



MIDDLE JAMES SEGMENT PLAN

Making the Trail Visible and Visitor Ready

ABSTRACT

This document identifies focus areas within the James River Watershed between Lynchburg and Maidens that have heritage, agritourism and outdoor recreation assets. With additional investment, collective impact, protection and promotion, these special places could help make the James River Heritage Corridor a world class destination.

Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation
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Retired geologist Marion Wampler reviewed the text regarding the geology of the Piedmont.

[Mile markers](#) used in this document were provided by the Corps of Engineers from the mouth of the James to Richmond, and by retired hydrologist Gary Kappesser from Richmond to Irongate.

Local representatives at focus area meetings helped develop the action items and were invited to review the plan as well. They are listed along with each matrix of proposed trail actions found in the Appendix.

The cover photo, taken during the James River Batteau Festival, was contributed by the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society.

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Introduction

Whereas: Executive Order 13508 of May 15, 2009, established the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers as a national treasure and directed the Department of the Interior to take the lead in expanding public access to waters and open spaces of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Whereas: The Upper James River Trail is a 220-mile water trail that crosses nine counties and was proposed as a connecting trail of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at the Falls of the James River near Richmond, Virginia. The Trail is managed by the James River Association. The Upper James River has a wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational features and provides tremendous recreation and tourism opportunities. The Trail celebrates the rich history and important role that the River has played in Virginia's development. The James River Association submitted the application for this designation with the Chesapeake Conservancy as a cooperating partner.

Excerpt from the document designating the Upper James as a connecting trail to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail because of its historic components, signed May 16, 2012. In 2012, the Department of Interior designated the Upper James River as a component of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Late in 2011, the National Park Service completed a study of the Lower James, a segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, in an effort to make the trail visible and visitor ready. This 3000-mile water trail, designated by Congress in 2006, is being developed and managed in segments. The segment from Richmond west to Iron Gate was not part of the study, but it was designated a connecting trail to the National Historic Trail and called "The Upper James."

For the purposes of this study, the "Upper James" is further subdivided into the Middle and Upper James. The area of study for this plan roughly coincides with the James River Batteau Trail and annual floating festival from the Lynchburg-Amherst riverfront to Route 288 in Goochland and Powhatan. Following the planning process developed by the National Park Service, the Department of Conservation and Recreation completed this study of the Middle James to help make the trail visible so that visitors can enjoy, protect and restore one of Virginia's natural and cultural treasures.

Different terms, trail and corridor, distinguish the recreation and conservation components of initiatives tied to the James River. The Middle James is part of The James River Heritage *Trail* (hereinafter referred to as the Trail), a braided trail system that incorporates both land and water trails. It is one of six statewide trails identified in the Virginia Outdoors Plan and is the linear, outdoor recreation component of the James River Heritage *Corridor*, an initiative that incorporates the recreational components along with an emphasis on protecting resources within the 10,265-square-mile watershed. A vision for protecting these resources was spelled out in the 2013 *Envision the James* plan developed by the James River Association, the Chesapeake Conservancy and National Geographic as the [James River Wildlife and Landscape Conservation Initiative](#).

The Middle James segment plan encompasses the natural history of the Piedmont along the James River and its tributaries, shares knowledge about the Monacan Indian Nation since John Smith first

encountered them, and explores the complex idea of freedom that evolved from a convergence of cultures as people pushed westward along the James River.

The studied section of river begins at the Route 288 Bridge in Goochland/Powhatan (MM 104.1), where the width of the river is about 550 feet and heads west to Scotts Mill Dam in Lynchburg/Amherst (MM 238.6), where two channels converge with a width of about 870 feet. This area is about 135 river miles in length, about a third more length than the area studied for the Lower James (see Map 1). The entire section has qualified for state scenic river designation, with the section from Warren to New Canton officially designated as of July 1, 2020. The 30-mile section within the Richmond Region not included in either plan has been studied by the Capital Region Collaborative and improvements are being implemented by the jurisdictions in the urban area. Planning for the Upper James segment would be a natural next step in this process.

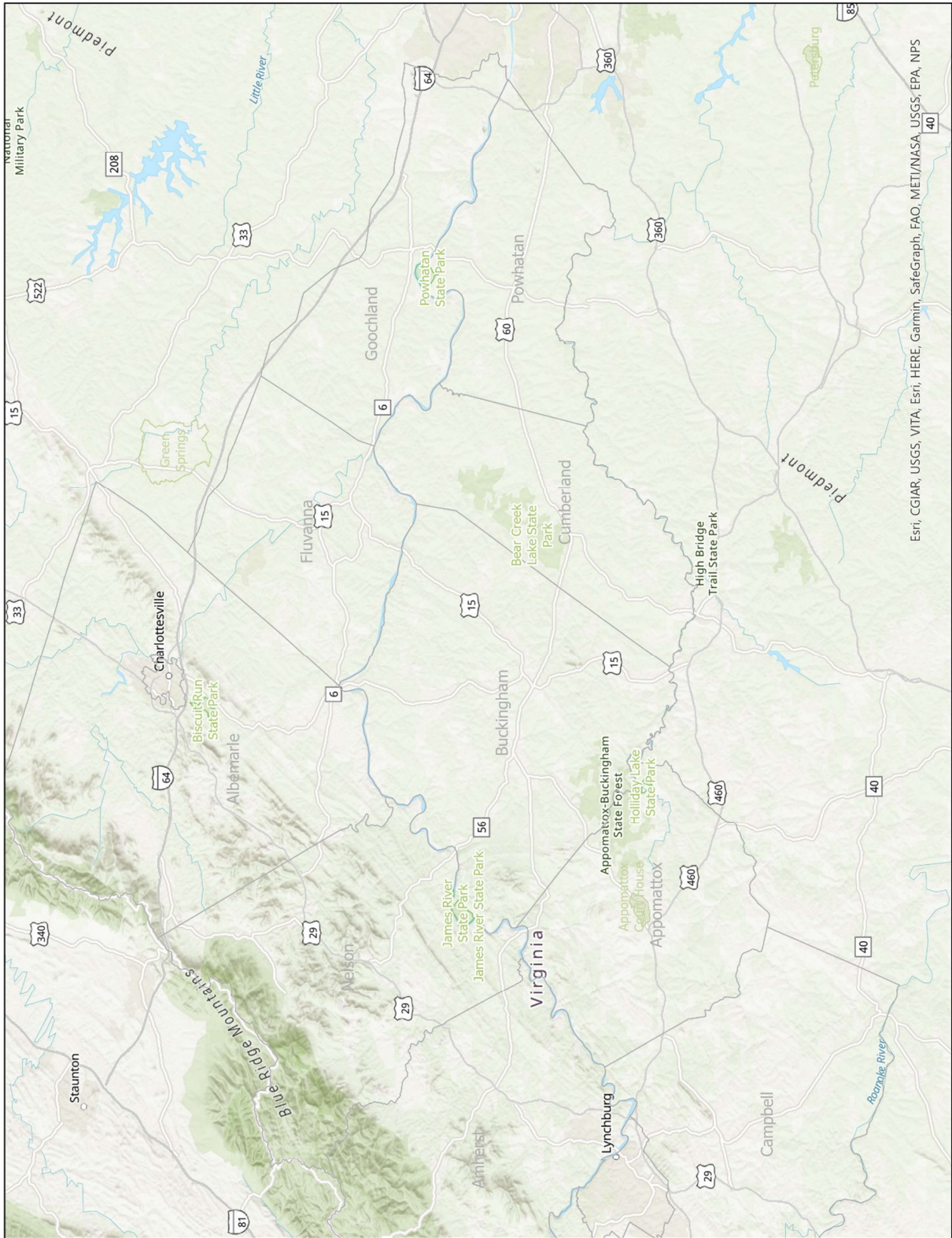
A focus on the Middle James is important because anyone traveling to enjoy the outdoor recreation, history and ecology of this region will pass through northern and southern Virginia, bringing statewide benefits. The geographic center of Virginia falls within the Middle James at Mount Rush in Buckingham County. The James River lies entirely within the state and the watershed makes up 25 percent of the state's area. Many of the stories here of national interest have never reached a national audience. The Middle James is also within a Critical Conservation Areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has depleted resources, there is a growing recognition of the importance of trail networks as part of public health infrastructure, beyond the values accrued for active transportation and recreation. Visitation along the Virginia Capital Trail increased by 65 percent in March of 2020 as people sought exercise and stress reduction in a natural environment. The ability to socially distance within linear parks and on bicycles is not an option for people in every zip code, however. The networks proposed in this plan will greatly expand a connected linear park system into rural parts of the state.

Figure 1 The Middle James is closely associated with batteau and their oarsmen, who transported goods to Richmond and other markets for hundreds of years. This tradition is honored every year by the James River Batteau Festival, an eight-day journey from Lynchburg to Maidens Landing using replica late 18th & early 19th century, flat bottom, cargo boats.



Map 1 Study Area--this plan focuses on ten counties and two cities along the Middle James.



Planning Methodology

In the summer and fall of 2019, a Wikimap was promoted through the Greenways and Trails E-newsletter to crowdsource input on scenic views and needed water access and bike/ped connections to the water. There was also an opportunity to geotag historic photos through this interface, which remained open for input through the summer of 2020. The best feedback through this experimental interface was from the Lynchburg area.

An assessment of resources was made in the summer of 2019 and resulted in draft “recreation asset” maps for each county that helped staff identify a number of discrete areas along the James with high quality trail-related resources, excellent potential trail experiences, and existing capacity to provide visitor experiences. Draft maps were shared at a series of focus group meetings.

These focus group meetings were held in fall 2019 and winter 2020 to gather ideas for improving the visitor experience in the following targeted areas:

- Powhatan State Park/ Maidens Landing/Tucker Park/Goochland Courthouse
- Cartersville/Elk Island/Columbia to Seven Islands
- Cumberland Courthouse and the Willis River
- Pleasant Grove Park/Palmyra and the Rivanna River Water Trail
- Hardware River/Scottsville/Hatton Ferry/Esmont
- Schuyler and the Rockfish River Blueway
- James River State Park/Bent Creek/Wingina and the Tye River
- Appomattox Courthouse/Holliday Lake State Park/Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
- Lynchburg/Amherst Riverfront

These meetings included park managers, county/city staff, VDOT/DWR staff, outfitters, and/or other stakeholders who had experience working in the focus area.

The involvement of stakeholders varied at these meetings and may have been influenced by three controversial projects in the watershed. In Cumberland, a landfill project impacts the historic African American community of Clinton. In Fluvanna, a water line project impacts an important Monacan Indian Nation site. In Buckingham, a natural gas pipeline impacts the historic African American community of Union Hill. A long and widespread circulation of the draft document is intended to capture ideas and action items that may not have surfaced during focus group meetings.

Key state agency staff were invited to join a state technical advisory group to oversee the plan as it developed. A technical advisory group of NGO river managers provided plan input and reviewed draft documents.

Stakeholder interviews were conducted to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the development of a watershed strategic plan, a parallel planning process that focused on the big picture.

The State Trails Advisory Committee provided guidance on both planning processes and reviewed the final drafts when they were released to the public in the summer of 2020. Their help was enlisted to circulate the draft document for 3 months to maximize the opportunity for feedback.

This is a high-level concept plan and should not replace public involvement at the local level as these ideas evolve. To provide structure and consistency moving forward, the pages that follow provide an introduction to the trail's significance, resources and themes, a description of the focus areas and ideas for enhancing them, a discussion of strategies for supporting and linking the trail, and an outline of potential trail partnerships and actions for implementation.

Section 1 Foundation for Trail Development

This section provides information on the foundation of the Middle James—the structure on which its development and management should be based to provide consistency.

Significance

With the settlement of Tidewater under the British Crown, life along the Lower James reflected English culture. Large plantations, strict class rules and Anglican churches comprised an ordered, although hierarchical society.

In contrast, many communities in the Middle James were founded or made up of individuals who chafed under English rule and moved further west to establish industries, farms, schools and churches that would serve as support for the new nation. Although the plantation system was entrenched here and throughout the state until the Civil War, many people settled along the James River in the Piedmont holding fast to their concept of freedom, escaping the traditions and laws that were more easily enforced in developed areas of the colonies.

People were drawn to this former frontier area to enjoy freedom of religion, freedom from tyranny, freedom from bondage, and freedom of thought and expression.

Ironically, as they pushed westward to pursue their idea of freedom, they compromised the freedom of the indigenous communities they displaced. Some brought with them enslaved people and indentured servants who had yet to earn their freedom.

The complex American concept of freedom emerged from this unique mixing of cultures and led to the Declaration of Rights, which failed to ensure that equal rights were possessed equally by all citizens.

Thomas Jefferson believed the fight for liberty and equality freed the body from tyranny, but he also understood the importance of education to free the mind from ignorance, and tolerance to free the will from coercion. As an owner of enslaved people, however, he embodied the hypocrisy embedded in the American Revolution.

The pursuit of justice so that inalienable rights could be shared equally has impacted the area from the 17th-century to the present.

Primary Interpretive Theme

The story of the people of the Middle James River watershed is one of a struggle for independence and a reminder of what it means to be free.

Because the American idea of freedom is complex, it lends itself to many sub-themes that can be further developed at specific sites throughout the Middle James. Three main threads of the struggle for freedom, although separate and not equivalent, are interwoven: the Native Americans with the Colonists; the enslaved with the systems that perpetuated bondage; and the colonists with the English crown. Each played itself out in a different way.

Sub-Themes:

Freedom from Tyranny

After Benedict Arnold invaded Richmond, he directed Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton to pursue Governor Jefferson and the Virginia Assembly while Lieutenant Colonel Simcoe was sent to Point of Fork to destroy the Point of Fork arsenal. In response, two Patriots, Jack Jouett and Colonel Jesse Thomas made long-distance rides to save men and resources in 1781. Jack Jouett, called the Paul Revere of the South, saved all but seven members of the Virginia Legislature with his night ride along the Three Notched Trail, a former Indian path.

The movements of British, French and American troops in the James River watershed are well documented in maps and narratives about this period in history.

Enslaved and indigenous people were oppressed in turn by the Colonial government and systems that supported white supremacy in the new nation.

Freedom of Religion

The U.S. Constitution's first amendment, which guarantees the free exercise of religion, has sometimes failed to protect indigenous people, whose religious beliefs are so different from Judeo-Christian beliefs that courts have difficulty understanding the relationship Native Americans have with their sacred sites.

Prior to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, Baptists, Quakers, Methodists, Presbyterians and other religious dissenters settled on what was then the frontier to be able to worship without fear of persecution. Inspired by the teachings of Christ, many respected the humanity of marginalized groups and were able to adapt and co-exist among freed Black people and Native Americans. Dissenters were tolerated on the frontiers because of their ability to co-exist with other ethnic groups, but their early settlements paved the way for colonization. Resisting English rule because of the prescriptive state, or Anglican, church, many dissenters enthusiastically took up arms during the Revolution and supported the separation of church and state in the Bill of Rights.

Although many records have been burned or lost, the documentation by early churches provides a treasure trove of primary source material for interpretive work.

Economic Independence

As colonists began to wean themselves from British suppliers and buyers, they pushed further into Indian Territory to find fertile land, virgin timber, game, and minerals. They established industries to secure economic independence and developed early canals and railroads to transport goods to market. At the nexus of river and industry, river towns sprang up to provide services to buyers, sellers and the laborers who built the nation's prosperity.

Many documents related to early industries are housed at the Library of Virginia.

Freedom from Bondage

Although small family "subsistence" farms spread quickly in New England, the size of plantations and the requirements for cultivating tobacco necessitated a substantial labor force of indentured servants and Native Americans in the South. Thousands of enslaved people were freed for a few decades after the American Revolution, but a series of laws passed in the early 19th century restricted manumission. A law

passed in 1806 discouraged free Black people from remaining in Virginia by forfeiting their right to freedom. In spite of this legislation and the patrols who enforced it, communities were established as people intermarried and clustered together. Cemeteries marking the existence of some of these historic communities, as well as slave, family, church and public African American cemeteries, are documented at the [Center for Digital History](#) at the University of Virginia.

In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people in the rebellious states and in 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery in the United States. The abrupt end to the South's economic system initiated a long, painful period of reconstruction. With ravaged families and landscapes from more battles fought in Virginia than any other state, raiders from both sides preying on isolated farm families, no social safety nets outside of church and family, and a thirteen-day burning of the richest agricultural counties in Virginia, new-found freedoms could not make up for unmet needs like food and shelter. Lingering trauma, passed down through the generations, manifests in racial tensions today.

Many of these hardships are recorded in diaries, articles, letters and oral histories, but more research, recording, listening and interpretation could assist the healing.

Freedom from Ignorance

A number of notable Virginians led the fight for independence and human rights here as they pushed the limits of tradition, envisioning an idea of freedom that others would take years to grasp. By working to extend education to unserved groups, expanding our concept of history or pushing the limits of the known world through exploration or invention, many brave souls took citizenship to a new level.

Many of these remarkable men and women are documented in historical markers or monuments, but other stories remain to be told.

Freedom of Expression

People living on the frontier relied on their neighbors, even those of a different class or heritage. The resulting cultural cross-pollination produced interesting art, music and literature that influenced a nation. Strong bonds that developed between neighbors inspired ideas that challenged the status quo.

Other Associated Resources

- Colonial Williamsburg Official History & Citizenship Site: Virginia Gazette database <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/va-gazettes/>
- The Thomas Jefferson Papers <https://www.loc.gov/collections/thomas-jefferson-papers/about-this-collection/>
- [French map of the 1781 campaigns](#)-Campagne en Virginie du Major Général M'is de LaFayette : ou se trouvent les camps et marches, ainsy que ceux du Lieutenant Général Lord Cornwallis en 1781
- Dept. of Historic Resources [historical markers](#) and [register](#) nominations
- [Virginia Women's Monument](#), [Wall of Honor](#) and associated nomination forms

Primary Interpretive Theme

These ancestral lands hold pride and loss, sacred spaces, lessons in human resilience and autonomy, and the past, present, and future of the Monacan Indian Nation.

Substantial and sophisticated societies of Native people lived in the Piedmont region for thousands of years before Europeans arrived and although their communities were disrupted and displaced by colonization, many descendants sustain their identities and cultural values in the region today.

According to the National Park Service, many international travelers overlook the Eastern Seaboard and travel out West because of their interest in Native American history. With seven federally recognized tribes, and eleven state-recognized tribes, there is an opportunity to attract an international audience by telling the story of Virginia's Indigenous people.

In the Middle James, this story would be about the Monacan--what is known about their mound-building, matrilineal culture, their industry, trade, language and tools, and their resistance to European settlement. More importantly, how has the Monacan Indian Nation persisted and established their own community at Bear Mountain, what stories would they like to tell, and how do they envision their future?



Figure 2 Part of Smith's 1612 Map of Virginia

Although John Smith did not venture far into Monacan territory, from early maps and archeology we know there were at least five Monacan Indian Towns within the study area; Mowhemcho and Massmacack east of the Rivanna, the principal town, capital and trading center situated at the mouth of the Rivanna River (Rassawek), another along the Rivanna River (Monasukapanough), and one near Wingina (Monahassanugh).

These Siouan-speaking forest dwellers controlled about half of the state during the [Contact Period](#). They avoided European settlers, so little is recorded

about their contact-period priorities and customs. Although many Monacan migrated out of the area, others chose to stay and acclimate to the changes brought about as more and more settlers pushed into Monacan ancestral territory.

Although spread throughout the state, many Monacan tribal citizens currently live in Amherst County. Land they purchased on Bear Mountain remains a center of tribal activity. Artifacts in a museum there celebrate their culture and resiliency. The Monacan Indian Nation was recognized as a sovereign nation by the U.S. government in 2018. At present, the Monacan Indian Nation does not own any land on ancestral rivers.

Associated Resources

- The five Monacan towns in Virginia, 1607 (with 14 plates) by David I. Bushnell, Jr.
- Places cited by Smith in his journals and on his [1612 Map of Virginia](#)
- Scholarship of [Jeffrey L. Hantman](#) and [Karenne Wood](#), among others regarding the Monacan Indian Nation
- Existing tribal museum, church, school and burial ground of the [Monacan Indian Nation](#)
- Oral histories and [interviews](#) with members of the Monacan Indian Nation
- James River and tributary [river atlases](#) published by the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society (they document fishing weirs and other historic features along the rivers)
- Thomas Jefferson's [Notes on the State of Virginia](#)
- [Also see the National Register nomination for Bear Mountain](#)

Primary Interpretive Theme

The landscape of the middle James River, forged by the rise and fall of mountains and seas, helps us appreciate deep time and human frailty in comparison with nature's power. The Piedmont's natural resources, as reported by explorer John Lederer in May 1670, left much to be desired since they were "destitute of both grain and herbage." He described the rocks of the lesser hills as "both steep and craggy, and the James as very dangerous "by reason of the rapid torrents made by rocks and shelves." He may have recognized the mineral potential and chosen to discourage further exploration. The area was in fact rich in natural resources that have helped build a nation.

The Piedmont's Natural History

The rolling hills of the Piedmont grow more pronounced as the landscape transitions from the Tidewater to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Elevations range from around 100 feet in the east to more than 1,000 feet in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. Much of the landscape is farmland and forest, anchored by urban centers at either end (Richmond and Lynchburg). Along the way, former canal and railroad towns recall former "glory" days when industries were booming. Those former industries also took their toll on the

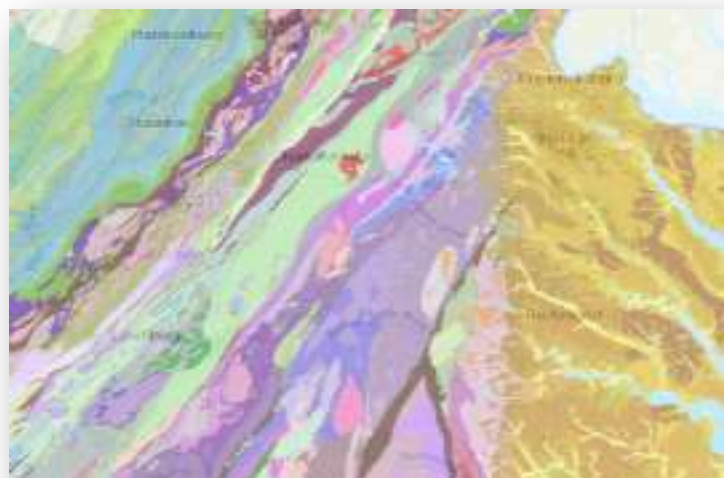


Figure 3 Interactive map of Virginia's Geology and Natural Resources (DMME)

landscape, as virgin timber was cut, minerals were extracted, and the soil was exhausted by tobacco production. Kyanite, slate, vermiculite, granite, gabbro, diabase and feldspar are still mined in the Piedmont, and the remnants of quarries and mines are found throughout the area. Buckingham slate from Arvon is one of the highest quality slates in the world.

The Piedmont's bedrock, part of the Appalachian Mountain belt, is covered by a "rotten rock" layer comprised of weathered stone, typically about 20 meters thick. Most of the bedrock belongs to tectonic terranes brought together as the original Appalachian Mountains were built during the Paleozoic Era. There are major faults, along the boundaries of these terranes, within the Central Virginia Seismic Zone. Narrow marble belts in the Piedmont are pocked with sinkholes. Most of the younger bedrock in the Piedmont is sandstone and shale that accumulated in rift basins during the Triassic Period. There are excellent exposures of the Triassic rock in the cuts of the railway at Warren and across the James River in Buckingham County.

Because most of the Piedmont forests have a history of repeated cutting or have regenerated on former agricultural lands, the flora within the Middle James is somewhat less remarkable than the distinctive geology. A patchwork of secondary forests, pastures, and fields have replaced what may have been open, savanna-like woodlands and grasslands during the Contact Period.

Although the composition of mature hardwood forest communities varies with soils and topography, most of the area remains in deciduous hardwood stands. Mesic mixed hardwood forests of American Beech, White Oak, Northern Red Oak, and Tulip-poplar are gradually replacing widespread oak-hickory forests on many upland sites. American Holly, Christmas Fern, New York Fern and other moisture-tolerant plants occupy the lower strata of these forests. Recently disturbed forests tend to have pines and shade-intolerant hardwoods.

Because there is less topographic variation than the mountains and many fewer wetlands than in coastal areas, there is relatively low vegetation diversity and limited habitats supporting rare vegetation. One



We continue to refine our groundbreaking ConserveVirginia model, which identifies the most important unprotected lands in the commonwealth, helping us maximize land conservation dollars and support the critical national goal of protecting at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler

rare community that occurs is hardpan forest of gentle uplands with poorly permeable clay subsoils weathered from slates or fine-grained mafic rocks. Shallow, seasonally flooded, upland depression swamps are also frequently associated with hardpan soils and are widely scattered over the entire Piedmont.

Within the entire James River watershed, 22.56 percent of the land is protected and 20.33 percent of the prioritized land is protected. Within the Middle James, however, only 14.46 percent of the priority conservation lands are protected. More investment is needed to reach the 30 percent national goal and to ensure that scenic views, historic resources and special places will be protected for future generations.

Historically the upper portions of the James River played host to extensive spring time runs of anadromous fish species from the Chesapeake Bay. Striped Bass, American Shad and Hickory Shad all utilized the river as spawning habitat and provided economically valuable fisheries. The creation of dams within the watershed prevented access to upper portions of the river by anadromous species. In recent years efforts to restore fish passage to the upper river have yielded modest increases for both American Shad and Hickory Shad in the Middle James River.

Associated Resources

- Landscapes and viewsheds evocative of the 17th century
- Areas with little or no outside noise or light pollution
- Areas with striking geologic formations or former mines and quarries
- Hardpan forest of gentle uplands with poorly permeable clay subsoils weathered from slates or fine-grained mafic rocks
- Shallow, seasonally flooded, upland depression swamps
- Eastern White Pine– hardwood forests
- Eastern Hemlock–hardwood forests
- Mixed forests of American beech and oaks with dense evergreen understories of American Holly and Mountain Laurel
- Native Aquatic Fauna: Redbreast Sunfish, White Catfish, Bull Chub, Fallfish, American Eel, Longnose Gar, Northern Hogsucker, White Sucker, Telescope Shiner, Rosyface Shiner, Spottail Shiner, Comely Shiner, Satinfin Shiner, Mimic Shiner, Roanoke Darter, Shield Darter, and Fantail Darter
- Introduced Aquatic Fauna: Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Channel Catfish, and Muskellunge
- Native Wildlife: Migratory and Resident Waterfowl (Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser), Whitetail Deer, Eastern Wild Turkey, and River Otter

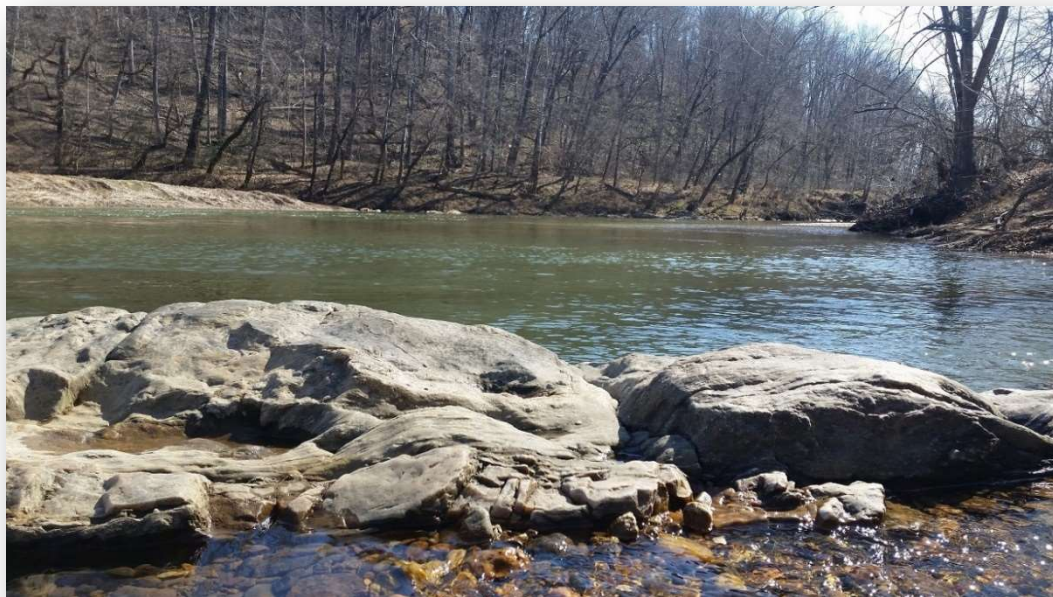


Figure 4 The Rivanna River at Pleasant Grove

Section 2 Identifying the Focus Areas

Nine focus areas were identified that contain a key anchor site, provide public access to water and provide visitor amenities. They all also offer stories and resources that can provide an immersive visitor experience related to the trail. These focus areas were identified with the following audiences in mind: families, individuals and groups visiting the parks and historic sites, casual outdoor enthusiasts seeking outdoor activities, youth and school groups learning about their role in the environment, and people investigating their ancestral ties to the area.

