

REGIONAL RIVERS PLAN

Photo Credit: John Henley

A Plan for the Richmond Region



01/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan fulfills the James River Regional Plan strategy, one of four strategies presented to The Capital Region Collaborative by Bill Street, Chairman of the James River Work Group, on April 26, 2013. The plan is the work of the James River Association and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission with assistance from consultants of Timmons Group and 3north.

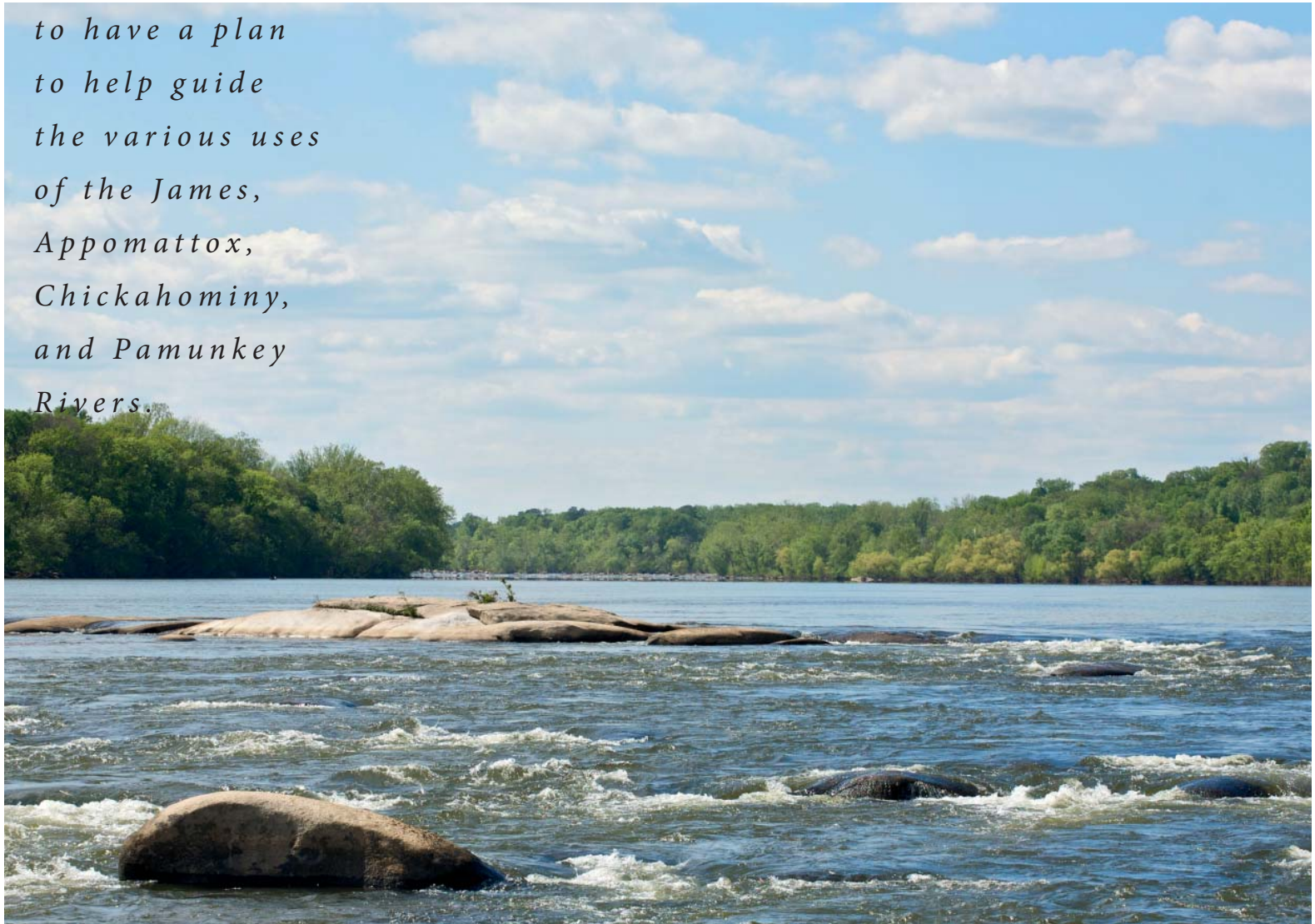
The creation of this plan would not have been possible without the generous support of Altria, WestRock Foundation, Custis

Westham Fund of The Community Foundation, and The Cameron Foundation and guidance from the local governments of the Richmond Region.

Additional gratitude is extended to the Crater Planning District Commission, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), federal and state agencies, organizations, and individuals who contributed knowledge, expertise, and guidance throughout the creation of the plan.



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Regional Rivers Plan

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02/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The James River, “America’s Founding River,” has defined Richmond throughout its history. Richmond’s historical and modern significance is attributed to the James. The James was an important mode of transportation before railroads and highways existed and it continues to be vital to commerce and industry, a source of drinking water, a place where residents recreate, and the Richmond Region’s top attraction.

The Richmond Region benefits from river-based economic activity, tourism, recreation, and events. Therefore, the region should enable sustainable riverfront development and expand its network of public access sites and spaces that connect humans to rivers and their tributaries. Doing so will create opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, improve quality of life, and catalyze economic activity. When the plan is implemented, the Rivers of the region will be centerpieces of recreation, entertainment and commerce.

It is imperative for the region to have a plan to help guide the various uses of the James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers while ensuring the health of each river is protected. This plan makes recommendations, many of which are found in the Virginia Outdoors Plan, local comprehensive plans, other plans and studies, to expand and enhance public recreational access, encourage business development, and promote tourism on the rivers of the region. The plan presents both regional and local recommendations as well as steps for implementation.

This plan is an extension of the work of The Capital Region Collaborative’s James River Work Group and complements recommendations of the Richmond Riverfront Plan, adopted by Richmond City Council in November 2012. When fully implemented the rivers of the region will be the centerpieces for entertainment, recreation, and commerce.

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Regional Rivers Plan



Map of The James River, 1862

03 / INTRODUCTION

The Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) was conceived in 2007 by Chamber RVA, formerly the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) and became a regional effort to engage government, business, and community stakeholders in prioritizing and implementing actions to enhance quality of life in the Richmond Region. RRPDC supports the nine jurisdictions of the Richmond Region include the City of Richmond, the Town of Ashland, and the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and New Kent who work together on issues of regional concern. These local governments work together on issues of regional concern through the RRPDC. The businesses of the region come together as members of Chamber RVA. The CRC promotes regional collaboration, honest conversation and information sharing to create a strong collaborative region with economic vitality, social stability and increased quality of life. The Capital Region comprises nine jurisdictions with over 1 million people and more than 2,000 square miles. The Collaborative Council is made up of government representatives from each jurisdiction and equal number of business and community leaders. More than 8,000 community residents helped to identify priority areas of the region which include:

- Job Creation
- Workforce Preparation
- Quality Place
- Coordinated Transportation
- Healthy Community
- James River
- Social Stability
- Economic Development

The James River, identified as one of seven original priorities of the

region, was supported by a work group tasked with reviewing community input and developing specific strategies for the region with The James River priority area was supported by a work group tasked with reviewing community input and developing specific strategies for the region. Bill Street, Chief Executive Officer of the James River Association, served as Chairman of the James River Work Group. The work group was convened on numerous occasions to identify goals and strategies to better leverage the James River in the Richmond Region. Members of the work group identified three goals intended to make the James River a centerpiece for entertainment, recreation, and commerce:

1. Develop a public access network throughout the region that allows people to connect to the James River in a variety of ways and that enhances and expands existing network elements (parks, trails, dining, recreation, etc).
2. Implement coordinated education, promotion and celebration activities to ensure that everyone in the region has an understanding and appreciation for the James River.
3. Establish sufficient mechanisms both to protect the river's natural beauty, health and unique character and to encourage business development that enhances the Region's connections to the river, including the Port of Richmond.

The James River Work Group identified four strategies to achieve these three goals:

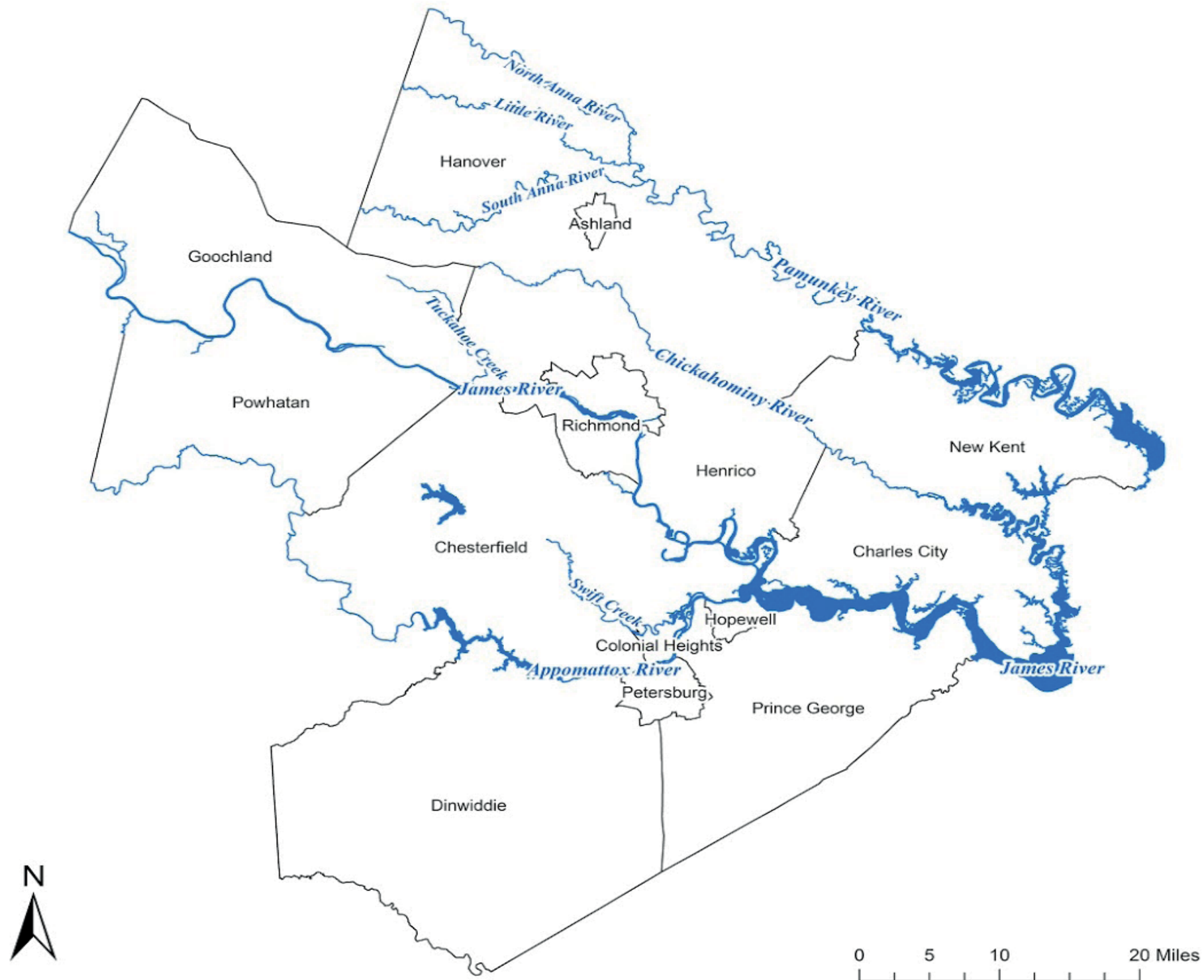
- James River Regional Plan
- Centralized Information
- Consistent Signage
- Increased Celebrations and Events

In 2013, a group of local government representatives was organized by staff members of the RRPDC and James River Association to create a Request For Proposals for the creation of a James River Regional Plan. During the drafting of the RFP, the scope of the regional plan expanded to include the Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers. After receiving proposals, the group reconvened in August 2013 to review them and selected Timmons Group to prepare the plan.

In 2015, a group of four funders including the Altria, WestRock Foundation (formerly MeadWestvaco Foundation), Custis Westham Fund of The Community Foundation, and The Cameron Foundation awarded the James River Association grants to coordinate the creation of the plan. The James River Association executed a contract with Timmons Group on March 3, 2015, which commenced the planning process for the creation of this plan.



Big Tupelo Chickahominy River



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Richmond Region lacks a regional plan coordinating public recreational access and river-dependent business development on the four prominent rivers of the region: James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey. Therefore, the purpose of the Regional Rivers Plan is to produce a coordinated regional plan for the rivers of the Richmond region, endorsed by each jurisdiction, for the public access network and business development.

APPROACH

The following localities were included in the scope of this plan: Cities of Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Colonial Heights; the Town of Ashland, and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and Prince George. Existing conditions of the James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers were conducted to build the foundation on which to make recommendations for the future. Local comprehensive plans, park master plans, economic development strategies, and other plans and studies were reviewed as part of the existing conditions assessments of the four rivers. The planning team organized a two-day stakeholder charrette and two community meetings in June and July 2015. Local government and stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process guided the plan's creation.

EXISTING PLANS

Existing plans and studies were reviewed throughout the creation of this plan. Documents including local comprehensive plans, master plans, and related studies were reviewed. While numerous plans and studies influenced

the creation this plan, the Richmond Riverfront Plan and 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan were tremendously influential.

- ***Richmond Riverfront Plan***

The Riverfront Plan was adopted by Richmond City Council in November 2012 and is the vision document for Richmond's riverfront, beginning at Belle Isle and extending downriver on both riverbanks to Rocketts Landing. The plan identifies opportunities for new and improved connections and open spaces and highlights preferred private development sites that will both gain from and contribute to the long-term stewardship of the riverfront. The implementation of this transformative plan is underway with the completion of the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge, a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly connection between Brown's Island and the Manchester Climbing Wall. Other Riverfront Plan projects that have been completed to date are Tredegar Green, a public green space adjacent to the Belle Isle Parking Lot and the demolition of the Lehigh Cement silos.

- ***Virginia Outdoors Plan***

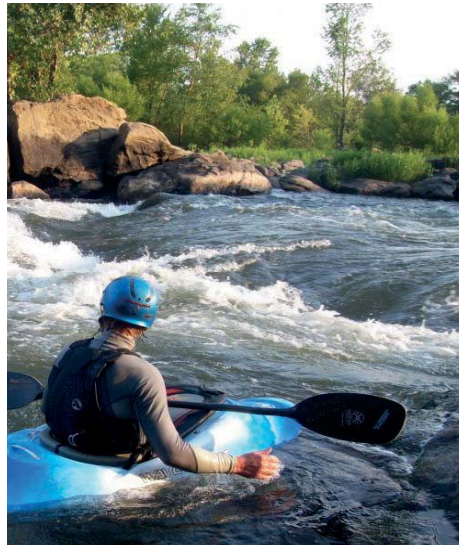
The 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan is the Commonwealth of Virginia's comprehensive plan for land conservation, outdoor recreation and open-space planning created by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Recommendations for recreation in both the Richmond Regional and Crater regions were assessed and used to support many of the recommendations in this plan. Some of the results of the 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey, the foundation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan, helped lay the foundation for this plan.



A Cormorant Sitting Along the River's Edge

ROADMAP TO THE DOCUMENT

Part I of this document presents results from the existing conditions assessments for each river. Part II of this document presents a vision for the rivers of the Richmond Region accompanied by recommendations and strategies for implementation.



