

## Dramatic Scenes from a Little Stroll



The Bluebird Loop Trail is a place where all park guests can visit and enjoy some of the most beautiful views in the park. The trail is completely paved making it convenient for people with mobility challenges and families with small children and strollers. The Visitor Center is in the middle of the loop with exhibits to enhance your visit and escape inclement weather. Bikers, hikers, and paddlers can use the loop as the start of their adventures. A quick visit to this little trail is a great introduction to the park.



**Directions: From Rt. 607 (exit 231B off of I-64), take a right onto Riverview Rd., or from Rt. 199 west (exit 234B off of I-64) take a left onto Riverview Rd., and follow the signs to the Park entrance.**



York River State Park

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*Virginia State Parks*

## Bluebird Loop

Self-Guided Interpretive Trail

York River State Park



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# Points of Interest

Taskinas Creek Overlook---Just left of the Visitor



The view from the Taskinas Creek Overlook

Center is an overlook that gives guests an amazing and broad view of the Taskinas Creek Valley. During the seasonal changes, the colors come alive from various shades of green in the spring and summer to a spectacular view of beautiful fall colors. There is even an accessible viewing scope for a closer look at deer and other wildlife. From this overlook,

you can see the Kingfisher Scenic View Overlook of the Taskinas Creek Trail. Observe the canoeist and kayakers as they explore the creek as it winds through the estuarine marsh.

Native Plant Arboretum---To the right of the Taskinas Creek Overlook, you will see a variety of plants that are native to eastern Virginia's estuarine regions. These grasses, shrubs, trees, and vines are not only pretty in bloom, they have a practical function as well. Native plants are more disease, drought, and pest tolerant than ornamental species. The Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist works with park staff and other volunteers to maintain the arboretum.

Canoe & Kayak Dock---The hill to the dock is steep, but there is a paved path as well as a series of stairs leading down to Taskinas Creek. The Native Plant Arboretum continues along the hillside and there are two benches, at the top and bottom of the hill. Meet and greet the paddlers about to launch or returning for an adventure on the waters.

Maritime Overlook (Gazebo) --- The gazebo gives a very spectacular view of the confluence of Taskinas Creek and the York River. Have a seat on the bench (named in honor of Arthur "Woody" Krey who was one of the park's hardest working volunteers) and see paddlers enjoying the water. Wildlife can be seen from the overlook including great blue herons feeding on the shallow flats at low tide and bald eagles soaring in search of a catch.

Amphitheater---This is the staging area for field trips, ranger guided hikes and special park programs. When not occupied, feel free to have a picnic with a view of the York River.

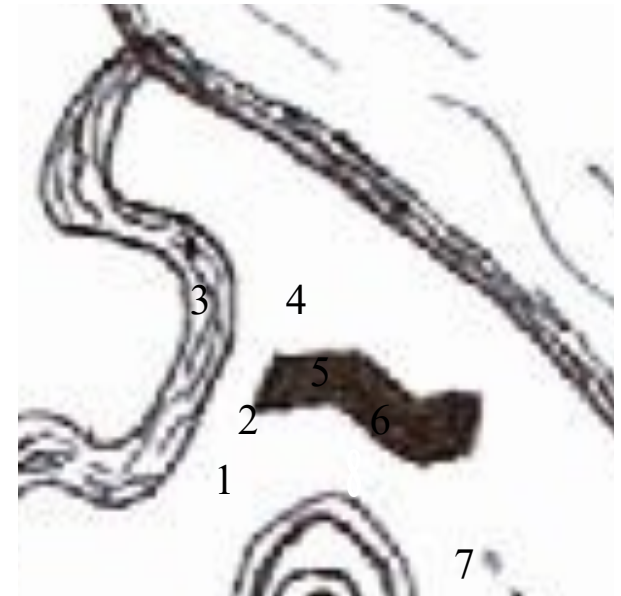
Osprey Nest Overlook---From March until September, view these spectacular raptors feeding, nesting, and rearing their young. A variety of waterfowl can be seen along this bluff during the winter. The broad panorama of the York can be enjoyed from a bench.

Woodstock Pond Trail Head---From the trail head sign follow the hard gravel path to the 7-acre Woodstock Pond for fresh water fishing and wildlife watching. From the spillway, there is a commanding view of the river as well as the pond. Continue on to further hiking adventures as Woodstock Pond leads to the Mattaponi, Beaver, and Backbone Trails. Or, take the stairwell to the river access to enjoy the river bank. Shelter #3 is nearby with great views of the river as well. Be sure to stop by the trail kiosk to see all of the unique places to explore.



An Osprey enjoys a meal along the Bluebird Loop Trail

Visitor Center---York River State Park is a place of history, nature, and recreation. Displays and a video presentation of the colonial thru post-antebellum past tell the story of the park. Learn about the fossils that are found along the banks and what makes the estuarine environment so interesting. The office/gift shop is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.



- 1 = Taskinas Creek Overlook
- 2 = Native Plant Arboretum
- 3 = Canoe & Kayak Dock
- 4 = Maritime Overlook (Gazebo)
- 5 = Amphitheater
- 6 = Osprey Nest Overlook
- 7 = Woodstock Pond Trail Head
- 8 = VisitorCenter