Some of these focus areas do not have local parks with free public access to the river, an important consideration for equity as well as tourism potential. The single most important improvement localities could make to these focus areas is to provide free public access for fishing, wading, and picnicking. In some cases, these improvements will require negotiation with railroad companies that remain reluctant to encourage recreational use near the tracks.

Please note that areas described on the following pages are the *initial* focus areas where the trail can and should be easily enhanced in the near term. It is expected that *additional* areas along the trail would be enhanced in the future. The focus areas are described in the following pages from East to West. Each focus area includes a full-page map depicting the desired trail experiences.

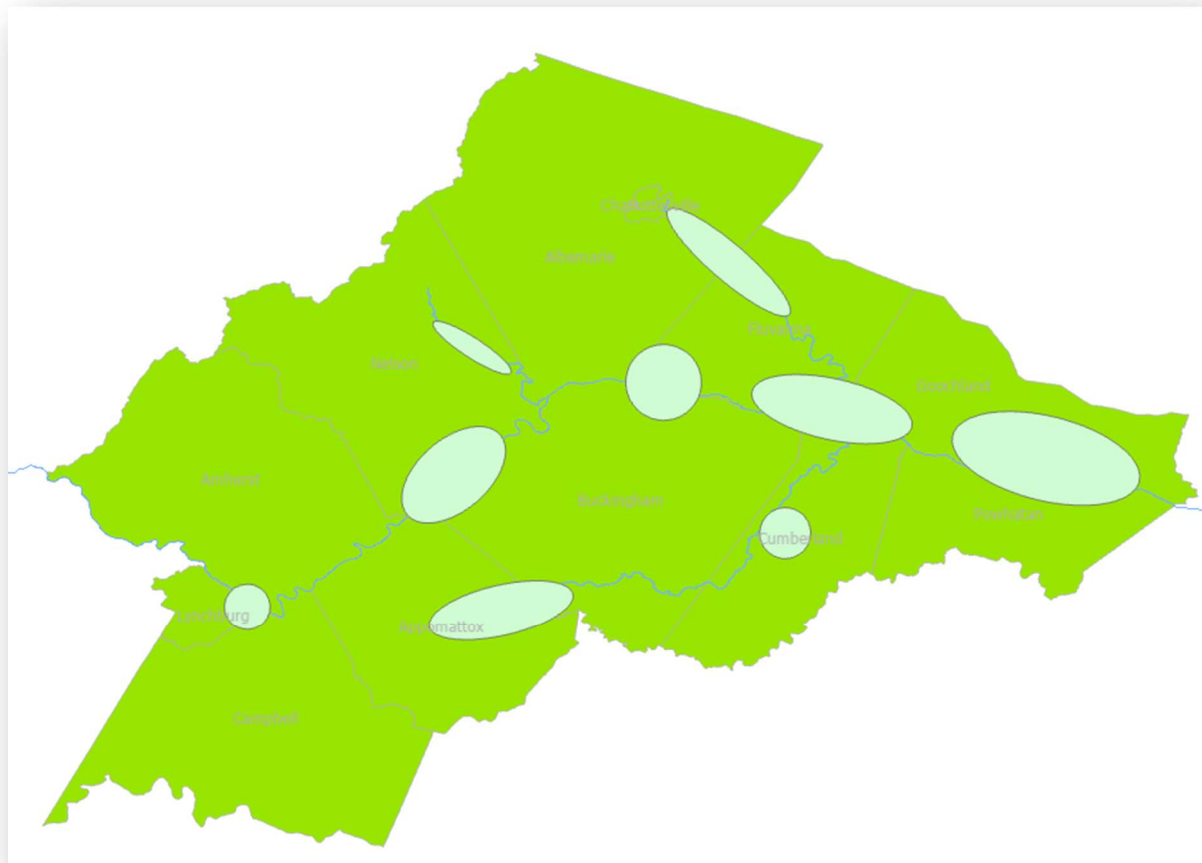


Figure 5 Nine focus areas within the targeted Middle James River region.

Powhatan/Goochland Courthouse

This focus area includes portions of Powhatan on the south bank and Goochland on the North bank. In Powhatan the area encompasses Watkins and Beaumont landings, Powhatan State Park, Fine Creek Mills and Belmead. In Goochland, the area extends north from Tucker Park up to the historic Goochland Courthouse area and west to the West View boat access.

Area Characteristics

Within a 45-minute drive of Richmond, this rural area is rich in historic resources and has some protected lands. Many historic sites are visible from public roads and the river. Visitor support services are available at Powhatan State Park on the south bank and in the Goochland Courthouse area on the north bank (library, post office, etc.). Roads provide easy access from the City of Richmond. Farm fields and state correction facilities preserve open space, offering scenic views of the river. This is a logical major anchor for the trail, as the state park had 120,567 visitors in 2018 and use has been steadily increasing.

Although just east of the study area along Route 288, Goochland and Henrico County are developing a trail system along Little Tuckahoe Creek. This linear park, which will run from Broad Street to Route 6 on the north bank, is complemented by Robious Landing Regional Park on the south bank in Chesterfield County.

These facilities on the urban fringe will draw visitors into the Middle James, and can offer orientation that will spark interest in the other focus areas identified in this plan.



Figure 6 and 7 Map and image of Tuckahoe Creek Park along Little Tuckahoe Creek in Goochland and Henrico counties.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

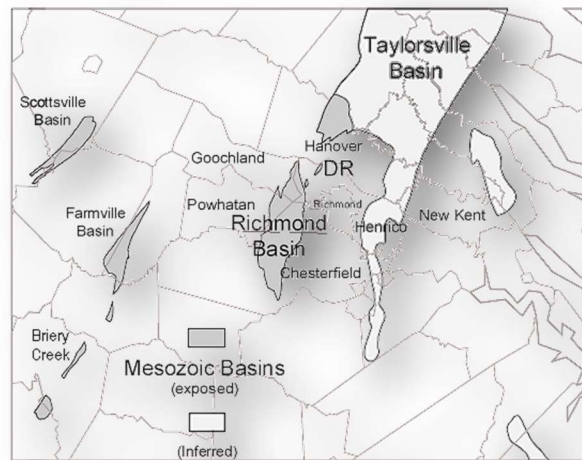
10 and 11th May, 1701. The 10th of May last, I with Colonel Randolph, Capt. Epes, Capt. Webb, &c., went up to the new settlements of the French Refugees at the Manakan Town. We visited about seventy of their huts, being, most of them, very mean [minimal]; there being upwards of forty of them betwixt the two Creeks, which is about four miles along on the [James] River, and have cleared all the old Manacan [Indian] fields for near three miles together, as also some others (who came thither last February, as Blackman told us) have cleared new grounds toward the Lower Creek, and had done more work than they yet went thither first. William Byrd

The area around Powhatan State Park is significant because it includes historic Manakin Town, the place where John Smith most likely encountered the Monacan Indian Nation on his trip up the James River from the Falls. The French Huguenots settled here in 1700 to escape persecution from Catholics in France. The bond that developed between English and French Protestants in Virginia led to French assistance during the American Revolution. Religion played a significant role in the Revolution because people were morally sanctioned to oppose the British, and ministers served the cause in many capacities.

William Byrd goes on to describe an exposed coal seam along a about a mile and a half upriver from the French settlement, and also notes an abundance of slate. These natural resources led to early extractive industries that helped support the young nation's economic independence from Britain.

Other potential stories include early canal development to serve industrial uses here and Dahlgren's Raid during the Civil War, a raid that included the destruction of dwellings and local industry. Dahlgren hung his African American guide with his reins when they were not able to cross the swollen James River. He blamed his guide for leading the Union raiders astray. His raiders destroyed [Dover Mill](#), a two-story steam mill, along with prominent homes, barns, stables, and loaded canal boats. The Mill ruins still stand and are interpreted in Manakin.

Figure 8 Coal was first mined in Virginia from the Richmond, Briery Creek, and Farmville basins, Source: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2004-1283, *Geology and Energy Resources of the Triassic Basins of Northern Virginia*



Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides significant trail-related experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 2.

1. Powhatan State Park

With 2.5 miles of river frontage, this state park has three car-top boat slides and diverse wildlife habitat, from open fields to upland hardwood forests. Other amenities include a full-service campground, a primitive canoe-in/hike-in campground, a group campground, multi-use trails, wildlife observation areas, picnic shelters and a playground.

Land for the park is part of the historic [Beaumont Plantation](#). There is an African American cemetery on the property with about 70 graves. More research is needed to interpret the significance of this site.

2. Fine Creek Mills Historic District

This 15-acre [historic district](#) includes the stone ruins of a gristmill built in the 1730s and Peter Jefferson's former home site, called Fine Creek Manor. A mid-18th century Miller's House, and an early 20th-century school, store, and cheese factory are also on site, along with the Chase-Harris House. Thirteen guest cottages and a reception area that can accommodate 225 people attract many couples seeking to tie the knot. Fine Creek Brewing Company, a small, farm-brewery and taproom, is located up the hill.

3. Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing

Goochland County operates a 32-acre park on the James River along both sides of Route 522 called Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing. Features include a dog park, fishing, picnic tables, a playground, non-motorized boat ramp, a one-mile walking/exercise trail, an outdoor classroom, interpretive signage, and the CarMax Cares Outdoor Amphitheater. The amphitheater is capable of hosting large-scale outdoor events along the riverfront and includes electricity, overflow parking, and a lined sycamore grove. A four-foot paved shoulder along River Road connects Tucker Park to the Courthouse Green, a distance of just under two miles. A funded pedestrian crossing of Route 522 will connect both sides of the park.

4. Hidden Rock Park

Hidden Rock Park is a 60-acre facility with baseball, softball and soccer fields along with a basketball and volleyball court. The park also has nature trails, picnic shelters, and a concession stand with public restrooms. A dog park and trail connect to an animal shelter and adoption center.

5. The Goochland Courthouse Green

[The Goochland Court House](#) survives as one of the better preserved and most beautiful Roman Revival or Jeffersonian court houses of Piedmont Virginia. One of a few courthouses to retain its apsidal end, the interior also preserves its original gallery supported on Tuscan columns.

The Old Stone Jail (c. 1825) on the Courthouse Green has a museum and library operated by the Goochland Historical Society. The Jail was constructed when the James River and Kanawha Canal was being built westward along the James River. River stones were brought up the hill to the site. The Jail is open for Courthouse Green events.

The Old Clerk's Office (c. 1847) was the first official building on the Green to house the records of the county. The exterior of the building is largely untouched by alterations but the interior was modified and is currently being used as a meeting space.

Agritourism

In addition to outdoor recreation, nearby wineries, breweries, cider houses, distilleries and restaurants offer indoor leisure experiences on both sides of the river. Powhatan County promotes [equestrian services](#) offered through the private sector, including an extensive equestrian trail system at Belmead for club members.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

Whether on the many trails offered at the state park to bicycling on scenic, rural roadways, this area offers an escape from the City that will become very popular as more trail opportunities are developed and promoted. There is interest in land and water trail connections to Belmead and a bicycle facility along Route 711 on the south bank. On the north bank, a bike-ped facility along Route 6 is already captured in the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. A shuttle service from the state park to the Courthouse Green would provide a safe crossing of Route 522 for self-powered visitors to the area.



Figure 9 Canoe launch at Powhatan State Park

Redevelopment of the Beaumont Correctional Center offers an opportunity to extend a trail from the state park to the DWR landing at Route 522. Other public facilities could be located at this site, like a regional fire academy training facility that could store equipment and train personnel for river rescues. A business incubator here could support fledgling businesses that catered to trail users.

For achievable results in the next 3-5 years, a focus on development of the water trail and planning for the land trail connections will advance the Heritage Trail network. Implementation of the Tuckahoe Creek Greenway, to include water access, will support the effort being made in the Middle James.

For the long term, needs include full implementation of the Powhatan State Park Master Plan to include an environmental education center and development of bike/ped facilities on the north and south bank of the river.

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out.

Primary Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at Powhatan State Park. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels on a gateway kiosk introducing the overall trail and focus areas along the Middle James, along with visitor opportunities along Tuckahoe Creek
- A single local orientation panel at the eastern end of the riverfront trail, once extended
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area

Other Key Trail Access Sites: Visitors would benefit from a branded sign and orientation kiosk at other key access sites, including Tuckahoe Greenway, Tucker Park and the Courthouse Green

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- James River Heritage Trail maps focused on the section of the James River between the City of Lynchburg and City of Richmond
- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- Park programs
- Interpretive signs expanding on the trail's primary interpretive themes
- A story map featuring the state park and advertising nearby attractions

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

This area includes twenty-five miles of flat water from MM 131.2 at West View to MM 106.2 at Watkins Landing. Along with three car-top boat slides at Powhatan State Park, water access is available above and below the state park to facilitate longer trips on the river. Several DWR ramps are nearby, including Maidens and Watkins landings to the east and West View to the west.

The best view of the [Lock Keeper's House](#) along the James River and Kanawha Canal is from the James River between Powhatan State Park and Maiden's Landing.

This focus area is well served by existing public facilities and recreational access, but additional access is needed at Lee Road and Woods Way Bridge. Access to the water here would require a partnership with the Department of Corrections. Additional access is planned along the Tuckahoe Creek Greenway in Henrico County. These additional improvements would add value to the water trail:

- Install consistently branded James River Heritage Trail interpretive signage at public access sites from the City of Lynchburg and Amherst County riverfront to Robious Landing in Chesterfield County and Tuckahoe Creek Park in Henrico County
- Add magnetic signs to bridge crossings with information on river mile and distance to next takeout
- Include plan-your-trip signs at landings
- An outfitter is needed to fully capitalize on river trips.

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- The Department of Corrections
- Powhatan County
- Powhatan County Historical Society
- Goochland County
- The Goochland County Historical Society

- Henrico County
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Plan RVA
- Capital Region Land Conservancy

Cartersville to Seven Islands

This focus area includes Cartersville, Elk Island, Columbia, the Cumberland Reservoir, New Canton and Bremono Bluff. Many historic properties including Howard’s Neck, Amphill, Clifton, Elk’s Hill, Point of Forks (and Point of Forks Arsenal), Rivanna Farm, Glenarvon, Bremono Historic District, Western View, Melrose, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and the Seven Islands Archeological and Historic District. The Cumberland Reservoir is scheduled to open in 2022. The area called West Bottom along the north bank is an historic African American community.



Figure 10 DWR Boat ramp in Cartersville

Area Characteristics

There are three DWR ramps providing access to the river at New Canton, Columbia and Cartersville, and quite a bit of the riverfront here is protected with historic and/or conservation easements. It is included as a focus area because of the potential to attract visitors and the many stories associated with this area. Located between the Palmyra and Cumberland Courthouse focus areas, improvements in this riverfront area to provide visitor services are key to the expanding the tourism potential of other Middle James sites.

Two public facilities are included in the study area, the Fluvanna Community Center and Carysbrook Sports Complex.

When improvements to the sewage infrastructure in Columbia are complete, growth and development to include visitor services and a linear park are expected.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

This area was the main trading center and capital for the Monacan Indian Nation. [Rassawek](#) was located in this mineral-rich area where the Rivanna River meets the James. Massmacack or Massinack, another

While conducting the research for my doctoral dissertation in the late 1970's and early 1980's, I conducted archaeological survey and testing of numerous prehistoric and protohistoric sites in the area around the confluence of the Rivanna and James, as well as the nearby confluence of the Willis River and the James. In my opinion, this area comprises one of the most important – potentially critical – archaeological districts in the commonwealth for the potential contributions to knowledge of the indigenous peoples of the Piedmont James River drainage.

I. Daniel Mouer letter to the editor of the Virginia Progress, July 1, 2019.

In June of 1781, an important supply depot and arsenal of the Virginia government, the Point of Fork arsenal, was first moved across the river but eventually surrendered to the British when Baron von Steuben, who commanded the American forces, wrongly surmised the strength of the approaching British army. After losing his 30-man rear guard sent to delay the British, Steuben retreated, leaving stores to be destroyed.

When Lafayette returned to Virginia on his celebratory (and anti-slavery) tour in 1824, he was greeted in Columbia by a delegation.

Virginia is lucky to have historic information on the Slate, Willis and Rivanna rivers courtesy of the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society atlases. These atlases document old canal and mill structures along with other significant historical features along these rivers.

The Rivanna Canal Navigation Historic District begins in this segment and extends north along the tributary. It has been determined eligible for listing on the registers. (DHR file # 032-0036). Improvements on the Rivanna were initiated by Thomas Jefferson but taken over in 1805 by the Rivanna Navigation Company. In the 1830's, there were 20 locks and 13 dams for batteaux. A mile west of Columbia, part of the Rivanna Connexion Canal bed is visible from Route 6.¹

¹ The Rivanna Scenic River Atlas, VCNS, 1992.

Monacan village, was developed on the southern bank along the Willis River. There is archeological evidence of habitation during the Archaic to Woodland periods from Elk Island to Seven Islands.

Elk Island plantation was occupied by Lord Cornwallis and his men, who destroyed crops and consumed livestock during their 10-day stay there.



Figure 11 Excerpt from Lafayette's 1781 map

The Willis River Navigation was begun by a privately owned toll company but taken over by Cumberland County. A magnificent cut-stone lift lock across from Cartersville was built to connect batteaux from the Willis River to the James River & Kanawha Canal.

A band of material was deposited near here during the Ordovician period that formed some of the finest slate in the world. Fluvanna and Buckingham counties both have an abundance of abandoned mines to extract the mineral resources in rocks ranging from the Cambrian or Precambrian Catoclin Formation through the Upper Ordovician Arvonian Formation. A nine-mile to sixteen-mile- gold-pyrite belt extends from Fairfax to Buckingham County.

Gold was discovered in Fluvanna County about 1830 and mined until the early 1900's. This was the most notable gold-mining region in the country before the California gold rush in 1849. The Morrow Mine in Buckingham County was one of the earliest gold mines in which underground mining was employed. Many other unworked mines are nearby. Buckingham County slate is considered some of the finest in the world. Industrial history shapes political and social trends, so it is important to understand the early industries that shaped life along the James River.

A noted teacher, educator and historian named Dr. Carter G. Woodson was born at New Canton. He was the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the Journal of Negro History. He originated Negro History Week and authored more than a dozen important works focusing on racial issues in the United States.

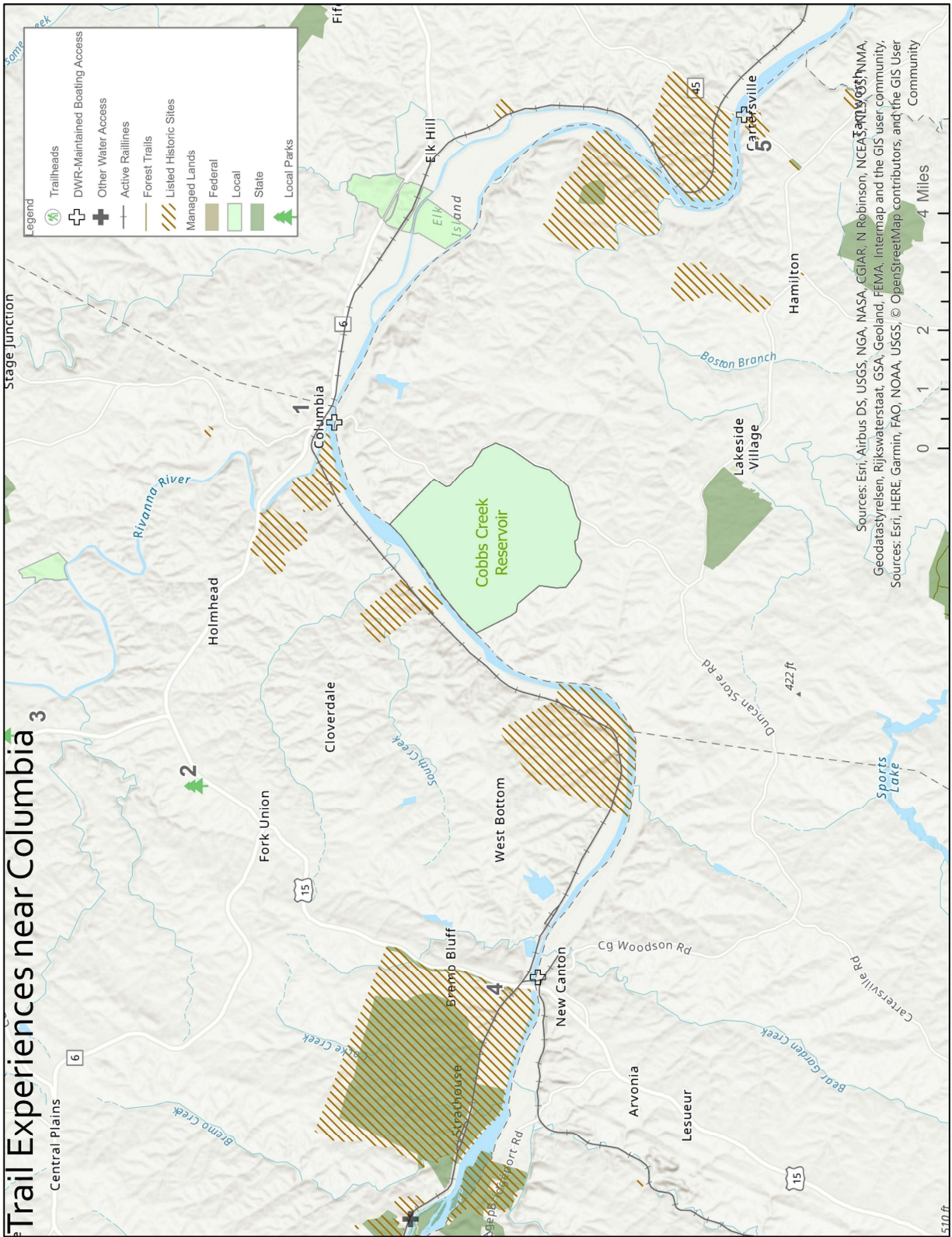
Surrounded by iron and gold mines, New Canton was a rowdy, blue collar town in the 18th century. Trinity Presbyterian, built in 1840, was the only church serving the area. It provided a balcony so that Black people, although segregated from White people, could join in the worship. The same year, the James River and Kanawha Canal was constructed on the opposite bank of the James and opened to traffic. Some of the businesses the town used to support included a tan yard, a grist mill, a tobacco warehouse, a saw mill, several bars, a hotel, several general stores and a post office.

Across the river John Hartwell Cocke erected a temple over a spring along the canal to encourage laborers to drink water instead of alcohol. A leader of the American Temperance Movement, he identified temperance, the eradication of tobacco cultivation in central Virginia, and the colonization of former enslaved people in Africa as his three main passions. Bremo Historic District covers three separate estates and over 1500 acres on the north bank of the river.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 3.

Map 3



1. Columbia Canal Town

Located at the confluence of the James and Rivanna rivers, this former town contains both prehistoric and historic components.

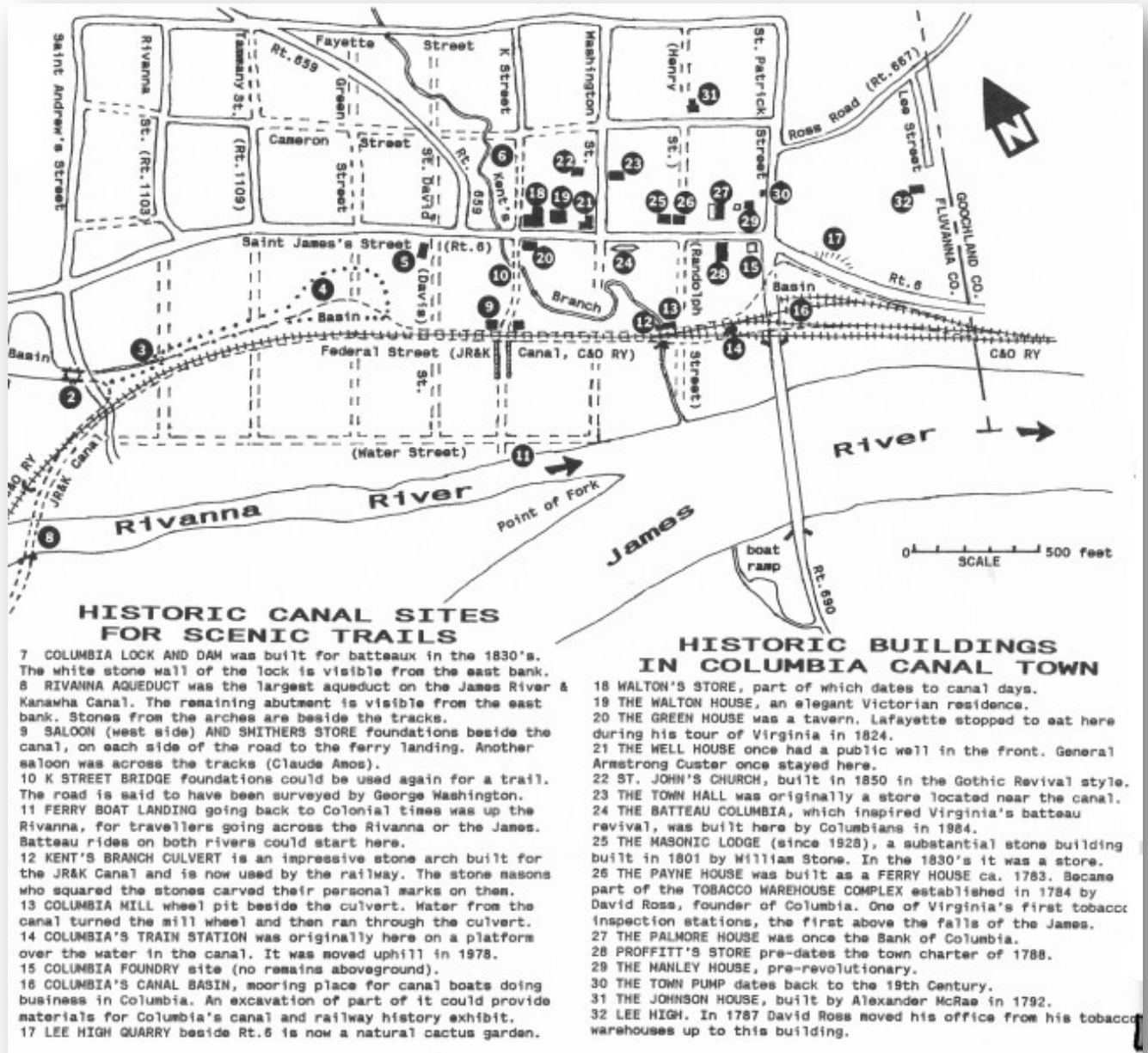


Figure 12 An excerpt from *The Rivanna Scenic River Atlas*, by W.E. Trout, III and Peter C. Runge, published by the Virginia Canals & Navigations Society

2. Fluvanna Community Center

Located in a former elementary school, this facility has a playground, outdoor basketball court, and picnic area open to the public. Large and small meeting rooms and an auditorium with a stage and kitchen are available for rentals. The center offers free Wi-Fi, classes and workshops.