PART 1:
EXISTING CONDITIONS

04/ EXISTING CONDITIONS

“No place we knew so strong, so pleasant, and delightful in Virginia. For which we called it None-such.” This is how Captain John Smith described Powhatan, later the site of Richmond, on an expedition up the James River led by Christopher Newport in 1607. Powhatan, the capital of the Powhatan Confederacy, was located near the Falls of the James, the western boundary of the Virginia Indians. The James was known as the Powhatan Flu by the Powhatan Confederacy, who occupied the banks of the river for centuries prior to the arrival of English settlers.

As the primary mode of transportation, the James River was vital to



transportation and commerce between the 17th and 20th Centuries. Richmond's economy was built on the human slave trade, flour-milling, tobacco production, and iron production, all relying on the natural power of the James River. Shipbuilding, cotton mills, paper mills, quarries, and hydroelectric plants also relied on the James and were historically important to Richmond's economy. Richmond was among the largest Atlantic slave trade markets in the United States, second to New Orleans. =Many slaves were sold in the eight-block neighborhood of Shockoe Bottom on the north bank of the James River. The slave trade was a prominent economic activity until the abolition of slavery at the end of the American Civil War. At the beginning of the 20th Century the James River was reeling from the impacts of industry and overfishing. Centuries of industrial and human activity were beginning to take its toll on the river. Iron works, paper mills, and other industries were dumping waste directly into the river. Human waste was also entering the river via Richmond's municipal sewer system.

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- Captain John
Smith*

Railroads and rail yards, which replaced the James River and Kanawha Canal as the preferred mode of transportation in the 19th Century, became physical barriers on Richmond's riverfront. Powerboating emerged as a recreational activity on the James in the mid-20th Century and Newton Ancarrow manufactured world-renowned powerboats on Richmond's south bank at what is known today as Ancarrow's Landing. Yet the James was in terrible health and hit rock bottom when the toxic pesticide Kepone was discovered in the river at Hopewell in 1975. Governor Mills Godwin banned fishing on the James from Richmond to the Chesapeake Bay in December of that year and the ban remained in effect for thirteen years.

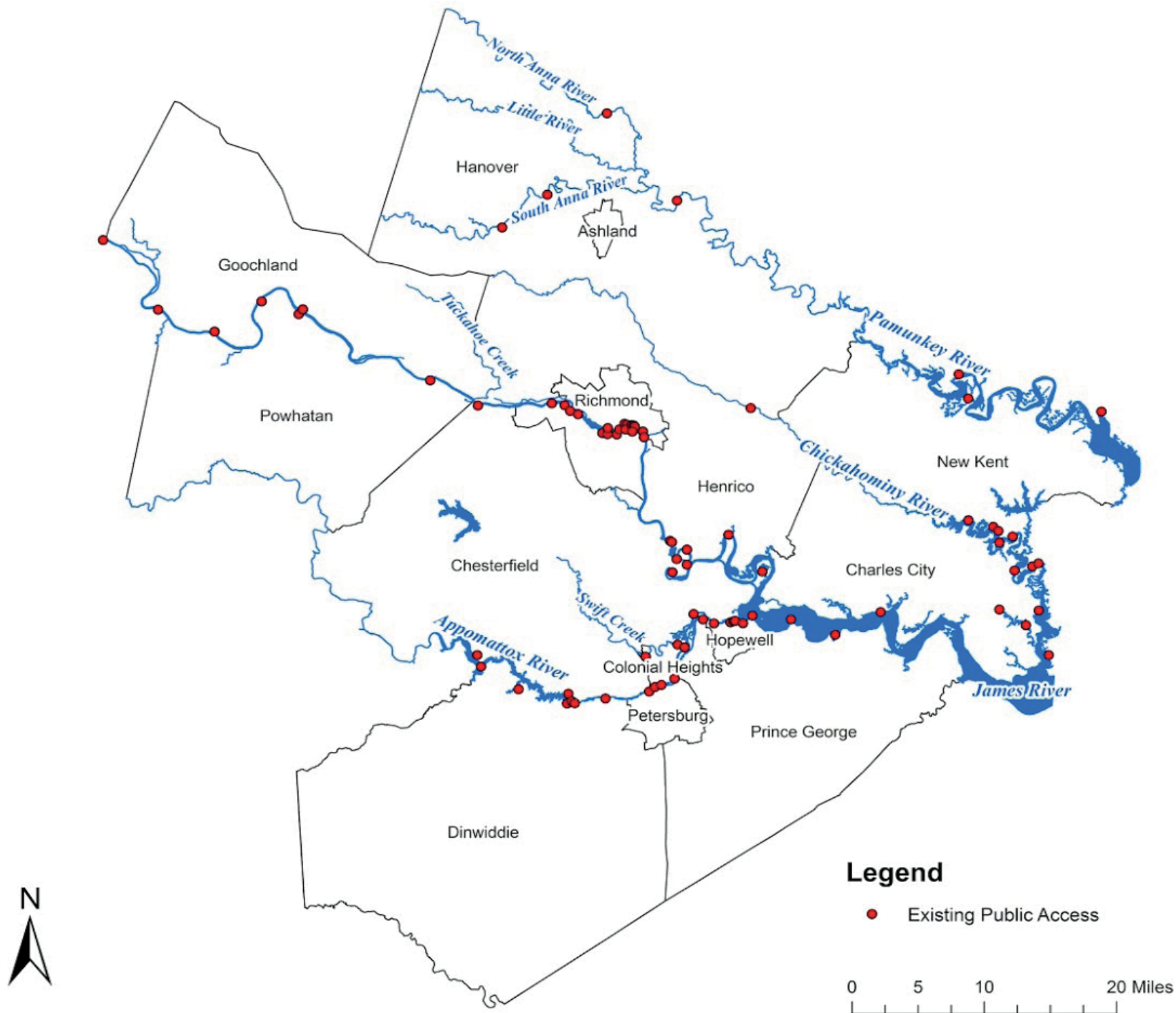
The health of the James has improved dramatically since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972 as sewage, stormwater, and industrial pollution are managed in more river-friendly ways. Significant investments have been made by the Commonwealth of Virginia and local governments to improve the health of the James. Richmond is the epicenter of Central Virginia's increasingly popular outdoor recreation scene and the James River offers numerous activities including whitewater rafting, kayaking, standup paddleboarding, canoeing, fishing, tubing, and swimming. Richmond was named "Best River Town Ever" by Outside Magazine in 2012. This designation is a significant milestone in the history of the resilient James River.

The James River is the single-most influential geographic feature to the historical development of Virginia and the United States. The United States House of Representatives recognized the James River as "America's Founding River" in 2007 acknowledging its "extraordinary historic, economic, recreational, and environmental importance." No other natural feature has influenced the history and development of the City of Richmond

and the Richmond Region as much as the James. The James continues to influence the development of the region as numerous new residential and commercial development projects begin to take shape on the banks of the James, primarily in the City of Richmond. Proximity to numerous recreational activities and beautiful vistas offered by the James, in addition to the ambitious Richmond Riverfront Plan and acres of underutilized riverfront property are the catalysts for reinvestment in Richmond's riverfront. After taking the James for granted much of the 20th Century, Richmond is turning its face toward the James and beginning to leverage it for quality of life and economic benefits. Localities upriver and downriver of Richmond have are beginning to leverage the James. Similarly, localities along the Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers, the region's other prominent rivers, are beginning to realize the benefits of their rivers.

The scope of this plan includes two planning regions, 14 localities, and the four prominent rivers of the Richmond Region, the James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey. The following localities were included in the scope of this plan: Cities of Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Colonial Heights; the Town of Ashland, and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and Prince George. The population of the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 1,260,668 (U.S. Census, 2014 1-Year Estimate, American Community Survey) Median age of the MSA is 37.9 and 58% of the

The James River is the single-most influential geographic feature to the historical development of Virginia...



population is White, 29% Black, 6% Hispanic, 4% Asian, 3% Other, and less than 1% American Indian.

Based on public outreach conducted in 2011, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan presents the outdoor recreation needs for each planning region in Virginia. According to Figure 1, the most needed activities in the Richmond Region are trails for hiking and walking, public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use, and natural areas, and trails for bicycling. Similarly, according to Figure 2, the most needed outdoor recreation in the Crater Region is public access to state waters and trails.

FIGURE 1: MOST-NEEDED OUTDOOR RECREATION
Richmond Regional Recreational Planning Region

activity	% of households in	
	region	state
Trails for hiking and walking	66	68
Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use	62	60
Natural areas	57	55
Trails for bicycling	57	54
Historic areas	52	51
Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)	46	46
Trails for wildlife watching and nature study	42	45
Playing fields for outdoor sports (softball, baseball, football and soccer)	41	40
Public pools	37	38
Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball	32	32
Trails for horseback riding	21	22
Public access to state waters for motorized boating	20	22
Trails for motorized off-road vehicles	17	17
Other	6	6

Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

FIGURE 2: MOST-NEEDED OUTDOOR RECREATION

Crater Recreational Planning Region

activity	% of households in	
	region	state
Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use	59	60
Trails for hiking and walking	58	68
Trails for bicycling	54	54
Trails for wildlife watching and nature study	49	45
Historic areas	40	51
Public pools	40	38
Playing fields for outdoor sports (softball, baseball, football and soccer)	38	40
Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)	38	46
Natural areas	37	55
Trails for horseback riding	34	22
Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball	32	32
Public access to state waters for motorized boating	27	22
Trails for motorized off-road vehicles	27	17
Other	5	6

Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

CONSERVATION ON THE RIVERS OF THE RICHMOND REGION

The Richmond Region is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the largest estuary in the United States. The James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, Pamunkey, Rivers and their tributaries supply public water to more than half a million people in the region. Healthy riparian buffers and natural areas act as pollution filters for stormwater runoff by preventing sediment and nutrients from reaching streams and rivers. Protecting and restoring land ensures clean drinking water for residents of the region as well as healthy rivers and streams for recreation. Figure 3 and Figure 4 depict the amount of conserved land in the Richmond and Crater Regions.

While the riverfronts of the region, chiefly Richmond's Riverfront, are reinvigorated by capital improvements and private investment, the banks of the rivers of the region are generally forested. From the James River's headwaters in the Alleghany Highlands to the Chesapeake Bay, the banks of the James are largely undeveloped. According to the James River Subwatershed Land Cover Buffer Analysis conducted by the Chesapeake Conservancy in 2015, 16,750 acres or 2.52% of the 100' riparian buffer on the James and its tributaries, including the Appomattox River and Chickahominy River, is developed. 528,837 acres or 79.52% of the 100' riparian buffer is forested. Organizations like the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Capital Region Land Conservancy, and others are working to ensure the ecologically and historically rich banks of the James in the Richmond Region are protected for generations to come.

FIGURE 3: CONSERVED LANDS*Crater Recreational Planning Region*

locality	acres	type
City of Colonial Heights	0.64	Easement
City of Hopewell	23.30	Easement
City of Hopewell	23.19	Ownership
City of Petersburg	97.50	Easement
City of Petersburg	1,413.29	Ownership
Dinwiddie County	2,417.54	Easement
Dinwiddie County	15,746.21	Ownership
Greensville County	1,425.92	Easement
Prince George County	4,978.91	Easement
Prince George County	7,770.41	Ownership
Surry County	1,788.17	Easement
Surry County	6,272.48	Ownership
Sussex County	3,732.99	Easement
Sussex County	9,665.01	Ownership
Total	55,355.56	

*Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan***FIGURE 4: CONSERVED LANDS***Richmond Regional Recreational Planning Region*

locality	acres	type
Charles City County	4,089.35	Easement
Charles City County	5,571.24	Ownership
Chesterfield County	1,039.79	Easement
Chesterfield County	12,195.97	Ownership
City of Richmond	6.84	Easement
City of Richmond	1,780.37	Ownership
Goochland County	5,037.96	Easement
Goochland County	203.39	Ownership
Hanover County	3,568.48	Easement
Hanover County	1,456.49	Ownership
Henrico County	607.02	Easement
Henrico County	5,975.16	Ownership
New Kent County	3,094.50	Easement
New Kent County	2,965.82	Ownership
Powhatan County	2,154.94	Easement
Powhatan County	6,026.48	Ownership
Total	55,773.80	

Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

VIRGINIA SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM

According to the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan, the following sections of the James, Appomattox and Chickahominy rivers are designated state scenic rivers by the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program, a program of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:

- Appomattox River 100 feet below Lake Chesdin Dam to confluence with the James River
- Chickahominy River at Route 360 to the Hanover-Henrico-New Kent County line
- Historic Falls of the James from west Richmond (1970 city limits) to Orleans Street
- Lower James from 1.2 miles east of Trees Point to Lawnes Creek (James City-Surry County line)

The following river segments have been evaluated and found to qualify for designation as state scenic rivers:

- Chickahominy River at the New Kent, Henrico and Charles City County line to the Route 618 Bridge
- James River from Orleans Street to Surry County
- North Anna River from Route 738 to Route 1 at Chandler Crossing
- James River from Wingina to Maidens Landing
- The James River between Hopewell and the Surry-Prince George county line
- South Anna River from Route 673 to Route 686
- Pamunkey River from Route 614 to Pampatike Landing



Belle Isle, James River, City of Richmond, VA

ABOVE THE FALLS OF THE JAMES

The Counties of Goochland and Powhatan makeup the western boundary of the Richmond Region. Goochland lies on the north bank of the James River and Powhatan on the south bank. Goochland and Powhatan are located within the Middle James River region which extends from Richmond west to Lynchburg. Both counties are largely rural defined by low-density residential and agricultural land uses with relatively small populations compared to their neighbors Henrico and Chesterfield Counties. Henrico and Chesterfield are largely suburbanized and possess the largest populations of all localities in the Richmond Region. Both counties have river frontage above and below the Falls of the James River. Henrico lies on the north bank of the James and Chesterfield is on the south bank.

GOOCHLAND COUNTY

The James River accounts for more than 40 miles of Goochland County's southern border. Existing publicly accessible recreational sites exist at Westview and Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing. Improvements are underway at Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing and a new destination brewery is planned on Tuckahoe Creek.

- **Westview** (Westview Road, Goochland, Virginia): The westernmost public river access site in the Richmond Region is located in Goochland at Westview. The Westview Boat Ramp is maintained by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and is located on the James River at the end of Westview Road, 1.3 miles south of Rock Castle Road. This site is intended for fishing and boating.

- **Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing** (1300 Maidens Road, Maidens, Virginia) Goochland has one public riverfront park, Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing (1300 Maidens Road), which opened in 2012. Tucker Park is a 36-acre facility located along 1,200 feet of the James River. The park is a joint venture between Goochland County and the Friends of Goochland Parks and includes accessible shoreline access to the river, open recreation areas, and the CarMax Cares performance area. The park's "Nature Walkabout" Outdoor Classroom includes a teaching stage, multi-use trail, seating along the James River, butterfly garden, and interpretive signage.

The Friends of Goochland Parks held a dedication ceremony for The Donald L. Charles Memorial Sycamore Grove and broke ground for a new kayak and canoe Launch at Tucker Park in November 2015. The new launch opened in August 2016. Additionally, L.L. Bean recently opened a retail store in Short Pump Towne Center and plans to offer outdoor recreation programming at Tucker Park in 2016.

POWHATAN COUNTY

Powhatan is home to Powhatan State Park and two Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries boat ramps at Maidens Boat Ramp and Watkins Landing.

