Hampton Roads

Sandbridge is a family favorite. Photo by Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.
Introduction

The Hampton Roads Recreational Planning Region covers approximately 2,500 square miles and is home to more than 1.6 million people. This region encompasses 22 local governments, including the counties of Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton and York. Other localities in this planning district are: the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg, and the towns of Boykins, Branchville, Capron, Courtland, Ivor, Newsoms, Smithfield and Windsor.

Three major Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain river drainage systems in the region are the York, James and Chowan basins. To the east, the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay form an undulating natural boundary for the region. Natural features include coastal shorelines, vast expanses of open water and marshlands. The James and York rivers are predominantly estuarine. Freshwater systems include the Nottoway, Blackwater, Meherrin, North Landing and Northwest Rivers, Back Bay and the Dismal Swamp.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the region had a population of 1,662,394 in 2010, comprising 20.27 percent of Virginia’s population. Continuing with this growth rate of 5.50 percent since 2000, the population will be 1,711,596 by 2020. Growth rates varied across the region from a decrease of 6.55 percent in Hampton to an increase of 28.22 percent in James City County. To compare population and population change by locality in Virginia, see the 2010 Census Total Population Maps.

While both Gloucester and Surry counties are part of the Hampton Roads recreational region, each shares membership in other planning districts. Surry County is a part of the Crater Planning District, and information about Surry is included in the the Crater section of this plan. Gloucester County is part of the Middle Peninsula Planning District, and information about Gloucester is included in the section dedicated to that region.

Table 23.1  Most-needed outdoor recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>activity</th>
<th>% of households in region</th>
<th>state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails for hiking and walking</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for bicycling</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural areas</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic areas</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for wildlife watching and nature study</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing fields for outdoor sports (softball, baseball, football and soccer)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public pools</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for horseback riding</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to state waters for motorized boating</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails for motorized off-road vehicles</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.

Regional focus

Through the 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey, input from public meetings and partnerships with local and regional staff, four priority considerations for the Virginia Outdoors Plan emerged: opportunities for outdoor recreation, economics, health and wellness, and land conservation. The following section summarizes thoughts and strategies specific to this region.

Health: Outdoor spaces to promote health of the mind, body and spirit, along with fitness, are important to residents. Citizens cited Trust for Public Land studies about economic and health benefits of outdoor recreation.
Youth: Outdoor recreation facilities and programs mentioned during the public meeting include: public pools, ways to address obesity, wellness and healthy living interventions, safe routes to school, use of technology outdoors, developing a mountain bike skills park and establishing an equestrian club.

Trails: Citizens emphasized the need to facilitate regional trail networks with safe road crossings. They also expressed interest in state park equestrian facilities. Trails of interest include the Virginia Capital Trail, the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Great Dismal Swamp land trail connection into North Carolina.

Water access: Additional nonmotorized public water access, specifically kayak and canoe launches, and fishing access are needed. There is interest in providing camping along these water trails, specifically on the North Landing and Chickahominy rivers. Other water-based projects discussed included a community rowing facility and a possible collaborative partnership for the North Landing River Natural Area Preserve.

Land conservation: A land conservation benefits analysis may benefit this region.

Land conservation

The importance of connecting green corridors for habitat and recreation was recognized for both urban and rural landscapes. Citizens at the Virginia Outdoors Plan public meeting held in Hampton Roads mentioned an interest in land conservation specifically supporting Pleasure House Point. Regional scenic value, especially of water views, creates an interest in open parapet bridges with water views and in land conservation along scenic waterways.
**Regional Recommendations**

**Region 23 • Hampton Roads**

Land conservation recommendations:

- Complete a multiple-benefits analysis for land conservation to include analysis of buffering military facilities, land conservation and outdoor recreation.

- Southern Watershed Area Management Plan Conservation Corridor is located in the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

- Corridor connectivity enhances regional ecological value making continued support for the Multiple Benefits Conservation Plan Memorandum of Agreement and the North Landing Water Use Conflict Memorandum of Agreement important to the region.

- The Hampton Roads Green Infrastructure Plan extends the Southern Watershed Area Management Plan corridors to the region. The plan identifies priority areas for connectivity of land conservation and outdoor recreation.