3. Carysbrook Sports Complex

This athletic complex has multi-use softball\soccer and youth baseball fields, a playground for all ages, and a gymnasium for basketball, pickle ball and volleyball. Facilities and fields are open to the public when not scheduled for league use.

4. BreMO Historic District

BreMO includes three separate estates, all created by the planter, soldier, and reformer Gen. John Hartwell Cocke (1780-1866) on his family's 1725 land grant. Still owned by Cocke's descendants, the three properties—Upper BreMO, Lower BreMO, and Recess—preserve architecturally singular dwellings and numerous associated outbuildings and farm buildings. Also on the estate is one of the unusual slave houses Cocke had built of rammed-earth construction. Although these and other historic properties are not open to the public, they can be interpreted from the river.

5. Cartersville Historic District

This community near the James River has 51 contributing buildings, including a handful from the 18th century: the Deanery (1780s), Glaser House (1790s) and Baptist Parsonage (1790s). A hardware store in operation for 75 years is the center of life within this community.



Figure 13 Scenic view of the James from Elk Island Winery

Agritourism

Elk Island and Rassawek wineries provide tastings, festivals and events. Rassawek offers a few cabins for overnight stays and a greenhouse, pavilion and barn for wedding receptions, family reunions, lectures and dinner gatherings.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

Strava global heat maps indicate that bicyclists are riding river roads in the area, but cell phone dead zones may be interfering with this software's accuracy. It is clear that people on bikes are following Routes 601 and 659 in Fluvanna and Routes 690, 612 and 608 in Cumberland to access Pleasant Grove on the north bank and/or the state forest and state park on the south bank. A bike route connection between these two recreation assets could be achieved fairly easily with signage and promotion.

On the south bank, a bike route connection from Cartersville to the State Forest is already captured in the County's comprehensive plan. A river road bicycle route proposed in the draft James River Heritage Trail concept plan was captured in the Commonwealth Regional Council Bicycle Plan Routes and Points of Interest 2010 Update and subsequently adopted as part of the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan (2013-2018).

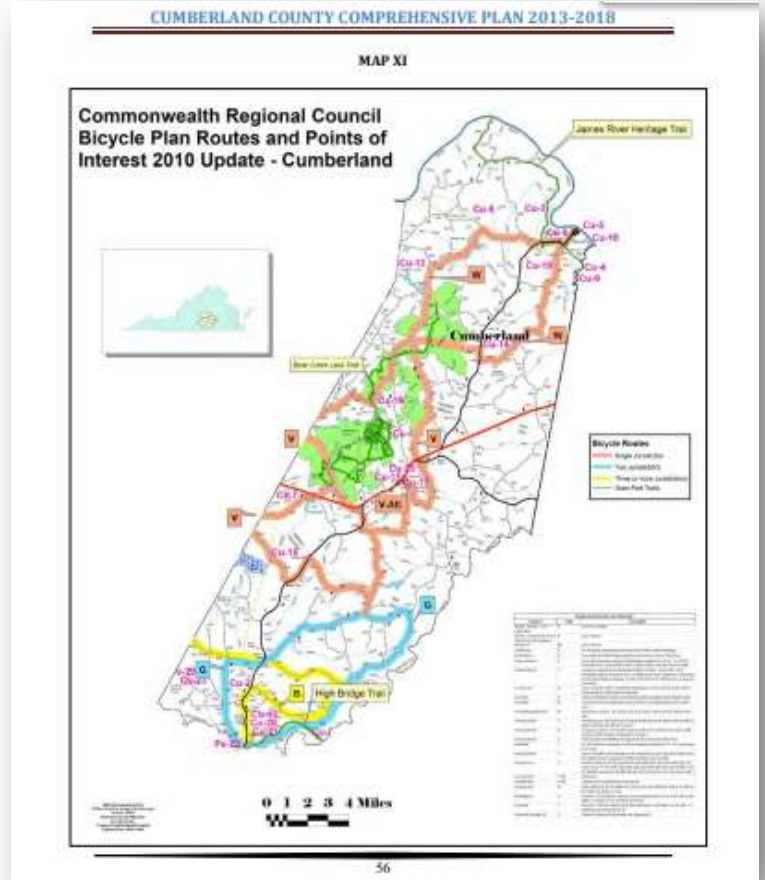


Figure 14 Excerpt from the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out.

Primary Trail Anchor Site: DWR ramps are the only existing public access sites, and signs are discouraged at landings because of frequent flooding. A gateway kiosk to the bike routes and water trail in Cartersville and/or New Canton could orient visitors to this and other focus areas within the Middle James.

On the north bank, Elk Island in Goochland or a riverfront park in Columbia could be a primary trail anchor site once, and orientation kiosks to land and water trails could be included in development plans. A kiosk at the Fluvanna Community Center would help orient local traffic to the Trail network.

Other Key Trail Access Sites: The Cobb Creek Reservoir has potential to serve as an access site, as do nearby private ventures like wineries.

Interpretive programming and Media

Goochland County is planning to interpret what is known about Rassawek at their property under development on Elk Island. Other meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional

programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided bike tours
- Cartersville, New Canton and Columbia self-guided itineraries
- Maps and wayfinding designed specifically for bicyclists
- Interpretive signs expanding on the trail's primary interpretive themes
- Pedestrian map and kiosk as part of an overall pedestrian wayfinding system at the reservoir
- Occasional home tours of historic properties
- River-related events promoted in the James River Days brochure

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

With the exception of whitewater around Seven Islands to the west of the launch at New Canton, this area includes mostly flat water. The river runs for 19 miles from New Canton at MM 155.25 to Cartersville at MM 136.2. The river drops 15 feet over one-mile along Seven Islands, creating the best rapids in the Middle James. From Columbia to Goochland, the river drops only about one foot per mile. The Slate, Rivanna and Willis rivers empty into the James along this corridor. Water access is available at Columbia, New Canton and Cartersville, and is being added at the Cobb Reservoir and Elk Island.

- An outfitter who is familiar with the historic significance of the area is needed to offer guided water trips and shuttle river users from Cartersville to put-ins further west.

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Columbia Area Renewal Effort (CARE) Task Force
- Fluvanna County
- Fluvanna County Historical Society
- Cumberland County
- Cumberland County Historical Society
- Buckingham County
- Friends of Buckingham
- Buckingham: We the People
- Central Virginia Land Conservancy
- Henrico County (Cobb Creek Reservoir)
- Goochland County (Elk Island)
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Developers
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- Old Dominion Land Conservancy
- Capital Region Land Conservancy

Cumberland Courthouse and the Willis River

This area encompasses the Cumberland Courthouse historic district, Bear Creek Lake State Park and historic district, and Cumberland State Forest.

Area Characteristics

With only 10,000 residents, Cumberland County provides farms and forests protecting air and water quality for other parts of the state. The 62-mile long Willis River connects Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest to Cumberland State Forest, emptying into the James between Cartersville and Elk Island. Bear Creek Lake State Park and Cumberland State Forest protect 16,562 acres, providing unfragmented wildlife habitat an hour's drive from the metro Richmond area. The State Park had over 80,000 visitors in 2018.

Cumberland Courthouse, situated at the intersection of Route 60 and 45, is a census-designated place and the county seat. Because of the proximity to and leakage from other commercial centers, business has suffered and the courthouse area would benefit from revitalization efforts like the Main Street Program. More code enforcement could instigate improvements to the business district.

Settlement of what is now known as Cumberland County dates to as early as 1723 when Thomas Randolph recorded a patent for 2870 acres on the Willis Creek. More permanent communities soon followed. Along the main roads, there developed a series of taverns offering travelers food, commodities, shelter and social life. These taverns became the nuclei for the first communities in Cumberland County.

One of these taverns was Effingham, located across from the Cumberland Courthouse building. At Effingham in Cumberland Courthouse, Carter Henry Harrison read one of the first calls for the independence in the colonies on April 22, 1776. John Mayo and William Fleming subsequently presented this statement to the Virginia Convention. This initial call for independence, soon joined by other voices, led to the Declaration of Independence. George Walton, born in Cumberland County, signed this seminal document in the history of the United States.

Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan

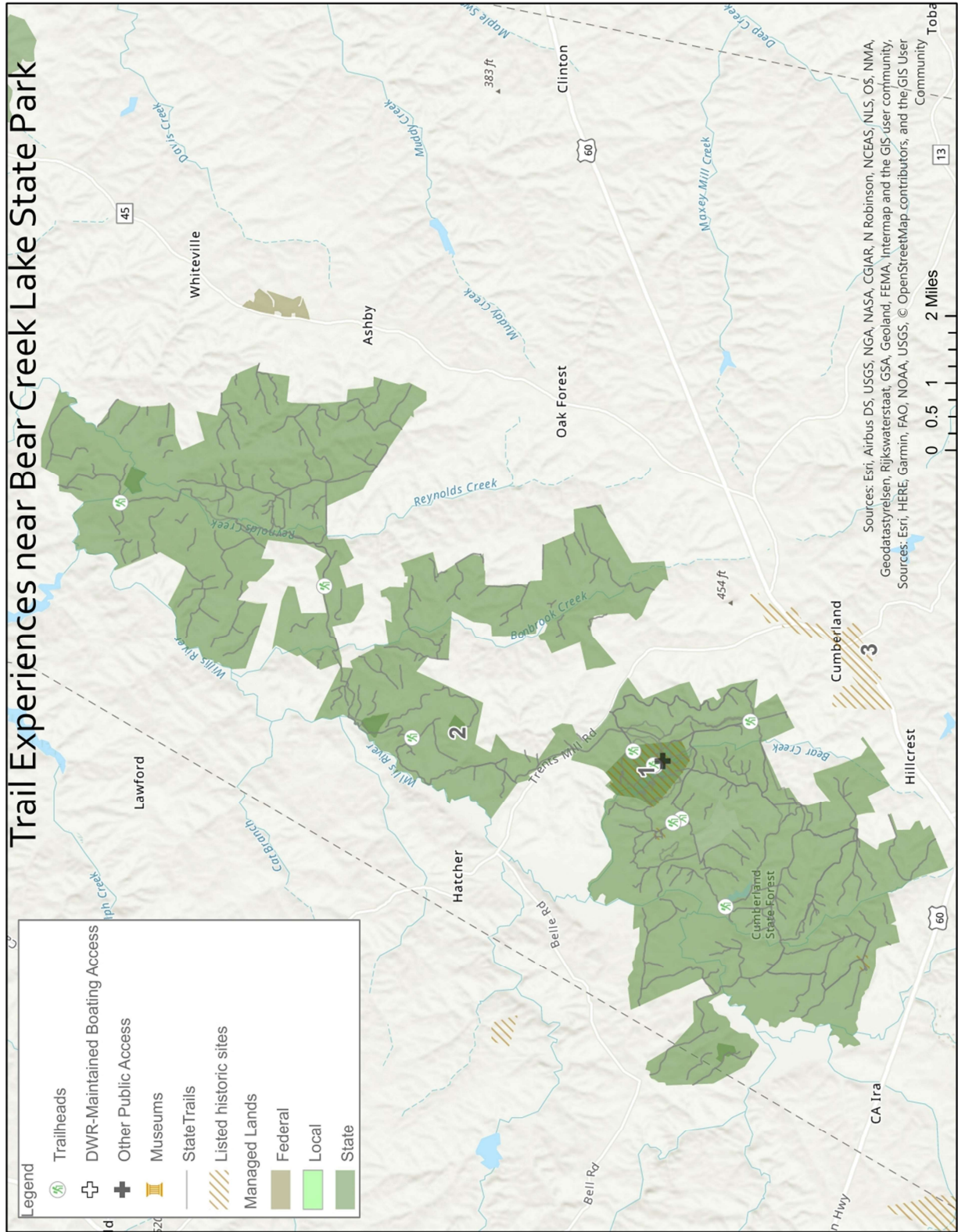
Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

Carter Henry Harrison wrote the Cumberland Resolutions, adopted April 22, 1776, the first explicit instructions in favor of independence adopted by a public meeting in any of the colonies. With these Resolutions, Harrison instructed the county's representatives to declare for independence at the Virginia Convention in May 1776. Clifton, one mile northeast of here, was his home during this period. More than 125 enslaved African Americans labored on his property in the 1780s. Harrison is buried in the family cemetery at Clifton.

In 1781, Colonel Jesse Thomas rode his famous horse "Fearnaught" through the night to warn Baron Von Steuben that Cornwallis was coming, thus saving Von Steuben with his 800 men and the Continental Army's sole remaining supplies in Virginia.

The Willis River Canal project was run by Cumberland County and was part of Thomas Jefferson's vision of using waterways for trade and transportation. The Willis had forty miles opened to trade in 1775-1779 and later ten more miles were opened which took the trade route all the way to Curdsville in Buckingham, Virginia. The cooperation of mill owners and the Willis River Flash Lock contributed to the

Map 4



longevity of the operation, which functioned for over a century. The Slate River Navigation lies in sharp contrast, with mill owners refusing to cooperate and challenging navigation rights in a successful landmark court case.

Some of the nation's earliest railroads carried passengers and industrial products to destinations in Virginia and along the East Coast. The "Faith and Poverty," or Farmville and Powhatan Railroad, was a 19th-century, narrow-gage line that served passengers and freight. Merged with the former Bright Hope Railroad, it ran for 93 miles from Bermuda Hundred in Chesterfield County to Farmville, passing through the courthouse area.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 4.

1. Bear Creek Lake State Park

Nestled behind the Cumberland Courthouse Historic District, Bear Creek Lake State Park (and listed [historic site](#)) provides trails and access to the adjoining Cumberland State Forest. Other activities at the park center on the 40-acre lake with a boat launch, fishing pier, boat rentals and a swimming beach. Other attractions include a meeting facility, cabins, camping, picnicking, an archery range and playgrounds. Bicyclists enjoy riding on the area's low volume roadways, including those within the state forest.

2. Cumberland State Forest

In the 1930's, the government began purchasing marginal farmland under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to help conserve and restore the health of the land. Much of this land was eventually deeded over to the state and became state forest. Management activities on the State Forest demonstrate good forestry and conservation practices and provide sites for applied research in forestry. Wildlife habitat, recreation, and watershed protection are all compatible with sound timber management strategies. Although visitor service facilities are limited, hunting, fishing and picnicking are allowed with appropriate permits.

There are two self-guided trails at Cumberland State Forest--the Willis River hiking trail (16-mile loop, hiking only) and the Cumberland multi-use trail (14-mile loop allows hiking, horses, and mountain bikes). There are about 25 miles of low-volume roadways enjoyed by cyclists.

3. Cumberland Courthouse Historic District and Cumberland County Historical Society Museum

The historic courthouse in Cumberland was built by a master builder for Thomas Jefferson in 1818. A clerk's office and former jail are also on the green. Adjacent to the courthouse green, the historical



Figure 15 Cumberland Courthouse Green

society provides information on the area's history and genealogy.

Historic Schools

Cumberland County has a number of historic schools on the [Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail](#), Hamilton High School, a Rosenwald School at New Hope Church and Jackson Davis. A Rosenwald School at Pine Grove was listed in the top seven endangered sites by Preservation Virginia in 2020.



Figure 16 Historic Hamilton High School

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

Cumberland County is often described as existing as three separate areas or groups, the northern riverfront group that shops in Short Pump, the central Courthouse group that shops in Dillwyn, and the southern group that shops in Farmville. All of these markets exist outside of the County. The improvements listed below would support small businesses and promote interconnectivity.

- A bike route connection from Columbia to Farmville via Route 45, which already has a widened shoulder in some places.
- A bike route connection from state lands to the Courthouse area and beyond is already captured in the county comprehensive plan (see Figure 14).
- A shared use path connection from the state park to the courthouse, already in use along a utility easement, should be formalized and improved. This connection is needed to capitalize on events like the Patriot Day Celebration the last Saturday in April, which reenacts the First Call for Independence
- Existing trails in the state park and forest get muddy and could use some upgrades for all-season use. Volunteers skilled in designing trails to shed water could provide a valuable service here.

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at Bear Creek Lake State Park. Effective visitor orientation here might include:



Figure 17 Boat rental at Bear Creek Lake State Park

- Orientation panels introducing the overall trail and key trail access locations along the James and tributary rivers
- Rack cards or other media at the visitor center introducing trail related services in the area

Other Key Trail Access Sites: Other sites that could support the trail experience include the Courthouse, the State Forest and the Historical Society Museum. Needed improvements:

- A branded sign and standard orientation panel at the Courthouse, the museum and/or the southern entrance to the State Forest

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- Dark sky certification and related programs at the state park
- A brochure that promotes the state park, the state forest, trails and river-related activities
- A marketing plan for Cumberland County
- An orientation sign that describes the three sections of Cumberland County and associated history and attractions
- Oral histories and untold stories available on a website or audio tour
- River-related events captured in the James River Days brochure
- A website for the Cumberland County Historical Society Museum
- Interpretive signs expanding on the trail's primary interpretive themes
- Maps and wayfinding designed specifically for bicyclists

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

The only water access available for paddling in this focus area is at Bear Creek Lake. Additional water access is needed along the Appomattox, Slate and Willis rivers.

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Cumberland County
- Cumberland County Historical Society
- Bear Creek Lake State Park (DCR)
- Cumberland State Forest (DOF)
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Riparian landowners who provide easements for water access
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- Old Dominion Land Conservancy

The Rivanna River Water Trail

Area Characteristics

With over 26,000 people, rural Fluvanna County serves as a bedroom community for the City of Charlottesville. The historic seat of government is located in the Village of Palmyra, along the historic Rivanna River. The County is defined by Interstate 64 to the north, Palmyra in the center and the James River along the southern boundary. Since the railroad prevents public access to the James River, both the Rivanna and Hardware Rivers are surrogates for river recreation.

The Rivanna River Water Trail is a 38-mile paddling experience that passes through three counties and the City of Charlottesville. About four miles northeast of Charlottesville, the north and south forks converge to form the Rivanna, named for Queen Anne of England who is best known for achieving the union between England and Scotland.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

It [Monacan burial mound] was situated on the low grounds of the Rivanna, about two miles above its principal fork, and opposite to some hills, on which had been an Indian town. It was of a spheroidal form, of about 40 feet diameter at the base, and had been of about twelve feet altitude, though now reduced by the plough to seven and a half, having been under cultivation about a dozen years.

Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia

The Monacan Indian Nation settled along the Rivanna River and several villages were depicted along the River on Smith's map. Thomas Jefferson excavated a burial mound here and is credited as being the first American to conduct a scientific archaeological study. The Monacan hold a different view – considering this activity a

desecration of a sacred site. The Indian town that Jefferson describes was probably Monasukapanough, about two miles north of present day Charlottesville, occupied by the Monacan since the 11th century A.D.

Thomas and Peter Jefferson both settled along the River and began improvements for industrial purposes that were augmented in the mid-19th century by the Rivanna Navigation Company. The canal and associated watercraft are interpreted at the visitor center at Pleasant Grove Park.

The port town of Milton, six miles from Charlottesville, was originally the head of navigation for the Rivanna River, where batteaux left to make the 80-mile journey to Richmond. A tobacco inspection station was built here in 1789, and later another one across the river at North Milton. Thomas Mann Randolph, Jefferson's son-in-law, built an office (now the [Clifton Inn](#) on the registers) and attempted to found a village called North Milton.

In 1816 Milton was described as "having twenty-five houses, a post office, a public tobacco warehouse, a tobacco display (of which there are several in this county) besides a grain display. There is here in general a repository of local products which are traded in the same way as at Charlottesville" (Christopher Daniel Ebeling).

It is likely that a Revolutionary War hero, Jack Jouett, rode through Milton on his famous ride along the Three Notched Trail to save Virginia's government officials from the British. Jouett, whose father operated a store in Charlottesville, overheard Tarleton's men in conversation at a tavern in Louisa and realized the threat to the Virginia Legislature, which he knew was meeting in Charlottesville. He borrowed a horse and rode as fast as he could go to warn Governor Jefferson and his Assembly. Riding through the night down the Three Notched Trail, named for the markings of a former Indian trail, Jouett encountered brush that left his face permanently scarred. Because of his early warning, Tarleton only captured seven members of the Legislature. This 30-mile dash through history is celebrated every year in Charlottesville, and trail advocates would like to connect the capitals that were hastily created to run the new Virginia government on each subsequent retreat from the British—Charlottesville, Waynesboro and Staunton.

President Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809) oversaw the Louisiana Purchase and was instrumental in the Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-1806), a story that is interpreted at the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center at Darden Towe Park. Meriwether Lewis was born near Charlottesville, and William Clark's family once owned the land where the Center was built. This site could serve as a gateway to the [Virginia Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail](#).

Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides many different experiences and has near-term potential to enhance and/or provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 5.

Fluvanna

1. Village of Palmyra

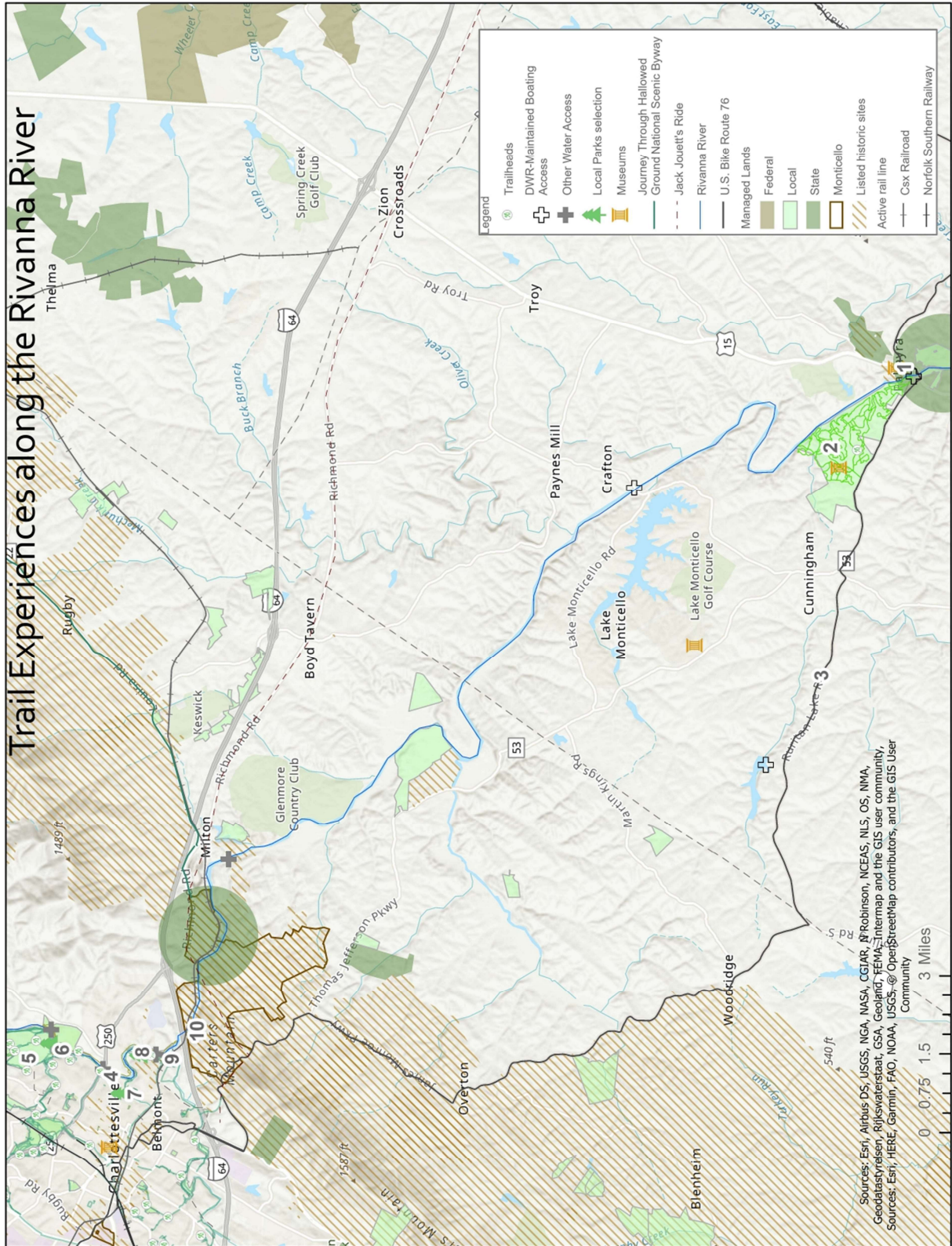
In this historic village, a self-guided walking tour interprets 23 sites, including an old stone jail that serves as a museum and home to the Fluvanna County Historical Society. The tour, part of the Fluvanna Heritage Trail, includes a register-listed courthouse that was designed by Hartwell Cocke, strongly influenced by his friend Thomas Jefferson.



Figure 18 The Farm Heritage Museum, part of the museum complex at Pleasant Grove

2. Pleasant Grove Park House and Museum

Part of the Fluvanna Heritage Trail follows an old railroad corridor along the Rivanna River. Across the river at Pleasant Grove, 18 miles of trails and river access offer a full day of activity to visitors. On the National Register, [Pleasant Grove House Museum](#) serves as the County Welcome Center for visitors along with housing exhibits relating to the history of transportation in Fluvanna. Displays depict the central role the rivers played for the movement of goods to market.



3. U.S. Bike Route 76

U.S. Bike Route 76 passes right by this area on its route from Yorktown to Astoria, Oregon. Also called the TransAmerica Trail, this route was established in 1976 as “BikeCentennial,” when a group of 4,000 riders rode across the country to celebrate the founding of the nation.

Albemarle and Charlottesville

4. Rivanna Trail (Charlottesville)

The Rivanna Trail is a 20-mile rustic "urban wilderness" hiking trail built and maintained by volunteers that encircles the City of Charlottesville. The Trail meanders through forested buffers that protect the City's streams and rivers. It serves as a community-wide resource for play, exercise, relaxation, and nature-related recreation and education.

5. Pen Park (Charlottesville)

The 280-acre park is the largest within the City of Charlottesville. In addition to magnificent views, the park offers tennis courts, a Little League baseball field with batting cage, volleyball court, picnic shelters, playground, and an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and pro shop. A fitness course with 10 exercise stations connects to a 1.5-mile-long trail along the River. The park was the site of an important historic house associated with the Gilmer and Cramer families, and a cemetery on the golf course includes unmarked African-American burials.

6. Darden Towe Park (Albemarle)

This 113-acre park across the River from Pen Park has a baseball, softball, and multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, 3.8 miles of trails, a dog park and canoe access. Other amenities include a wheelchair-accessible playground; a large picnic shelter, grills and restrooms. The Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center is within the park, where the local story is told with exhibits and history tours on full-size replica boats. Pick up [Old Mills Trail](#) here for a scenic 3-mile greenway along the Rivanna River.

