

Park Amenities



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

The park is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life. It is on the York River and is designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The pristine environment offers clues to a rich natural and cultural history and hosts fossil beds and Colonial and Native American artifacts. Programs, activities and visitor center displays focus on the history, use, wildlife and preservation of the York River and its marshes. Forty miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails allow visitors to explore the marsh, river shoreline and forests. A boat ramp, fresh and salt water fishing spots, a fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and seasonal boat rentals are available.



York River State Park
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Virginia State Parks

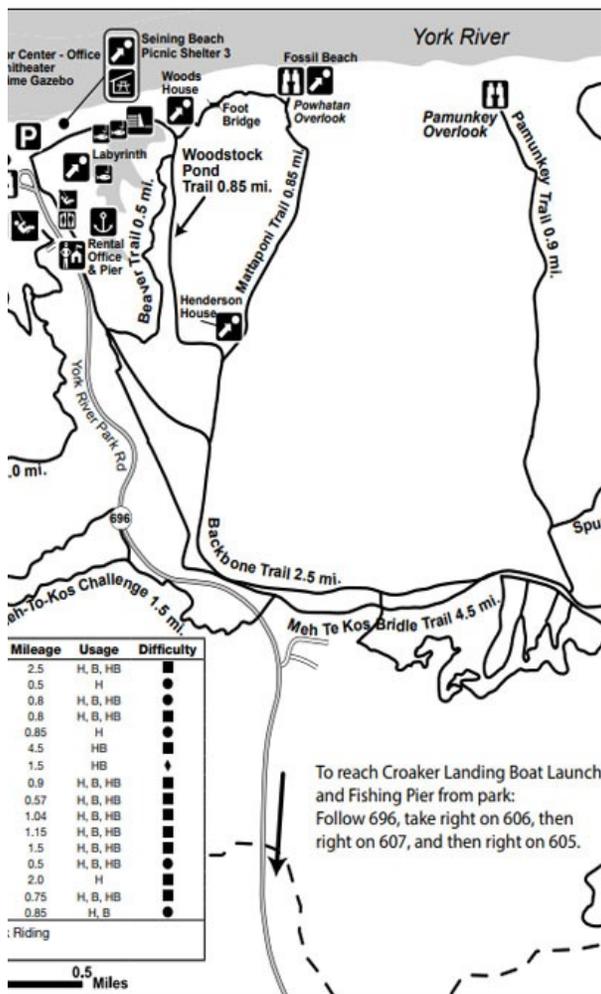
PAMUNKEY TRAIL



YORK RIVER STATE PARK



www.virginiastateparks.gov



Pamunkey: The People

The Pamunkey were one of the most influential of the tribes in the Powhatan Confederacy at the time of the Jamestown Landing in 1607. Their movement was restricted to lands north of the York River (then known as the Pamunkey) as of the 1645 Middle Plantation Treaty. In the 1670's several members of the tribe were pursued and killed along Dragon Run Swamp between King & Queen and Middlesex Counties. The Pamunkey Reservation is located in King William County along the river that bears their name.

Pamunkey: The River

The Pamunkey is formed by the confluence of the North and South Anna Rivers in Hanover County. The non-tidal flow of the Pamunkey is very shallow and can be crossed on foot in some places. The river becomes tidal near US Route 360 between Hanover and King William Counties. Near Sweet Hall Marsh, the water turns brackish and meets the smaller Mattaponi River at the town of West Point to form the York.



Pamunkey: The Trail

Just off of Backbone, the Pamunkey Trail is almost a mile long one way. It is multi-purpose with plenty of room for horseback riders and mountain bikers as well as hikers. It connects to the Spur Trail and intersects the John Blair (Mountain Bike) Trail. To reach the Pamunkey, hike Backbone behind the Contact Station passing the Me-Te-Kos, Beaver, and Woodstock Pond Trails. The terrain is flat surrounded by mostly American Beech, Hickory, and White Oaks. A wheel-wrights shop, blacksmith's shop, and slave quarters from the old Taskinas Plantation have been discovered along Backbone Trail.

The Pamunkey Trail sign will be on your left. As you hike, you will pass the Spur Trail head. This leads to the John Blair plantation seat and the Powhatan Forks Trail. Continue on Pamunkey and there are two steep hills that lead down to the overlook.



The overlook has a wooden viewing platform. During the winter, waterfowl such as buffleheads, canvasbacks, and rudy ducks are plentiful. The fringe marsh at the end of the trail is teeming with fiddler crabs and periwinkle snails in warm weather. Great blue herons and other shorebirds can also be found.