Regional and local organizations and agencies should support land-protection efforts on priority lands identified by conservation partners in the region. Lands for protection may include those located adjacent to rivers and tributaries, national and state park and forest lands, other parks and natural areas, core battlefield areas, properties on the state and national historic registers, and state scenic byways. For more information about prioritizing land conservation, see Chapter 5, Conservation Planning.

**Land trusts operating in the region:**


**Outdoor recreation**

All counties and cities in Hampton Roads, with the exception of Southampton County, have full-time parks and recreation departments.

The *Virginia Beach Park System Analysis* by the Trust for Public Land defines and measures how investment in parks provides economic benefits. Factors considered include: clean air, clean water, tourism, direct use, health, property value and community cohesion.

---

### Table 23.2 Conserved lands

**Hampton Roads Recreational Planning Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>acres</th>
<th>type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chesapeake</td>
<td>1,776.12</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chesapeake</td>
<td>72,960.19</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Franklin</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hampton</td>
<td>72.51</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hampton</td>
<td>1,616.20</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Newport News</td>
<td>15.22</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Newport News</td>
<td>11,870.41</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Norfolk</td>
<td>3,133.76</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Poquoson</td>
<td>3,535.22</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Portsmouth</td>
<td>247.89</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Suffolk</td>
<td>1,176.90</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Suffolk</td>
<td>38,490.30</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Virginia Beach</td>
<td>833.06</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Virginia Beach</td>
<td>31,011.04</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Williamsburg</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Williamsburg</td>
<td>237.17</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
<td>3,562.90</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
<td>4,109.43</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James City County</td>
<td>2,606.99</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James City County</td>
<td>8,586.19</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton County</td>
<td>2,068.08</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton County</td>
<td>625.41</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York County</td>
<td>570.30</td>
<td>Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York County</td>
<td>25,942.20</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>215,070.50</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Protected Lands Inventory, 2013.*
Economic impact

The Virginia Beach waterfront, water-based attractions and the scenic corridor along the North Landing River contribute to the region’s economic vitality. According to the Virginia Tourism Corp. domestic travel to the region generated more than $4 billion in 2011.

Health and wellness

During VOP public meetings, interest was expressed in promoting outdoor recreation and trail use.

An average of 26 percent of the adult population in the region was physically inactive during their leisure time in 2009. Health factors are available by county at the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program website. The following summarizes Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion percentages for physically inactive adults, children in poverty and adult obesity.

### Table 23.3 Per-capita spending on parks and recreation

**Hampton Roads Recreational Planning Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locality</th>
<th>dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James City County</td>
<td>78.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
<td>46.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton County</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surry County</td>
<td>60.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York County</td>
<td>37.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chesapeake</td>
<td>36.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Franklin</td>
<td>67.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hampton</td>
<td>106.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Newport News</td>
<td>121.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Norfolk</td>
<td>83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Poquoson</td>
<td>58.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Portsmouth</td>
<td>91.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Suffolk</td>
<td>55.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Virginia Beach</td>
<td>92.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Williamsburg</td>
<td>85.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>62.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Region 23 • Hampton Roads

Table 23.4  Virginia State Parks 2013 attendance and economic impact
Hampton Roads Recreational Planning Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state park</th>
<th>location</th>
<th>overnight visitors</th>
<th>day-use visitors</th>
<th>total visitors</th>
<th>economic impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>False Cape</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>5,022</td>
<td>59,132</td>
<td>64,154</td>
<td>$1,322,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Landing</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>131,841</td>
<td>1,448,745</td>
<td>1,580,586</td>
<td>$33,067,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Peninsula</td>
<td>Gloucester County</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York River</td>
<td>James City County</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>141,624</td>
<td>141,624</td>
<td>$2,265,984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Virginia State Parks

Regional featured projects
To be considered a regional featured project, a project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Has statewide or regional significance.
- Addresses top statewide or regional needs identified in the Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.
- Has involvement and support from multiple jurisdictions in the region.
- Is able to be initiated within the next five years.

Featured projects for the Hampton Roads region

- The South Hampton Roads Trail is a proposed multiuse trail connecting downtown Suffolk to Virginia Beach. The trail, which could be part of the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail, includes on-road and rails-to-trails projects, and the Elizabeth River ferry. Support and funding are needed for signage, education and trail development, which are being planned by a multijurisdictional committee.