- **Powhatan State Park** (4616 Powhatan State Park Road, Powhatan, Virginia) Powhatan is home to the 1,565-acre Powhatan State Park (4616 Powhatan State Park Road), one of Virginia's newest State Parks. Powhatan State Park opened in July 2013 and features 2.5 miles of riverfront, a canoe launch, a canoe-in campground, wildlife observation areas, picnic shelters, a playground and miles of multi-use trails.

The park land was transferred from the Department of Juvenile Justice to the Department of Conservation and Recreation through the 2003 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 1042, Item 381. M, dated May 1, 2003. Prior to the transfers, the land was administered by the Department of Juvenile Justice and was part of the Beaumont Correctional Center and farmed by the Department of Corrections. A master plan was completed to guide park development in 2007 and when implemented, the park will offer the full range of recreational opportunities typical at Virginia State Parks.

- **Maidens** (Bateau Landing Road, Maidens, Virginia): Maidens Boat Ramp is maintained by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This concrete ramp is located directly across the James River from Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing and adjacent to the Route 522 bridge at the end of Bateau Landing Road. This site is intended for fishing and boating.
- **Watkins Landing** (Watkins Landing Road, Midlothian, Virginia): Watkins Landings is maintained by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This concrete double ramp at the end of Route 652 offers boating access to the flatwater created by Boshers Dam nearly 10 mile downriver. This site is intended for fishing and boating.

HENRICO COUNTY

Henrico's seven miles of river frontage above the Falls of the James is largely privately-owned and inaccessible to the public. In 1999, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors adopted the Update 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Henrico's Comprehensive Plan Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan includes much of the information in that plan.

- **Tuckahoe Creek Park** (Ridgefield Parkway/Old Coach Lane): Henrico County citizens approved the development of a passive park on Tuckahoe Creek in the 1989 Bond Referendum and in the subsequent parks referendum in 2000. Today, Henrico County Recreation and Parks owns 240-acres of land along Tuckahoe Creek, a tributary of the James River. Henrico County Recreation and Parks is proceeding with the first phase of development as outlined in the approved Tuckahoe Creek Phase I Master Plan. Phase I will feature a universally accessible boardwalk system designed for passive recreation activities. The boardwalk system will feature walking, fishing, and wildlife observation opportunities.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department park system contains approximately 5000 acres of various park types and witnessed nearly 5.35 million visitations in fiscal year 2015. 3,100 acres of Chesterfield's parkland are special purpose parks providing access to unique recreational, cultural, historical or environmental resources. Chesterfield County is also home to Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, Parker's Battery, and Drewry's Bluff National Battlefield Park. Chesterfield's river frontage above the Falls of the James features Robious Landing Park, a 102-acre county-owned riverfront park, and Virginia Powerboat Association.

- **Robious Landing Park** (3800 James River Road, Midlothian, Virginia): Robious Landing Park is 102-acre county-owned park offering a variety of opportunities for recreation. The park features picnic shelters, playgrounds, a canoe/kayak slide, and floating dock for fishing, sunbathing and launch of rowing sculls. A trail network of 3.4 miles meander through the park and opportunities for fishing and wildlife observation are numerous. The park accommodates rowing on the flatwater created by Boshers Dam.

FALLS OF THE JAMES

Residents of the Richmond Region are fortunate to have the James River flowing through their backyards. One of the most exciting sections of the river to paddle, The Falls of the James, begins just west of the city limits. In this unique section of river the river drops more than one hundred feet over the course of seven miles as it enters the coastal plain. The Falls of the James terminates near the 14th Street Bridge where the James becomes tidal.

Outfitters including Riverside Outfitters, Black Dog Paddle, RVA Paddlesports, and Kayak Richmond do business on Falls of the James via the James River Park System. These outfitters offer their customers instruction, rentals, and guided river trips, including whitewater rafting. Riverside Outfitters operates a seasonal outpost on Brown's Island and offers kayak, standup paddleboard, and mountain bike rentals. Legend Brewery offers customers food and beverage with exceptional views of the Richmond skyline and Falls of the James.

CITY OF RICHMOND

The City of Richmond was incorporated in 1742 and is named for the James River's resemblance to the River Thames at Richmond Upon Thames in the United Kingdom. The City lies at the center of the Richmond Region and features the James River Park System and a historic riverfront. The James River is the centerpiece of the Richmond Region. Richmond was named "Best River Town Ever" by Outside Magazine in 2012. This designation brought attention to the James River, James River Park System, and Richmond's riverfront. Later that year Richmond's City Council adopted the Richmond Riverfront Plan or "Riverfront Plan." Richmond's City Council



The Kickstand Bicycle Rentals, City of Richmond, VA

adopted the Richmond Riverfront Plan in November 2012. The Riverfront Plan is the vision document for Richmond's 2.25-mile riverfront that identifies opportunities for new and improved connections and open spaces, incorporating a broad range of landscape experiences and programmatic opportunities.

- **James River Park System:** The City of Richmond's 650-acre James River Park System on the north and south banks of the James is the crown jewel of parks in the region. From Huguenot Flatwater to Ancarrow's Landing, the James River Park System is one of the highest concentrations of recreational access sites in the Richmond Region and supports a variety of recreational activities including hiking, swimming, paddling, mountain biking, and whitewater rafting. Known as the region's playground, the park system saw an estimated 1,305,907 visitors in 2015 making it the most visited attraction in the region. Belle Isle, a pivotal space in the park system, saw just over half of the total visitation at 655,513, with Pony Pasture (193,027) and Texas Beach (108,336) seeing the second and third most visitors. Increasing visitation has inspired interest in the creation of a master plan for the park.

- **Brown's Island:** Brown's Island, managed by Venture Richmond, is the epicenter for events on Richmond's riverfront. This manicured public space hosts popular events like Friday Cheers, Dominion Riverrock and Richmond Folk Festival. The public space offers access to the Haxall Canal and spectacular views of the Downtown Richmond skyline and the James River.

- **Richmond Riverfront Plan:** The implementation of the transformative Richmond Riverfront Plan is underway with the highly anticipated construction of the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge, a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly connection between Brown's Island and the Manchester Climbing Wall, expected to be complete in fall 2016. Other Riverfront Plan projects that have been completed to date are Tredegar Green, a public green space adjacent to the Belle Isle Parking Lot that accommodates events, and the demolition of the Lehigh Cement silos, which created a new 1.5 acre public space on the riverfront. Infrastructure improvements are underway at Intermediate Terminal as Stone Brewing Co. prepares to open a restaurant in the historic building on the site. The City of Richmond intends to engage citizens in the planning of the "Downriver" section of the riverfront in 2016.

BELOW THE FALLS OF THE JAMES

The James River below Richmond's 14th Street Bridge is both a historic and industrial section of river in the Richmond Region. Richmond's riverfront was built at the bottom of the Falls of the James and remnants of a once bustling riverfront remain in the vicinity of Intermediate Terminal. The tidal portion of the James River continues to be an important industrial corridor in the Richmond Region.

- **Virginia Capital Trail:** After its completion in 2015 the Virginia Capital Trail established a cyclist and pedestrian connection between Richmond and Jamestown in James City County. The paved trail largely parallels Route 5, a Virginia Scenic Byway, passing through Richmond's riverfront, including the Low Line, Henrico, Charles City, and James City Counties. The Virginia Capital Trail Foundation continues to improve amenities along the trail which is expected to see significant visitation.
- **Ancarrow's Landing** (2000 Brander Street, Richmond, Virginia): Across the James River from Rocketts Landing, on the south bank, is the recently enhanced Ancarrow's Landing. Ancarrow's Landing is a popular spot for fishing throughout the year, especially in the spring and summer months. The concrete boat ramp is the first public landing downriver of the Falls of the James and accommodates motorized watercraft. Ancarrow's Landing is the trailhead for the Richmond Slave Trail.
- **Port of Richmond** (5000 Deepwater Terminal Road Richmond, Virginia): The 121-acre Port of Richmond on the James River is Central Virginia's domestic and international multi-modal freight and distribution gateway. The Port of Richmond is owned by the City of Richmond and leased to the Virginia Port Authority, allowing the authority to make capital

improvements and effectively manage the barge port. The Port handles containers, temperature-controlled containers, breakbulk, bulk, and neo-bulk cargo. Cargo passing through the Port of Richmond includes chemicals, pharmaceuticals, forest products, paper, machinery, consumer goods, frozen seafood, produce, steel, steel products, stone, tobacco leaf, aluminum, vehicles, and boats. Advantages of the Port of Richmond include:

- o Access to inland markets. The Port of Richmond is centrally located on the East Coast and possesses multi-modal transportation infrastructure. 50% of the nation's consumers and manufacturing establishments are located within 750 miles of the Port.
- o Access to Interstate 95, the principal north-south transportation artery on the East Coast and nearby access to Interstates 64, 81, 70, and 85
- o Numerous freight companies and brokers serve the area, including specialists in heavy hauling, over-dimensional loads, and liquid and dry bulk
- o CSX provides direct rail connection with local switch service via Norfolk Southern
- o Richmond International Airport (RIC) with Foreign Trade Zone #207, is nearby
- o Container-on-barge service from Hampton Roads to Richmond

HENRICO COUNTY

Henrico County possess 26 miles of river frontage below the Falls of the James and features two publicly accessible parks and boat landings.



Bike Riders along the Virginia Capital Trail

Three marinas including Rocketts Landing, Kingsland Reach Marina, and Richmond Yacht Basin are located in Henrico. Three marinas including Rocketts Landing, Kingsland Reach Marina, and Richmond Yacht Basin are located in Henrico.

- ***Rocketts Landing:*** A mixed-used development is taking shape at historic Rocketts Landing on the north bank of the James. Rocketts Landing features a variety of residences, storefronts, office spaces, riverfront restaurants, and access to the recently completed Virginia Capital Trail. The Boathouse and Conch Republic restaurants offer dining on the James River with views of Downtown Richmond. Rocketts Landing is home to the Virginia Boat Club, a nonprofit organization promoting rowing, and a marina with 57 slips providing fuel service and accommodating vessels up to 50 feet in length.
- ***Osborne Park and Boat Landing*** (9530 Osborne Turnpike, Henrico, Virginia): Osborne Park and Boat Landing is a 26-acre park in eastern Henrico County. The park features picnic pavilions, a universally accessible fishing pier, a playground, a canoe launch, restroom facilities, potable water, event space, and concrete boat ramp. A large vehicular and trailer parking area exists adjacent to the boat ramp.
- ***Deep Bottom Park*** (9525 Deep Bottom Road, Henrico, Virginia): The 56-acre Deep Bottom Park features a boat ramp, canoe launch, opportunities for fishing, trails, picnic shelters and tables, and restroom facilities. The Deep Bottom Park Master Plan, approved by Henrico County Board of Supervisors in April 1999, contains a variety of planned infrastructure including an expanded trail network and park center facility.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Chesterfield County's riverfront below the Falls of the James features parks, river access sites, and conservation areas. A new park on the banks of the James at the 109-acre "James River Conservation Area" just downriver of Falling Creek Linear Park and Ironworks is proposed. The Trust for Public Land acquired the acreage for \$700,000 on February 18, 2016 and conveyed the land to Chesterfield for use as a public park and conservation area. The park will extend one mile down the James River from Falling Creek.

- ***Falling Creek Linear Park and Ironworks*** (6407 Jefferson Davis Highway, North Chesterfield, VA): The 83-acre Falling Creek Linear Park and Ironworks parallels Falling Creek as it enters the James River one mile south of Richmond city limits. The park features trails and interpretation on the banks of Falling Creek. The ironworks were the first in North America, operating from 1615-1622.
- ***James River Conservation Area*** (1820 Marina Drive, Chesterfield, VA): James River Conservation Area is a recent park acquisition fronting nearly one mile of the James River from Falling Creek to Drewry's Bluff. It is undeveloped with a conceptual plan featuring boating and fishing access, historic interpretation, trails and picnicking. The James River Scenic Trail will be the spine trail of this park. The southern end of the property offers spectacular views of the James River.
- ***Drewry's Bluff*** (7600 Fort Darling Road, North Chesterfield, Virginia): Drewry's Bluff is a 42-acre National Battlefield Park on the James featuring an interpretive trail around preserved earthworks of a Civil War fort and encampment. Drewry's Bluff offers views of the James.



Rocketts Landing, Henrico County, VA

- **Dutch Gap Boat Landing** (441 Coxendale Road, Chester, Virginia): Dutch Gap Boat Landing features two concrete boat ramps near Dominion Virginia Power Dutch Gap Power Station. This site is jointly managed by Chesterfield County and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- **Henricus Historical Park** (251 Henricus Park Road, Chester, Virginia): Henricus Historical Park is a 32-acre living history park and museum. The park is comprised of five venues which tell the story of native Americans, early settlement life, expansion out to plantations along the James River,

early medicine, colonial education and river commerce. Historical interpreters in period dress and colonial structures demonstrate life in 17th century Virginia. The park also features expansive views on a 60' bluff overlooking the James River. River access at Henricus Historical Park and Dutch Gap Conservation Area is currently being improved through the Dutch Gap Relic River Boardwalk project.

- **Dutch Gap Conservation Area** (341 Henricus Park Road, Chester, Virginia): The Dutch Gap Conservation Area is a protected area encompassing 810 acres that surrounds Henricus Historical Park. The conservation area features land and water trails around a lagoon area where visitors can paddle, fish, observe nature, and learn about the mining history of the area. A 4.5 mile trail circles the lagoon and offers both river and lagoon fishing and wildlife observation from docks and blinds.
- **Brown and Williamson Conservation Area** (2800 Bermuda Hundred Road, Chester, Virginia): The 262-acre Brown and Williamson Conservation Area features one mile of undeveloped riverfront and a 13-acre freshwater pond. A master plan features an education center, picnic shelters, parking, non-motorized boating, a primitive camping area, trails, and opportunities for fishing.
- **Presquile National Wildlife Refuge**: Presquile National Wildlife Refuge is a 1,329 acre island open to wildlife-dependent activities. The refuge is home to the James River Ecology School, a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and James River Association. Visitation is allowed during refuge sponsored events and by pre-arranged permits.

LOWER JAMES

The Lower James is characterized by historic landscapes and its banks are lined with historic plantations. This section of river continues to support commerce and industry. Industrial activity is concentrated in and around the City of Hopewell.

CITY OF HOPEWELL

The City of Hopewell lies on the south bank of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Historic City Point is located at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers. City Point was once a small port town and one of the busiest in the world as hundreds of ships delivered food, clothing, and ammunition during the Civil War.

- **Appomattox Plantation and General Grant's Headquarters** (1001 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell, Virginia): Historic City Point includes the Appomattox Plantation, built in 1763, and managed by the National Park Service as part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. General Ulysses S. Grant established his headquarters at City Point during the Civil War where received notable visitors including President Abraham Lincoln. This historic and scenic site is open to the public and accommodates special events including weddings.
- **Old City Point Waterfront Park:** Just downriver from Appomattox Plantation is Old City Point Waterfront Park. This park is on the banks of the James and features a boardwalk, benches, picnic tables, a gazebo, restroom facilities, and opportunities for fishing.



Lawrence Lewis Boat Ramp, Charles City County, VA

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

The most sparsely populated county in the Richmond Region has river frontage lined with historic plantations. Charles City County is home a collection of plantations dating back to the 18th Century and include Berkeley, Shirley, Westover, Evelynton, and Sherwood Forest. The James River Plantations are accessible via scenic Route 5, are generally open to the public, and accommodate a variety of special events. Charles City County has one publicly accessible park on the James River, Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park and a research facility at the Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center. Two barge ports are also found on the James, one associated with the sand and gravel operation at Sandy Point and the other, Port Tobacco,

located near Shirley Plantation. Port Tobacco handles barges bringing a variety of commodities to the local area.

