



2017 RVPF Endangered Sites

Roanoke City Historic Firehouses



Of Roanoke's nine original firehouses, the Memorial Avenue building is scheduled to be razed next year; the future use of the Crystal Spring Firehouse has not been determined: No. 1 Station downtown is for sale; the Villa Heights/Melrose fire station location has been sold to a non-profit; Rorer Hall fire station burned in the early 1900s; East 4th Street, Wise Avenue, and 12th Street fire Stations locations were razed; and the Jamison Avenue SE Firehouse is leased to a private individual for use as a business.

Shenandoah Life Woods



The RVPF has supported an individual's proposal to buy the wooded area adjacent to the former Shenandoah Life Insurance home office to save it for walkways and other environmental uses. Carilion Clinic bought the building and announced plans to develop the wooded area for residential use, but strong neighborhood opposition arose. Since the area is located next to a greenway and Fishburn Park, its natural setting provides clean air, natural habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for nearby residents. Recently, a move was reported to encourage the developer to either make it a community-friendly project or to pull out of the project all together.

Christian Science Church



The Greek Revival brick building at 5th St. and Church Ave. SW, built in 1919, was a Christian Science Church until 1968. Since then, it has been used for catering and a coffee house, and it has been vacant until June 2017. Now renovations are being done to turn it into a music venue.

Original Wood Windows



In many older homes built in the first half of the last century, original double-hung wood sash windows are endangered. Old hardwood windows with an upper sash that slides down in the frame and a lower sash that slides up often have been replaced with vinyl windows. Restoring original windows costs less than replacing. Studies show that it can take 40 years or more for a replacement window to pay for itself in energy savings.

Mountain Valley Pipeline



The Mountain Valley Pipeline route through Brush Mountain, July 2018
Heather Rousseau/The Roanoke Times/AP

The land for the pipeline, first listed as endangered two years ago, would have an impact on an estimated 1,500 landowners in Virginia and West Virginia. If approved by federal authorities, it would run from Giles County through Catawba to McAfee Knob, across the edge of Roanoke and Montgomery counties to Franklin County. It is strongly opposed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy because of the visual impact from the trail for more than 90 miles. Also, it threatens water quality in wells and in sediment runoff in streams