- The Dismal Swamp Canal Connector Trail is a multipurpose trail accommodating equestrians, bicyclists, walkers, joggers and boaters. The trail, located in Virginia and North Carolina, has a 4-mile gap between the city of Chesapeake and Camden County, N.C. Interstate efforts should identify funding sources to complete the trail and provide additional access points and education.

- Pleasure House Point is a partnership project involving Virginia Beach, Lynnhaven River NOW and The Nature Conservancy. The site provides a terminus for the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail. Proposed water access and educational facilities are needed.

Local parks and recreation projects

- Hampton Roads should develop a regional open-space plan that features the region’s large parks and biologically diverse areas.
- Chesapeake should expand recreation to meet growing population demands at the 763-acre Northwest River Park.
Region 23 • Hampton Roads

Map 23.2 Hampton Roads featured projects

- Newport News should expand opportunities to connect other parks and natural areas by trails and greenways to Newport News Park.

- Newport News should implement the Stoney Run Greenway Corridor Plan, which would protect water quality, preserve a historically valuable area and provide public access opportunities.

- Hampton should continue to implement the resource management plan for Grandview Nature Preserve.

- Suffolk should continue to expand public waterway access opportunities throughout the city.

- York County should create trail linkages at Waller Mill Park and provide signs and maps to broaden connections with nearby recreational opportunities.
CHAPTER 10  Regional Recommendations

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• Freshwater fishing opportunities should be expanded at Lake Prince, Lake Burnt Mills, Western Branch Reservoir (Norfolk reservoirs) and Lake Cohoon, Lake Meade, Lake Kilby and Speights (Portsmouth reservoirs).

• Local government and stakeholders should acquire a parcel of property on the tip of the Harris Creek peninsula as an open space and natural area. This area is in Hampton and borders the Back River, which feeds into the Chesapeake Bay. The 155-acre property features forested wetlands, marsh and forested uplands and is becoming threatened by development. Wetland restoration with an educational component could be a part of the future of this site. Public access should be limited to passive recreational activities.

• Isle of Wight County should implement its capital improvement plan, including upgrading or construction of the following facilities at Carrollton Nike Park: relocation of the soccer field complex, a lighted softball field, an additional restroom facility, a new community center, picnic shelters, trails, basketball court, aquatic facility, concessions stand and tennis courts.

• Stakeholders should maintain Fort Boykin Historical Park, a 14-acre facility dating back to 1623, as part of the Captain John Smith Adventures on the James Water Trail and Driving Tour. Improvements needed at this park involve repairs to the erosion control embankment.

• Isle of Wight County should implement the master plan for the Heritage Park and Joel C. Bradshaw Fairgrounds, a 262-acre site with 35 fenced acres, which is designated as fairgrounds, open and wooded space.

• Isle of Wight County should implement the master plan for Hardy District Park, a 50-acre site with 20 acres planned for development.

• James City County and stakeholders should continue to reconstruct and upgrade various historical structures at Freedom Park according to the master plan.

• Stakeholders should connect Powhatan Creek Park located in James City County to other parks and the Captain John Smith Adventures on the James Water Trail.

• Virginia Beach should implement improvements according to the master plan for Stumpy Lake.

• Virginia Beach should provide additional public access opportunities on the Lynnhaven River, Chesapeake Bay, North Landing River and Back Bay.

Local parks and recreation plans should be implemented

• Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan
• James City County Division of Parks and Recreation Master Plan
• The city of Franklin should implement the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan completed in March 2003.

Regional parks

• Paradise Creek Nature Park
• Sandy Bottom Nature Park
• Newport News Park
• Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation
• Jamestown Campground and Yacht Basin
• Windsor Castle Park

Water access

• The Chesapeake Intracoastal Waterway from Great Bridge in Chesapeake through Virginia Beach to North Carolina should be evaluated for extended recreational opportunities on land as well as in the water.

• Plans to mitigate erosion and improve public access at West Neck Creek, Pocaty River, Blackwater Creek, Muddy Creek and Asheville Bridge Creek should be considered.