7. Meade Park (Charlottesville)

This 5.2-acre park boasts a state-of-the-art aquatic facility, picnic shelter and playground with tot area.

8. Riverview Park (Charlottesville)

This park has almost 27 acres bordering the Rivanna River. It offers a playground, benches, an open field and orientation to the area. This section of [the Rivanna Trail](#) is a wheelchair-accessible, paved trail that starts at Riverview Park and meanders north about 2.3 miles crossing under Free Bridge and Route 250 East along the River. It connects into the 20-mile system managed by the Rivanna Trails Foundation.



Figure 19 The Rivanna River at Riverview Park

9. Woolen Mills Historic District (Charlottesville)

Selvedge Brewing and Taproom and The Workshop coffee and wine shop are part of a unique collaboration between chefs, brewers, winemakers, and coffee roasters at The Wool Factory, an adaptive renovation at a 19th-century textile mill within the Woolen Mills Historic District. A bridge across Moores Creek here connects to the Rivanna Trail.



Figure 20 Moores Creek from Selvedge Brewing

10. Monticello

This World Heritage Site was the home of Thomas Jefferson-- author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia. Although no access to Monticello is available from the Rivanna River, the popular [Saunders-Monticello Trail](#) is open to the public free of charge and provides miles of [rustic trails](#) as well as a 2-mile accessible boardwalk and trail from the base of Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Rt. 53) to the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center. On the other side of the Rivanna River, Albemarle County's [Old Mills Trail](#) is planned for extension across land once owned by Thomas Jefferson, including Shadwell, Jefferson's birthplace and the home of his parents, Peter and Jane Randolph Jefferson.

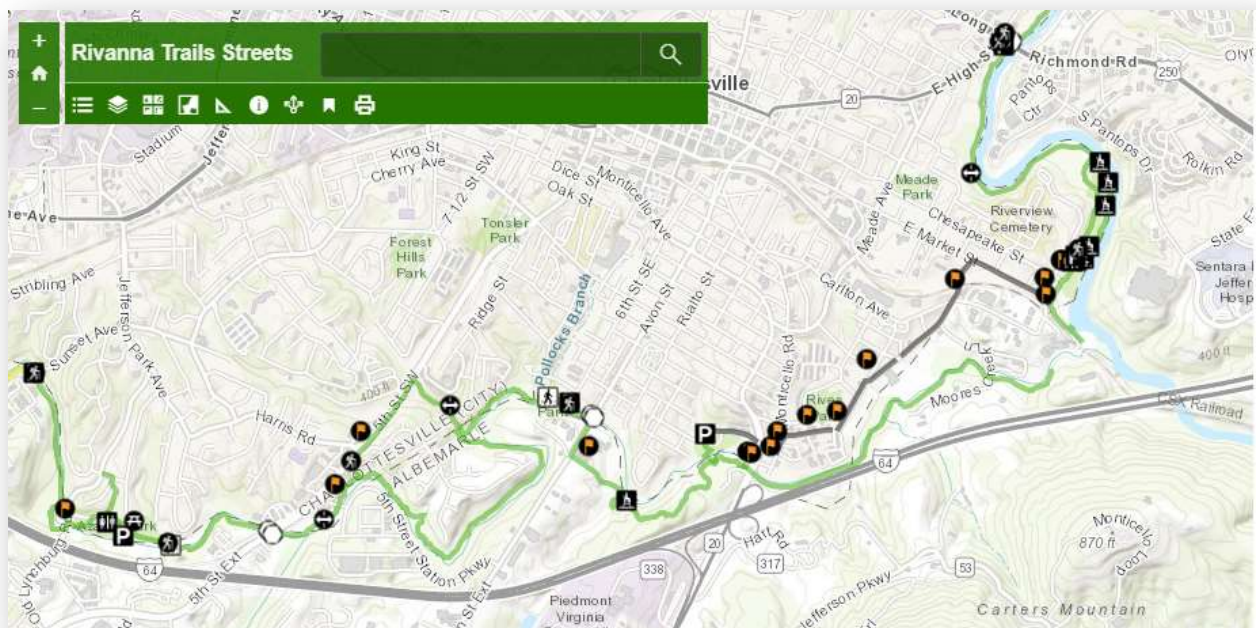


Figure 21 Download the Rivanna Trail App to navigate a detailed real-time map of the trail on your iPhone or Android device.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

In Fluvanna there is interest in extending a shared-use path along the Rivanna River to connect to Lake Monticello and eventually to the Rivanna River Trail in Albemarle County. The 2019 Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan includes a future shared use path along the Rivanna and the James, and a rural shared road along Route 6. There is also interest in improving access to the water trail.

The Rivanna River Corridor Plan is a joint effort between the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, along with other stakeholders, to develop a vision and action plan for the Rivanna River. This plan incorporates the corridor plan by reference. Their project boundaries are from the South Fork Reservoir downstream to the Milton Road Bridge near Shadwell. The planning process and subsequent Master Plan will help localities and stakeholders coordinate on making a cleaner, safer and more livable waterway that serves as a catalyst for community investment. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District is facilitating this process through its initial phases.

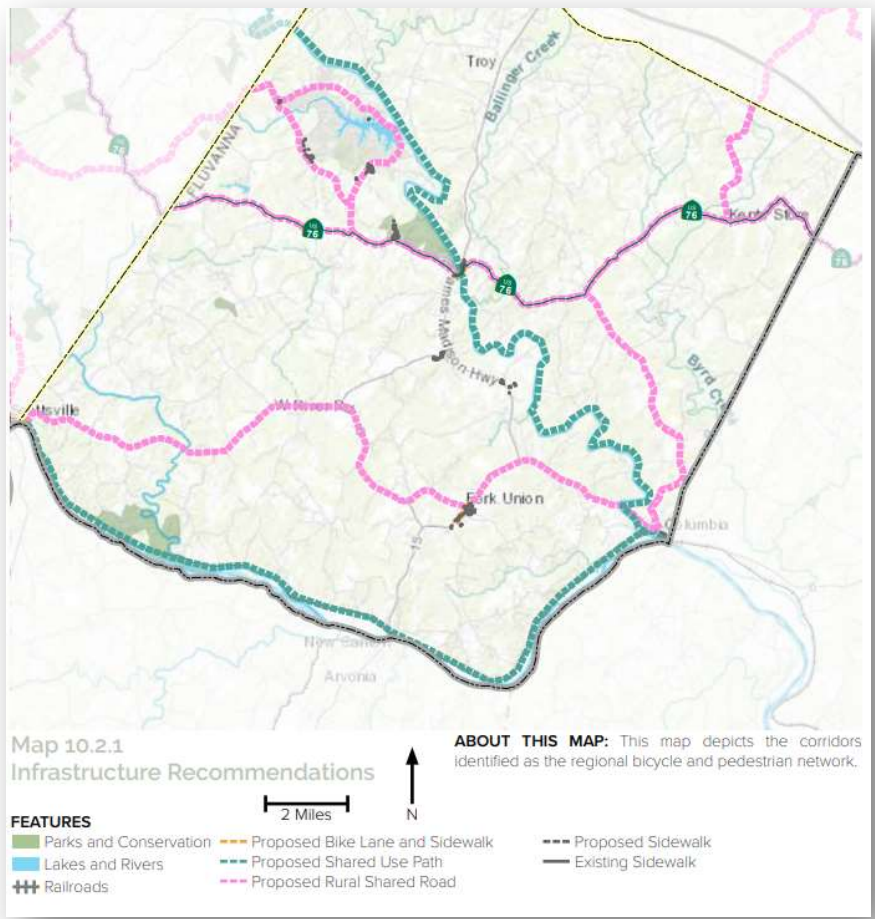


Figure 22 Excerpt from Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Fluvanna County

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Sites:

A kiosk at a new river crossing between Pantops and Charlottesville could serve as the primary trail anchor. With the historic Woolen Mills redevelopment, another potential anchor site, a bridge that can accommodate bicycles and pedestrians has been opened along with the coffee shop and brewery.



Figure 23 Excerpt from the Charlottesville Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

For bike and pedestrian trail connections the Charlottesville Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan has identified several proposed locations for connections across the river as well as potential shared use path and trail connections. Bridges are needed at Pen Park to connect to Darden Towe Park across the Rivanna and across Meadow Creek to connect a trail system. Bridges are also needed over the River connecting the existing Riverview Trail with a County trail south of Long Street and over the River connecting to a proposed trail south of Riverview Trail. This map from the plan depicts trail connections needed in the Pantops area.

Other Key Trail Access Sites:

The visitor center at Pleasant Grove could provide rack cards and other information on the trail. With 468 visitors in the 2018-19 fiscal year, it would benefit from cross promotion. The Old Stone Museum in Palmyra could also provide information on the trail, and direct people to the nearby landing on the Rivanna River.

Darden Towe Park, Ivy Creek Park and the roadside access near Shadwell could provide orientation and interpretation to support the trail experience.

Other plans to strengthen the trail network in the region over the long term include:

- An extension of the Fluvanna Heritage Rail Trail to the limits of County-owned property
- A pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Courthouse Road and Route 15
- A connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between Palmyra and Pleasant Grove
- A bike route along the Rivanna River
- Bike lanes on Routes 250 and 15
- A bike-ped facility along Route 6 in transportation plans and a feasibility study of a shared-use path along this corridor
- A shared-use path connection from Palmyra to the high school along Route 53

- Wayfinding signs to direct visitors on foot or bike to nearby recreation amenities, historical sites and artisan trails.

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- Maps designed specifically for bicyclists
- Interpretive signs expanding on the trail's primary interpretive themes

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

The Rivanna River Company offers guided trips down the river in Albemarle and Charlottesville. Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation offers several interpretive tours each year.



Figure 24 Recreation Amenities along the Rivanna River Water Trail in Albemarle and Charlottesville

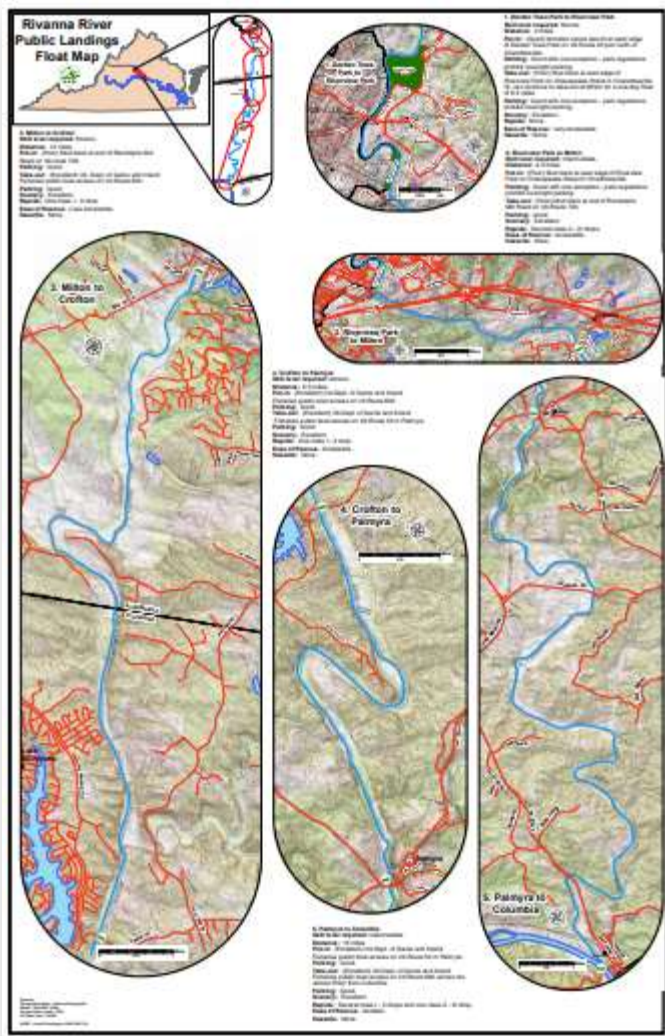


Figure 25 A Rivanna River Public Landings Float Map is online.

Figure 12 indicates five water access points along the Rivanna in Charlottesville and Albemarle.

There is a facility at Route 53 in Fluvanna, and another at Route 6, but more access to the river is needed, as are visitor services at some sites.

Some ideas for increasing water access in this area include:

- Install a spray park at Pleasant Grove
- Work with partners to fill in the gaps in water access and related amenities between Scottsville and New Canton along the James River, perhaps at the end of Shores Road near Big Island
- Investigate the potential for improvements to the launch sites at the Route 6 crossings of the Hardware and Rivanna rivers through a partnership with VDOT/DWR and Fluvanna County
- Explore the development of additional water access points on the Hardware and Rivanna rivers
- Promote angling and bird-watching at the Hardware River WMA and along the Birding and Wildlife Trail

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- The Rivanna River Basin Commission
- StreamWatch
- Rivanna Conservation Alliance
- Albemarle County
- Fluvanna County
- Greene County
- City of Charlottesville
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society
- Fluvanna County Historical Society
- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Central Virginia
- Rivanna River Company
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Virginia Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail

Hardware River Wildlife Management Area to Warren

Area Characteristics

This area includes Warren, Hatten’s Ferry, Scottsville and the Hardware River Wildlife Management (WMA) Area. The Hardware River flows into the James at the WMA and offers a scenic paddling experience from Route 6 to the James.

This riverfront area is already a popular place for river users, supported by outfitters in Scottsville and Hatton’s Ferry. The tavern in Scottsville gets 45 percent of their traffic from river users from May to September, and other businesses like bookstores and coffee shops benefit from these seasonal visits.



Figure 26 Packet boat at Canal Square in Scottsville

With the railroad restricting access to the river along the north bank, the few areas where access is allowed are in high demand. This includes the wildlife management area on the Hardware River, the DWR landing in Scottsville, and a natural landing at the ferry crossing.

In Albemarle County, most of the area is part of the 83,000-acre Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District. The district includes properties such as Monticello, James Monroe's Highland, and many important Colonial Revival-period houses, as well as archaeological sites illuminating colonial as well as Native American history. Across the river in Buckingham County, quite a bit of the riverfront land has been subdivided and very few protections are in place to ensure the river will continue to qualify for the scenic river designation approved by the General Assembly in 2020. The area needs additional overnight options for river users that can be developed without impacting the scenic resource.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

Scott's Landing was a river port and the first county seat of Albemarle County. British raiders led by Col. Tarleton occupied the area and tried to take military supplies stored in the old courthouse (the county seat was moved to Charlottesville in 1762). Lafayette successfully outmaneuvered the British here, and Thomas Jefferson is said to have hid out in a cave near Scott's Landing to escape the British.

The James River and Kanawha Canal and the C&O Railroad contributed to the Town's expansion during the 19th-century. The Scottsville Historic District, which includes part of Fluvanna and Albemarle counties, has 153 contributing buildings.

A canal system envisioned by George Washington in the 18th century and completed to Lynchburg in the early 19th century made it possible to transport heavy loads of minerals and agricultural products to larger markets in the east. Generally, enslaved people and freed Black people poled the 60-foot-long loaded batteaux down the narrow canals to Richmond's turning basin and returned the empty boats.

Thomas Jefferson's brother, Randolph, owned a huge estate that included a home called Snowden in Buckingham, probably named after the mountain in Wales where the family originated. The land on both sides of the river included the area of present day Scottsville and the Hardware River. The original house burned, but another home was built on the property in 1857. Randolph served in the Virginia Light Dragoons during the Revolutionary War and signed the "Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia" in 1777.

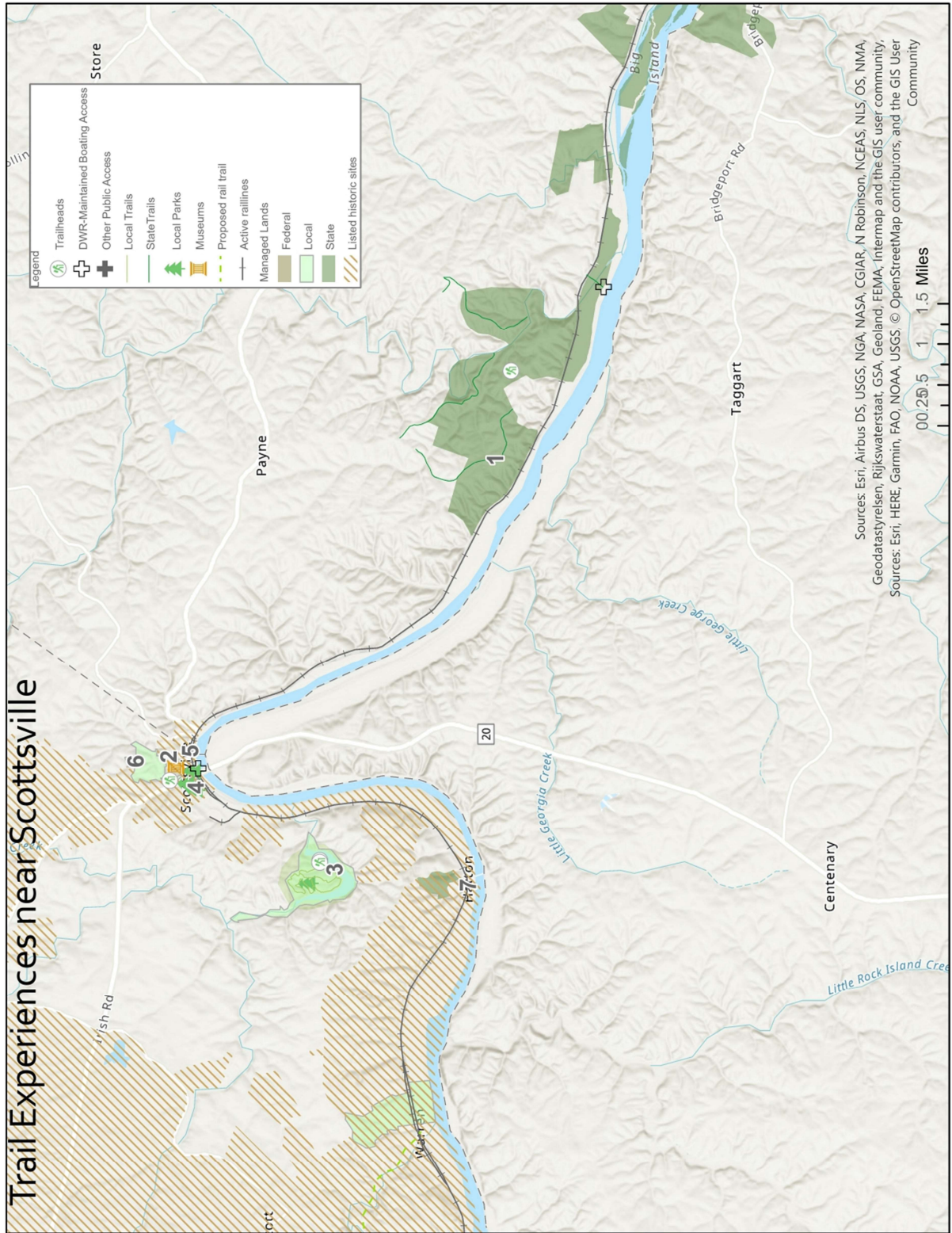
Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 6.

1. Hardware River Wildlife Management Area

Sometimes best known for the access it provides to the James River, this management area also provides hunting, wildlife and wildflower viewing opportunities on 1,034 acres in Fluvanna County. Fishing for smallmouth bass, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and a variety of sunfish can be excellent from the banks of both the Hardware River and the James. The Hardware River is stocked three times per year under the Department's Delayed Harvest Regulations.

Map 6



2. Scottsville Museum and Historic District

Housed inside the former Disciples of Christ Church built in 1846, the Scottsville Museum displays permanent and rotating exhibits on James River transportation, the Civil War, Native American artifacts, school life, theater, clothing, toys, furniture, and photographs. A [walking tour](#) of Scottsville's Historic District starts here.

3. Totier Creek Park

This 209-acre park has 69 water acres stocked with sunfish, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. Three miles of trails and a boat launch (electric motors only) provide recreation for hikers and paddlers.

4. Dorrier Park

This park in downtown Scottsville features a softball field, soccer field, two tennis courts, a wheelchair-accessible playground, and a picnic shelter with a seating capacity of 50, electricity (no grills), and restrooms. A walking path that extends to the levee is part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

5. Levee Walk and Canal Park

See the James River from this walking path along the levee. This park interprets the canal and batteau era and the timeline of devastating floods prior to the levee's construction.

6. Van Clief Nature Area and Scottsville Lake

The Van Clief Nature Area features 63 acres of walking trails and Scottsville Lake, regularly stocked with trout. The Mink Creek Trail provides access from downtown Scottsville to Van Clief Nature Area, and there are plans to expand the trail to the northern end of the park.

7. Hatton Ferry

Hatton Ferry is a poled ferry that crosses the James River at a site named Hatton about three and one-fourth miles south west of Scottsville, Virginia. A storekeeper named James A. Brown began operating a ferry at this location in the late 1870's. From 1906 to 1940, James Benson Tindall managed Hatton Ferry operations until he deeded the ferry to the State of Virginia. Hatton Ferry operates on a weekend schedule from April to October and is managed by the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, Albemarle County, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.



Figure 27 Historic photo of Hattons Ferry, courtesy of the Library of Congress

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

For the water trail, more access points are needed to the James and Hardware rivers, along with infrastructure to facilitate river rescues like mile markers and wayfinding on bridges.

For the land trail, there is interest in signing a bike loop from Route 20 in Scottsville along Routes 726 and 625 in Albemarle that would cross the river at Hatton Ferry and return to Route 20 via Routes 695 and 678 in Buckingham. Strava maps indicate this route is currently being used by cyclists who also ride the river roads to Howardsville and beyond.

A trail connection from the Overlook Trail in downtown Scottsville to the Van Clief Nature Area could expand options for hikers in the short term.

Wayfinding signs are needed in the short term to direct visitors to existing visitor amenities along the land trail network.

Over the long term, there is interest in connecting Scottsville to Goochland and Fluvanna counties with a shared-use path along the James River and along Route 6. There is interest in a shared use path or rural road connection along Route 20 to Charlottesville. There is also interest in a rail trail from Warren to Schuyler along the historic Nelson-Albemarle railroad, a shortline that served mines and quarries in the area.

A shared-use path along the river and a rural shared road along river roads and up Route 20 to Charlottesville was captured in the 2019 Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Until these longer term connections can be designed and built, there is a need for transit and bike route connections, particularly between Scottsville and Charlottesville.

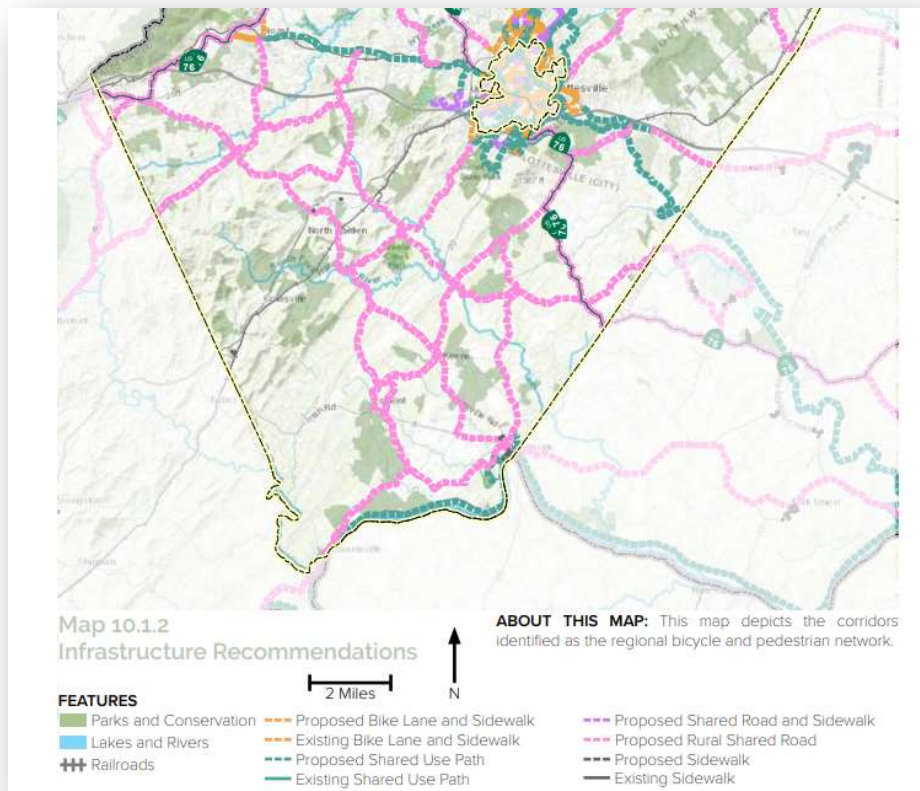


Figure 28 Excerpt from the Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Albemarle County (2019)

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Site:

The Town of Scottsville would like to develop a riverfront park that could serve as the primary trail anchor for this area. In the meantime, the Levee Walk and farmer's market areas can provide information on the land and water trails.

Other Key Trail Access Sites:

Trail information could also be provided by a kiosk at Hatton Ferry and at other popular landings and trailheads in the area.

Interpretive programming and Media

The Town of Scottsville offers ghost tours, a self-guided walking tour and other interpretive programs on a regular basis. Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided hike or bike tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- Guided fishing tours
- Comprehensive marketing for the Batteau Festival
- Smart buoys or smart signs to interpret the area's historic significance
- Birding and wildlife trail expansion

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

This area covers just over 10 miles of flat water on the James River from the Hatton Ferry at MM 172.05 to the Hardware River at MM 162. DWR manages river access points on the James at Scottsville and the Hardware WMA and along the Hardware River at Route 6. From the Route 6 put-in on the Hardware River, it is about a seven-mile float to the James River. Two outfitters serve the Scottsville-Hatton Ferry area, James River Runners and James River Reeling & Rafting. The following improvements would expand water-based recreation in the area:

- A public park on the river in Scottsville or across the river in Buckingham
- A floating dock on the lake in Scottsville
- A defined picnic area at the existing landing in Scottsville with concrete picnic tables
- Public access improvements at Warren
- Paddling obstacles in rivers should be identified and mitigated
- River mile markers at bridges and overhangs that identify the name of the road, the river mile and the distance to the next ramp
- Scenic River designation for the Hardware River and the James River west of Scottsville

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Town of Scottsville
- Albemarle County
- Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society
- Buckingham County
- Historic Buckingham, Inc.
- Hatton Ferry
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- James River Runners, LLC
- James River Reeling and Rafting
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rockfish River Blueway

This focus area includes the proposed Rockfish River Blueway (VDOT wayside to the dam) and Schuyler, a census-designated place and former mining town.

Area Characteristics

Before dams were built on the James River, the anadromous rockfish used to run from the Chesapeake Bay all the way to the Shenandoah Valley. Rockfish (also known as stripers or striped bass) are prized for their size, strength and flavor. Although rockfish can no longer make the journey this far up the James, Nelson County is still known for excellent fishing.

*I have walked the land
in the footsteps of all my fathers.
I saw yesterday and now look to
tomorrow.*

Earl Hamner

The County is adding three access points to the Rockfish River that will provide an exciting paddling or fishing experience from Woods Mill to just above the Rockfish Dam in Schuyler.