- **Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center** (3701 John Tyler Memorial Hwy, Charles City, Virginia): Situated between the historic Berkeley and Shirley Plantations along the James River, the Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Rivers Center is a research facility and outdoor laboratory. A gift from Mrs. Inger Rice in 2000 to Virginia Commonwealth University, this 342-acre site serves university students and faculty. By the completion of its three phases of development, there will be an auditorium, research labs, an outdoor classroom, and overnight facilities.
- **Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park** (12400 Wilcox Wharf Road, Charles City, Virginia): This 26-acre public park opened in 2013 as a result of a public-private partnership and features a boat ramp, vehicular and trailer parking, universally accessible fishing pier, hiking trail, picnic pavilions, and restroom facilities. Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park is the only publicly accessible site for recreation on the James River in Charles City County.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

- **Jordan Point Yacht Haven** (101 Jordan Point Road, Hopewell, Virginia): Jordan Point Yacht Haven, located on the south bank of the James downriver of Hopewell at the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, is a privately-owned and publicly accessible marina. The marina offers dual concrete boat ramps, floating docks, boat slips, dry storage, as well as boat maintenance and repair.

- **James River National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan:** The 4,325-acre James River National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, was established in 1991 to conserve fish, wildlife and plants listed as endangered or threatened species. Visitor access to the refuge is permitted during refuge sponsored events and by pre-arranged permits. Recreational amenities including an extended trail and improved canoe/kayak launch are planned in the James River National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

APPOMATTOX RIVER

The Appomattox River, named for the Appamatuck Indians who lived on its banks until the 17th Century, is approximately 157 miles long and begins west of the Richmond Region near the Town of Appomattox. It is the southern part of the Richmond Region and meanders by Powhatan County, Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, City of Petersburg, City of Colonial Heights, Prince George County, and enters the James River at the City of Hopewell's historic City Point. The Upper Appomattox is the section of the Appomattox River upriver of Lake Chesdin. The southern borders of Powhatan County and Chesterfield County follow the Appomattox River. Public access to the Appomattox River upriver of Lake Chesdin does not exist in Powhatan and Chesterfield Counties.

LAKE CHESDIN

The Appomattox River is somewhat accessible on Lake Chesdin, a 3,100-acre manmade reservoir created by the Brasfield Dam. Lake Chesdin is popular among boaters and anglers who fish for largemouth bass, crappies, and channel catfish.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

- **Lake Chesdin Park and Boat Landing** (21900 Lake Chesdin Parkway, Chesterfield, Virginia): This Chesterfield County public park on Lake Chesdin features a slide for launching canoes and kayaks and two docks and pier for fishing and wildlife observation.
- **Seven Springs Marina and Store** (8810 River Road, Chesterfield, Virginia): This marina and store on Lake Chesdin is privately-owned and publicly accessible.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

- **Lake Chesdin Campground** (713 Sutherland Road, Church Road, Virginia): This privately-owned and publicly accessible campground and trailer park offers overnight camping, playground, pavilions, swimming area, and boat ramp.
- **Whippernock Marina and Campground** (2700 Sutherland Road, Church Road, Virginia): This privately-owned and publicly accessible marina, campground, and trailer park offers overnight camping, swimming, pavilions, a fishing pier, and a boat ramp with gas. A full-service convenience store sells fishing licenses, live bait, fishing gear, food and beverages.
- **Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp** (Chesdin Lake Road, Church Road, Virginia): This concrete ramp just above the Brasfield Dam provides boating access to Lake Chesdin and features a universally-accessible fishing pier. This site is intended for fishing and boating.

Appomattox River

LOWER APPOMATTOX

The removal of the Harvell Dam in 2014 unobstructed the Lower Appomattox River and created new recreational opportunities. With leadership from the Crater Planning District Commission and Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), localities along the Appomattox River have established numerous publicly accessible recreational sites connected by the Appomattox River, Appomattox River Trail, and Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System. In early 2016 FOLAR, Crater Planning District Commission, and localities along the Lower Appomattox River corridor developed a request for proposals for the creation of a master plan for the recently re-branded Appomattox River Trail called the Appomattox River Trail Plan.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

- ***Appomattox River Canoe Launch and John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area*** (21501 Chesdin Road, South Chesterfield, VA): This site is located just below the Brasfield Dam and provides access to the Appomattox River for paddling and fishing, and offers opportunities for picnicking and hiking. This site serves as the trailhead for a 2.6-mile trail and elevated boardwalk in the 87-acre John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area.
- ***Appomattox River Trail at Ettrick/VSU***: This park, located at Virginia State University's Randolph Farm on the Appomattox River, consists of a small parking lot and short universally accessible trail and boardwalk that parallels the river between Franklin Street and the CSX railroad trestle. Future planned construction will include an expanded parking area and trail and feature observation areas and exploratory trails to the water's edge.

- ***R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks*** (201 Enon Church Road, Chester Virginia): This 178-acre park provides access to the Appomattox River via a trail network and floating boardwalk crossing a ¼ mile of Ashton Creek tidal marsh.
- ***Historic Point of Rocks Park*** (1005 Enon Church Road, Chester, VA 23836): This 30 acre park along the Appomattox River is currently undeveloped with plans to construct trails to interpret both the environmental and historic resources. This property served as a Civil War Hospital and headquarters for the Bermuda Hundred Campaign.

CITY OF PETERSBURG

- ***Appomattox Riverside Park*** (Ferndale Road, Petersburg, VA): Also known as Ferndale Park, Appomattox Riverside Park is located in Dinwiddie County just west of the City of Petersburg along the south bank of the Appomattox River. The property was donated by Dominion Virginia Power to the City of Petersburg. This 137-acre park is largely wooded and features hiking and biking trails, and access to the Appomattox for boating and fishing. The park also offers a half basketball court, playground, and a pavilion.
- ***Patton Park*** (699 Fleet Street, Petersburg, VA): This park features walking and jogging trails, a picnic area, pavilion, barbeque pits, and access to the Appomattox River Trail. The park is within walking distance of Old Towne Petersburg and Virginia State University located in Ettrick.

- **Pocahontas Island** (Rolfe Street, Petersburg, VA): The 66-acre Pocahontas Island is named after Pocahontas and was Petersburg's earliest predominantly African American neighborhood. The island was home to the largest population of free African Americans during the 19th Century. The public park on Pocahontas Island provides access to the Appomattox River Trail and non-motorized boating access to the Appomattox River.

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

The Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System provides connectivity between parks on the Appomattox River.

- **Appamatuck Park** (151 Archer Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA): This public park along the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System offers bank fishing. The park is currently under development. Plans for the park include a canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, and trailhead.
- **Roslyn Landing Park** (265 Charles Dimmock Parkway, Colonial Heights, VA): This park has a ramp for launching small boats and fishing pier. The park is connected to the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System.
- **White Bank Park** (White Bank Park Road, Colonial Heights, VA): This 22-acre park overlooks Swift Creek, a tributary of the Appomattox River. The park features two large pavilions and eight picnic shelters.
- **Fort Clifton Park** (100 Brockwell Lane, Colonial Heights, VA): Also known as Berberich Park, this 24-acre park overlooks the Appomattox River at its confluence with Swift Creek. The park offers opportunities for birding, hiking, and fishing. A hiking trail leads to a fishing area featuring a pier.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

- **Appomattox Boat Harbor** (1604 Fine Street, Prince George, VA): This privately-owned and publicly accessible marina features 50 boat slips and a boat ramp open 24 hours a day.
- **Appomattox River Regional Park** (800 Folar Trail, Prince George, VA): This 67-acre park offers fishing, birding, hiking, picnic pavilions, educational shelter, fitness trail, canoe and kayak launch, an observation pier on the Appomattox River, and restroom facilities.

CITY OF HOPEWELL

- **Anchor Point Marina** (303 Beacon Ridge Drive, Hopewell, VA): Anchor Point Marina, a separate facility to serve Anchor Point residents and the general public, provides wet and dry slips on the Appomattox. Small boats, canoes, and kayaks are welcome. Future plans for the marina include additional dry storage slips and a recreation center with swimming pool, fitness center, and walking trails.
- **Weston Plantation** (400 Weston Lane, Hopewell, VA): This historic plantation overlooking the Appomattox River is on the National Register of Historic Places, offers tours, and features a publicly accessible fishing pier free of charge.
- **Riverside Harbor Park** (910 N. 21st Avenue, Hopewell, VA): Riverside Harbor is a park located adjacent to the Hopewell City Marina. The park offers views of the Appomattox River, a picnic pavilion, and play area.

- **Hopewell City Marina** (1051 Riverside Avenue, Hopewell, VA): This publicly-owned marina features a boat ramp, universally-accessible canoe and kayak launch, marina store, covered and uncovered boat slips, transient vessel docking, and restroom facilities. A daily fee is required to use the marina and seasonal passes are available.
- **Appomattox River Trailhead at City Park** (205 Appomattox Street, Hopewell, Virginia): This park is convenient to downtown Hopewell and features a canoe and kayak launch and offers views of the Appomattox, trails, benches, fishing, and a walking bridge.



Mayo Bridge, James River, City of Richmond, VA

CHICKAHOMINY RIVER

The Chickahominy River watershed covers 470 square miles, approximately 300,000 acres. The Chickahominy's drainage basin begins northwest of Richmond, flows through the piedmont, and enters the coastal plain near Mechanicsville, Virginia. The Chickahominy meanders by Henrico, Hanover, New Kent, Charles City, James City Counties before entering the James River just downriver of the Route 5 bridge.

The Chickahominy is a virtually unspoiled natural and recreational resource. Its rich array of marshes, swamps and the wildlife, have played a vital role in American history. The river sustained the Virginia Indians bearing its name, helped spare the starving Jamestown colony, and remains a cradle of ecological diversity and a destination for unparalleled recreational opportunities. The Chickahominy and Eastern Chickahominy Indian Tribes continue to celebrate their culture that began centuries ago on the river's banks.

The Chickahominy Water Trail was established as a Chesapeake Gateways Network Water Trail during the development of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail on the sections of the Chickahominy known as the Chickahominy Lake and Lower Chickahominy. The tidal section, or Lower Chickahominy, extends 22 miles downriver of Walkers Dam to the James River and features numerous marinas and the 5,217-acre Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area. The non-tidal section of the Chickahominy, upriver of the Chickahominy Lake, offers one of the most unique paddling experiences in the Richmond Region. The Upper Chickahominy also known as the "Chickahominy Swamp" is virtually inaccessible to the public due to the lack of access sites and characterized by slow-moving water, swamp tupelo, and bald cypress.

UPPER CHICKAHOMINY

Public access is limited on the Upper Chickahominy. This section of the Chickahominy is located upriver of the Chickahominy Lake and includes the 258-acre Crawfords State Forest. Charles City County, Hanover County, and New Kent County currently lack public access to this section of the Chickahominy River.

HENRICO COUNTY

Public recreational access on the Chickahominy is limited in Henrico County. The Grapevine Bridge Public Access site, the first of its kind on the Chickahominy in Henrico, opened in 2014 and a new 88-acre park, Greenwood Park, is anticipated to open in the future.

- **Greenwood Park** (11217 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, Virginia): When complete this 88-acre site will feature a sports complex and include amenities such as a playground, trails along the Chickahominy River, and accessible public open space. The park master plan is complete and was presented for adoption to the Board of Supervisors on November 24, 2015.
- **Grapevine Bridge Public Access** (N. Airport Drive, Henrico, Virginia): This canoe and kayak launch is located on land adjacent to a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) bridge crossing over the Chickahominy. The site was improved by the James River Association in partnership with Henrico County and VDOT using a grant from the National Park Service. This site opened in November 2014 and is the westernmost publicly accessible river access site on the Chickahominy.

CHICKAHOMINY LAKE

Chickahominy Lake is 1,230-acre reservoir owned and operated by Newport News Waterworks and created by Walkers Dam.

NEW KENT COUNTY

Privately-owned and publicly accessible recreational facilities exist on the Chickahominy Lake in New Kent County.

- **Eagle's Landing** (2142 Landing Road, Providence Forge, Virginia): This privately-owned and publicly accessible boat landing on the 1,230-acre Chickahominy Lake offers boat rentals, a tackle shop, boat service, and a boat launch.
- **Ed Allen's Campground** (1959 Allen Road, Lanexa, Virginia): Ed Allen's Campground consists of an RV park and marina on the Chickahominy Lake. Ed Allen's Campground and Cottages features camp sites, rental cottages, a pavilion, playground, swimming pool, and stocked fishing ponds. Ed Allen's Boats & Bait features a 200-foot fishing pier, bait and tackle shop, and the Lakeside Restaurant.
- **Rockahock Campground** (1428 Outpost Road, Lanexa, Virginia): This RV park and marina features fishing, boating, swimming, and two boat ramps. One boat ramp is upriver of Walkers Dam, the other ramp downriver. Other amenities include RV and camp sites, Walkers Dam Grill, Rocks River Roadhouse Tavern, boat slips and rentals, swimming pool, convenience store, bait and tackle shop, and an amphitheater stage.

LOWER CHICKAHOMINY

The majority of public access sites on the Chickahominy are located on the Chickahominy Lake and Lower Chickahominy in New Kent, Charles City, and James City Counties.

NEW KENT COUNTY

Privately-owned and publicly accessible recreational facilities exist on the Lower Chickahominy in New Kent County.

- **Riverside Camp II** (715 Riverside Drive, Lanexa, Virginia): This campground and boating facility offers fishing, boating, and swimming on the Chickahominy. It also features RV and tent sites, cottages, picnic tables, camp store, and bait and tackle shop.
- **Colonial Harbor Marina** (14910 Marina Road, Lanexa, Virginia): This privately-owned and publicly accessible marina features a boat ramp dock facilities, a marine store with boating and fishing supplies, and Colonial Harbor restaurant. The marina offers a travel lift, boat service, and wet and dry storage.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Public access on the Lower Chickahominy is limited in Charles City County as much of the riverfront is privately-owned.

- **River's Rest Marina and Resort** (9100 Wilcox Neck Road, Charles City, Virginia): The only privately-owned and publicly accessible marina, formerly known as Hideaway Marina, offers fishing, birding, a boat ramp, and floating dock. Amenities include motel accommodations, a restaurant,



Wild Celery in the Chickahominy River

pool, picnic area, and a store for fishing tackle, gas, drinks, and boating supplies. The Marina hosts the Freedom Boat Club, an organization that rents boats to members. Overnight mooring is available and a free pump-out station is available.

- ***Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area:*** The publicly accessible 5,217-acre Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area is managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The area is abundant with opportunities for recreation including hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and photography. Two canoe and kayak launches and a boat ramp exist in the management area.

PAMUNKEY RIVER

The Pamunkey River is 93 miles long and begins at the confluence of the North Anna River and South Anna River in the northern part of the Richmond Region. The meandering Pamunkey is largely inaccessible as it flows southeasterly past the Pamunkey Indian Reservation to its confluence with the Mattaponi River at West Point, where the York River begins.

TOWN OF ASHLAND

Although none of the major regional rivers are geographically located in the Town of Ashland, the Town and its residents benefit from the James River being a regional asset in defining Richmond's identity. The closest public river access sites to the Town are on the North Anna, South Anna, and Pamunkey River, all located in Hanover County.

