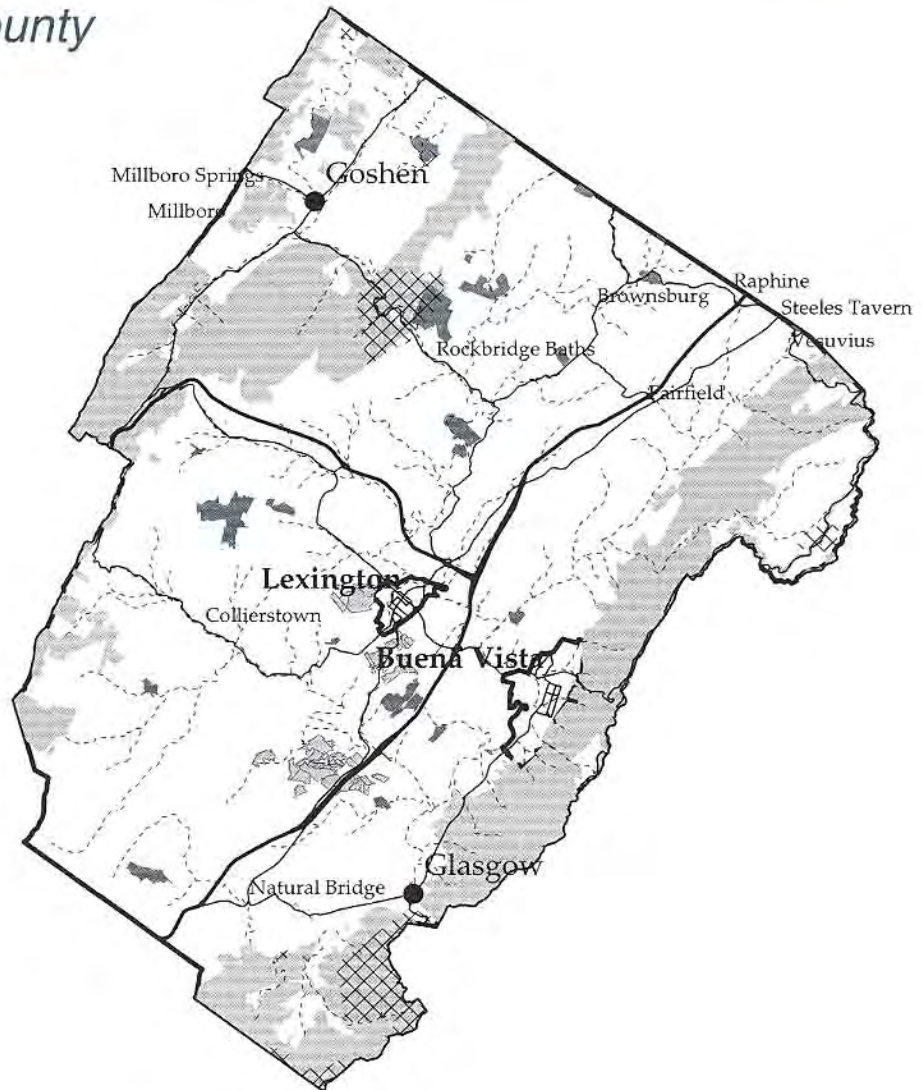


Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Map



Figure 1-11a.
Rockbridge County



Voluntary Protection on Private Land



Conservation Easements (34)

Conservation easement figures are as of Dec. 31, 2002. For analysis and information, see pp. 39, 42.



Agricultural & Forestal Districts (5)

Ag District figures are as of Sept. 2002. For analysis and information, see pp. 38 - 41.

Gray shaded areas are **Public Lands** owned by federal, state, or local governments. (Map may not contain all local government sites.)

Cross-hatched areas are **Natural Heritage Sites**, identified by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as containing rare and exemplary natural communities. These sites are not necessarily protected. See p.67 for analysis.

Map produced by the Valley Conservation Council, May 2003. Sources: Virginia Outdoors Foundation (easements), Valley Conservation Council (ag districts), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (public lands), and VDCR Natural Heritage Program (natural heritage sites).



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County sits at the head of the James River watershed and has a visually pleasing mixture of mountains and rolling hills. The county ranked 41st in agriculture in the state and 6th in the VCC region in 1997.

Main agricultural products are cattle and hay. Horse inventory is moderate but may increase because of the presence of the Virginia Horse Center. Total market value of agricultural products in 1997 was \$15,446,000, an increase of 29% over its 1987 total. Livestock and poultry made up 89% of that value. The county lost both farms and farmland, 51 farms and 6,345 acres (4.0%), respectively, between 1987 and 1997.

The county leads the region in forestry and ranked 21st in the state overall, and 3rd for hardwood production. The value of timber harvested in Rockbridge County was \$4,768,665 in 2000, up from \$1,013,421 in 1986 (a 370.6 % increase). The county ranked 1st in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, and was tops in 1986 too. Pine volume and value and hardwood saw timber all declined, but hardwood saw timber increased significantly. Hardwood was increasingly dominant, moving from 83.7 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 98.2 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-11b.
Agricultural Census Statistics
Rockbridge County

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	682	631	(51)
Acres in Farms	146,455	140,110	(6,345)
Avg. Size of Farm	215	220	7
Market Value of Crops	\$ 980,000	\$1,672,000	\$ 692,000
Market Value of Livestock	10,952,000	13,774,000	2,822,000
Market Value Ag Products	\$11,932,000	\$15,446,000	\$3,514,000

Note: Rank in State: 41; in Valley: 6
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-11c.
Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Rockbridge County
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	612	518	(15%)
Hardwood Sawtimber	11,767	20,764	77%
Subtotal Sawtimber	12,379	21,282	72%
Small Dimension	13,718	9,419	(31%)
Total Volume :	26,097	30,701	18%
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$ 165,019	\$87,605	(47%)
Hardwood	848,402	4,681,060	452%
Total Value	\$1,013,421	\$4,768,665	371%
Percent Hardwood	84%	98%	
Rank in Region	1	1	
Rank in State	--	21	

Source: Virginia Department of Forestry, July 2002

Note: Volume is based on forest products tax receipts; value is based on average county stumpage costs. The standard measure for saw timber is thousand (mille) board feet abbreviated mbf. A tree 22 inches at breast height with 48 feet of usable stem would yield approximately 500 board feet.