• Tyler’s Beach boat ramp on the James River in Isle of Wight County needs bulkhead replacement, beach development and a restroom facility.

Plans that impact water access:

• Buckroe Beach Master Plan
• Newmarket Creek Master Plan

Regional water trails

• Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail
• Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail
• Chickahominy Water Trail
• Mattaponi Pamunkey York Water Trails
• York County Blueways
• Eastern Branch Elizabeth River
• Suffolk Water Trail
TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

MULTISTATE TRAILS OR ROUTES

Trails recognized under the National Trails System Act include the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail.

The East Coast Greenway is another multistate trail in this region.

STATEWIDE TRUNKLINE TRAILS

- Implement the James River Heritage Trail.
- Implement the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. In Hampton Roads, the corridor could go through Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Isle of Wight and Southampton counties.
- Continue development of the Virginia Cave and Karst Trail to educate the public about karst resources. The trail will focus on above-ground features throughout the state, including the Yorktown geologic formation.

REGIONAL TRAILS

- Consider the Lake Gaston pipeline as a future connection through Southside Virginia.
- The Hampton Roads Center Parkway Greenway is a conceptual plan to connect Newport News and Hampton to the 8-mile trail system at Sandy Bottom Nature Trail.
- The Cross County Greenway should be developed and managed as a primary greenway corridor in James City County connecting Jamestown Island with York River State Park. This corridor links the Powhatan Creek Greenway with the York River Greenway at the James City County District Park Sports Complex.

BIKE ROUTES

- Localities should implement local plans for bicycle, pedestrian and greenways.
- The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization has a regional bike and pedestrian plan.

OTHER TRAILS

- Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail
- Virginia Civil War Trail – Peninsula Campaign
- Virginia Capital Trail
- TransAmerica Trail
- Chesapeake Bay Gateways
- Dismal Swamp Trail

HISTORIC AND LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

- The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources should continue to work together to maintain an inventory of historic and archaeological resources.
- Research the feasibility of the Deep Creek Canal and Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal as a designated historic transportation route.
- Hampton should develop a master plan for Fort Wool, located near the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

SCENIC RESOURCES

The following scenic resources were identified through Virginia Outdoors Plan public meetings or in collaboration with Scenic Virginia, a private, nonprofit organization that is building a registry of Virginia places of significant scenic beauty.

- Back Bay
- Fort Monroe
- Fort Story
- Jamestown Island
- Virginia Beach oceanfront
- False Cape State Park
- Route 5 and the Virginia Capital Trail
- Captain John Smith Adventures on the James
- York River State Park
- Chesapeake Bay views from First Landing State Park
- View of intracoastal waterway at Great Bridge Lock Park in Chesapeake
Scenic highways and Virginia byways
The Colonial Parkway is a National Scenic Byway and an All-American Road.

- Protect the scenic viewsheds along the Colonial Parkway and the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Colonial National Historical Park.

The following are potential Virginia byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:

- Greenspring Road connecting to the Colonial Parkway
- State Route 35 in Southampton County
- U.S. 13 to the Eastern Shore
- U.S. Route 17 in Isle of Wight County
- Conduct and evaluation of secondary roads that may connect the Bay National Wildlife Refuge with the Great Dismal Swamp

Scenic rivers
Sections of the North Landing, Nottoway, Blackwater and James rivers are the regions designated state scenic rivers.

The following river segments are potential Virginia scenic rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:

- Chickahominy River in James City County from Providence Forge to the James River
- Northwest River in Chesapeake, from its headwaters to the North Carolina state line (This river could be added to the present designation for the North Landing River and its tributaries.)
- James River from the Charles City-James City county line to Hampton Roads where the river flows into the Bay
- Alton’s Creek and Milldam Creek, both tributaries to the North Landing River in Virginia Beach

Federal programs
National parks
- The general management plan for the Colonial Parkway supports recreational improvements at the Colonial National Historical Park and Jamestown Island along the Colonial Parkway, an All-American Road and National Scenic Byway.
First Landing State Park (2,716 acres) is located in Virginia Beach. Recommendations:

- Add public restrooms at Chesapeake Bay Center.
- Increase and reconfigure parking near Chesapeake Bay Center.
- Reconfigure and repair internal roads in campground, contact station and at 64th Street access.
- Construct additional cabins.