HANOVER COUNTY

Four public access sites exist in Hanover County including North Anna Canoe Launch, Ground Squirrel Canoe Launch, Patrick Henry Ramp, and Little Page Bridge.

- **North Anna Canoe Launch** (17600 Washington Hwy, Hanover, Virginia): A parking area adjacent to the Route 1 bridge provides access to the North Anna River for launching boats.
- **Ground Squirrel Ramp** (15008 Mountain Road, Hanover, Virginia): This concrete ramp is adjacent to the Route 33 bridge and provides access to the South Anna River.

- **Patrick Henry Ramp** (13151 West Patrick Henry Road, Hanover, Virginia): This concrete ramp is adjacent to the Route 54 bridge and provides access to the South Anna River.
- **Littlepage Bridge** (13600 Hanover Couthouse, Hanover, Virginia): This wooden boat slide is adjacent to the Route 301 bridge and provides access to the Pamunkey River.

NEW KENT COUNTY

New Kent County currently possesses limited public access to the Pamunkey River.

- **Cumberland Marsh Natural Area Preserve**: This 1,193-acre preserve consists of freshwater tidal marsh and upland buffer along the Pamunkey River east of Richmond. The preserve supports perhaps the greatest biological diversity on the Pamunkey River, including nesting bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons and egrets as well as the sensitive joint-vetch. Situated along the Atlantic Flyway, the marsh provides important migratory and wintering habitat for waterfowl.

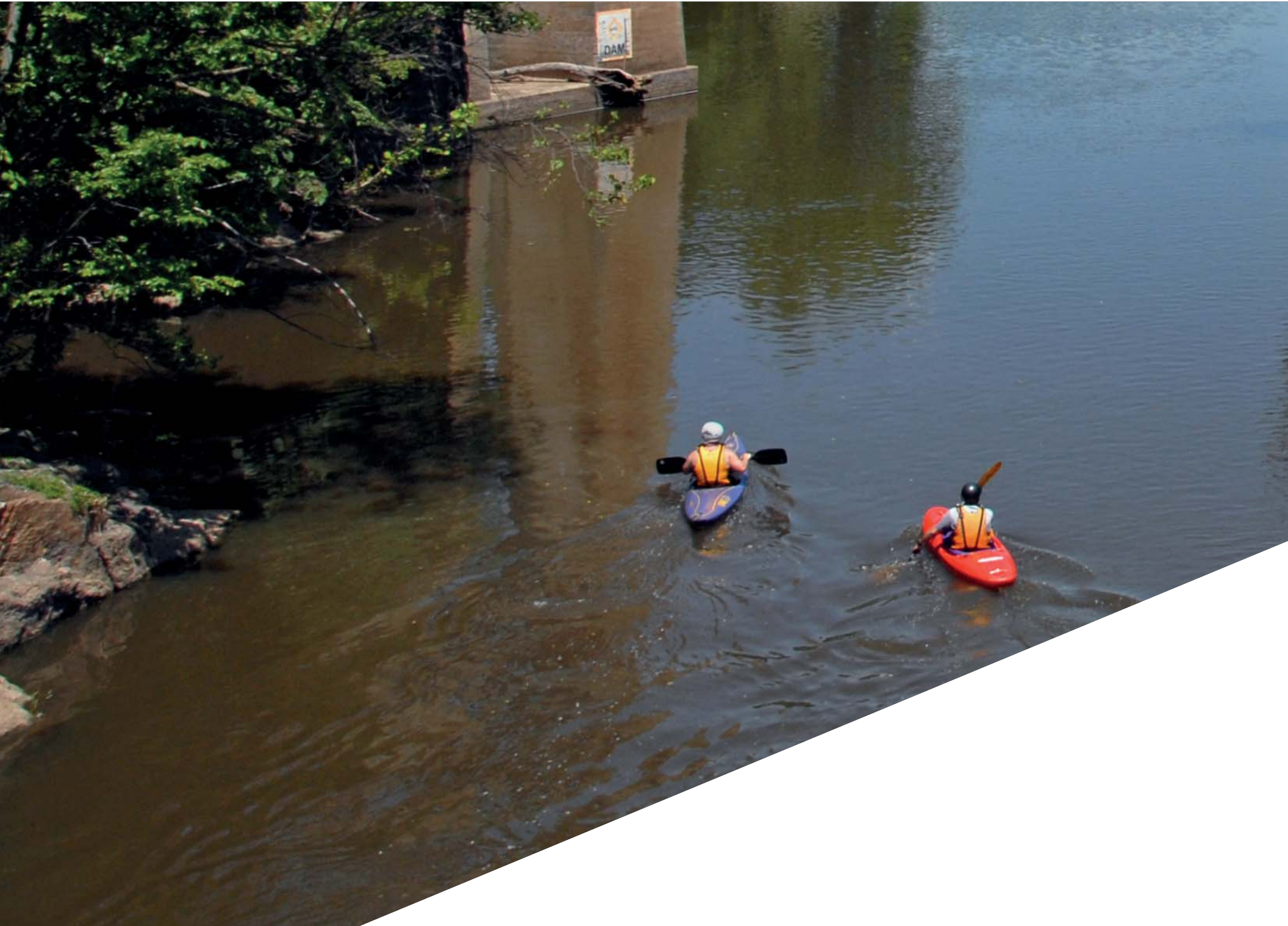


SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Public access to the rivers of the Richmond Region is limited in some areas, chiefly above the Falls of the James, Lower James, Upper Appomattox, Upper Chickahominy, and much of the Pamunkey. Recreational access is relatively abundant via the James River Park System, Richmond's riverfront, and the Appomattox River Trail, though improvements are needed in all three areas. Revitalized historic riverfronts in Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell could provide more access and become more appealing to residents and visitors.

Industrial activity is prominent in Richmond, Chesterfield, and Hopewell below the Falls of the James. The Port of Richmond, in particular, is critical to facilitating commerce in Central Virginia and will be considered as public recreational access is planned downriver of Richmond. Businesses like restaurants, outfitters, concessionaires, and tour operators stand to benefit from more accessible and appealing riverfronts in Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell.

The findings presented in this section of the plan are intended to present the existing conditions of the region and to support the recommendations presented in Part II. Part II builds on the existing conditions of Part I and makes recommendations for an expanded network of public river access sites, river-dependent business development, and tourism.





PART II: VISION, RECOMMENDATIONS, & IMPLEMENTATION

05/ VISION

The vision of the plan is threefold, comprised of specific visions for recreation, tourism, and economic development.

RECREATION

The Richmond Region has a cohesive network of publicly accessible riverside parks, conservation areas, historic sites, canoe and kayak launches and boat landings accommodating a variety of active and passive recreational activities and linked by greenways, blueways, and trails.

TOURISM

The rivers of the Richmond Region are destinations for their diversity of outdoor events and festivals, recreational opportunities, rich history, and thriving riverfronts featuring dynamic public spaces and a variety of commercial attractions balanced by conservation easements, wildlife refuges, and protected lands.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Businesses benefit from events and recreation on the rivers of the region, which serve as sources of freshwater and support commerce and industries.

06/ REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations work towards fulfilling the vision of this plan by increasing recreational access and stimulating business development and tourism throughout the Richmond Region:

1. Urban Riverfronts
2. Business Development
3. Regional Network of Public Access Sites
4. Regional Network of Campgrounds and Campsites
5. Appomattox River Trail



Urban Riverfronts

Revitalize the riverfronts of Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell through riverfront planning efforts and create new attractive and accommodating public spaces for outdoor recreation, events, and general enjoyment.



Business Development

Encourage restaurants, breweries, wineries, marinas, and entertainment venues to open on the rivers of the region, especially on urban riverfronts. Encourage outfitters, tour operators, and instructors to provide quality outdoor recreational services and programs such as guided trips, instruction, interpretation, and rental services on the rivers of the region.



Regional Network of Public Access Sites

Expand the Richmond Region's network of public access sites. Provide public river access at bridge crossings and enhance existing sites, including Department of Game and Inland Fisheries sites, to accommodate a variety of recreational activities.



Regional Network of Campgrounds and Campsites

Create more publicly accessible camping options along the James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers, including canoe-in campgrounds.



Appomattox River Trail

Create a contiguous and consistently branded 23-mile trail along the Appomattox River from Lake Chesdin to City Point and promote it as a regional attraction.

1. URBAN RIVERFRONTS

Revitalizing the riverfronts of Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell will benefit the region by enhancing existing public riverfront spaces to accommodate a variety of activities, acquiring new public riverfront spaces, creating business opportunities, and attracting visitors from within and beyond the region.

RICHMOND'S RIVERFRONT

Richmond's riverfront is a mixture of much beloved public and natural spaces, interspersed with areas of vacant land and opportunity. The Richmond Riverfront Plan, the vision document for Richmond's riverfront, provides the blueprint for opportunities for new and improved connections and open spaces along Richmond's Riverfront.

Implementation of the Riverfront Plan includes the following key projects:

- **T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge:** The T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge, a Priority I project identified in the Richmond Riverfront Plan and formerly known as the Brown's Island Dam Walk, is under construction and anticipated to be complete in 2016. Once completed, the bridge will provide universal accessibility to the Manchester neighborhood.
- **Missing Link Trail:** Once a location has been selected, the Missing Link Trail is intended to improve connectivity within the James River Park System on the south bank of the James River between the Manchester Climbing Wall and the bridge to Belle Isle.
- **Manchester River Terraces:** Riprap along the floodwall on the south bank

of the James River is recommended to be replaced by stepped terraces accommodating public recreation and maintenance vehicles.

- **Mayo's Island:** The privately-owned Mayo's Island is riverfront real estate accessible via the 14th Street Bridge that accommodates events.
- **Mayo Bridge:** The Mayo Bridge, also known as the 14th Street Bridge, was constructed in 1913 and is in need of rehabilitation or reconstruction if it is to provide safe access to Mayo Island to multiple modes of transportation. In order to maintain the historically accurate architectural appearance of the existing bridge, improvements are expected to utilize the existing access doors and include historically accurate architectural lighting fixtures. Improvements will include the installation of wider sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and other activities (fishing, sightseeing, etc.).
- **USP/Echo Harbour:** The privately-owned USP/Echo Harbour site is five acres of riverfront real estate able to accommodate public access if transferred to public ownership.
- **Lehigh:** A new 1.5-acre public riverfront space was created at the former site of the Lehigh Cement Terminal when silos were demolished in 2015. With public input, the site provides an opportunity to accommodate a variety of additional users and activities at a location right along the Virginia Capital Trail.
- **Intermediate Terminal:** Dock improvements are underway at Intermediate Terminal in Richmond. Site planning is underway and Stone Brewing Company is anticipated to open a restaurant in the Intermediate Terminal building adjacent to the Sugar Pad. With public input, the site can preserve



Downtown Petersburg Riverfront

access for existing user groups while accommodating a variety of additional user groups and activities.

The Downriver area of Richmond's riverfront is experiencing revitalization guided by the Richmond Riverfront Plan and catalyzed by public and private investment. The City of Richmond held a public forum to solicit public input on the programming of the public spaces in the Downriver section of Richmond's riverfront in March 2016. Once completed, the following recommendations will contribute to a more accessible and accommodating riverfront:

- **Traffic Calming Strategies** : As the City of Richmond realigns Dock Street and prepares E. Main Street for Bus Rapid Transit, traffic calming strategies employed at the following intersections will accommodate safer walking and biking connections to Richmond's riverfront, Low Line, and Virginia Capital Trail:
 - o Nicholson Street and E. Main Street
 - o Orleans Street and E. Main Street
 - o Williamsburg Avenue and E. Main Street at the bottom of Libby Hill
 - o Pear Street and E. Main Street at the bottom of Libby Hill
 - o Install pedestrian infrastructure on Pear Street
 - o S. 26th Street and E. Main Street
 - o S. 26th Street and Dock Street
 - o S. 25th Street and Dock Street
 - o S. 22nd Street and Dock Street
 - o S. 21st Street and Dock Street
 - o S. 20th Street and Dock Street
 - o S. 17th Street and Dock Street at Bottoms Up Pizza
- **Riverfront Connections:** The following infrastructure improvements are recommended in order to increase pedestrian access:
 - o S. 17th Street: Establish S. 17th Street as the primary walking and biking connection from the Virginia Capital Trail to the 17th Street Farmers Market, Main Street Station, and E. Franklin Street, which acts as a major east-west connection for bikers.
 - o N. 27th Street: Reopen the pedestrian stairway at N. 27th Street between E. Franklin Street and E. Main Street to better connect Church Hill to Tobacco Row, Great Shiplock Park, Virginia Capital Trail, and the riverfront
 - o N. 29th Street: Integrate bicycle and pedestrian connections on N. 29th Street and along existing pathways in Libby Hill Park as a primary connection to Richmond's riverfront and Virginia Capital Trail for Church Hill residents
 - o Gillies Creek Greenway: Implement the Gillies Creek Greenway Plan to connect residents of the Fulton, Montrose Heights, and Church Hill neighborhoods to Richmond's riverfront, Virginia Capital Trail, and future Bus Rapid Transit station.
- **Rocketts Landing:** Richmond's riverfront extends to the City of Richmond and Henrico County line at Rocketts Landing. Rocketts Landing features residences, riverfront restaurants, office space, and a marina. The footprint of Rocketts Landing is expected to expand downriver in the future with new development planned. Riverfront land owned by Central Virginia Investments Rocketts Landing LLC south of Intermediate Terminal featuring a beach volleyball court, Virginia Boat Club, green space, and accommodating the Virginia Capital Trail presents an opportunity for enhanced public access and multi-use space that connect to public spaces at Intermediate Terminal and Lehigh.



Canoeing on the James River on Richmond's Riverfront

New and improved public riverfront spaces create opportunities for outfitters and/or tour operators to establish seasonal outposts at locations like Great Shiplock Park, Intermediate Terminal, Lehigh, or Rocketts Landing to connect residents and visitors to outdoor recreation and interpretation on the James River and Virginia Capital Trail. Additionally, concessionaires, food trucks, and outdoor dining areas should be encouraged on Richmond's riverfront to provide residents and visitors with a variety of food and beverage options. Finally, the establishment of a riverfront Tourism Zone on Richmond's riverfront is a strategy for attracting more businesses and visitors.

PETERSBURG'S RIVERFRONT

With the removal of the Harvell Dam in 2014, the Lower Appomattox River is navigable by canoe and kayak from Lake Chesdin at the Brasfield Dam to City Point. Petersburg is centrally located on the Lower Appomattox River and Appomattox River Trail, yet lacks a strong connection to the Appomattox River. The City of Petersburg and its Economic Development Authority own numerous parcels of land in the vicinity of Old Towne and on Pocahontas Island. These real estate holdings present opportunities for new public riverfront spaces and economic development, including Petersburg's Downtown Harbor Initiative which is contingent on collaboration between the local, State and Federal government to allocate the \$15 million needed to finish dredging a one-mile section of the Appomattox River. Obstacles impeding direct river access to the Appomattox River include infrastructure such as roads and railroads paralleling the river.

The City of Petersburg intends to begin riverfront planning in the near future. The City recently applied for a Drive Tourism Grant, an opportunity provided through the Virginia Tourism Cooperation, to assist with planning. Old Towne Petersburg is poised to become a hub of outdoor recreation and

the City is taking immediate action to improve its physical connection to the Appomattox River and Appomattox River Trail.

