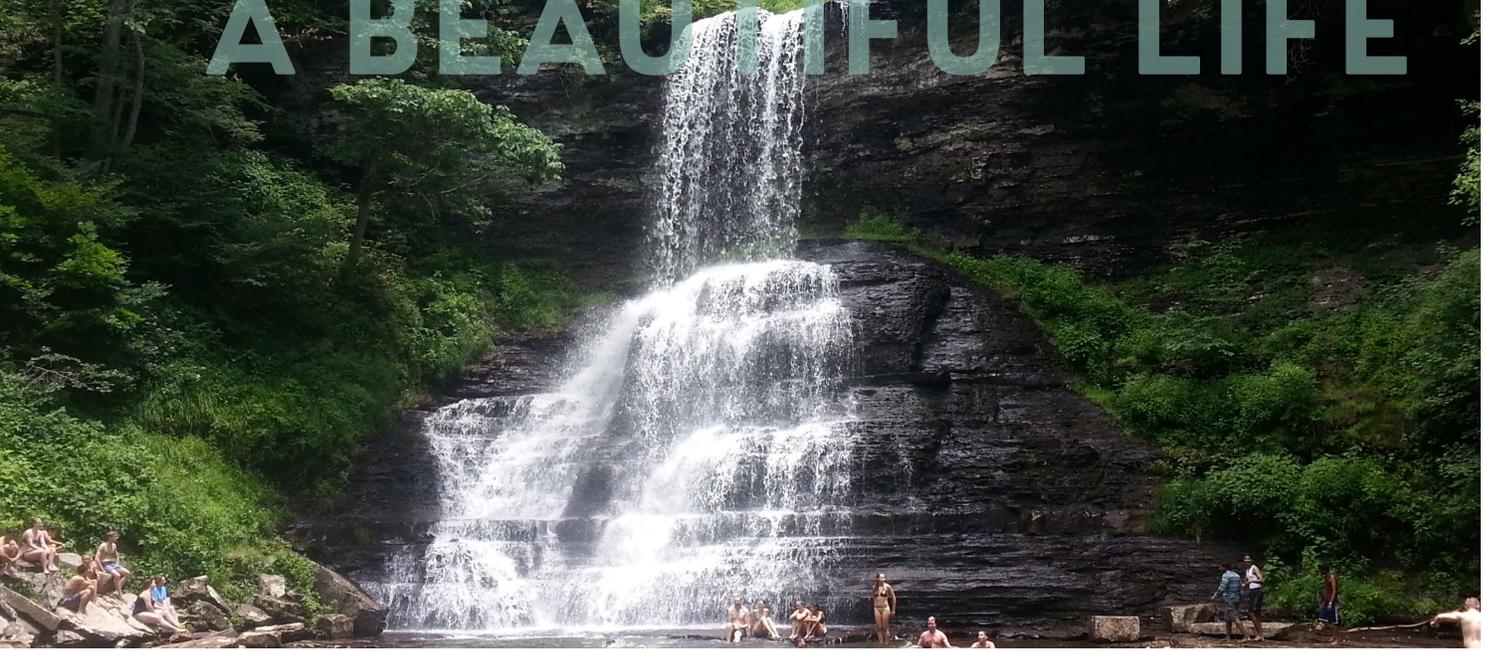
Virginia Tech's Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems that serves corporate partners such as Boeing, GE, NASA, and Ratheon. Companies benefit from research assets at Virginia Tech such as the 2.1-mile VT Smart Road, 2 FAA test sites, and a Drone Cage, which is larger than a football field, that operates outside of FAA regulation. An unmanned pilot certification is also offered from New River Community College.



VIRGINIA TECH
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

CONNECTION TO NATURE & THE OUTDOORS

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE



The scenic beauty of Virginia's New River Valley fosters a deep connection to nature, which is deepened by access to outdoor recreation. Not only is the region beautiful things to look at, but there is also ample infrastructure to hike, paddle, swim, bike or drive. Plus, the dedication to preserving of our natural environment and appreciation for locally-made products permeates every community in the region, supporting local creators and enhancing the regional culture and interconnectivity.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



CHARLIE JEWELL

Executive Director, Onward New River Valley
charlie@onwardnrvalley.org | 540.267.0007

Charlie Jewell has over 10 years of experience in economic development and has been the Executive Director of Onward NRV since August of 2015. As the Executive Director of Onward New River Valley, Jewell spearheads the region's economic development efforts by working with localities to market Virginia's New River Valley. He works to organize prospect visits, generate leads, and support existing industries in the NRV. Originally from Christiansburg, a town in Virginia's New River Valley, Jewell obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Radford University in 2002 and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Virginia Tech in 2010 with a Graduate Certificate in Economic Development. Jewell and his wife have one daughter, Claire.



BRIAN HAMILTON, CEcD

Economic Development Director, Montgomery County
hamiltonbt@montgomerycountyva.gov | 540.382.5732

Brian Hamilton is a longtime resident of southwest Virginia having served in numerous positions for Montgomery County, Virginia since 1996. Hamilton has over 23 years of experience in economic development. In between his service with Montgomery County, Hamilton worked as an Economic Development Manager in Austin, TX, as an Economic Development Specialist for Roanoke County, VA, and was formerly a Police Officer for Roanoke City, Virginia. Hamilton graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and earned his Masters of Business Administration from Radford University. In 2002, Hamilton became a Certified Economic Developer. Hamilton and his wife Cyndi have three children ages 16, 14, and 10.



Onward NRV is a public/private, regional economic development organization whose mission is to attract and retain world class jobs, investment, and talent in Virginia's New River Valley. It's also a movement where leaders from business, government, and higher education work together to promote the economic vitality of the region.