Although the southern parts of Nelson County are within the Piedmont physiographic region, the northwestern sections form part of the Blue Ridge, providing gorgeous views of the mountains from many areas. Routes 617 and 800 are designated Scenic Byways. In the lower sections, rolling hills provide challenging on-road bicycling. A selection of hiking trails are available in pristine forests.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

The Rockfish Valley high-strain zone was created more than 250 million years ago when granites and granite-like rocks were crushed in a one or two-mile-wide zone running from northeast to southwest along the east side of the Blue Ridge mountains, roughly from near Charlottesville to near Lynchburg. The main headwaters of Rockfish River run in that zone where the rock was weakened by faulting and fragmentation from crushing pressure. Weathering exposed resources in the underlying stone, including copper used and traded by the Monacan Indian Nation. Another, smaller high-strain zone crosses the main stem of the Rockfish River near the Nelson County Wayside.

Further to the southeast is a belt of high quality soapstone, also related to long-ago faulting, which was an important resource for the Monacan Indian Nation. Interpretation here could center on how the underlying geology affects settlement and trading patterns from archaic times to the present, and specifically how the Saura-Saponi Trail was used to transport materials along the East Coast.

Schuyler enjoyed its busiest years when the Alberene Soapstone Company flourished in the 1930's and 40's. At that time, soapstone was in great demand for building materials and the plant employed about 1,500 local workers. Production slowed down in the 1970's but soapstone is still quarried at the Alberene Soapstone Company on a small scale. The area never fully recovered from the Great Depression. Earl Hamner, Jr., best known for inspiring *The Waltons* television series, was born and raised here. Hundreds of visitors come here each year to see where the series was filmed, visit the museum and shop in the general store.

Hurricane Camille devastated the area in 1969. As the storm weakened, no one anticipated the flash flooding caused by the moisture dumped along the Blue Ridge on the evening of August 19. Over one percent of Nelson County residents lost their lives from blunt trauma caused by mountain slides and flash floods. Official rainfall, recorded at 27 inches, was likely much greater.

Desired Trail Experiences

This map and the descriptions below provide information on some experiences and the near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 7.

1. Fortunes Cove Nature Preserve

Fortunes Cove Nature Preserve, situated within some 29,000 acres of relatively intact forest habitat, contains a 5.3 mile hiking trail with seven viewpoints and a stream.

2. Rockfish Valley Trail System, Natural History Center, and Rural Historic District

This private network of trails provides public access to the South Fork of the Rockfish River and Reid's Creek. Six miles of natural-surface trails are open for hikers and birdwatchers within part of the South Rockfish Valley Rural Historic District. The Rockfish Valley Natural History Center houses current exhibits from the Museum of Natural History.

3. Quarry Gardens at Schuyler

Now a privately funded botanical garden for public education and enjoyment, these gardens were formed after six quarries were abandoned. The quarries were worked in the 20th century when Schuyler was the soapstone capital of the world. The gardens include 40 acres of habitat and plant communities in various eco-zones with more than 600 species of plants and animals found on site, 2 miles of walking trail, native plant galleries, a demonstration garden, and visitor center exhibits.

4. Walton Mountain Museum and Schuyler Historic District

Located in a circa 1924 school in Schuyler, this museum offers replicas of John-Boy's Bedroom, Ike Godsey's Store, *The Waltons* kitchen, *The Waltons* living room, and a 30-minute video featuring Earl Hamner and the stars of *The Waltons*. Hundreds of photographs and pieces of memorabilia, a souvenir shop and a military annex are within this museum. Tours of the Walton Hamner home are also available within the Historic District.

5. Nelson County Wayside

A relatively unique institution in the state of Virginia is the wayside. Waysides are picnicking areas along thoroughfares that served as early versions of rest areas along the pre-interstate days of motoring. In a partnership with Nelson County, the 1962 VDOT Wayside at Woods Mill will provide the upstream put-in for the water trail.

6. Nelson Convention and Visitors Bureau and Nelson Memorial Library

Stop at the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Lovingston for maps, directions, information about local attractions, accommodations, restaurants, festivals and events, winery and orchard tours, regional and statewide destinations, ongoing discounts and promotions. The Nelson Memorial Library has information on the area and a large meeting room that can accommodate 50 people.

7. Nature Foundation Trails at Wintergreen Resort

A [35-mile trail system](#) maintained by The Nature Foundation and its volunteers is available to the public at Wintergreen Resort. Some trails offer spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and The Rockfish and Shenandoah Valleys.

Agritourism

Nelson County offers a range of tours for fruits of the vine, including tours of local wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries and fresh produce at orchards and farms. The [Brew Ridge Trail](#), Nelson [151 Craft Beverage Trail](#), and the Nelson [29 Trail](#) are some examples.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

Three access points to the blueway are under development and can be opened in 3-5 years through effective partnerships. This includes a soft launch at VDOT's Nelson County Wayside, a car-top launch at the Virginia Outdoor Foundation's Rockfish Reserve, and a takeout before Embury Dam through an easement on private property. Orientation kiosks, wayfinding, interpretive signs, maps and a website would ensure the best visitor experience.

Passive recreation planned at Rockfish Reserve could include hiking and interpretive trails for the land trail component. Land trails along the Rockfish further north provided by the Rockfish Valley Foundation could be integrated into the land trail network also.

For the long term, there is interest in connecting a rail trail from Esmont in Albemarle County to Schuyler in Nelson County along the former Nelson Albemarle Railway. The proposed trail would follow parts of Ballinger and Green Creeks. About half of the corridor falls within conservation lands.

The Rivanna Trail Foundation is interested in developing the Three Notched Trail as a rail trail from Charlottesville to Waynesboro. The connection to Waynesboro would be through the existing Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel in Afton. The Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel was completed in 1858 and designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark as the then longest railroad tunnel in North America at 4,273 feet in length. The tunnel lies over 500 feet below Rockfish Gap. The tunnel was recently opened to the public, providing a trail connection between two counties and regions.

The 2019 Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan includes a shared use path along the James and Tye rivers, and a rural shared road along river roads (see figure 29).

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Site:

An orientation kiosk at VDOT's Nelson County wayside is needed to provide information about the new blueway.

Other Key Trail Access Sites:

Kiosks at the Rockfish Reserve and at a strategic location in Schuyler would help promote the trail and the general area. The takeout before the dam is close to Schuyler, and paddlers may want to visit the former mining town for refreshments and memorabilia after their trip.

The Nelson County Convention and Visitors Bureau located near the Nelson Memorial Library could provide rack cards on the Rockfish Valley Blueway and other trail amenities in Nelson County.

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- Guided agritourism tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- Rack card for the blueway

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

The float from Woods Mill to the proposed takeout above Schuyler is just over 10 miles. The Rockfish River access points are still conceptual and will have to be developed in order to attract an outfitter who

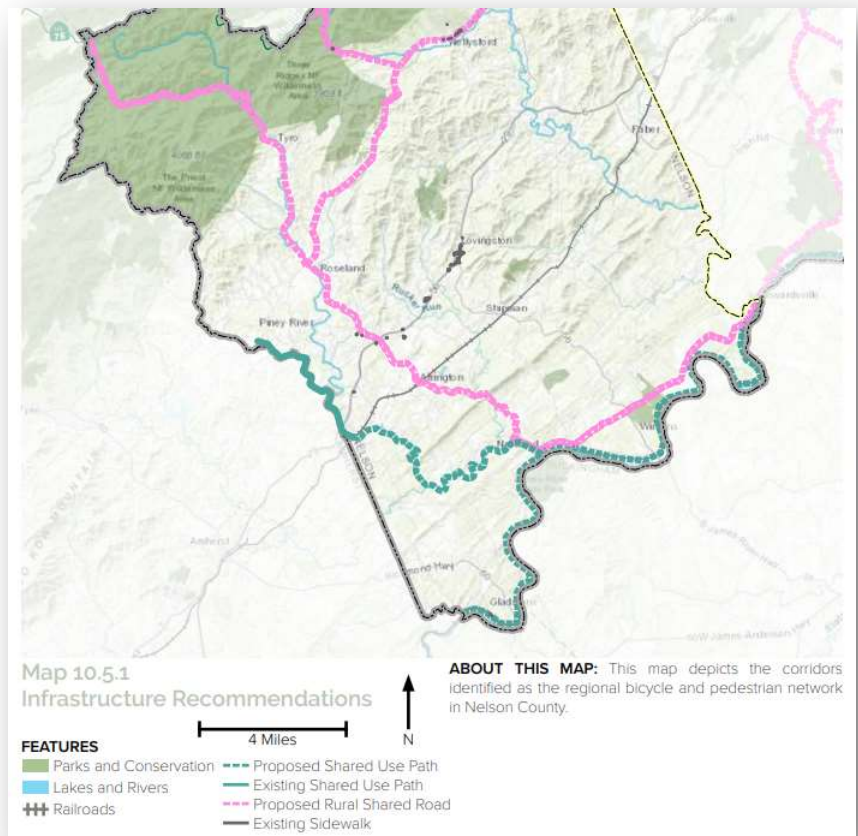


Figure 29 Excerpt from the Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Nelson (2019)

can lead interpretive paddling trips through this historic part of Nelson County. Other needed improvements:

- Vegetated buffers along the rivers to enhance scenic views along the water trail, improve fish habitat and reduce run off
- ADA launch facilities where feasible
- Orientation, interpretation, safety and wayfinding signs at new access points
- Scenic designation for this section would aid in promotion efforts

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Nelson County
- Rockfish Valley Foundation
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nelson County Historical Society
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- U.S. Forest Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Agritourism service partners
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Central Virginia Land Conservancy

*Figure 30 A
break at
Howardsville
during the
James River
Batteau
Festival,
courtesy VCNS*



Wingina to Bent Creek and the Tye River

On the south bank, this area encompasses James River State Park and boat landings at Bent Creek to the west and Wingina and Midway to the east. On the north bank, this area encompasses the Tye River water trail (to be developed) and the communities of Wingina, Norwood and Gladstone.

Area Characteristics

The area is rural, with a population of around 15,000 in Nelson County and 17,000 in Buckingham. There is a post office in Wingina, but the former Town of Norwood was devastated by Hurricane Camille. The closest community is Gladstone, with a population less than 2000.

The gently rolling hills and flat plains carved by the river create beautiful views on the winding drive towards James River State Park, which entertained 149,084 visitors in 2018. Although much of this area is vulnerable to development, most land is currently in farms and forests. The 14.5-mile lazy float trip down the James from Bent Creek to Wingina is a favorite for families and small groups, since they break up their trip with a stop at the state park.

The 34.5-mile Tye River, a portion of which is designated as a state scenic river, offers good fishing opportunities. For fly fishing, the river has brook trout (wild and stocked), rainbow trout (stocked with some holdovers), and brown trout (stocked with some holdovers). The Tye River also supports smallmouth bass and has a very diverse and plentiful population of aquatic insects including mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, sculpin, and baitfish.

Naturally occurring rock ledges, outcrops, in-stream rock formations and Class 1 and 2 rapids add interest to paddle trips. The rapids do not impact flow and there are no other obstructions along the 12.7-mile scenic section of the river from Route 739 to the James confluence.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

The Monacan Indian Nation settled this area thousands of years ago along both the north and south banks of the James. John Smith's 1612 Map of Virginia identifies a village called Monahassanugh in the vicinity of Wingina.

The area was settled around 1724 by Europeans who farmed tobacco with enslaved people they brought with them. A town and tobacco warehouse was established at the confluence of the James and Tye Rivers by 1794.

The [Norwood-Wingina historic district](#) encompasses about 3,450 acres along the James River in Nelson County, and includes churches and stores, and agricultural- and railroad-related buildings and structures, all recalling the area's settlement and growth. Prominent individual sites previously listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places are Montezuma, Soldier's Joy, Rock Cliff, and Arrowhead.

Norwood was the birthplace of Rev. Doctor W.A.R. Goodwin, who is credited with saving Williamsburg through his wealthy contacts, especially John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Shocked by how many 17th and 18th century structures had been lost after returning from a tenure at a parish in New York, he worked to acquire dozens of properties within what would become Colonial Williamsburg.

The Warminster Rural Historic District encompasses the area of the first permanent settlement in Nelson County called Warminster. Established on the James River in the early 1740s, the town was developed by Dr. William Cabell, a friend of Thomas Jefferson's. He maintained a private hospital in Warminster where he dispensed medicine and wooden legs on a "no cure, no pay" basis. Cabell was known also as an explorer and Indian fighter, carving out 25,000 acres of Monacan land that made his fortune. His youngest son, Nicholas, was an officer in the Continental Army. The district includes an early African American settlement.

Cabell operated a gristmill at Midway Mills, and the grist milling and lumbering industries were significant in this area. The Virginia Blue Ridge was a short line railroad serving the lumbering industry that operated from the Tye River to Massie's Mill. The railroads were nationalized during World War I, and the desirable chestnut was gone by the time the railroad resumed service. The line subsisted on agriculture, forest and mineral products until 1980.

The Reverend Mr. Rose sent his tobacco down the Tye River using two canoes lashed together, and in 1749 his brother went on the journey to the mouth of the Tye to "see the Nature" of this innovative navigation. This may have been the inspiration for the batteau, invented in 1775 by two brothers, Anthony and Benjamin Rucker. Their influential family settled in Amherst and Nelson counties, and both brothers were captains during the Revolutionary War.



Figure 31 Detail from Civil War era map of Nelson and Amherst counties, courtesy of Library of Virginia

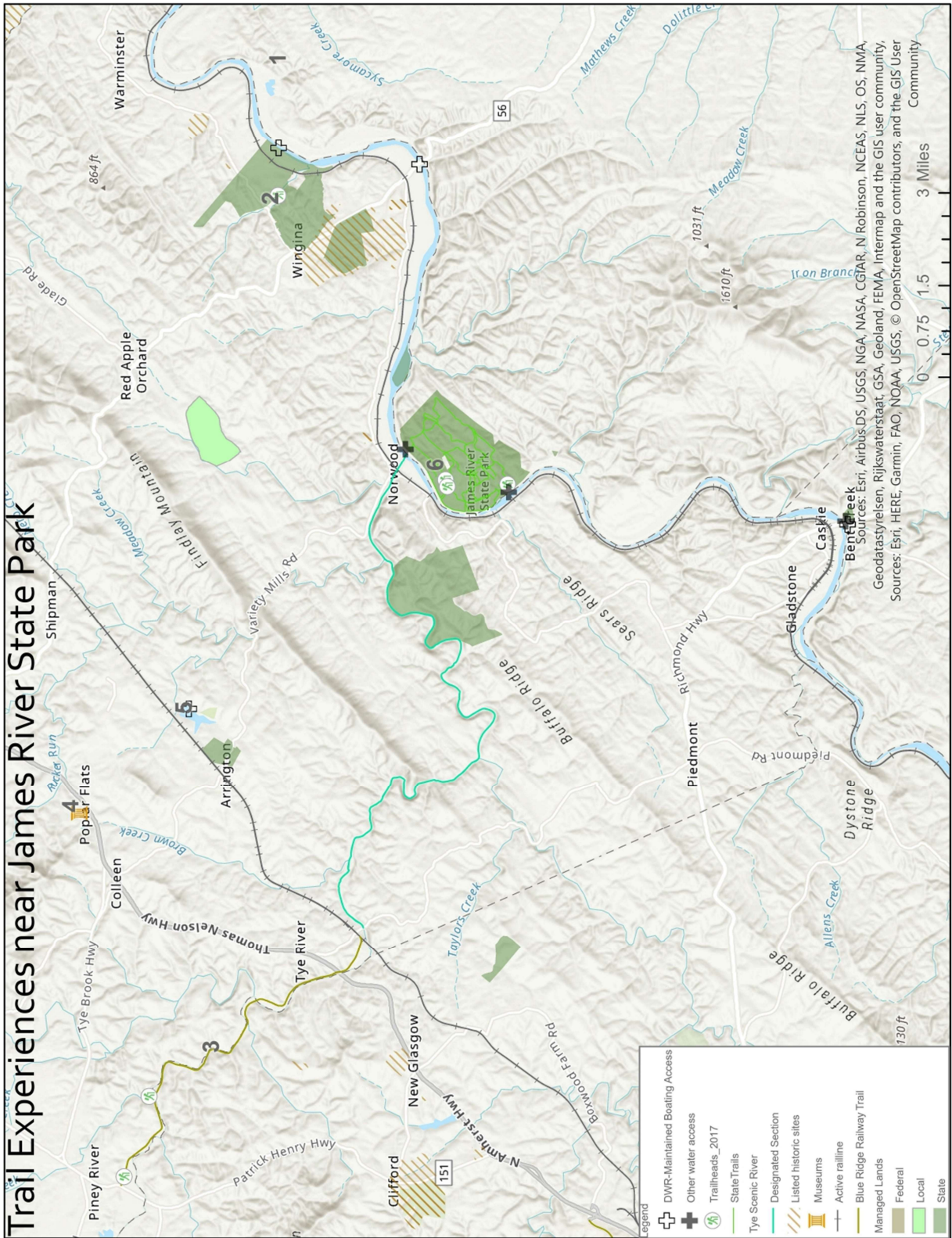




Figure 32 Historic Gladstone depot

First known as Horsley's Landing, Gladstone was a stop on the stage coach road and then a canal boat stop before it became a major railroad hub, the halfway point on the Chesapeake and Ohio rail line between Richmond and Clifton Forge. The railroad helped build this quintessential "company town" after purchasing the property in 1888. There is interest in renovating the station here, which closed in 1993. Some people are interested in renovating the historic railroad depot for a community center.

The Midland Trail (Route 60) crosses the river at Gladstone. It has been studied for designation as a state scenic byway. The possibility for federal designation exists also, as this road connects to the Midland Trail in West Virginia, a National Byway.

Although the rivers flows gently through this valley during most seasons, they were transformed during Hurricane Camille into a mighty destructive force that claimed many lives.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to enhance and/or provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 8.

1. Yogaville

Yogaville was founded by Sri Swami Satchidananda (Sri Gurudev), an esteemed spiritual leader whose message of peace has been heard around the globe. Honored with the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award, Sri Gurudev dedicated his life to the cause of peace—both individual and universal—and to religious harmony among all people. His teachings are the Ashram's guiding principles. People of all faiths and backgrounds are invited to enjoy natural beauty and spiritual inspiration at several sacred sites where prayer and worship services, holiday celebrations, and meditation sessions are regularly held.

2. James River Wildlife Management Area

With over a mile of shoreline along the north bank of the James River, this property encompasses more than a thousand acres of prolific habitat. Along the entry road, check the numerous dead snags for perched raptors along with the more numerous American crows. Red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks regularly occur, as do sharp-shinned hawks and American kestrels. Ospreys, wood ducks northern pintail, blue-winged and green-winged teal and northern shovelers visit during their season. Just upstream from the boat landing parking area, lies a freshwater marsh managed for waterfowl.

3. Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail

This seven-mile rail trail in Nelson and Amherst counties is open for hiking, biking and horseback riding year-round from sunrise to sunset. There is ample parking for cars and horse trailers at the main trailhead off Route 151. The mainly crushed stone trail follows a scenic route along the Piney and Tye Rivers, where wildflowers bloom from spring through summer and wildlife abounds. The trail occupies the rail bed of the former Virginia Blue Ridge Railway, which was abandoned in 1980. The County plans to extend the trail from its current eastern terminus approximately 700 feet to Tye River Road (Route 739) once railroad and private property right-of-way issues are resolved.



Figure 33 A historic train car along the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail

4. Oakland Museum

The headquarters of the Nelson County Historical Society offers exhibits on Rural Electrification, Hurricane Camille and Nelson County Schools in an 18th century tavern. A gift shop includes historical maps of Nelson County, Hurricane Camille books, CDs and DVDs, and books by local authors.

5. Lake Nelson

Lake Nelson is a 40-acre impoundment located in Nelson County, Virginia. This reservoir is owned by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) and is managed primarily for fisheries related activities.

6. James River State Park

James River State Park is a certified dark sky park with park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as three miles of shoreline along the James River. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak, fish or tent camp on the banks of the historic river or at Branch Pond. Facilities include cabins, a visitor center, a gift shop, a camp store, a natural playground, picnic shelters, multi-use trails, boat launches, water/electric campgrounds and equestrian camping. The park also has a universally accessible fishing pier and a .25-mile-long, wheelchair-accessible trail around Green Hill Pond.



Figure 34 Canoe Landing at James River State Park

Agritourism

Infinity Downs Farm, a former 225-year-old tobacco farm, is a 387-acre property in Arrington, formerly known as Nelson County Preserve. The outdoor concert venue is the home of the Lockn' Festival, The Festy, and Blue Ridge Bowl. Infinity Downs also offers miles of hiking and biking trails.

Drumheller's Orchard is a 1937 apple packing shed that showcases Red and Golden Delicious, Stayman, Winesap, Rome, York and Granny Smith, Black Twig and Albemarle Pippin varieties. Find pumpkins, cider, apple butter and honey too along with special events and festivals in the fall.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

The scenic Route 605 rural road entrance to James River State Park is a lovely ride for people on bicycles, although the width of the roadway is an issue. It is barely wide enough at present for two RVs to pass. A bike facility here, like adding shoulders and signs, could make an official non-motorized connection between the main park site and Bent Creek, a park-owned river access six river miles from Canoe Landing within the park. There is interest in a bike route connection from the James River State Park to Holliday Lake and High Bridge state parks, and in adding roughly seven miles of single track for mountain bikes within the park.

At Lake Nelson, there is interest in developing a fishing trail around the lake, and there is an opportunity for the private sector to develop a campground for overnight stays.

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at James River State Park. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels introducing the overall trail and key trail spots along the James, and visitor opportunities along the Tye River
- A single local orientation panel at the trail connection at Bent Creek
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area
- Wayfinding signs for river users on bridges

Other Key Trail Access Sites:

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- A story map linking the state park with area attractions
- Promotion of the batteau festival
- Better use of social media to reach a younger audience
- Safety messages for river users

- Adventure races for mountain bikers
- Self-guided itineraries

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

This area covers 17.25 river miles from Bent Creek at MM 208.1 to Midway (James River WMA) at MM 190.85. In addition to these two landings, there are two more within the state park, and one at Wingina that offer extended paddle trips for paddlers. Cumberland Island, owned by DCR, is often used as a stopping point for paddlers. James River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full-service canoe livery at the park, provides canoe, kayak and tube rentals as well as shuttle services. Legal places for overnight camping are needed to prevent trespass on private land. In addition to the depot at Gladstone, whose utilization is greatly hampered by the railroad, there are several other potential park sites downstream in Nelson County, including a large canal guard lock (the only canal lock on the James River and Kanawha Canal constructed of slate) that currently have no access because of the CSX line. Other needs:

- Additional launch facilities on the Tye Rivers
- Access and stocking to enhance fishing along the Piney River and other mid-sized streams
- A campground and perimeter fishing trail at Lake Nelson
- Access to the James in the vicinity of the Rockfish confluence and west of Bent Creek
- ADA launch facilities where feasible
- Buffers on easements and other privately held land in riparian areas to enhance the water trail experience and improve water quality
- Orientation, interpretation, safety and wayfinding signs to new access points
- Bent Creek ramp maintenance to correct backfills with sediment
- Contact station at Bent Creek
- Supplementary parking across the road at Bent Creek
- Fences to keep cows out of the river
- Plan your trip signs at landings
- Scenic River designation for the James River through this section

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Wildlife Resources
- Department of Historic Resources
- Buckingham County
- Historic Buckingham, LLC
- Nelson County
- Nelson County Historical Society
- Outdoor Adventures Canoe Livery
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- Central Virginia Planning District Commission

- Central Virginia Land Conservancy
- Virginia Canals and Navigations Society

Appomattox Court House to Holliday Lake

This focus area stretches from Holliday Lake State Park and the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest to the Town of Appomattox. In between, the National Park operates the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, where our nation reunited.



Figure 35 Picnic area along the Appomattox at the National Historical Park

Area Characteristics

The Appomattox Court House National Historical Park attracted 102,397 visitors in 2019, which is significant for a county with around 16,000 residents. Historic districts for both the Town and the national park comprise most of the urbanized area within the county. Nearby a state forest, state park and wildlife management area preserve thousands of acres of forest. The Appomattox and Slate rivers are within the focus area, both tributaries of the James. Portions of both these rivers have qualified for Scenic River designation, and Scenic Byways connect major area attractions.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

On April 9, 1865, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia in the McLean House in the village of Appomattox Court House signaled the end of the nation's largest war. Gen. Lee's decision to surrender was the product of an eight day campaign that ended at Appomattox Court House. The only known civilian casualty of the battle here was Hannah Reynolds, an enslaved person when mortally wounded, but free when she died four days later.

Robert E. Lee rested on the Sweeney farm while waiting to discuss the terms of surrender. Joel Walker Sweeney was one of the earliest performers of minstrel shows, which featured other family members performing in blackface and African American dancers. What today is understood as the racist tradition of minstrel shows exposed White audiences to aspects of African American music and dance but also embedded cruel and long-lasting stereotypes in popular culture. Joel Walker Sweeney was credited with

popularizing the African banjo after learning to play it from men working on his father's farm. Sam Sweeney, who played the banjo in "Old Joes Minstrels," also played for his regiment in the Civil War.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) laid the groundwork for development of Appomattox Court House National Park. Some parts of the road realignment, clearing of the monument grounds, archaeological excavations, and stabilization of historic structures were undertaken in 1940-41 by Company 1351, composed of approximately 190 African Americans from Yorktown, Virginia.

Part of the New Deal, Holliday Lake State Park and a camp for the workers was constructed during the Works Progress Administration. WPA workers also began the reforestation project to reclaim depleted farmland. In 1941, the 4-H Club took over and improved the worker's camp, the best surviving example of a complete WPA camp. The Park is named to honor the Holliday family who owned land in the area, but the 4-H Center and the national register listing use only one "L" in Holiday. Within the state park and state forest, visitors can hike through wildlife habitat in oak-hickory and pine forests and sometimes see deer, turkey, black bear, and other wildlife characteristic of the Piedmont region.