Public spaces along the riverfront can accommodate seasonal businesses from spring through fall once suitable locations are identified. Prospective locations include publicly-owned land in the vicinity of Patton Park, Old Towne, South Side Depot, and Pocahontas Island. To further provide for recreational opportunities, a seasonal outfitter could support outdoor recreation on Petersburg's riverfront by establishing a seasonal outpost offering a variety of recreation opportunities including instruction, guided river trips, and rentals. To further incentivize business development and recreational use along the Appomattox River, based on the Economic Policies contained in the City of Petersburg, Virginia Comprehensive Plan 2014, the City of Petersburg can strengthen relationships and build new partnerships with private sector players, regional and community stakeholder groups, including Virginia's Gateway Partnership, and the Crater Planning District Commission, to capitalize on development and recreational opportunities on the Appomattox River. Finally, the establishment of a riverfront Tourism Zone on Petersburg's riverfront is a strategy for attracting more businesses and visitors. Riverfront business opportunities in Old Towne Petersburg include riverfront dining, river outfitter services, bicycle rentals, and lodging.

Once completed, the following recommendations will contribute to a more accessible riverfront:

- **Complete Appomattox River Trail:** Create and implement a master plan for Appomattox River Trail thereby connecting to existing segments of the trail and Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System to include the completion of the missing trail segment between Old Towne and Patton Park.
- **Public Space Programming:** Establish public spaces featuring river access on publicly-owned land in the vicinity of Old Towne and Pocahontas Island near the 301 bridge crossing to accommodate a variety of active and passive recreational activities that respects the historic architecture of Old Towne and residents of Pocahontas Island. Private development on Petersburg's riverfront can complement public investment to provide public spaces accommodating a variety of uses including outdoor recreation activities on the Appomattox River and Appomattox River Trail.
- **Outdoor Recreation Information Kiosk:** Establish an outdoor recreation information kiosk in proximity to Old Towne and Petersburg's riverfront that provides residents and visitors with maps and information about opportunities for outdoor recreation on the Appomattox River, dining, and other attractions

HOPEWELL'S RIVERFRONT

Located at the confluence of the Appomattox and James Rivers, the City of Hopewell is experiencing revitalization along the Appomattox River with the recent improvements to public facilities downtown and at the Hopewell Marina. Hopewell's City Marina and Appomattox River Trailhead at City Park are both convenient to downtown Hopewell. Both publicly accessible sites present business opportunities for an outfitter seeking to provide rentals and guided tours on the Appomattox River, planned Appomattox River Trail, and James River. The City can leverage outdoor recreation opportunities on the James River, Appomattox River and Appomattox River Trail by identifying suitable locations for a seasonal outfitter and tour operator businesses and by permitting an outfitter and/or tour operator to establish a seasonal outpost on Hopewell's riverfront that serves the outdoor recreation needs of residents and visitors by providing instruction, guided river trips,



Public spaces along the riverfront can accommodate seasonal businesses from spring through fall...

and rentals. Additionally, the establishment of a riverfront Tourism Zone on Hopewell's riverfront is a strategy for attracting more businesses and visitors.

Once completed, the following recommendations will contribute to a more accessible riverfront:

- **Complete Appomattox River Trail:** Once the missing trail segment between City Point and Appomattox River Regional Park in Prince George County is completed, as well as the trail segment between City Park and Hopewell Marina, the Appomattox River Trail will provide a spine of connectivity between public riverfront spaces in Hopewell. Safe connections between Downtown Hopewell and the Appomattox River Trail must also be constructed to further encourage access.
- **Public Space Programming:** With public input, Hopewell can provide better connections to its riverfront, the area between City Park and Riverside Harbor Park, and enhance public spaces along the riverfront. Private development on Hopewell's riverfront can complement public investments to provide adequate public spaces accommodating a variety of users.
- **Outdoor Recreation Information Kiosk:** Establish an outdoor recreation information kiosk at Hopewell Marina that provides residents and visitors with maps and information about opportunities for outdoor recreation on the James and Appomattox Rivers, local dining, and other attractions

2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Encourage restaurants, breweries, wineries, marinas, entertainment venues, and outfitters to open on the rivers of the region, especially on urban riverfronts.

- Encourage outfitters, tour operators, and instructors providing quality outdoor recreational services and programs such as guided trips, instruction, interpretation, and rental services. Riverfront's will become more vibrant and inviting to residents and visitors with the addition of services and programming provided by outfitters, tour operators, and related businesses.

Richmond's Riverside Outfitters partnered with Venture Richmond to open a seasonal outpost on Brown's Island to serve the outdoor recreation needs of residents and visitors. The outpost provides residents and visitors with convenient access to kayak, standup paddleboard, and mountain bike rentals from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Discover The James is a fishing guide and tour operator offering a variety of outings on the tidal James River. Discover the James offers wildlife and history tours including Bald Eagle and Atlantic Sturgeon tours.

Goochland County is partnering with L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools to conduct programming at Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing beginning in 2016.

The Kickstand, a bicycle rental, sales, and service business supporting Richmond Cycling Corps, opened on the Virginia Capital Trail on Richmond's riverfront in 2016. The Kickstand is located at Lehigh, formerly the site of cement silos that were demolished in 2015.



Stone Brewing, City of Richmond, VA

In July 2015 Hardywood Park Craft Brewery secured a site in Goochland County as the future home of Hardywood West, a destination brewery campus. The 24 acre parcel in West Creek Business Park sits on Tuckahoe Creek, a tributary of the James River. The new campus, which will be built in phases, will accommodate brewing and packaging facilities, a taproom and beer garden, agricultural fields, a food truck plaza, bocce courts, a natural amphitheater for live performances and walking paths connecting to a planned creekside trail system. The project was made possible through the support of the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund, the Virginia Investment Partnership Grant and the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund, with matching support from Goochland County.

Charles City County's Upper Shirley Vineyards, which opened in 2016 and features a restaurant and tasting room with exceptional views of the James River and Presquile National Wildlife Refuge. Upper Shirley Vineyards also accommodates events, such as weddings, and could be a business model for other historic plantations in Charles City County and other counties.

3. REGIONAL NETWORK OF PUBLIC ACCESS SITES

Expand the Richmond Region's public access network via bridge crossings and existing Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) sites.

PUBLIC ACCESS AT BRIDGE CROSSINGS

Public recreational river access at bridge crossings is a strategy for expanding the regional public river access network. In July 2015, Governor Terry McAuliffe executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to expand public access to state waters. This agreement encourages but does not mandate public access sites at bridge crossings. Funding is not required by the MOU and VDOT is not required by the MOU to develop public access or manage public access sites at any bridge crossing. The focus of the MOU is to evaluate the feasibility of public access adjacent to bridges included in VDOT's 6-year plan.

Localities need to work with the Commonwealth Transportation Board to insure key public access improvements are included as part of bridge replacements listed in Virginia Department of Transportation Six Year Improvement Plan. Key actions for expanding access at bridge crossings include:

- After a project is included in VDOT's 6-year plan, partners will need to work with local governments and VDOT during the preliminary engineering phase of a bridge project to plan for recreational access

- A managing entity such as DGIF or local government will need to be identified for each access site

Specific recommendations for new public river access sites at bridge crossings in the region include:

- **Chickahominy Water Trail** (Henrico, New Kent, and Charles City): Establishing river access at the following bridge crossings will complement the Grapevine Bridge Access Site that opened at a Virginia Department of Transportation bridge crossing in Henrico County in 2014 and extend the Chickahominy Water Trail:
 - o Henrico County: Creighton Road (615)
 - o New Kent County: Bottoms Bridge (60)
 - o Charles City County: Roxbury Road (106)
 - o Charles City County: Providence Forge (155)
- **Diascund Creek** (New Kent County): Public access to Diascund Creek in the vicinity of the Route 60 bridge crossing.
- **Route 1 Bridge Crossing** (Hanover County): Public access on South Anna River at Route 1 as proposed by the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **Route 360 Bridge Crossing** (Hanover County): Public access on the Pamunkey River at the Route 360 bridge crossing as recommended by the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **Nelson Bridge** (Hanover County): Public access on the Pamunkey River at the Nelson Bridge as recommended by the Hanover County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan

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Canoe/Kayak Launch Recommendation



Date: 8/14/15
 Drawn by: Amber Ellis
 Aerial/Topo Source: New Kent GIS
 Image Source: Google Maps



DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES SITES

Publicly accessible boat ramps and canoe slides managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are located throughout the Richmond Region. Hunters, anglers, and boaters support these facilities through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registrations. DGIF-maintained sites are primarily designated for hunting, fishing and boating. DGIF sites could accommodate additional recreational activities through partnerships with local governments of the Richmond Region.

The following DGIF sites are located within the scope of this plan:

- Ground Squirrel Ramp on the South Anna River
- Patrick Henry Ramp on the South Anna River
- Littlepage Bridge on the Pamunkey River
- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area on the Chickahominy River
- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area on Upper Morris Creek
- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area on Morris Creek
- Westview Boat Ramp on the James River
- Powhatan State Park on the James River
- Maidens Boat Ramp on the James River
- Watkins Landing on the James River
- Robious Landing Park on the James River
- Ancarrow's Landing on the James River
- Osborne Park and Boat Landing on the James River
- Dutch Gap Boat Landing on the James River
- Deep Bottom Park on the James River

- Pocahontas State Park on Swift Creek
- White Bank Park on Swift Creek
- Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp on the Appomattox River

4. REGIONAL NETWORK OF CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPSITES

Publicly accessible camping options are limited on much of the James, Appomattox, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers in the Richmond Region. In fact, the only publicly-accessible camping option on the James River in the region is the canoe-in campground at Powhatan State Park in Powhatan County. Additional canoe-in campsites will expand the regional network of publicly accessible campgrounds and campsites. Strategies for expanding the network include:

- Establish a primitive camping area at Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park in Charles City County as proposed by the James River Association
- Prioritize planned and prospective campsites throughout the region and implement projects to expand the network of campgrounds and campsites

5. APPOMATTOX RIVER TRAIL

The following recreational access projects on the Appomattox River and Swift Creek are underway, already planned, or proposed.

- ***Appomattox River Trail Master Plan:*** The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River continue to lead the effort to create a cohesive multi-use greenway and blueway corridor. FOLAR, Crater Planning District Commission, and local governments should continue working collaboratively to create and implement a master plan for the Appomattox River Trail, thus filling existing gaps on the trail and improve the trail's connections to the Cities of Petersburg, Hopewell, and Colonial Heights and Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, and Prince George, public parks, and other spaces.

Gaps exist in the Appomattox River Trail resulting a fragmented trail network. A contiguous and consistently branded 23-mile trail network along the Lower Appomattox River will be a regional recreational amenity and attraction. In early 2016 Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Crater Planning District Commission, and localities along the Lower Appomattox River corridor developed a request for proposals for the creation of a master plan for the Appomattox River Trail. The principal objectives of the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan are:

- Align the Appomattox River Trail Plan with plans completed by FOLAR, CPDC and in the corridor localities.
- Define and map the location of the proposed trail alignment and identify landowners.
- Identify locations for the development of trailheads, public trail access points, parking, staging areas, and complementary open green space nodes.
- Identify locations of environmental sensitive areas that need additional infrastructure (bridges, boardwalks)
- Identify locations for complementary facility opportunities (amphitheaters, comfort stations, recreational/educational buildings, fishing piers, boat landings, shelters, etc.)
- Provide specific recommendations for the trail at highway crossings, railroad crossings and at other physical barriers.
- Include environmental protection concerns as a priority consideration.
- Provide design standards for the development of the trail and associated existing trail enhancements and access improvements.
- Provide cost ranges; phasing time-line; and maintenance considerations for use in securing funding to implement the plan.



07/ LOCALITY
RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for expanded and enhanced public river access are derived from the Virginia Outdoors Plan, local comprehensive plans, park master plans, other plans and studies. Recommendations are organized by River.

JAMES RIVER

- Above the Falls of the James
- Falls of the James
- Below the Falls of the James
- Lower James

APPOMATTOX RIVER

- Upper Appomattox
- Lower Appomattox

CHICKAHOMINY RIVER

- Upper Chickahominy
- Lower Chickahominy

PAMUNKEY RIVER

- Pamunkey River



JAMES RIVER

ABOVE THE FALLS OF THE JAMES

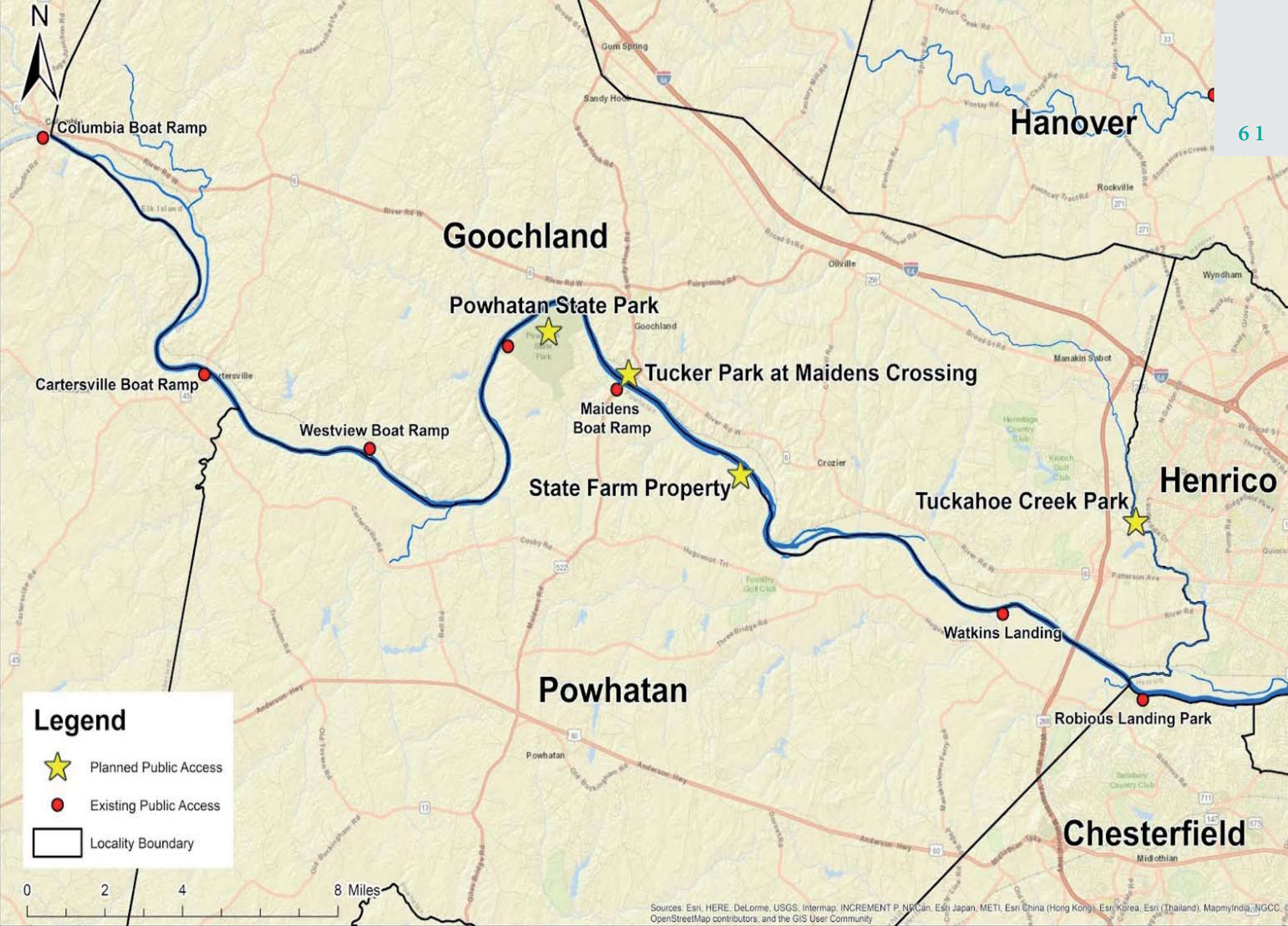
GOOCHLAND

- **Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing:** A new canoe/kayak launch at Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing in Goochland anticipated to be complete in 2016. Additionally, Goochland County is partnering with L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools to conduct programming at Tucker Park beginning in 2016.