York River State Park (2,531 acres) is located in James City County. Recommendations:

- Improve boat ramp facilities at Croaker Landing.
- Construct a new office and welcome center complex, including upgrades to the contact station and park entrance.
- Renovate the visitor center, including upgrades to the interpretive area and displays.

State natural area preserves and natural heritage resources

Hampton Roads, though located entirely within the Coastal Plain, spans a diverse range of habitats, including sandy ocean beaches, salt marshes of the Chesapeake Bay, wind tidal fresh marshes, dry sandhills, seasonally wet ponds and blackwater swamps. These habitats support many rare and significant plant communities and rare species, including: globally rare Coastal plain dry calcareous forests, the federally and state threatened sensitive joint-vetch, and the state endangered eastern big-eared bat.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia’s Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Conservation targets include:

- Protection of pine barren communities.
- Protection of seasonal depression ponds and other significant wetlands.

Table 23.5 Natural area preserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>preserve name</th>
<th>owner</th>
<th>locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antioch Pines</td>
<td>DCR</td>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Ecological Preserve</td>
<td>Old Dominion University</td>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Sandhills</td>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
<td>Isle of Wight County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Bridge</td>
<td>DCR</td>
<td>Southampton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Cape</td>
<td>DCR</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton Ponds</td>
<td>Newport News</td>
<td>York County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Landing River</td>
<td>DCR</td>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest River</td>
<td>DCR and The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>Chesapeake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Quay Sandhills</td>
<td>DCR and private</td>
<td>Southampton County and Suffolk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

Table 23.6 Natural heritage resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of rare species and significant natural communities</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of occurrences of rare species and significant natural communities</td>
<td>1,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of different rare species and significant community types (natural heritage elements)</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of globally rare natural heritage elements</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of species listed as federally endangered or threatened</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of species listed as state endangered or threatened</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites identified by DCR</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites with some protection</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conservation sites with more than 65% of area with some protection</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of adequately protected conservation sites</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of July 1, 2012.
Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Program.
Regional Recommendations

Region 23 • Hampton Roads

- Protection of large blocks of old-growth cypress-tupelo swamps.
- Protection of additional habitat for rare reptiles and amphibians.
- Protection of additional lands along the Northwest and North Landing rivers.

Information about the location of conservation sites and the natural heritage resources they contain, as well as management assistance, is available to local planners from DCR’s Natural Heritage staff. For information about the Natural Heritage Program, see Chapter 9.

State fish hatcheries and wildlife management areas

- Four tracts, totaling 1,546 acres, make up the Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area located on Back Bay. This serves as the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries’ major waterfowl hunting area. Hunting opportunities are further enhanced by a long-standing cooperative agreement with DCR at False Cape State Park.

- The Cavalier Wildlife Management Area is composed of two parcels, the 750-acre Dismal Swamp tract adjoining the Dismal Swamp Canal and the 3,800-acre Cavalier tract that abuts the North Carolina state line near Route 17 in Chesapeake. The area provides coastal and forested habitats for a wide range of wildlife, including black bear, neo-tropical migratory songbirds, canebrake rattlesnakes, white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkeys. Access and management for game should be expanded where feasible.

- The Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area consists of 1,537 acres of brackish marsh and small pine islands along the south side of the lower James River in Isle of Wight County. Deer hunting opportunities exist in the pine islands and other high ground. The James offers saltwater fishing, and freshwater fishing is available on the creeks. The area has interpretive signs and trails, and it has been designated a Watchable Wildlife Area. A public fishing pier is located at the north end of the James River Bridge. A boardwalk, viewing platform and trail, financed through the Non-game Wildlife and Endangered Species Program, enables easy walking access for viewing the marsh and is enjoyed by birdwatchers, hikers and photographers.

DGIF should look for public and private partnerships to expand the National Archery in the Schools program and develop public archery shooting ranges.

State forests

- In 2006, International Paper sold company-owned forest located in the Nottoway, Blackwater and Meherrin river watersheds to The Nature Conservancy. The Virginia Department of Forestry is interested in acquiring the land for a state forest.