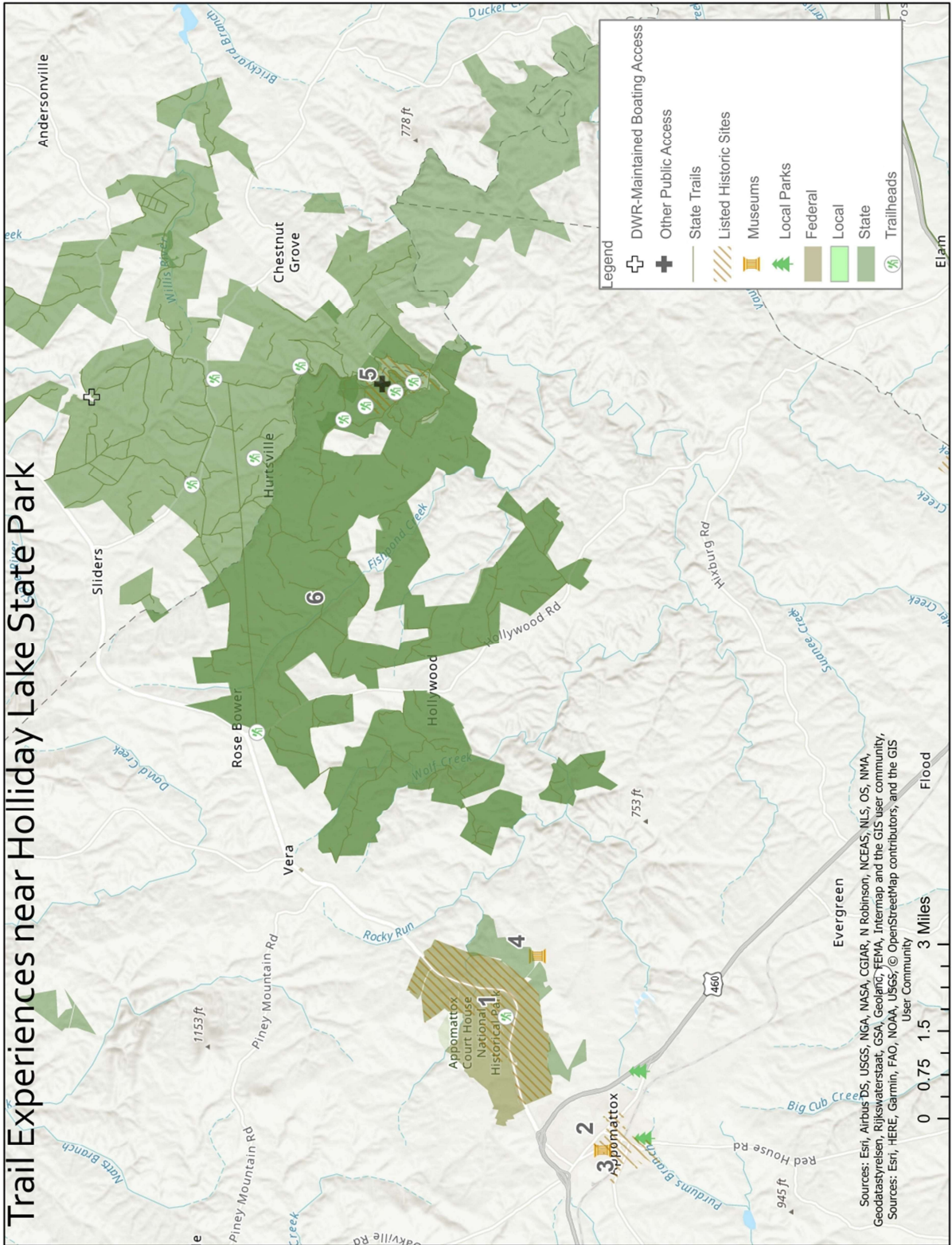


Figure 36 Holliday Lake State Park

Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington developed one of the most successful initiatives to provide universal schooling for African American students during segregation. Established in 1917, the Rosenwald Fund provided money to support the construction of more than 5,000 schools for African Americans in 15 states throughout the South. One of these schools was built in the Town of Appomattox and named for Carver and Mozella Jordan Price, a supervisor of African-American schools in Appomattox County between 1919 and her retirement in 1963.



Figure 37 1863 map of area with train connection from Pamplin Depot to Appomattox Station



Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 9.

1. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

This National Historical Park offers a number of programs, tours and hiking trails, along with a picnic area along the banks of the Appomattox River. With 1,700 acres and 27 original 19th century structures, visitors have a unique opportunity to step back into the past to contemplate the events that unfolded here within the former Village of Appomattox. The park also offers 8.5 miles of interpretive and hiking trails.

2. Town of Appomattox

The Town of Appomattox, also a historic district, offers visitor services, parks, and the Appomattox County Historical Society Old Jail Museum and Library. The museum houses many artifacts related to the Civil War and Appomattox County history. The building also houses a genealogy and local history library.

3. Carver-Price Legacy Museum

This museum in a former Rosenwald School documents the history of Carver-Price High School, the black high school in Appomattox County, Virginia, and African Americans in the county.

4. Clover Hill Village

Located between the Court House and Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, this six-acre village, owned and operated by the Appomattox County Historical Society, brings history and heritage to life. Enjoy a glimpse into daily life in the past (1840-1920) as you browse through the many historic buildings, including a log cabin, chapel, one room schoolhouse, working blacksmith shop, general store, and post office.

5. Holliday Lake State Park

Just minutes from the Court House, Holliday Lake is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast. Fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill is popular. Swimming at the park's beach and the "Critter Hole" play area are visitor favorites. Visitors to the park enjoy its campgrounds, trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, snack bar, gift shop, and boat ramp. The park rents canoes, kayaks, jon boats, stand-up paddleboards and paddle boats.

6. Appomattox Buckingham State Forest

More trails and forest roads are available in the State Forest, offering opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, geocaching, and picnicking. The 10.2-mile Carter-Taylor Trail and the 6.3-mile Orchard Trail are several favorites.

Agritourism

Many breweries and wineries in the region promote each other and encourage visiting multiple sites. Evergreen Lavender Farm, a wedding and workshop venue, is located in rural Appomattox County in the village of Evergreen. Picnic among lavender fields, in the barn, or under the century old oaks. Handcrafted lotions, soaps, and sprays, loose lavender buds, and dried wreaths are available in the barn or cut your own.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

In the short term, visitors to the National Park and the Town would benefit from these actions to improve the pedestrian experience:

- Explore a recreational use speed limit/traffic calming plan on Route 24 and improve safety at the Appomattox River/Route 24 crossing.
- Add additional trailheads with parking areas along with merge lanes for access to parking areas
- Develop access to the site where Hannah Reynolds was mortally wounded to interpret this story
- Connect Courtland Festival Park to Abbott Park with a connector trail

The BikeVirginia Ride scheduled for 2020 outlined a road route connection from Farmville to Appomattox that could be formalized into a bike route to connect the two towns.

Study the feasibility of a shared-use path connection from the Town of Appomattox and the national park to the state forest along Route 24, so that a facility can be built over the long term.

Visitors to the Holliday Lake would benefit from improvements to the state park. Specifically, a contact station, cabins and upgrades to the boat launch and roadway are needed.

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Sites: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at Holliday Lake State Park and supporting materials at the Visitor Center located at the Historic Train Depot in Appomattox. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels introducing the overall trail and key trail spots along the James, and visitor opportunities along the Appomattox
- A single local orientation panel at the Appomattox Courthouse picnic area on the Appomattox
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area

Other Key Trail Access Sites:

Orientation to a future water trail along the Appomattox River could be provided at the existing picnic area/VDOT wayside along the Appomattox River. Orientation to a future water trail along the Slate River could be provided at the State Forest.

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Ghost tours through the Town of Appomattox and Appomattox Court House
- A story map for the state park that highlights nearby attractions
- Guided hike or bike tours and self-guided itineraries

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

There is access to Holliday Lake at the State Park and access to the Slate River by Jamison Creek at the State Forest. A picnic area and VDOT wayside provide access to the Appomattox River for picnicking.

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- Town of Appomattox
- National Park Service
- Appomattox County
- Appomattox Historical Society
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Historic Resources
- Central Virginia Planning District Commission
- Central Virginia Land Conservancy
- Civil War Trust

Lynchburg/Amherst Riverfront

This focus area stretches along the James River from Scotts Mill Dam to the Route 29 bypass along the Lynchburg-Amherst riverfront. This four-and-a-half-mile focus area begins near the base of Daniel Island at river MM 238.65 and ends at Monacan Bridge near MM 234.



Figure 38 Batteau Festival start point on Percival's Island near downtown Lynchburg (courtesy Wikimap input)

Area Characteristics

Within this urban area, trains run along the south bank of the James, limiting river access to Lynchburg City residents. A trail connection along a former rail line opens up the riverfront for recreation at Percival's Island, connecting to both Amherst and Lynchburg. In Lynchburg, former brick factories and warehouses have been renovated into shops, restaurants, hotels and a science museum. Across the river in Amherst, a riverfront park offers water access with a ramp, livery, trails and views of downtown Lynchburg and a beautiful exposure of rock.

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

The power of the river to fuel industry is apparent here, where seven dams support hydropower and canals and aqueducts moved supplies in the 19th century. The James Calloway Furnace and the Davie Ross Furnace supplied the Continental Army with pig iron and cannon balls during the American Revolution.

A ferry was established by a Quaker named John Lynch around 1745 to carry settlers across the James River. In 1786 the General Assembly approved his request for the establishment of the Town of Lynchburg on bluffs overlooking the ferry. Although established by Quakers, Lynchburg is called the "City of Churches" for both the quantity and diversity of religious buildings found in the city today.

Although many Quakers moved out of the state after the unsuccessful but close vote for manumission in 1832, they laid the foundation for liberty and equality among Lynchburg's residents, irrespective of race or gender. Many agents of change can trace their roots or education back to the Lynchburg/Amherst area. This area now has one of the largest cluster of colleges, with 9 colleges within 25 miles of the City. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities had its beginning here in 1935, part of a grassroots movement that emerged in response to the persecution of religious groups at the time.

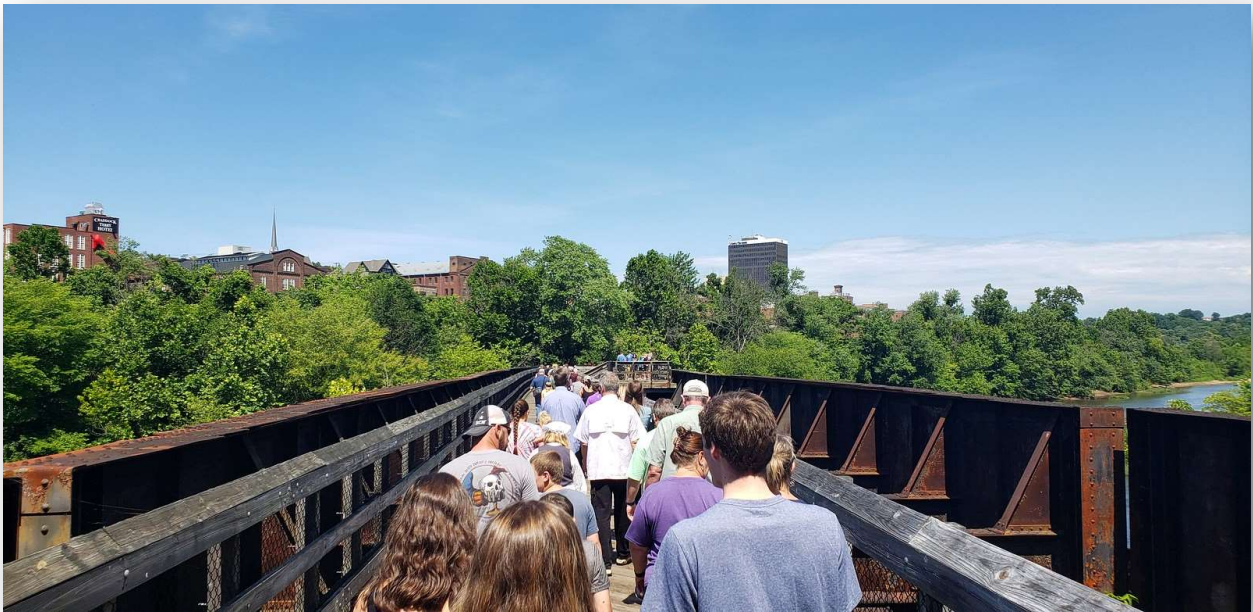
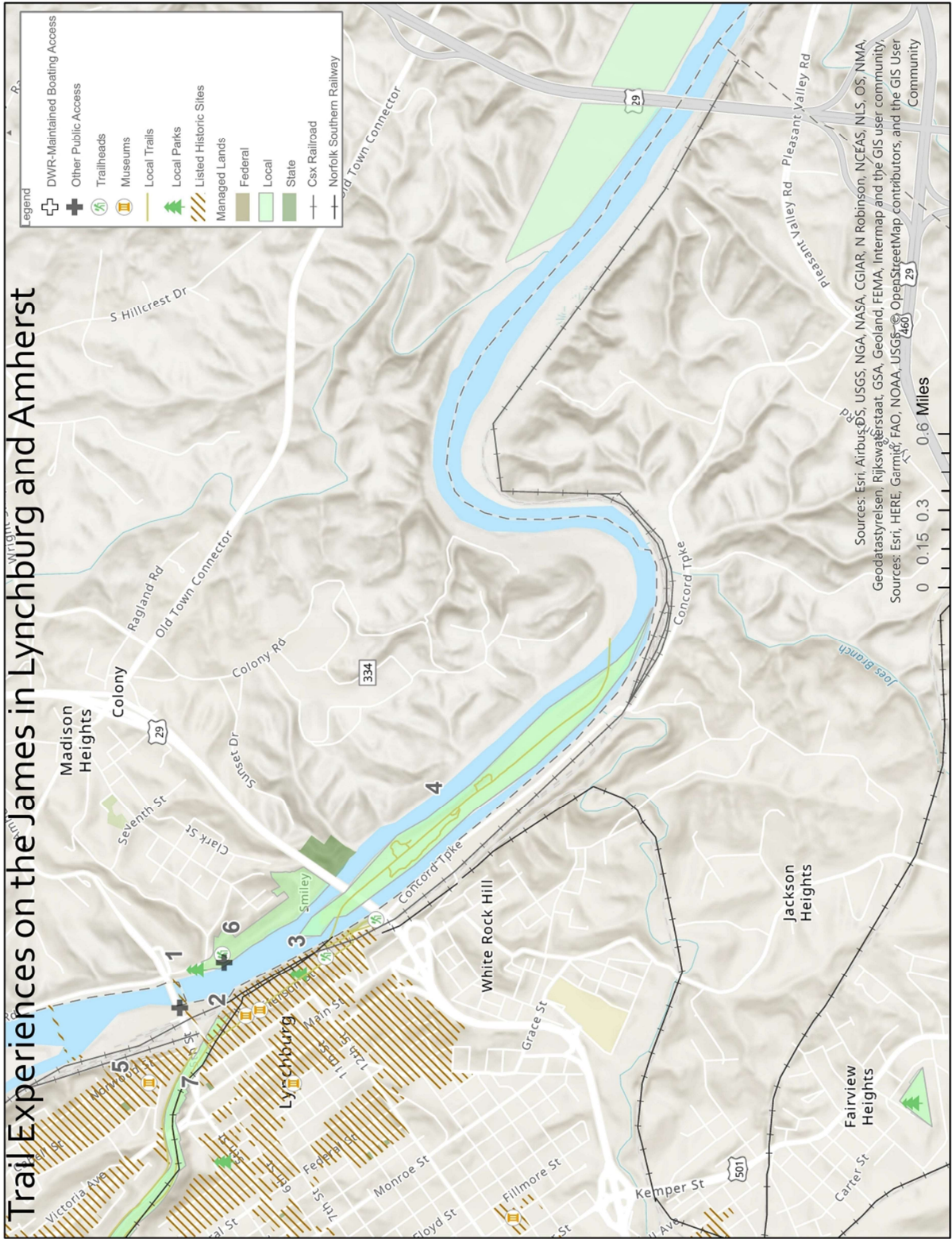


Figure 39 Pedestrians crossing the James River heritage trail bridge from Percival's Island to downtown (Wikimap)



The area is tied to the Harlem Renaissance through the poetry of Anne Spencer. Her [home](#), now a museum, was an important center and intellectual salon for guests and dignitaries such as Langston Hughes, Marian Anderson, George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., James Weldon Johnson, and W. E. B. Du Bois. Although not along the river, Pierce Street, where the Spencer House is located, was a thriving area of African American professional leaders. The register-listed [Dr. Walter Johnson House](#) with its grass tennis court was where Johnson trained Arthur Ashe, Amaza Meredith and other tennis stars. Pierce Street has a high concentration of historic highway markers.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area provides some experiences and has near-term potential to provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The existing experiences numbered below correspond to the Map 10.

1. Riveredge Park (Amherst)

Located at the base of Rocky Hill Road on the James River in Amherst County, this park currently offers boat and fishing access to the James River. A livery service operates out of the park. The James River Heritage Trail is under development east of Ruckers Landing. [Three signs](#) at this boat landing tell the history of the batteau, courtesy of the Rucker family.

2. Amazement Square and the Lower Basin Historic District (Lynchburg)

This award-winning, hands-on children's museum within the Lower Basin Historic District offers four floors of hands-on, interactive exhibits designed to make learning fun. Guests of all ages can paint on the walls, explore life on the farm, create a rainstorm, or float a boat down the James River. The Museum's exhibits and educational programs encourage all participants to explore the arts and humanities, culture, science, technology and their interdisciplinary relationship. It is an adaptive reuse like restaurants, hotels and other attractions in this historic area.



Figure 40 Riveredge Park in Amherst County

3. Riverfront Park and Riverwalk Trail (Lynchburg)

Riverfront Park is located near the river in downtown Lynchburg, and includes a large open field suitable for festivals and other special events. The park connects to the Riverwalk trail along its northern edge. Riverwalk leads to Percival's Island in the James River, and parking is available on nearby streets. The level ground near the river is ideal for an easy stroll or bike ride.

4. Percival's Island Natural Area

This one-and-a-half-mile island includes an old railroad bed, now a paved, maintained hiking/biking trail that traverses the length of the island. The park is maintained in its natural state as a haven for plants and animals. There are many spots where the James River is accessible and fishing is permitted in accordance with State of Virginia fishing regulations.

5. Point of Honor and Daniel's Hill Historic District (Lynchburg)

Formerly a Monacan hunting and fishing camp, this historic home and museum on the National Historic Register was designed and built by Jefferson's friend, Dr. George Cabell. Cabell was also a friend and physician of Patrick Henry. It is one of Central Virginia's most remarkable architectural landmarks. Daniel's Hill is one of seven historic districts featured in a [walking tour](#).

6. James River Heritage Trail (Amherst)

The idea of a Heritage Trail along the length of the James River was first conceived in Lynchburg and it is here that the first segments were put on the ground. The extensive trail network flows through Lynchburg and across Percival's Island to Amherst County.



Figure 41 James River Heritage Trail in Amherst County

7. Blackwater Creek Bikeway

One of the most popular trails in the city, this three-mile rail trail follows Blackwater Creek and is perfect for jogging, walking, or biking. It travels through urban forest and offers numerous side paths into forested areas.

Achieving the Trail Vision in the Near-Term

The concept for a Heritage Trail along the James River originated in Lynchburg, and the trail is on the ground along the riverfronts in both jurisdictions. Connecting the trail on both ends to make a large loop would be an attraction for visitors and residents and support local businesses. Although some of these can be achieved in the short term and some will require more time, the following steps are needed to make this loop:

- Acquire land to extend the James River Heritage Trail to Riveredge Trail and the pedestrian crossing at the end of Percival Island
- Incorporate a designated pedestrian/bicycle facility on the John Lynch Bridge linking Lynchburg with Amherst/ Riveredge Park.
- Develop a plan for the redevelopment of the Central Virginia Training Center that includes the James River Heritage Trail
- Develop a pedestrian map and kiosk as part of an overall pedestrian wayfinding system
- Develop Foundry Park (Downtown 2040 Plan)
- Develop Canal Park (Downtown 2040 Plan), to include a trail route connecting Blackwater Creek and Percival's Island Trails
- Improve restrooms and add decorative fencing and gating system at Riverfront Park
- Install flexible seating, shade structures, and lighting along the lower bluff walk
- Identify and pursue easements on private properties needed to implement these projects
- Work with VDOT and localities to improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the James Lynch Bridge
- Work with localities to develop a pedestrian bridge just east of Business Route 29 across Percival's Island
- Work with VDOT and localities to develop a pedestrian facility attached to or in the vicinity of the Carter Glass Bridge
- Work with the railroads to preserve towpath right-of-way for public uses if the tracks are discontinued and abandoned

Plans to extend the trail through the Central Virginia Training Center and a sports complex under Route 29 are underway. A longer range vision is the connection across the Six Mile Bridge to Campbell County. A section of trail can be developed along with plans to develop a park under Monacan Parkway (the Route 29 bypass). For the sports complex, a feasibility study is needed for a river-related sports tourism product that could potentially incorporate river sports into the State Games of America.

Amherst County is also interested in developing and lighting a trail connecting Madison Heights to the riverfront along Horseford Road (a paper road in Amherst).

Trail Orientation and Connections

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Primary Trail Anchor Site:

The Lynchburg riverfront is the primary anchor for the land trail, and should include an orientation kiosk for the land trail linking the Lynchburg-Amherst riverfronts next to artwork that would draw people's eye to the trailhead.



Figure 42 View of the James River from Percival's Island looking towards downtown Lynchburg (Wikimap)

Other Key Trail Access Sites and Connections:

Riveredge Park is another key access site to both the land and water trail.

Foundry Park in Lynchburg and the future sports complex in Amherst could incorporate an orientation kiosk for anyone approaching from the east.

Interpretive programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

- Guided boat or paddle tours
- Guided hike or bike tours
- Self-guided itineraries
- River-related events included in the James River Days brochure
- River tourism marketing area amenities for river, biking, outdoor enthusiast

Visitor Facilities and Recreational Access

The Madison Heights boat ramp is located across the river from downtown Lynchburg in Amherst County at Riveredge Park (formerly called Smiley Block). The ramp is concrete and suitable for canoes and most river boats. There is a canoe ramp near Centennial Park in Lynchburg for car-top carried boats only. A [public boat ramp](#) on the Lynchburg side at the base of 7th Street is accessed through the US Pipe parking lot. Planning is underway for an in-water park near the Langley fountain. The following items would also improve the water trail experience:

- Signs that direct paddlers to stay river left at Percival's Island due to a dam on river right
- Signs that direct paddlers to stay river right at the head of Pettyjohn Island to avoid a bridge in the river left channel
- Additional river access points in Appomattox and Amherst counties to support a variety of paddle trips
- On-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species and habitats
- Opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas and improve the health of local streams
- A cost recovery system for river rescues
- Safe river use materials for public awareness to reduce highwater river use and swift water recovery events
- Coordination between regional programs (e.g. hazard mitigation) and local planning initiatives.
- In-river park features that improve the whitewater paddling experience
- Scotts Mill Dam and WestRock Dam mitigation or removal
- Mile markers for bridge crossings
- River levels markings at access ramps

Wikimap Input

The public or crowdsourced interface reiterated many of the action items identified by the focus group.

- Improve the boat ramp off 7th Street to make it more accessible and visible to the general public.
- Private access needs upgrade
- Improve the John Lynch (5th Street) Bridge crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians. This is currently a popular crossing connecting Riveredge Park and James River Adventures. Lynchburg residents have no access to the water because of the CSX railway. They must come to the Amherst side to fish, swim or just sit by the water (Also a recommendation in the Downtown Lynchburg 2040 Master Plan)
- Provide public access to the river near Jefferson and 12th Street. Public access to the James River is identified as a priority need in chapter 4 of the 2040 Downtown Lynchburg Master Plan
- Consider a pedestrian bridge under the E.C. Glass (Route 29) bridge connecting downtown Lynchburg to Amherst County/Riveredge Park similar to the bridge under RTE 301 connecting downtown Richmond to Belle Island. The bridge structure/footings can easily support a walkway
- Develop water access at the proposed Foundry Park in the Downtown Lynchburg 2040 Master Plan

- Central Virginia Planning District Commission
- Central Virginia Land Conservancy

Section 3 The Water Trail on the James River

Scenic Rivers

Scenic River designation is another quality to sell to river users when they are choosing where to spend their valuable leisure time. The Upper James is a designated Scenic River from the headwaters to the Bedford County line. The James from Scottsville to New Canton was designated in 2020, and the section from Howardsville to Scottsville will be studied in 2021, along with a section of the Hardware River. Figure 45 depicts existing Scenic River segments and access points. Thinner green lines represent segments that have qualified in the past but have not gone through the legislative process for formal designation.



Figure 44 A newly designated Scenic River segment near Scottsville

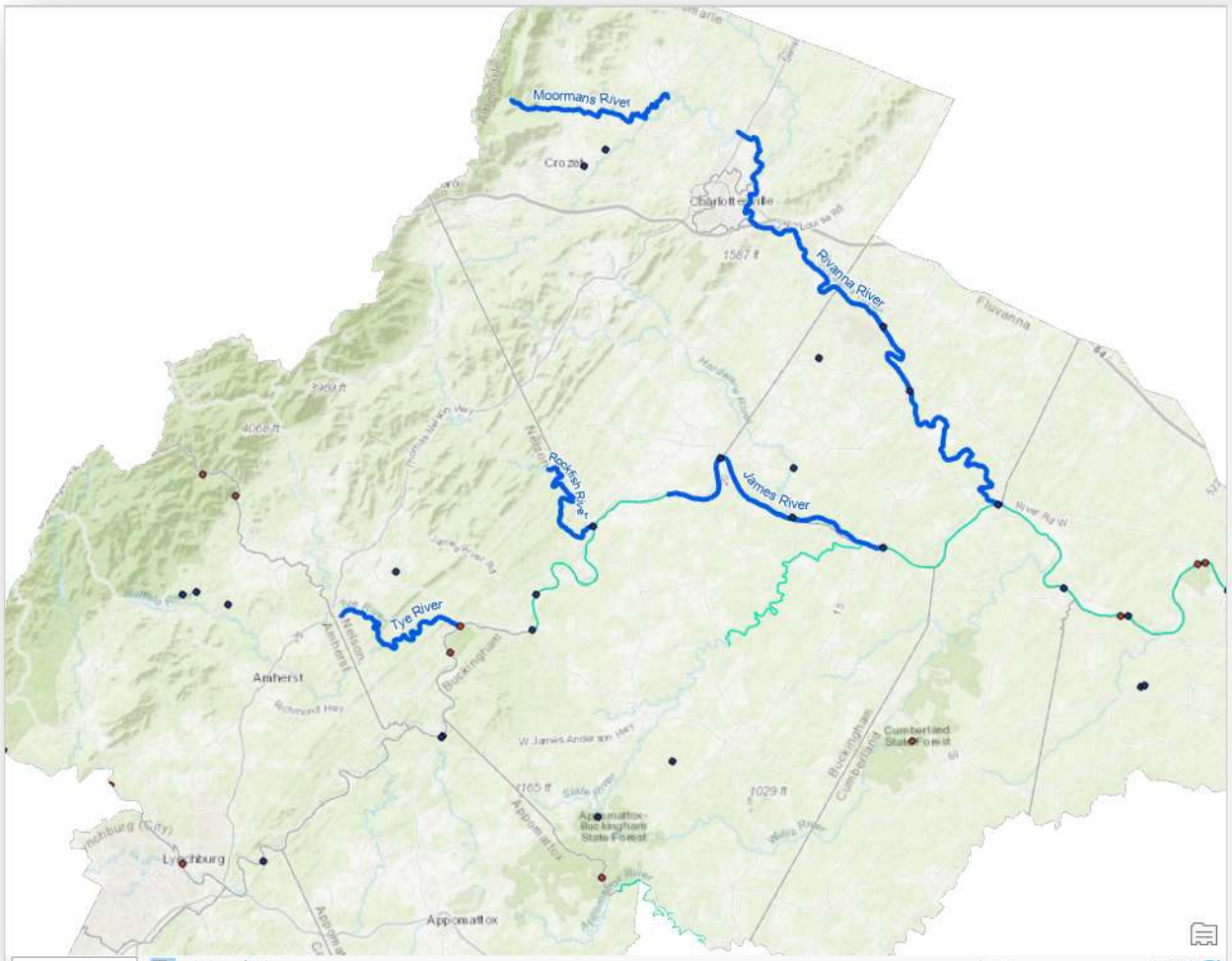


Figure 45 Designated Scenic Rivers (dark blue), qualified segments and water access points in the study area

The Float Trip

Although there are some dams to portage around and a few gaps with long floats between take-outs, the James River Water Trail in its entirety or in sections is actively used for boating, fishing, swimming and wading. The Middle James is mostly flatwater and draws paddlers, tubers and boarders who feel more comfortable with a flat water experience.

For seasoned paddlers, an eight-mile float on the river makes for a good day trip if there is a stop or two along the way. Publicized and marked launch and rest sites with facilities will discourage trespass and littering.