POWHATAN

- **Powhatan State Park Master Plan:** Fully implement the Powhatan State Park Master Plan:
 - o Riverside trail and bank fishing nodes
 - o Multi-use Trails
 - o Mountain Bike Trails
 - o Vegetative Buffer / Fencing
 - o Reforest selected farm fields
 - o Improvements to Route 522/617 Interchange
 - o Road Extension to downstream riverside day use area
 - o Downstream Riverside Day-Use/Picnic Area w/ restroom
 - o Downstream Boat Launch
 - o Gazebo/Shelter at Visitor Center
 - o Amphitheatre
 - o Visitor/Education Center
 - o Campground
 - o Group Camp Equestrian Campground
 - o 18 Cabins & 2 Family Lodges

- **State Farm Property:** The Commonwealth-owned State Farm property located in in the western part of the Richmond Region is identified as a prospective public park on the James River as it would fill a gap in existing public recreational access to the James River. The establishment of a canoe/kayak launch in the vicinity of the Woods Way Bridge on the Powhatan County or Goochland County bank of the river will expand the public access network above the Falls of the James.
- **Tuckahoe Creek Park:** Improve access on Tuckahoe Creek in Henrico County. The project will provide a boardwalk system designed to provide public access for passive recreation activities. The boardwalk system will provide universally accessible access to the Tuckahoe Creek area for walking, fishing, overlooks, and experiencing nature.



FALLS OF THE JAMES

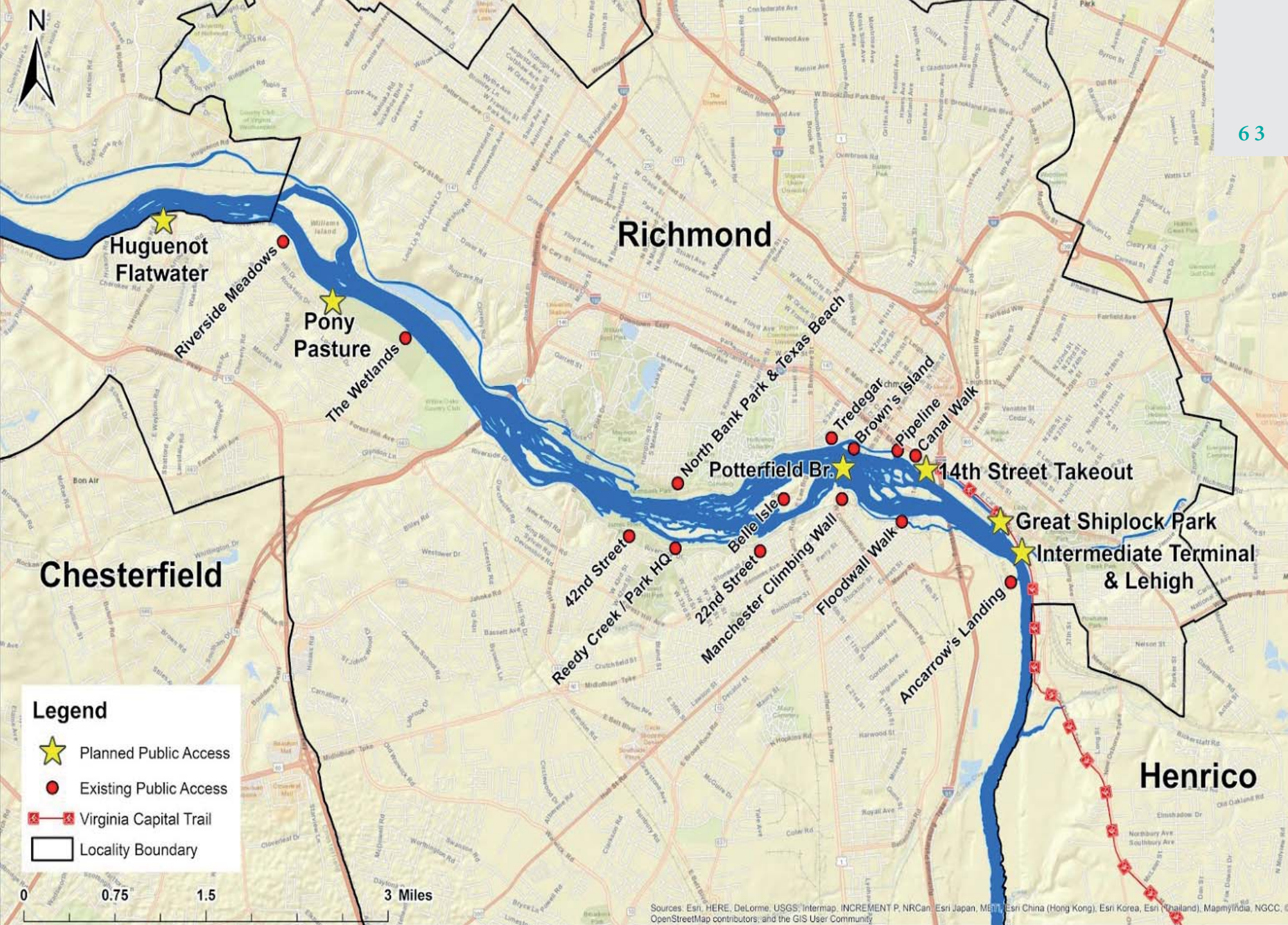
RICHMOND

As the most-visited attraction in the Richmond Region in 2015 with more than 1.3 million visitors, the James River Park System is a treasured conservation area accommodating a variety of recreational activities. The following recommendations are intended to benefit users of the park system and Richmond's Riverfront:

- **Universal Accessibility Enhancements:** Universal accessibility enhancements similar to those at Reedy Creek at the following public access sites in the James River Park System are proposed by the James River Outdoor Coalition (JROC): Huguenot Flatwater, Pony Pasture, and 14th Street Takeout.
- **14th Street Takeout:** Limited vehicular parking exists at this whitewater takeout located at the bottom of the Falls of the James. A 1.24 acre parcel of land just west of the 14th Street Takeout, owned by Norfolk Southern Corporation, presents an opportunity for additional public riverfront space and capacity. This parcel could accommodate paddlers and outfitters using the 14th Street Takeout.
- **T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge:** Complete the Potterfield Memorial Bridge including universally accessible connection to manchester.
- **Great Shiplock Park:** The City of Richmond in partnership with Venture Richmond, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and other stakeholders should evaluate the feasibility of making the historic lock at Great Shiplock Park

operational to accommodate boat traffic. This project could complement improvements planned for the canal via the Low Line along Dock Street and Virginia Capital Trail.

- **Intermediate Terminal and Lehigh:** Improve both riverfront public spaces to accommodate recreation and activities.
- **James River and Kanawha Canal Blueway:** Establish a blueway on the James River and Kanawha Canal in Richmond as recommended by Phil Riggan's Recreational Plan for the James River and Kanawha Canal Blueway.



BELOW THE FALLS OF THE JAMES

CHESTERFIELD

- **Falling Creek Linear Park and Ironworks:** Extend the current trail system at Falling Creek Linear Park and Ironworks to connect to the James River
- **James River Conservation Area:** The Trust for Public Land acquired the 109-acre James River Conservation Area in early 2016 and transferred the property to Chesterfield County to be planned, developed, and maintained as a public park. When improved, the James River Conservation Area will fill a gap in recreational access on the James River.
- **Dutch Gap Conservation Area Relic River Boardwalk:** The Dutch Gap Relic River Boardwalk is currently in design and is anticipated to provide access to the James River via improvements to be complete in 2016.
- **Dutch Gap Boat Landing:** Renovate and expand the Dutch Gap Boat landing on the James River in Chesterfield County as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- **Brown and Williamson Conservation Area:** The 262-acre Brown and Williamson Conservation Area is currently undeveloped and public access is limited. The Capital Region Land Conservancy received a grant from the Dominion Foundation to assist in the development of a trail network plan for the conservation area in cooperation with Chesterfield County. As the steward of the conservation easement on the property, the Capital Region Land Conservancy will coordinate the design of the trails to mitigate any negative impact on the land and wildlife habitat. The master plan features plans for an education center, picnic shelters, parking, non-motorized

boating, a primitive camping area, trails, and opportunities for fishing.

HENRICO

- **Deep Bottom Park:** The implementation of the Deep Bottom Park Master Plan adopted by the Henrico County Board of Supervisors in 1999 will provide residents of Varina in eastern Henrico with a dynamic riverside park. Planned improvements include a new park center facility, new boat launch, river terraces, fishing areas, river overlook, boat dock, canoe launch, and trail network. One of the objectives of the Deep Bottom Park Master Plan is to “plan for the creative use of the significant natural, historical, archaeological, cultural, and scenic resources” of the park.
- **Turkey Island Creek:** The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office and James River Association identified a 10-acre parcel on Turkey Island Creek in Henrico County as a parcel with significant potential for public recreational access. A publicly accessible recreational site at this location will serve as a gateway to Presquile National Wildlife Refuge and the James River Ecology School, jointly managed by the James River Association and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the National Wildlife Refuge. The site will also serve as a gateway to the new Virginia Capital Trail, an improved trail for pedestrians and cyclists extending from Jamestown to Richmond, Virginia.

LOWER JAMES

PRINCE GEORGE

- **James River National Wildlife Refuge:** Improve the canoe and kayak launch on Powell Creek and extend the existing hiking trail in the James River National Wildlife Refuge in Prince George County as recommended by the James River National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan
- **James River Regional Park:** Develop a regional park in Prince George County featuring public access on the James River in the historic plantation area as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

- **Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park:** The creation of a small primitive camping area at Charles City County's Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park would fill an existing gap in the camping network on the James River. The creation of a primitive camping area would give paddlers and cyclists the opportunity to plan multiday expeditions on the James River and Virginia Capital Trail.
- **Expand Recreational Access in the Route 5 Corridor:** Charles City County is a living museum of American history, architecture, and vast historic landscapes. Historic plantations along the James River in Charles City County present an opportunity to expand public recreational access to the James. Improved recreational access at these historic plantation properties could inspire new events, complement the recent completion of the Virginia Capital Trail, and increase visitation to the plantations and historic Route 5 corridor.



APPOMATTOX RIVER

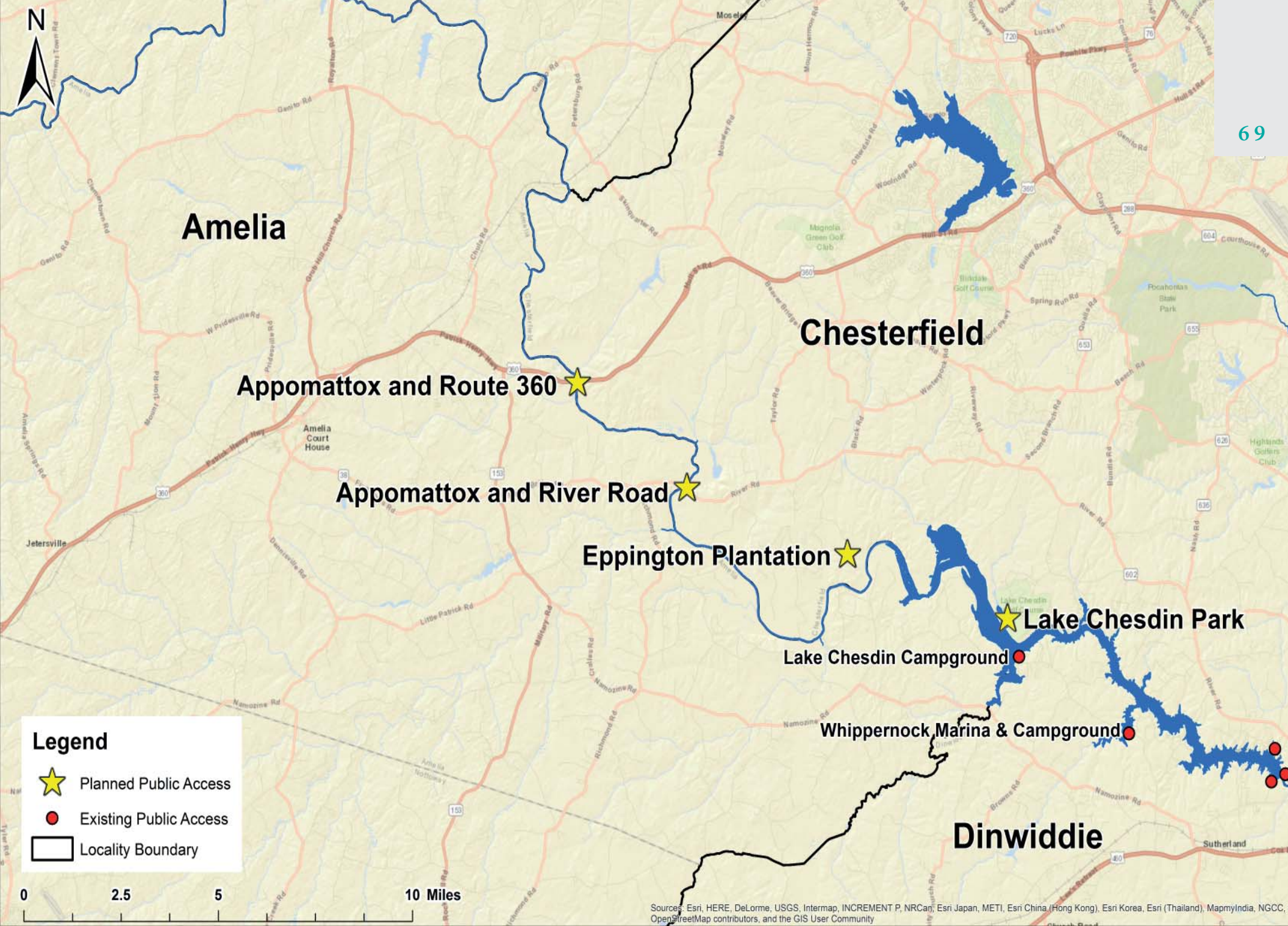
UPPER APPOMATTOX

POWHATAN

- **Establish Access on the Upper Appomattox River:** Powhatan County currently lacks public recreational access to the Appomattox River. Establishing access to the Appomattox would fill a large existing gap in the regional public access network.

CHESTERFIELD

- **Route 360 Bridge Crossing:** Public access on the Appomattox River at the Route 360 crossing in western Chesterfield County as identified in facility recommendations contained in Chapter 15: The Public Facilities Plan of Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County and Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- **River Road Bridge Crossing:** Public access on the Appomattox River at the River Road crossing in western Chesterfield County as identified in facility recommendations contained in Chapter 15: The Public Facilities Plan of Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County and Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- **Establish Access via Eppington Plantation:** Chesterfield County should implement the proposed expansion of the Eppington Plantation site to preserve the site's historical landscape and provide public access to the Appomattox River as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan.