- Establish a state forest in Southampton County with opportunities for public access to outdoor recreation. TNC has secured large tracts from International Paper in the vicinity of the Piney Grove Natural Preserve. DOF should acquire this property as a state forest.

Private sector

- The College of William and Mary, Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Christopher Newport University, Tidewater Community College, Paul D. Camp Community College and Thomas Nelson Community College should evaluate opportunities to provide outdoor education opportunities and recreation in the region.
Website directory

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
http://a-npdc.org/

Trust for Public Land studies - economic and health benefits of outdoor recreation
http://www.tpl.org/research/parks/economic-health-benefits.html

U.S. Census Total Population Maps
http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/datamapper.html

Virginia Beach Park System Analysis

Virginia Tourism Corp. domestic travel
http://www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/

Hampton Roads Green Infrastructure Plan
http://www.hrpdcv.org/departments/planning/conservation-planning/

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Virginia Data

North Landing River Natural Area Preserve
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/natural_area_preserves/northlanding.shtml

Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail
http://www.secoastpaddlingtrail.com/

Fort Monroe
http://www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm

Pleasure House Point

Paradise Creek Nature Park
http://paradisecreekpark.org/

Sandy Bottom Nature Park
http://www.hampton.gov/sandybottom/

Newport News Park
http://www.nnparks.com/parks_nn.php

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation
http://www.hofflercreek.org/

Jamestown Campground and Yacht Basin
http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/pdf/shaping-our-shores/final/Chapters/Chapter-3-JYB.pdf

Windsor Castle Park
http://www.windsorcastlepark.com/

Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan

James City County Division of Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Northwest River Park
http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Government/City-Departments/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation-Department/parks/nwrp.htm

Newport News Park
http://www.nngov.com/parks-and-recreation

Stoney Run Greenway Corridor Plan

Grandview Nature Preserve

Waller Mill Park

Carrollton Nike Park
http://www.co.isle-of-wight.va.us/parks-and-recreation/nike-park-sk8/

Fort Boykin Historical Park
http://www.historicisleofwight.com/fort-boykin.html

Hardy District Park, Heritage Park and Joel C. Bradshaw Fairgrounds
http://www.co.isle-of-wight.va.us/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-facilities/
### Website directory  

**Freedom Park**
http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/parks/freedom-park.html

**Powhatan Creek Park and Stumpy Lake Master Plan**
http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/parks/powhatan-creek.html

**Buckroe Beach Master Plan**

**Newmarket Creek Master Plan**
http://www.vhb.com/project.asp?pagename=prj_30605_Newmarket

**Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail**
http://www.secoastpaddlingtrail.com/

**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail**
http://www.nps.gov/cajo/index.htm

**Chickahominy Water Trail**
http://www.virginia.org/Listings/OutdoorsAndSports/ChickahominyWaterTrail/

**Mattaponi Pamunkey York Water Trails**
http://www.mpra.org/

**Suffolk Water Trail**
http://nansemondriverpreservationalliance.org/

**Chesapeake Intracoastal Waterway**
http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/AllWW.aspx

**National Trails System Act**
http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html

**Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**
http://www.nps.gov/stsp/index.htm

**Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail**
http://www.w3r-us.org/

**East Coast Greenway**
http://www.greenway.org/

**James River Heritage Trail**

**Beaches to Bluegrass Trail**
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/trailb2b.shtml

**Virginia Cave and Karst Trail**
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/karsthome.shtml

**Hampton Roads Transportation Plan - Regional Bike/Pedestrian Plan**
http://www.hrtpo.org/

**Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail**
http://va1812bicentennial.dls.virginia.gov/heritage_trail.html

**Virginia Civil War Trail – Peninsula Campaign**

**Virginia Capital Trail**
http://virginiacapitaltrail.org/

**TransAmerica Trail**

**Chesapeake Bay Gateways**
http://www.baygateways.net/

**Dismal Swamp Trail**
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/great_dismal_swamp/

**Fort Wool**

**Scenic Virginia**
http://www.scenicvirginia.org/

**Colonial Parkway**
http://www.nps.gov/colo/parkway.htm

**National Scenic Byway**
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/

**Virginia scenic rivers**
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/srmain.shtml

**Colonial Parkway General Management Plan**
general management plan
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