There are 21 public access sites along the Middle James segment. However, long stretches of river, some as long as 20 miles, have no access sites. Some access sites involve scrambles up banks that are too rough for many potential users. Site improvements that enable access for disabled persons would be ideal. The River Management Society provides [Guidelines For Assessing, Designing & Building Access Sites For Carry-In Watercraft](#).

Along with the need for launch and landing sites for both trailered and paddle craft, an expressed need exists for small camping sites along the river, primarily for those who are paddling or using small powered boats to explore the trail for several consecutive days or longer.

Existing access points along the Middle James River and associated liveries

The following list of access points includes Department of Wildlife Resource ramps along with other facilities maintained by localities or the private sector (light gray type).

- MM 238.25 Lynchburg Canoe Ramp
- MM 238.1 Madison Heights Boat Ramp or Riveredge Park (James River Adventures)
- MM 228.05 Joshua Falls Boat Landing
- MM 208.1 Bent Creek Public Boat Landing
- MM 200.8 Canoe Landing (James River State Park, Outdoor Adventures livery)
- MM 198.45 Dixon Landing (James River State Park)
- MM 193.45 Wingina Boat Landing
- MM 190.85 Midway-James River Wildlife Management Area Boat Landing
- MM 180.2 Howardsville Boat Landing (Roger Nelson)
- MM 172.05 Hatton Ferry (unimproved takeout, James River Runners)
- MM 168.75 Scottsville Boat Landing (James River Reeling and Rafting)
- MM 162 Hardware WMA-Shores/Big Island Boat Landing
- MM 155.25 New Canton Boat Ramp
- MM 145.30 Columbia Boat Landing
- MM 136.20 Cartersville Boat Landing
- MM 131.70 Belmead on the James (private)
- MM 131.2 Westview Boat Landing
- MM 123.7 Powhatan State Park-A
- MM 123.05 Powhatan State Park-B
- MM 121.55 Powhatan State Park-C
- MM 118.85 Beaumont Landing
- MM 118.70 Tucker Park/Maidens Boat Landing
- MM 106.2 Watkins Boat Landing

Expanding Public Access Points in the Middle James

The Department of Wildlife Resources prepared this description of each segment and the need for additional access within the segment.

Lynchburg-Joshua Falls

There is some demand for an additional site between the access points at Riveredge Park (aka Smiley Block) and Joshua Falls. Given the location near a population center, this section gets a lot of traffic. There is some need for an access between these two developed sites for people who want to do partial-day floats. The need is not huge compared to other areas, but use would be quite heavy.

Joshua Falls - Bent Creek

This section is desperately in need of multiple additional access points. There is currently no developed access between these sites, which are 20 river miles apart. A minimum of 2 (3 would be ideal) additional sites are needed in this area. Current demand is very high, and use would be quite heavy.

Bent Creek - Howardsville

Access is currently both adequate and plentiful in this reach. Access improvements could be beneficial (e.g., the ramps at Wingina and Howardsville, among others), but no additional access points are currently needed. Demand and use in this reach are both moderate-high.

Howardsville - Scottsville

Developed access is unavailable in this reach. One additional access point would be highly beneficial, and should prove to be sufficient. Currently, demand is moderate-high and use would be moderate.

Scottsville - Maidens

Access is currently adequate in this reach. An additional access point or two in this long segment would be useful, and be utilized, but it's not a high priority need. Access improvements would also be beneficial, but again at a lower priority than other areas. Current demand is high and use is high.

Maidens - Watkins

This short segment could potentially benefit from one additional access point. It's a long float between these two points and it is close to a major metro area. An additional access point would provide users with many more options. Demand and use are both currently high.

Desired Public Access Points

The following list of waypoints prepared by the Department of Wildlife Resources approximates the desired location of future access points along the Middle James River and five tributaries to enhance the water trail. These waypoints indicate a general area of interest and not an exact location.

River	Site Name	Lat	Long
James	Civitan Park	37.406222	79.101861
James	Beaver Creek	37.390905	79.060009
James	Galt's Mill	37.446858	79.010622
James	Galt's Mill area	37.446893	79.002125
James	Pettyjohn Island area	37.499468	78.94291
James	Grief Bros.	37.511208	78.903507
James	Allens Creek	37.545575	78.868344
James	Warren	37.762649	78.55696
James	Hatton Ferry	37.757812	78.512316
James	Fine Creek area	37.609059	77.815129
James	Genito Creek area	37.612618	77.77442
Rivanna	Carysbrook Rd.	37.828671	78.224807
Rivanna	Bryant's Ford area	37.786548	78.197617
Rivanna	Rt. 6	37.764242	78.184862
Tye	Tye River area	37.651055	78.946225
Tye	Powells Island Rd. area	37.648849	78.914674
Tye	Falling Rock Dr.	37.634054	78.902904

Tye	Rucker Run	37.645518	78.837819
Rockfish	Schuyler	37.787474	78.698976
Rockfish	Rockfish Crossing Rd.	37.771188	78.682127
Rockfish	Ivy Creek area	37.723712	78.66603
Willis	Cumberland State Forest	37.627021	78.219391
Willis	Columbia Rd.	37.667079	78.165738
Willis	Boston Hill Rd.	37.688285	78.14337
Willis	Amphill Rd.	37.685428	78.113669
Slate	Rt. 20	37.619198	78.485593
Slate	Melita Rd.	37.645855	78.453251
Slate	Penian Rd.	37.67415	78.426917
Slate	Bumpass Bridge Rd.	37.70256	78.376754
Slate	Bridge Port Rd.	37.710353	78.335071

Prioritized List of Desired Access Points

The Department of Wildlife Resources prepared this prioritized list of James River segments that need access.

1. Joshua Falls - Bent Creek
2. Howardsville - Scottsville
3. Maidens - Watkins
4. Lynchburg - Joshua Falls
5. Scottsville - Maidens
6. Bent Creek – Howardsville

The Tributaries

With only a handful of exceptions within the Middle James, railroads restrict access to the River from the north bank and portions of the south bank. For residents of Goochland, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Nelson and Amherst counties, tributary rivers provide the access to water-related recreation, particularly the Rivanna, Hardware, Rockfish and Tye Rivers. Land trails have developed along some of these rivers.

Along the southern bank, the Willis and Slate rivers empty into the Middle James and need additional access points to promote the water trail experience.

The Department of Wildlife Resources prepared this prioritized list of James River tributaries that need access:

1. Rivanna River
2. Tye River
3. Rockfish River
4. Willis River
5. Slate River
6. Hardware
7. Appomattox

Wayfinding for the Water Trail

To aid in river rescues and to orient paddlers during their river trips, wayfinding signs should be added at strategic locations along the water trail. Wayfinding includes mile markers, signs at bridge crossings and plan your trip signs at or near landings. Signs along the shoreline that are visible from the water could include warning signs, directional signs for portages, and signs with navigational arrows. Signs viewed from the water should be designed and placed to promote visibility without being obstructive or cluttering the scenic view from the river. Signs should be reflective, made from aluminum and consistent with the brand.



Figure 46 Truckee River Mile Markers in Nevada

Mile Markers

River mile markers that could be downloaded as an app onto cell phones will help direct first responders to river rescues. Areas that are subject to flooding can install markers embedded in the pavement, but any fabricated markers should correspond with the Geographic Information System (GIS) mile markers provided to public safety officers. A standard design using James River Heritage Trail colors should also be developed to share with local governments.



Figure 47 Chattahoochee River Mile Markers in Georgia



River Level Markers

River level markers should be installed at landings to give people immediate feedback on whether levels are safe for boating. The river level gauge could be colored red when water levels reach unsafe levels.

Although people have access to river levels through the Internet, they may not know about this data or may be staying at remote locations without Internet access.

Figure 48 River level marker and Figure 49 Photo from Michigan Water Trails Manual



Signs on Bridges

Signs that identify the road crossing and indicate the name or number of, and the distance to, the next access site can be reassuring to paddlers. Magnetic signs can work on some bridges or signs may have to be stenciled, but it is important to work with VDOT to ensure the sign is appropriately sized, located, and branded.

Plan Your Trip Signs

Plan Your Trip signs oriented to the water trail could be placed at or near landings to provide information on distances to other landings along the water trail. An example of this sign, designed

for both Scottsville and James River State Park, includes information on boating safety and the protection of water quality.



Figure 50 A Plan Your Trip sign with information about the local site, boating safety, water quality and navigation

Potential Funding Sources for Water Access

[The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan](#) was developed by the National Park Service in collaboration with Chesapeake Bay watershed states. The plan covers all tidal streams and bays with boating opportunities; streams classified as “fifth-order” and higher; and streams smaller than fifth-order when they are part of a water trail or contribute to its development. A key goal is to increase public access to the Bay and its tributaries by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025.

The plan identifies the following funding sources that can be used to support public access development:

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network: This National Park Service program provides financial and technical assistance for public access site development in association with some 170 sites or trails in the Gateways and Watertrails Network and along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Financial assistance requires a 1:1 match.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG): Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this program provides grants for transient moorage (tie-ups) serving recreational motorboats 26 feet and longer. Could help with water to land access. Financial assistance requires a 25 percent match.

Transportation Enhancement Program: Administered by the Federal Highway Administration and state departments of transportation, this program may fund access projects if directly tied to history of water based transportation. Financial assistance requires a 20 percent match.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP): This program provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. This program may fund access projects if it can be shown that the site is a part of a designated water trail. Financial assistance requires a 20 percent match.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Through the "state-side" of the LWCF, the National Park Service provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Funding can include both acquisition and development and requires a 50 percent match.

Virginia Land Conservation Fund: This fund, administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation under the Parks and Open Space category, can fund the acquisition of land for public access. Projects require a 1:1 match. Applications are accepted from both government entities and nonprofit organizations.

Virginia Motor Boat and Water Safety Fund: This fund can be used for the administration, law enforcement, boating education and safety, and purposes of direct benefit to the boating public. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries sometimes has funding for a local grant program for public access using this fund. If this program is funded, it would require a 25 percent local match.



Figure 51 Federal funding agencies are interested in universally accessible launch facilities like this one at the James River National Wildlife Refuge.

For gap areas, there may be a possibility of developing a rail with trail along sections of the Buckingham Branch railroad. If that approach is successful, it may be possible to extend the rail trail to Staunton and Clifton Forge following the Buckingham Branch rail line.

Figure 53 Conceptual line for a shared use path connecting cities north of the James.

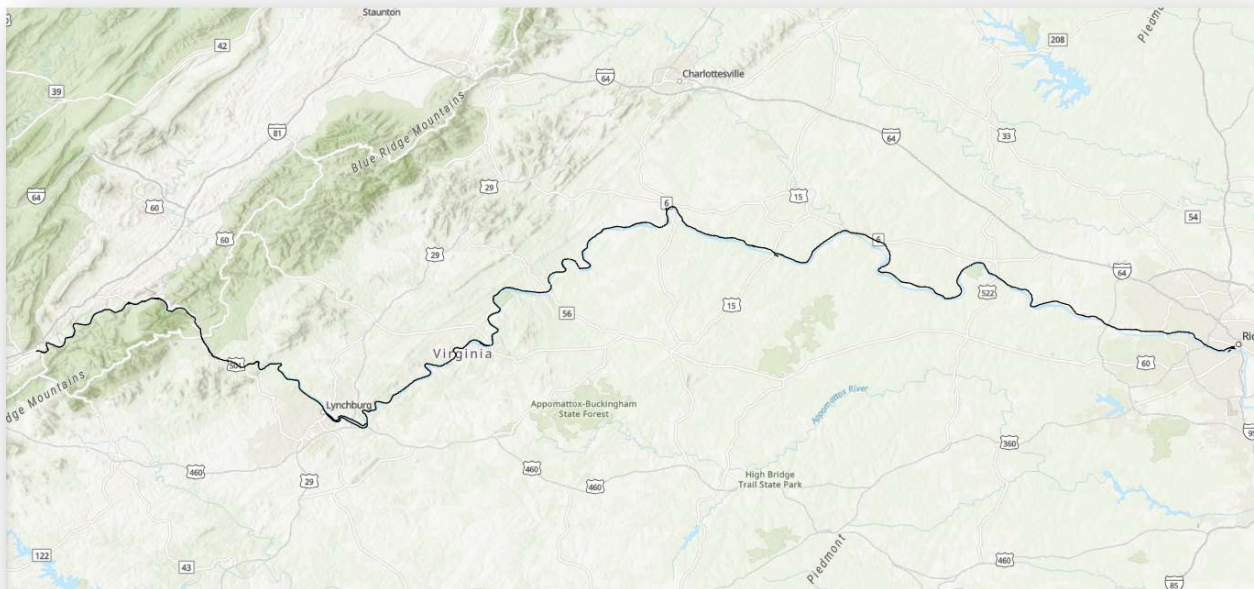
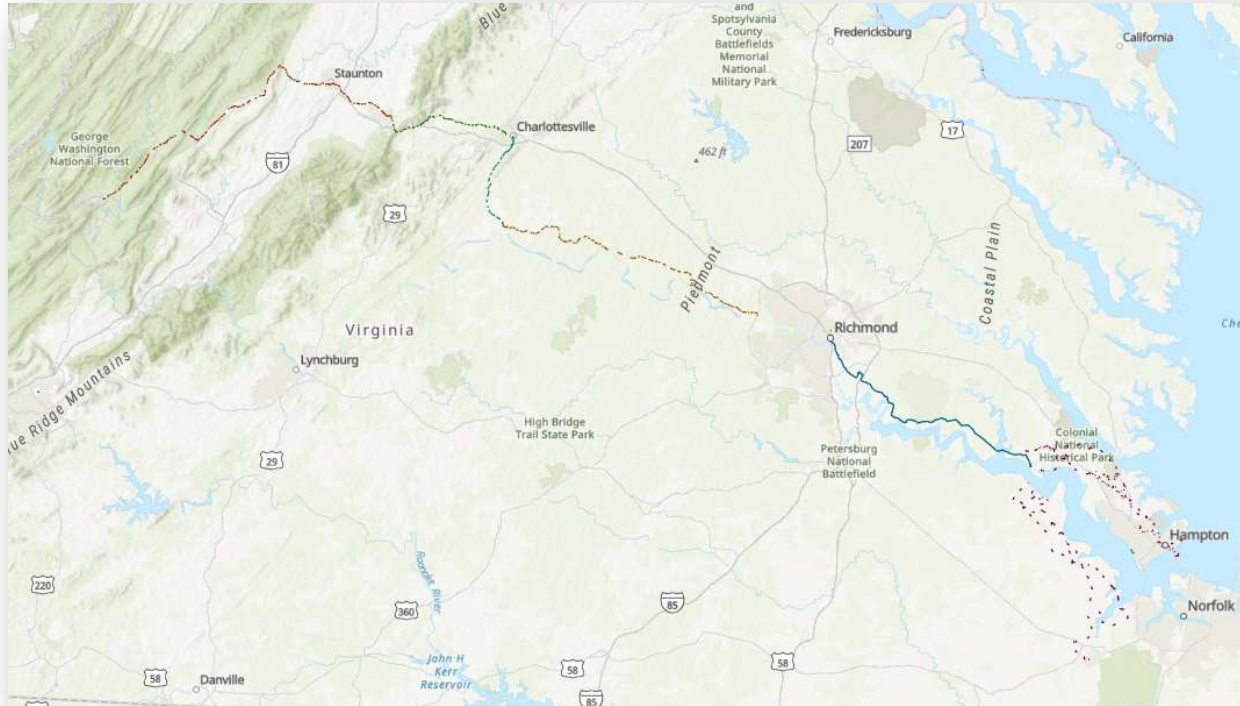
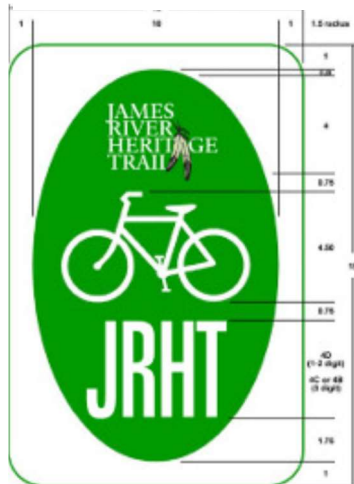


Figure 54 Conceptual line for a natural surface trail for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders along the old towpath.

Natural Surface Trail

If the towpath ever became available for public use, it would make an ideal multiuse trail with a maintained natural surface, similar to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. That park offers fishing, boating, hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, and interpretive programs. Consideration should be given to how a purchase could be made if the CSX property became available for sale.

Figure 55 Proposed M18a Bicycle Route Sign



On-Road Bicycle Routes

Because the shared use path and natural surface land trail components are long-term projects, it is important to offer on-road bicycle routes for land trail connectivity in the short term, and for making loop trails in the long term. Trail connections using bike routes on existing river roads are already in regional plans for the Thomas Jefferson and Central Virginia planning districts and the Commonwealth Regional Council. South of the river in Cumberland, Buckingham, Appomattox and Lynchburg, the bicycle route proposed in the 2011 draft concept plan is now captured in regional plans. North of the river, the approximate route has been captured in regional plans for Amherst, Nelson, Albemarle and Fluvanna.

Other specific bike routes connections requested during the course of focus group meetings included the following:

- A connection from Holliday Lake State Park to James River State Park to incorporate Routes 626 and 636
- A connection from the Town of Appomattox to the High Bridge Trail
- A connection from Appomattox Court House to Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
- A connection from Cartersville to Farmville and High Bridge Trail to incorporate Route 45
- A connection from Scottsville to Hatton's Ferry, circling back to Scottsville through Buckingham
- A connection from James River State Park to Bent Creek
- A connection from the existing Rivanna Trail in Charlottesville to Pleasant Grove in Fluvanna

Wayfinding Signage

Along parallel river roads, visitors would benefit from standardized trail marker signage and limited wayfinding signs pointing to trail sites and access points. Implementation would require collaboration with the Virginia DOT. Artwork for these signs is available on request from DCR.

Potential Funding for Land Trail Development

In addition to DCR's Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund mentioned earlier, VDOT provides the bulk of funding for shared use path development in the state. The first step for developing a shared use path along the roadway is a feasibility study, which can be requested by the



Figure 56 A 12 x 18 Trail Wayfinding Sign

transportation planning organization (TPO) or by local governments through the [STARS](#) (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) program.

Other resources for design and funding are provided on VDOT's [Bicycling and Walking Resources](#) website.

Section 5 Resource Protection

Visitor experiences of the trail's major themes depend on the continued presence of key resources along the trail. Based on field visits to the nine focus areas, resources of particular importance to the visitors' experiences of the trail fall into three categories: rural historic landscapes, evocative landscapes and indigenous cultural landscapes.

Rural historic landscapes are geographical areas that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. They commonly reflect the day-to-day occupational activities of people engaged in traditional work such as mining, fishing, and various types of agriculture.

Evocative landscapes are areas along the trail where the natural setting of the James River and its tributaries remains generally free from intrusion by modern development—where the landscape is composed of water, geologic features and wooded shores providing wildlife habitat and visual interest.

Indigenous cultural landscapes encompass the cultural and natural resources that would have been associated with and supported the historic lifestyle and settlement patterns of Monacan peoples at the time of European contact and today.

Future assessments could determine the extent to which these landscape and other key resources within each focus area are protected. Colleges and universities could play a key role in helping identify gaps in resource protection. Promoting awareness of the trail and its protection needs, incorporating the trail in public policy plans, strategic conservation planning, and landowner assistance programs are all needed to achieve conservation goals.

Historic Preservation

The [Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program](#) supports subgrant programs that enable the rehabilitation of rural historic properties at the National, State, and local level of significance and rehabilitate, protect, and foster economic development of rural communities. States, Tribes, Certified Local Governments, and non-profits can submit applications describing their proposed subgrant program and their ability to support and administer it. Those subgrant programs will fund preservation projects for historic sites to include architectural/engineering services and physical building preservation that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards & Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

The [Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research program](#) makes awards to institutions and organizations conducting empirical field research to answer significant questions in the humanities. This program supports costs related to fieldwork such as travel, accommodation, and equipment as well as compensation for field staff and salary replacement for the project director and collaborating scholars.

The [Public Humanities Projects program](#) supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming. The program supports projects in three program categories (Exhibitions, Historic Places, and Humanities Discussions), and at two funding levels (Planning and Implementation).

Existing Protected Lands

Most of the focus areas include some significant land areas in public ownership for conservation purposes, either by state, local or federal government. Numerous private lands are protected through conservation easements held by either public agencies or non-governmental organizations (e.g. local land trusts). In addition, some non-governmental organizations own and protect land directly for conservation purposes.

Green Infrastructure Mapping

[ConserveVirginia](#) is a tool in guiding land investments, providing a map of Virginia's highest conservation value lands, based on 19 mapped data inputs. In 2016, the Trust for Public Land reported that every \$1 invested in land conservation returns \$4 in economic value in natural goods and services in the form of improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat.

[The Green Infrastructure Center at UVA](#) has developed plans for these localities in the target area:

- [Charlottesville City](#) (Completed - March 2008)
- [Lynchburg City](#) (Completed - December 2008)
- [Nelson County](#) (Completed - August 2011)

The Chesapeake Conservancy's Conservation Innovation Center provides large, high resolution land cover classification datasets. These categorize natural and human-made features that exist on the landscape. Datasets were updated in June of 2020 and can be downloaded at their [website](#).

[Scenic Virginia](#) is in the process of developing a scenic inventory of significant views across the state. It is their goal to identify those landscapes that have the most value to Virginian's to ensure their protection.

Land Use Regulations

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act-Through local ordinances the Act sets out Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), which include perennial streams and a 100-foot shoreline buffer. Much of the evocative landscape visible from the water falls within the Act's RPAs. Most land uses are generally prohibited in RPAs unless they are water-dependent.

Local Planning and Zoning- Local ordinances guide land uses and density of development. Across the focus area are a variety of local regulations, some of which may help to protect forests and other features of evocative landscapes associated with the trail. River overlay districts have been used in some places to define appropriate river-related development.

Funding and Technical Assistance

In addition to DCR's Virginia Land Conservation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Soil and Water Conservation grant programs, other land protection resources that could help protect the trail experience are listed below. Also see DCR's webpage on other [state agencies that protect land](#).

[Virginia's United Land Trusts](#) supports Virginia's diverse conservation community to magnify and amplify land conservation efforts and achieve widespread protection of the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, ensuring their long term benefits for all Virginians.

The [Land Trust Alliance](#) has a list of resources, including a [Webinar recording](#) that provide information on Farm Bill Conservation Programs, some of which are listed on the next few pages. Also see [Agricultural Conservation: A Guide to Programs](#), by the Congressional Research Service.

[Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\)](#) is designed to improve Virginia's water quality and wildlife habitat by offering financial incentives, cost-share and rental payments to farmers who voluntarily restore riparian forest buffers, grass and shrub buffers, and wetlands using CREP-approved nonpoint source best management practices (BMPs).

[The Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

[The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements. Under the [Agricultural Land Easements](#) component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the [Wetlands Reserve Easements](#) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

The [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility.

The [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

[Clear30 \(USDA\)](#) is a pilot program for farmers and landowners to decrease erosion, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat on a much longer-term basis. To participate, these grantees must have expiring CRP contracts devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers.

[Critical Conservation Areas \(CCAs\)](#) are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and represent an opportunity to address common natural resource goals and maintain or improve agricultural productivity at the regional level. Partners, NRCS producers, and communities propose projects that will achieve regional natural resource goals as well as local conservation priorities.

The [James River Buffer Program](#) is a partnership program developed by the James River Association and the Virginia Department of Forestry and supported by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.

Project and three years of maintenance costs are covered for landowners who qualify and commit to install planted buffers that protect riparian zones.

The [Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium](#) was formed in 2019 to bring together partner government agencies, nonprofit groups, and landowners to restore our riparian forest buffers through the Upper and Middle James watershed in Virginia. They also work on stream stabilization, open space easements, wildlife habitat, and agriculture infrastructure.

The [American Battlefield Protection Program \(ABPP\)](#) promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are 1) to protect battlefields and sites that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations.

The [Healthy Forest Reserve Program](#) provides landowners with 10-year restoration agreements and 30-year or permanent easements for specific conservation actions. For acreage owned by an American Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract. Some landowners may avoid regulatory restrictions under the Endangered Species Act by restoring or improving habitat on their land for a specified period of time.

The [Forest Stewardship Program \(FSP\)](#) provides assistance to owners of forest land where good stewardship, including agroforestry practices, will enhance and sustain multiple forest resources and contribute to healthy and resilient landscapes. The program also helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local markets for forest products and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants and state field foresters.

The [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#) (Community Forest Program) of the Forest Service offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide

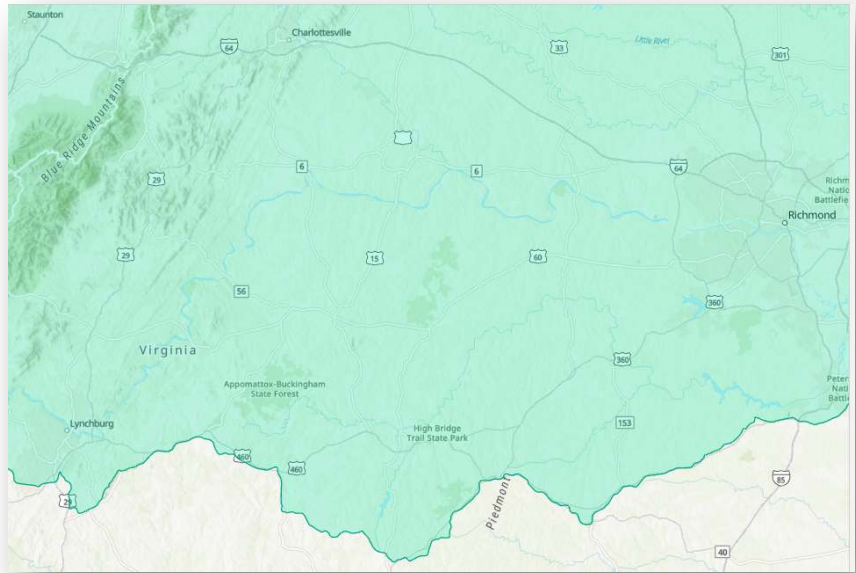


Figure 57 Critical Conservation Areas in the Middle James designated by the Secretary of Agriculture

public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.

[Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program \(NRCS\)](#) provides funding to help State and tribal governments encourage landowners to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation. VPA-HIP is a competitive grant program and only State and Tribal Governments may apply.

[Virginia Conservation Assistance Program](#) is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Virginia's participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.

The [Agrarian Trust](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, co-creates local [Agrarian Commons](#) by establishing 501(c)(2) and 501(c)(25) land-holding entities to support land access and tenure for the next generation farmers.

[The Conservation Finance Network \(CFN\)](#) advances land and resource conservation by expanding the use of innovative and effective funding and financing strategies. They support a growing network of public, private and nonprofit professionals through practitioner convenings, intensive trainings, and information dissemination to increase the financial resources deployed for conservation.

[The Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation](#) at Virginia Tech aims to build capacity to address food system issues across the rural-urban community divide and to cultivate more resilient, socially just, and economically viable food and farming systems in Virginia and beyond. Their Farm to Table initiative promotes and develop healthy farms and healthy food for the common wealth and common good of all Virginians.

[Outdoor Access](#) provides hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts with exclusive access to private land. They help private landowners monetize their property assets by making them available to Outdoor Access members. Their platform gives landowners complete control over when and how their property is leased, and the activities allowed, while being protected by a \$4 million insurance policy.

Section 6 Orientation and Interpretation

In addition to the actions listed for each focus area, several other actions would enhance orientation and interpretation. These include the following:

Urban Area Orientation Sites

Trail orientation signs should be provided at key sites within the watershed in metropolitan or highly trafficked areas. Some potential supporting sites include Tuckahoe Creek Park, Robious Landing Park, Charlottesville Downtown Visitor Center, Piedmont Crossroads Visitor Center, Lynchburg Visitor Center and Natural Bridge State Park. Three-sided kiosks at these major sites could include one panel with information on all three segments (lower, upper and middle James), a panel on the Middle James, and a panel customized for that location.

Interpretive Signs

Interpretive signs offer information on local stories but point back to the larger trail with a small inset map. Reflecting the brand, these signs help with consistency along the route. The National Park Service [offers excellent guidance](#) on interpreting heritage areas and historic trails.

Museum and Historical Society Sites

The following sites are within the focus areas and could offer rack cards and/or maps for the Trail:

- Goochland-Old Stone Jail
- Powhatan State Park Visitor Center
- Cumberland County Historical Society Museum
- Fluvanna-Pleasant Grove Museum and Visitor Center
- Charlottesville-Darden Towe Park-Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center
- Scottsville Museum
- Walton Mountain Museum
- James River State Park Visitor Center
- Nelson-Oakland Museum
- Appomattox County Historical Society Old Jail Museum and Library
- Lynchburg Museum at Old Court House

Guide Training, Materials and Certification

Guided tours have the potential for providing visitors with truly optimal trail experiences. These tours might be provided by organizations managing sites along the trail as well as by private sector guides. The development of shared training and materials on trail themes, resources and stories could provide consistency throughout the watershed.



Figure 58 An interpretive panel at Deep Bottom Park in the Lower James

Potential Funding Sources for Orientation and Interpretation

The [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are 1) to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. The ABPP focuses primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning, and public education.

The National Park Service's [Underrepresented Community Grant Program](#) (URC) works towards diversifying the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. URC grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), and are administered by the NPS. Projects include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register, as well as the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match. Eligible applicants are limited to State Historic Preservation offices, Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations, and Certified Local Governments.

The National Endowment for the Arts [Grants for Organizations](#) support exemplary projects in artist communities, arts education, dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literary arts, local arts agencies, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting and multidisciplinary works, theater, and visual arts.

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers a variety of [grant programs](#) to individuals and organizations that do the highest quality work to promote the humanities.

Section 7 Promotion, Marketing and Events

Attracting visitors to the trail requires a concerted effort. Effectively communicating with potential visitor requires several things:

- A visible trail presence on the ground—at key visitor sites and along transportation routes—and on the Internet and mobile devices
- A continuing series of events and programs designed to draw targeted audiences to the trail
- Strategic marketing and promotion activities by tourism organizations and the private sector

The focus area concepts and actions described in the previous section speak to several of these: increasing trail visibility through signage, visitor services information, programs—such as guided paddle, bike and hiking tours—and events at key locations. In particular, there are many opportunities for events and programs that can be marketed to visitors. These annual events are great candidates for starters:

- The James River Batteau Festival—
Virginia Canals and Navigations Society
- James River Regional Clean Up
- Patriot Days (Cumberland)
- Rassawek Spring Jubilee
- Goochland Riverfest
- Powhatan's Festival of the Grape
- National Day of Service
- Earth Day
- Opening Day for Trails

- National Trails Day
- James River Chili Cook-off-Scottsville
- Scottsville Pollinator Festival
- RiverTown Fest-Scottsville
- Charlottesville Wild Virginia Film Festival
- Lynchburg Wine and Music Festival
- Virginia Summer Solstice Wine Festival (Lynchburg)
- Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival (Lynchburg)
- African American Family History Day (Lynchburg)
- Independence Day Celebration at Poplar Forest (Lynchburg)
- Monacan Indian Nation Pow Wow (Amherst)
- Virginia Wine and Garlic Festival (Amherst)
- Labor Day Wine and Music Fest (Amherst)
- Juneteenth
- Freedom and Liberation Day (Thomas Jefferson's Birthday-Charlottesville)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day

River related events can be promoted in the [James River Days Brochure](#), a seven-month (April-October) offering of activities on, along and about the James River. Thousands of brochures are distributed throughout the region. James River Days is a project sponsored by the James River Advisory Council.

As one of Virginia six State Trails, the James River Heritage Trail website is established on the Internet at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/trailjrh>. Plans to develop story maps tied to each state park in the Middle James, to be advertised on their "Nearby Attractions" pages, will further increase visibility. State agencies are working on a James River Heritage Corridor Hub site that will consolidate state agency information related to the river and its tributaries into one easily accessible platform.

One crucial component requiring further development is a strategic marketing and promotional effort, including the use of electronic and social media. Stakeholders along the James have made clear that social media, blogs and apps are crucial sources of information for today's visiting public. Development of a strategic marketing and promotional effort will be most effective when organized and led by tourism officials along the James and the Virginia Tourism Corporation, in collaboration with other trail partners.

Potential Funding Sources for Promotion and Marketing

One of Virginia Tourism's most important goals is to help the state's travel industry succeed. They have created a variety of programs aimed at providing solutions to real challenges industry partners face. Follow the links below to get detail on how you can get on board with Virginia is for Lovers and all of VTC's powerful industry partner programs.

- [Get listed on Virginia.org](#) for free
- Get mentioned in [earned](#) and [social media](#)
- Access opportunities for the [Groups, Meetings and Sports markets](#)
- Use important, relevant [VTC research](#)
- Apply for [VTC Marketing Leverage Program grants](#)

- Advertise in the [Virginia Travel Guide](#) and on [Virginia.org](#)
- Learn how to [help finance large-scale tourism development](#)
- Get hands on training to build a [tourism development plan](#)
- Participate in [VTC's LOVEworks program](#)
- [Share your locations](#) for possible motion picture projects
- Access the expanding market for [international visitors](#)
- Take advantage of the [VTC Industry Advertising Program](#)
- Request the [Virginia is for Lovers logo](#)
- Get 33 million visitors' eyes on your product at [Virginia Welcome Centers and rest areas](#)
- Utilize [Virginia Green](#) marketing
- Participate with [Keep Virginia Beautiful](#)

Section 8 Trail Implementation

This section outlines and interim trail management process, opportunities for collaborative partnership, and both short and long term implementation actions. The success of the James River Heritage Corridor depends on collaborative partnerships—among local, state and federal governments and the private sector.

No single entity can fully manage or develop the James segment of the trail. The sites and resources-and the capacity to further develop the trail-are spread among many organizations. The actions identified in each of the focus areas will require collaboration among all potential partners if the trail is truly to become a success.

Current budgets make it challenging at all organizational levels to contribute to trail development. However, this segment plan is intentionally designed to build on existing strengths along the trail and to focus efforts in areas where many resources are already in place. The actions required to elevate the Trail's presence and visitor experiences in these areas are truly feasible in the near term.

Innovative and efficient collaborative efforts are needed for the trail to reach its full potential as an education, recreational and tourism asset for the region. What may be impossible for a single entity to achieve may well be feasible in collaboration with partners. Such partnerships could involve anything from fund-raising to technical assistance; from resource protection to facility development; from interpretive program development to marketing.

Who Can Help Make the Trail a Reality?

Public Site Managers

- Historic Sites
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Federal and State parks
- County and Municipal Parks
- Museums and Visitor Centers
- Recreational Trails and Ferry Services
- Water Access Sites

Non-Profit Organizations

- Watershed and River-Based Organizations
- Organizations associated with particular sites
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Land Conservation and Historic Preservation Organizations
- Trail Clubs
- User Groups

Planning, Economic Development and Tourism Agencies

- State
- Regional
- Local

Commercial Facilities and Services

- Marinas
- Campgrounds
- Motels and other overnight accommodations
- Guide Services
- Equipment Sales and Rentals
- Corporate Sponsors

Education and Research Institutions

- Area Universities and associated sites
- Community Colleges

Management and Implementation

The National Park Service serves as the overall managing organization for the National Historic Trail, but the James River Association has been actively managing the Connecting Trail—both the Middle and Upper James segments. In Virginia, collaboration with Commonwealth agencies for state parks, historic resources, tourism, wildlife management and transportation is of particular importance.

For the Middle James, the collaborating partners for this segment plan could be asked to serve as a steering committee for plan and trail implementation over the next few years.

A coordinator should be identified to set up steering committee meetings, provide technical assistance, maintain the Hub site and inform partners about grant opportunities.

The coordinator and steering committee should focus on this set of functions to support local efforts:

- Support and coordinate implementation of commitments made by specific partners and the actions called for at key sites
- Help advance a short list of top priorities which can be completed in the near term
- Detail how long-term segment coordination and management functions will be handled
- Develop shared training and materials on trail themes, resources and stories

- Develop mile markers, signs for bridges and river depth markers consistent with the brand
- Develop rack cards and maps for display in visitor centers and kiosks
- Provide technical assistance for trail partners to develop interpretive media and programs

Given the current strain on public budgets, there is a real opportunity for private sector partners who may still be thriving during the pandemic to help develop the trail system. There are needs that range from staff resources to sponsorship of trail amenities like interpretive signs. Some of the industries that profited from natural resource extraction in the Piedmont may want to give back as they share their story with tourists.

Landowners can contribute by offering riverside camping or providing easements for trails or launch facilities. Outfitters may be willing to purchase insurance for their guided trips that affords landowner protections above and beyond the [Recreational Use Statute](#) and the [Agritourism Act](#).

Collective Impact

The collective impact of twelve localities and their partners working together could result in significant improvements within the Middle James that benefit the visitor and the local citizen. Key elements for successful collective impact include the presence of influential champions, sufficient resources to support the planning process and collective impact infrastructure, and the urgency to address the issue in new and different ways. The [Collective Impact Forum](#) is a curated central pool of resources to share ideas and expertise for working together, in a structured way, to achieve social change. This document is a starting point for building an initiative once the key elements are in place. The [Virginia Trails Alliance](#), the [Virginia Conservation Network](#), the [Upper and Middle James Consortium](#) and the [Chesapeake Network](#) are existing networks that may provide or disseminate information and leverage support.

Conclusion

Existing parks, trails and natural preserves have been strained by people seeking physical activity and stress relief during the pandemic. Counts on trails have doubled, even quadrupled during the last few months. Access to parks and trails is not equitable across the state, most noted when federal facilities closed parking lots in the spring.

Although budgets have been impacted by outcomes associated with the COVID-19 virus, federal and state spending over the next 3-5 years may support projects that will put people back to work. If social distancing is the new norm, outdoor recreation will become increasingly important for the health and welfare of the American people.

This plan outlines a path forward for improving a tourism product that has the potential to attract national and international travelers. If social distancing and travel restrictions persist, the watershed is within an hour's drive of most state residents, who may be looking for outdoor recreation in rural settings.

There is power in collective impact, and if localities, regions and the state place emphasis on development of the James River Heritage Trail over the next 3-5 years, the actions outlined in this plan will benefit residents economically, support the integrity of place, inform both visitors and hosts, and provide great adventures and memories.

Appendix

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Appomattox County

Meeting Date: February 7, 2020

Meeting attendees

Appomattox- Anne Dixon, Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

National Park Service-Robin Snyder, Park Superintendent and Brian Eick, Natural Resource Manager

VDOT- Rick Youngblood and David Cook

DCR-Anne Reeder, Holliday Lake State Park Manager and Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

Post meeting follow up- Gary Shanaberger, Appomattox Town Manager

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION	
Appomattox	Court House	Explore a recreational use speed limit/ traffic calming plan on Rt. 24.	
		Connect the Village to the Town boundary along western side with a shared use path and include streetscape beautification	
		Develop access to Coleman site (last casualty of Civil War)	
		Acquire Appomattox Station battlefield	
		Improve accessibility throughout park	
		Add parking areas and trailheads outside Village area (i.e. Sweeney cabin, Reynolds site)	
		Improve safety at Appomattox River/Route 24 crossing	
		Add merge lanes as needed for additional parking areas	
		Holliday Lake	Story Map linking park to points of interest
			Develop contact station and office
Add cabins and roadway network on land in Appomattox County side of park			

	Upgrade boat launch and roadway
	Build new residence and infrastructure on Buckingham County side of park
	Explore acquiring additional lands to improve access to the Buckingham side of the park
Town/County	Connect Courtland Festival Park to Abbott Park with a connector trail
Route 626/Routes 24/Old Grist Mill/Trents Mill	Develop bike route connection from Appomattox Court House to A-B State Forest and Holliday Lake State Park

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Buckingham County

Meeting Date: February 7, 2020

Meeting attendees

Buckingham-Nicci Edmundston, Administrator of Zoning and Economic/Community Planning and Lyn Hill, Solid Waste Manager

Appomattox-Anne Dixon, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

VDOT-Rick Youngblood and David Cook

DCR, Adam Bresnehan, James River State Park Manager, Scott Passwaters, Park Ranger and Jennifer Wampler, Trail Coordinator

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
James River State Park	Bent Creek	Promote batteau festival
		Improve or replace ramp into river (backfills with sediment)
		Develop public service facility/contact station
		Develop parking area on park land across the road
	Digital promotion	Story Map linking park to points of interest
		Better use of social media to reach a younger audience
	Route 605	Add 2-foot shoulders and other improvements for bicycle safety
	Riverfront	Work with landowners to fence cows out of river
	Shuttle	Convey safety messages to river users
	Landings	Install Plan Your Trip signs
Routes 636/626	Develop bike route connection to park from Holliday Lake and High Bridge	
Programs	Bring back small mountain bike races, adventure races	
Trails	Develop 6-7 miles of dedicated single track for mountain bikes	
	Bridges	Install wayfinding signs for river users

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Cumberland County

Meeting Date: March 4, 2020

Meeting Attendees

Cumberland- Bill Burger, Cumberland County Planning Commission, Brian Stanley, 1st District Board of Supervisors, Don Unmussig County Administrator, Travis Gilliam, Recreation Director

DCR-James Dayton, Bear Creek Lake State Park Manager, Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

An earlier meeting on January 30 included Chip England, Public Utilities Director with Henrico County

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Cumberland	Riverfront	Add interpretive signs (i.e. American Revolution, Monacan, early industry, river ecology, etc.)
		Encourage an outfitter out of Cartersville who can shuttle paddlers from Cartersville to Columbia
		Improve water access on the James for car-top launches and include planning for soil erosion and access control
		Promote river-related events in the James River Days brochure
		Increase river access points in the County to support short paddle trips (James and Appomattox)
		Add wayfinding signage to direct non-locals to key destinations
		Encourage business development to provide key services (food, drink, and lodging)
Reservoir	Reservoir	Include a gateway kiosk in Cartersville to orient visitors to focus areas in the Middle James
		Work with Henrico County to set aside land for public land for recreation
		Develop a pedestrian map and kiosk as part of an overall pedestrian wayfinding system
		Work with DGIF to add a boat launch

Courthouse	Add an orientation sign that describes the three sections of the county and associated history and attractions
	Work with partners to preserve oral histories and untold stories (i.e. StoryCorp, American Folklife Center)
	Enforce county codes to improve the Town’s curb appeal.
	Investigate the Main Street Approach to improve facades and encourage business development
	Work with Virginia Tourism to develop a marketing plan for the County
	Include public land at reservoir in the County comprehensive plan update and update language on recreation countywide
	Develop a website for the Cumberland County Historical Society Museum
	Designate Route 45 (and part of Route 60) as a cross-county bike route (connection to Farmville and riverfront)
	Explore a bike route connection to Palmyra that highlights the riverfront/reservoir area along with the state forest, state park and connections to Pleasant Grove and Palmyra
	Assess any land owned by the County that would be suitable for recreation (avoid sensitive areas)
	Work with partners to develop a “friends” group that can help take care of needed improvements
State	State park/forest
	Work with partners to develop a brochure or story map that promotes the state park, the state forest, associated trails, bike routes and river-related activities
	Work with partners to improve the trail connection to courthouse area
	Upgrade existing trails in the state forest
	Pursue dark sky designation

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Fluvanna County

Meeting Date: March 16, 2020

Fluvanna County-Eric Dahl, County Administrator, Aaron Spitzer, Director of Parks and Recreation, Douglas Miles, Community Development Director

DCR-Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Fluvanna	Palmyra/Pleasant Grove	Extend the Fluvanna Heritage Rail Trail to the limits of County-owned property
		Install wayfinding signs to direct visitors to nearby recreation amenities, historical sites and artisan trails.
		Install a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Courthouse Road and Route 15
		Install a spray park at Pleasant Grove
		Improve bike/ped connectivity between Palmyra and Pleasant Grove
		Explore designation or affiliate status with the Main Street program
	Columbia	Complete work on sewage infrastructure
		Develop a large park, greenway/trail network and boat access to serve as a gateway trailhead for the James River Heritage Trail
		Interpret significant historical events and people (i.e. Point of Fork, Monacan, John Cocke)
		Promote growth and development to provide visitor services, including a convenience store at the Columbia Road/ Route 6 crossroad
		Develop a tourist information center
	Connections by land	Develop a bike route along the Rivanna River
		Add bike lanes to Routes 250 and 15

Other water access	<p>Include a bike-ped facility along Route 6 in transportation plans and ask VDOT to study the feasibility of a shared-use path along this corridor</p>
	<p>Plan for a shared-use path connection from Palmyra and Pleasant Grove to Lake Monticello</p>
	<p>Connect Palmyra to the high school along Route 53 with a bike facility</p>
	<p>Work with partners to fill in the gaps in water access and related amenities between Scottsville and New Canton along the James River</p>
	<p>Investigate the potential for improvements to the launch sites at the Route 6 crossings of the Hardware and Rivanna rivers through a partnership with VDOT/DGIF and Fluvanna County</p>
	<p>Explore the development of additional water access points on the Hardware and Rivanna rivers</p>
	<p>Promote angling and bird-watching at the Hardware River WMA and along the Birding and Wildlife Trail</p>
	<p>Acquire conservation easements or otherwise protect riparian areas and wetlands from development where possible</p>
	<p>Investigate Scenic River suitability for the Hardware River</p>
<p>Create a new public access to the James River via Shores Road (Western View/Big Island area)</p>	

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Lynchburg and Amherst

Meeting Date: February 26, 2020

Meeting Participants

Campbell-Mary Pascale, Director, Campbell County Parks and Recreation, Brian Stokes, Environmental Manager

Amherst-Bob Hopkins, Service Authority, Sara Lu Christian, Recreation and Parks, Dean Rodgers, County Administrator

Lynchburg-Emelyn Gwynn, Economic Development and Tourism, Susannah Smith, Parks and Recreation, Kate Miller, Environmental Planner, Rachel Frischenisen, Planner, Lisa Meriwether, Tourism Sales Manager

Susan Brown, Downtown Lynchburg Association, Rob Campbell, James River Association, Bill Bohn, SOBIS, Mike Wilson, Hurt & Proffitt

CVPDC- Philipp Gabathuler, Kelly Hitchcock, Scott Smith

VDH (Central VA) -Jim Bowles

DCR-Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Amherst	Riverfront	<p>Acquire land to extend the James River Heritage Trail to Riveredge Trail and the pedestrian crossing at the end of Percival Island (and on to Six-Mile Bridge if possible)</p> <p>Incorporate designated pedestrian/bicycle facility on the John Lynch Bridge linking Lynchburg with Amherst/ Riveredge Park.</p> <p>Develop a park in the bottomland under Monacan Bridge to include the James River Heritage Trail</p> <p>Develop a plan for the redevelopment of the Central Virginia Training Center that includes the James River Heritage Trail</p> <p>Install signs that direct paddlers away from the Pettyjohn Island bridge (stay river right)</p> <p>Develop and light a trail connecting Madison Heights to the riverfront along Horse Ford Road</p>

		<p>Develop an orientation sign for the land trail linking the Lynchburg-Amherst riverfronts when the trail is complete</p> <p>Promote river-related events in the James River Days brochure</p> <p>Increase river access points in the County to support short paddle trips.</p>
Lynchburg	Riverfront	<p>Develop a feasibility study for a river-related sports tourism product, include potential incorporation of river sports c into the State Games of America</p> <p>Develop a pedestrian map and kiosk as part of an overall pedestrian wayfinding system</p> <p>Develop Foundry Park (Downtown 2040 Plan)</p> <p>Develop Canal Park (Downtown 2040 Plan), to include a trail route connecting Blackwater Creek and Percival’s Island Trails.</p> <p>Improve restroom and add decorative fencing and gating system at Riverfront Park</p> <p>Execute on-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species and habitats</p> <p>Look for opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas and improve the health of local streams</p>
	Lower Bluffwalk	<p>Install flexible seating, shade structures, and lighting</p> <p>Identify and pursue easements on private properties needed to implement projects.</p>
Region	Lynchburg/Amherst/Campbell	<p>Work with localities to establish a cost recovery system for river rescues.</p> <p>Develop and include safe river use materials, public awareness to reduce highwater river use and swift water recovery events.</p>

State

Execute on-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species and habitats

Look for opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas and improve the health of local streams

Work with local partners to develop river tourism marketing area amenities for river, biking, outdoor enthusiast.

Coordinate with regional programs (eg Hazard Mitigation Plans) and local planning initiatives.

Work with VDOT and localities to improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the James Lynch Bridge

Work with localities to develop a pedestrian bridge at the eastern end of Percival Island

Work with VDOT and localities to develop a pedestrian facility attached to or in the vicinity of the Carter Glass Bridge

Work with localities to develop in-river park features that improve the whitewater paddling experience

Work with localities to remove Scotts Mill Dam

Work with partners to develop mile markers for bridge crossings

Work with partners to mark river levels at access ramps

Work with partners to fill in the gaps in water access and related amenities between Lynchburg and Bent Creek

Proposed Trail Actions along Middle James Segment in Nelson County

Meeting Date: March 18, 2020

Meeting Participants

Nelson County- Claire Richardson, Director of Parks and Recreation, Maureen Kelley, Director of Tourism and Economic Development, Dylan Bishop, Director of Planning & Zoning

DCR-Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

Pre or post meeting consultation with Brad Baskette, VOF, Amber Ellis, James River Association, Robert Brown and Jeffery Kessler, VDOT, and DWR-Louse Finger, Stream Restoration Biologist, Scott Smith, Region 2 Fisheries Manager, and Peter Schula, Natural Resource Manager

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Nelson	Rockfish	<p>Engage with partners to plan and develop passive outdoor recreation opportunities at Rockfish Reserve (i.e. water access, trails)</p> <p>Partner with VDOT for improvements at the Nelson County Wayside and add universal access with a soft launch</p> <p>Partner with landowner for a kayak/canoe takeout upstream of Embry Dam</p> <p>Explore opportunities to add ADA launch facilities where feasible</p> <p>Encourage an outfitter who can help market the history and outstanding outdoor recreation potential of Nelson County by offering guided interpretive tours and safety instruction and skills</p> <p>Explore adding or enhancing buffers on easements and other privately held land in riparian areas to enhance the water trail experience and improve water quality</p>
	Connections by land	<p>Work with partners to investigate ownership and acquisition of the former Albermarle-Nelson rail corridor</p> <p>Develop a plan to address hurricane damage to the Blue Ridge Railway Trail</p>

Other water access	<p>Work with the Rivanna Trails Foundation to plan a corridor for the Three Notched Trail from Charlottesville to Waynesboro</p>
	<p>Develop additional water access points on the Tye River</p>
	<p>Work with partners to fill in the gaps in water access and related amenities between Lynchburg and Bent Creek along the James River</p>
	<p>Create additional access for fishing along the Piney River and mid-size streams and stock them as needed</p>
	<p>Work with partners to develop a fishing trail along the perimeter of Lake Nelson</p>
	<p>Encourage the private sector to open a campground at Lake Nelson</p>
	<p>Develop access to the James in the vicinity of the Rockfish confluence</p>
	<p>Add orientation, interpretation, safety and wayfinding signs to new access points</p>

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Goochland and Powhatan

Meeting Date: January 30, 2020

Meeting participants

Goochland-Jessica Kronberg, Recreation Services Director, Derek Stamey, Deputy County Administrator for Operations, Jo Ann Hunter, Director of Community Development

Powhatan-Andrew Pompei, Planning Director, Roxanne Salerno, Economic Development Program Manager

DCR-Matt O’Quinn, Powhatan State Park Manager, Joshua Ellington, District Manager, Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Powhatan State Park	Three Landings	Install Plan Your Trip signs
	Beaumont	Explore additional river access sites on other state lands
	Digital promotion	Story Map linking park to points of interest
	Riverfront	Extend trail along riverfront to DGIF landing
	Riverfront	Livery Service
	Riverfront	Plant buffer/manage riparian areas on new acquisitions
		Add a gateway kiosk to Powhatan State Park with an overall map highlighting Middle James focus areas
	Fully implement the Powhatan State Park Master Plan	
Goochland	Landings	Install Plan Your Trip signs
	Elk Island	Interpretive signs (Monacan)
	Elk Island	New public access
	Historical Society Welcome Center	Interpretive displays (American Revolution, Dahlgren’s Raid, Washington’s towpath?)

	Tuckahoe Creek	Continue to implement Tuckahoe Creek Greenway master plan to include interpretive signs and a gateway kiosk
	Route 6	Explore bike-ped facility
	DOC	Explore a new landing at Lee Road
Henrico	Tuckahoe Creek	Fully implement Phase II of Tuckahoe Creek park to include water access
Powhatan	522 area	Continue code enforcement at Michaux to create an attractive gateway to Powhatan State Park.
	522 area	Pursue reuse of a portion of Beaumont as a regional fire academy training facility and redevelopment/reuse as a business incubator.
	522 area	Investigate the feasibility of small-scale commercial uses at Michaux and Maidens that support tourism and are compatible with the area's rural character.
	Route 711	Explore feasibility of a regional bike-ped facility along the Route 711 Corridor
	Belmead	Explore water and land trail connections

Proposed Trail Actions along the Middle James Segment in Albemarle

Meeting Location-Scottsville

Meeting Date: January 31, 2020

Meeting Attendees

Scottsville-Matt Lawless, Town Manager

Albemarle-Dan Mahan, Parks and Recreation, Scott Clark, Senior Planner, Courtney Cacatian, Executive Director Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors

Ashley Noble, James River Reeling and Rafting, Justin Doyle, James River Association

DWR-Hunter Hatcher, Aquatic Biologist

DCR-Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator

Pre and Post meeting follow up-presented at Rivanna Small Area Plan team meeting and TJPDC Bike and Pedestrian Coordination meeting

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Scottsville	Lake	Install floating dock
	Totier Park, other?	Expand birding and wildlife trail
	Landing	Define picnic area with jetty rock or chain and post
		Install concrete picnic tables
	Bateau Festival	Expand marketing efforts
	Town	Explore smart buoys or smart signs to interpret historic significance
		Expand overnight options
Create a public riverfront park in Scottsville (Town of Scottsville & Buckingham County)		
	Construct the Overlook Trail to connect downtown Scottsville to the Van Clief Nature Area (Town of Scottsville)	
	County	Explore formalizing a bicycle loop with Buckingham (Hatton, Route 20)

Explore transit and shared use path connections to Charlottesville

Improve existing public access at Warren

Install wayfinding signs for river access

Install "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs or "James River Heritage

Trail" bicycle route signs on designated roadways

Identify and explore addressing paddling obstacles in rivers

Map river corridor to explore more riverfront connections

State

Install river mile markers at bridges and overhangs where appropriate

(Identify name of road, river mile and distance to next ramp)