Amelia

Chesterfield

Appomattox and Route 360

Appomattox and River Road

Eppington Plantation

Lake Chesdin Park

Lake Chesdin Campground

Whippernock Marina & Campground

Dinwiddie

Legend

- ★ Planned Public Access
- Existing Public Access
- ▭ Locality Boundary

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

LOWER APPOMATTOX

CHESTERFIELD

- **Falls of the Appomattox Whitewater Access:** Evaluate access to the Appomattox River in eastern Chesterfield County. Additional whitewater access points should be established on the Appomattox River between the Brasfield Dam at Lake Chesdin and the former site of the Harvell Dam as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan.
- **Appomattox River Trail at Ettrick/VSU:** A new park at Virginia State University's Randolph Farm on the Appomattox River is under construction and will consist of a small parking lot and short universally accessible trail and boardwalk that parallels the river between Franklin Street and CSX railroad trestle. Future planned construction will include an expanded trail upriver, expanded parking and feature observation areas and exploratory trails down to the water's edge.
- **Swift Creek Conservation Area** (Chesterfield): Swift Creek Conservation Area is an undeveloped site. Vehicular parking access, trails, and water access are planned. A connection along the river between this site and R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks is also planned.
- **R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks:** Improve the trail system at R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks. These improvements will include widening and resurfacing existing trails, constructing new trails, replacing bridges, and improving accessibility. Some funding for this project is provided by a grant from the Recreational Trails Program.

- **Historic Point of Rocks Park:** Trails to interpret both environmental and historic resources are planned for Historic Point of Rocks Park.

DINWIDDIE AND PETERSBURG

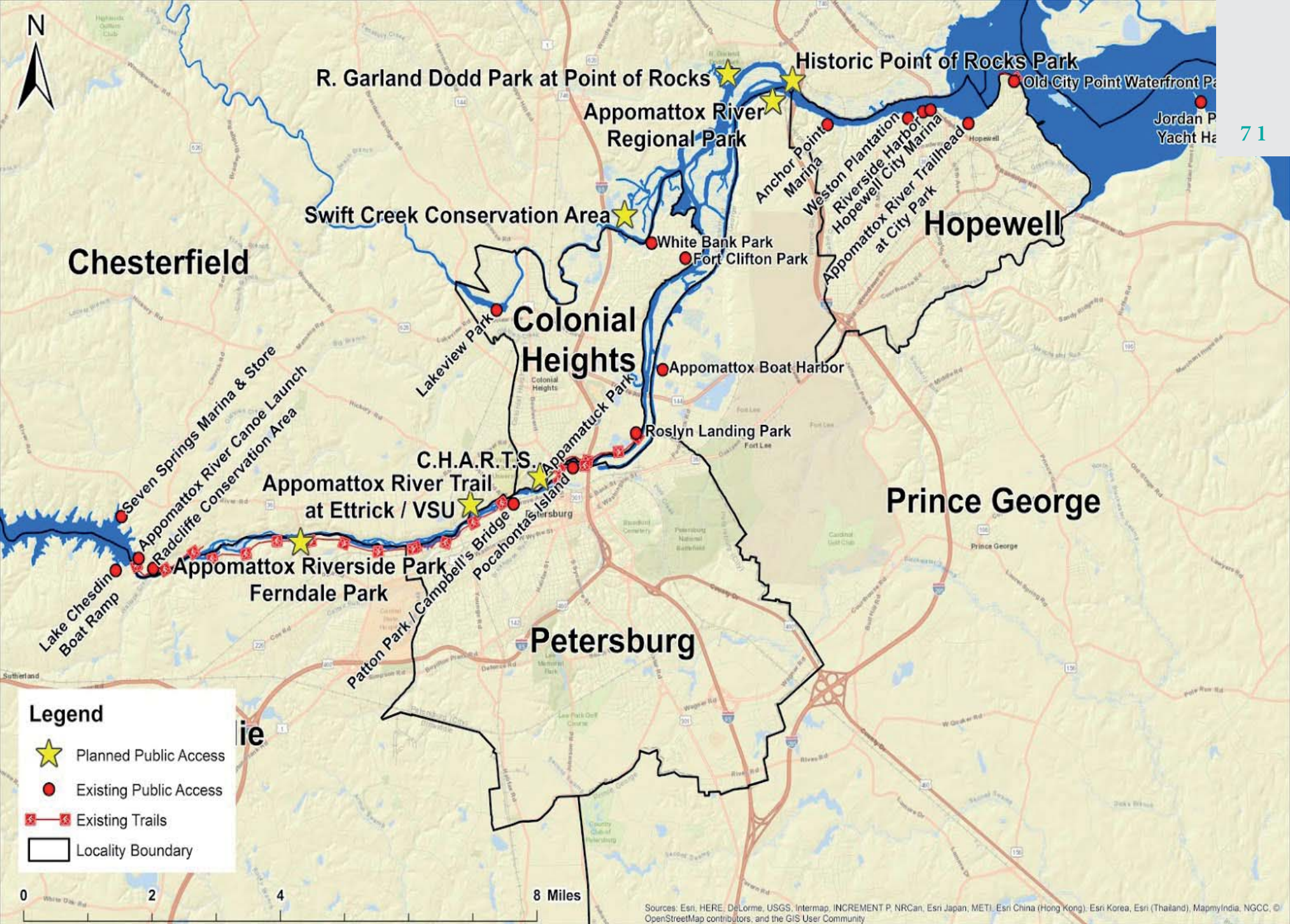
- **Appomattox Riverside Park / Ferndale Park:** Renovate the Appomattox Riverside Park and connect it with other parks and public access along the Appomattox River as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Improvements at Appomattox Riverside Park include a restored pavilion, new signs and an upgraded canoe launch pavilions improvements, new signage and improvements at the canoe launch.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

- **Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System (C.H.A.R.T.S.):** Complete the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System featuring improved connections to the trail system via Appamatuck Park.

PRINCE GEORGE

- **Appomattox River Regional Park:** A master plan for Appomattox River Regional Park is in development. Prince George should consider additional trails and investigate expansion of the park boundaries as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan.



CHICKAHOMINY RIVER

UPPER CHICKAHOMINY

- **Extend the Chickahominy River Water Trail:** Considering the numerous recommendations for new and improved public river access along the Chickahominy River and Chickahominy Water Trail, officials from relevant local, state, and federal agencies, local businesses, and organizations should begin working together to extend the Chickahominy Water Trail upriver and promoting it as a paddling, fishing, and boating destination in the Richmond Region. Establishing river access at the following locations, four of which are vehicular bridge crossings, will complement the Grapevine Bridge Access Site that opened Henrico County in 2014:
 - o Vawter Street Park and/or Meadowview Park
 - o Creighton Road (bridge crossing)
 - o Bottoms Bridge (bridge crossing)
 - o Roxbury Road (bridge crossing)
 - o Providence Forge (bridge crossing)
 - o Crawfords State Forest
 - o Game Farm Marsh WMA / New Kent Forestry Center

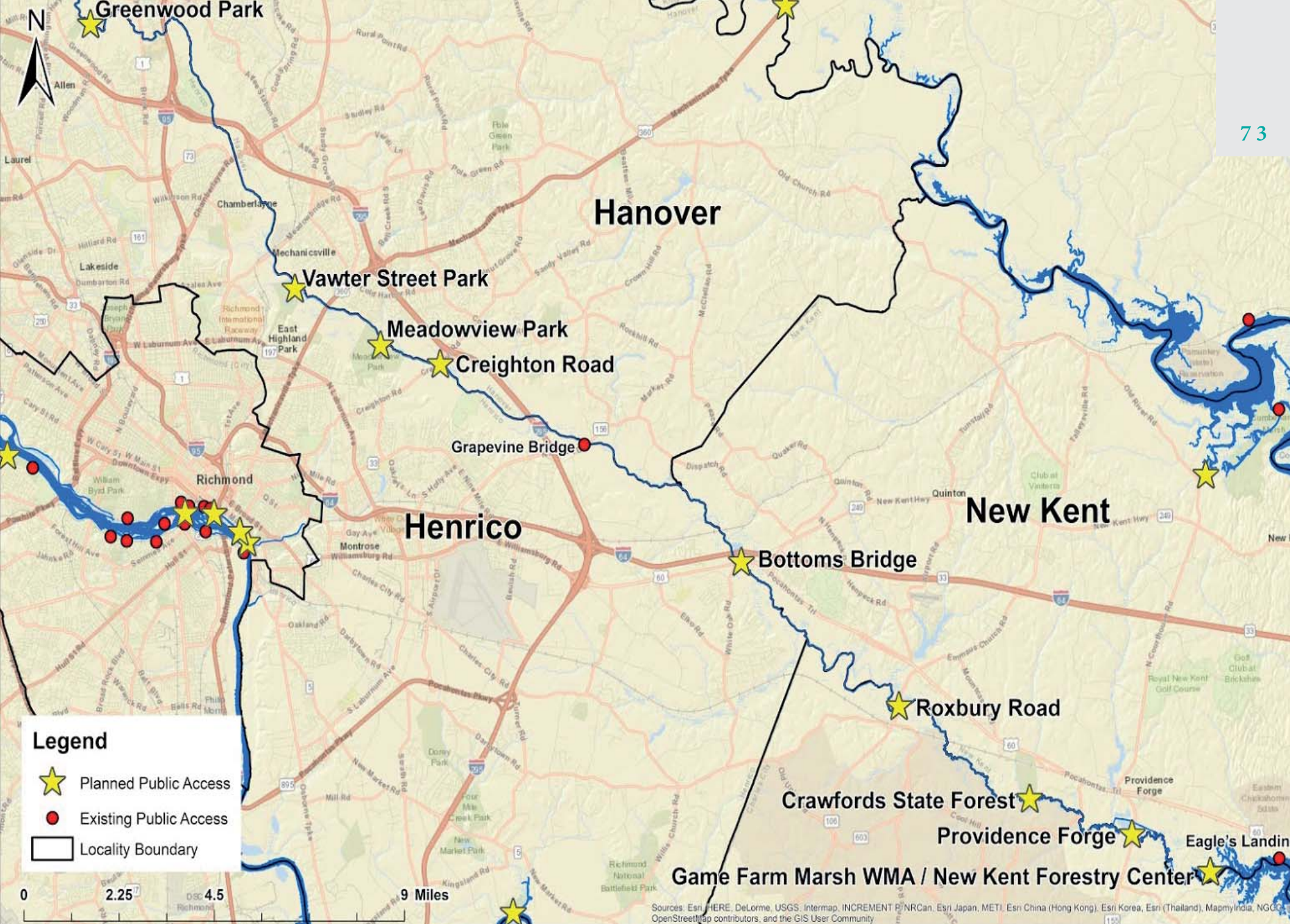
HENRICO

- **Greenwood Park:** When complete the 88-acre Greenwood Park will feature a sports complex and include amenities such as a playground, trails along the Chickahominy River, and accessible public open space. The park master plan is complete and was presented for adoption to the Board of Supervisors on November 24, 2015.

- **Vawter Street Park:** Vawter Street Park is located just west of where Route 360 crosses the Chickahominy River. This park was identified as an opportunity for improved access to the Chickahominy River.
- **Meadowview Park:** Meadowview Park is located just east of where Route 360 crosses the Chickahominy River. This park was identified as an opportunity for improved access to the Chickahominy River. The establishment of a trail and boardwalk leading to the Chickahominy will improve recreational access.

NEW KENT

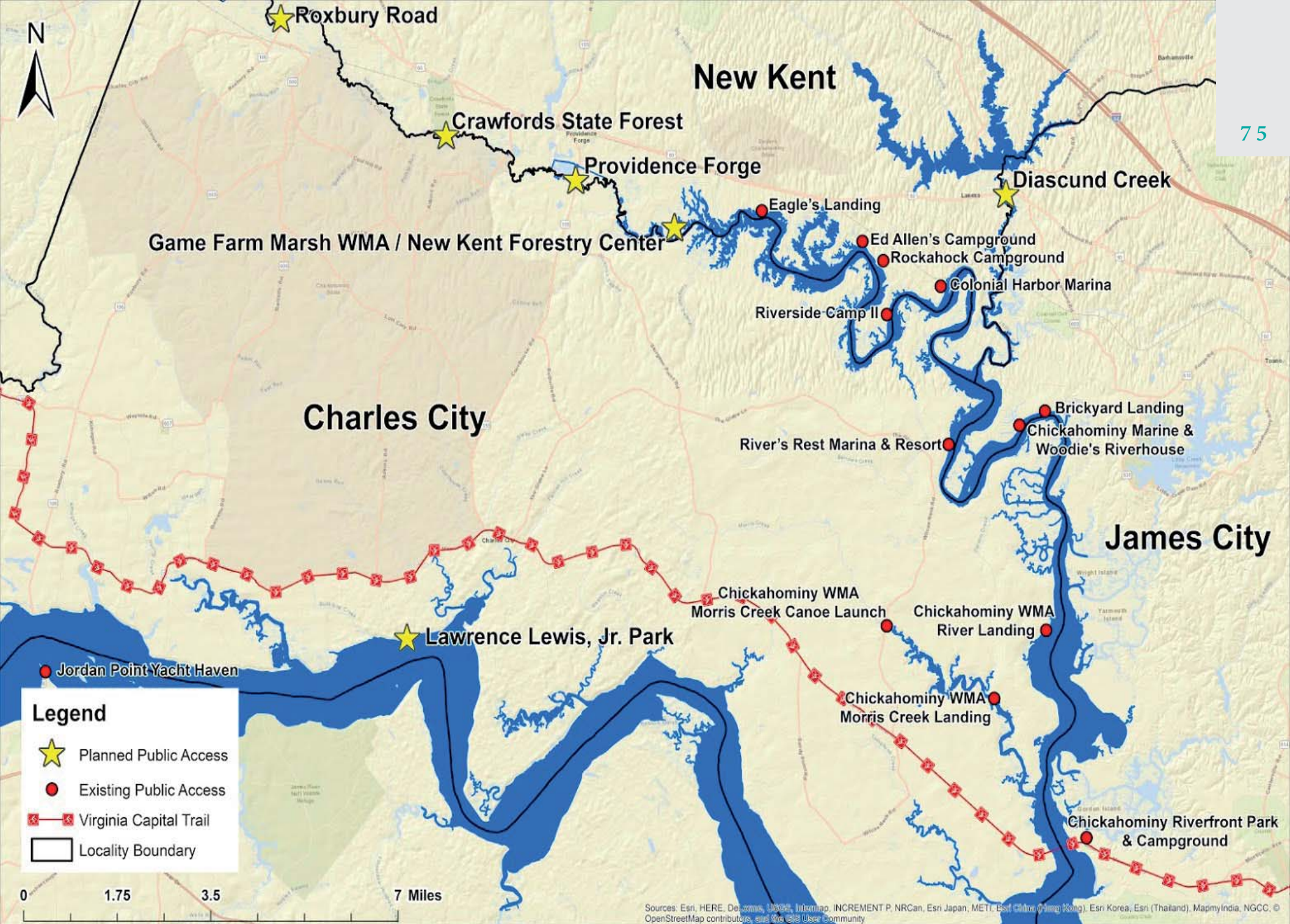
- **Crawfords State Forest:** Improve public recreational access to the Chickahominy River via the 258-acre Crawfords State Forest managed by Virginia Department of Forestry in New Kent County
- **Game Farm Marsh Wildlife Management Area / New Kent Forestry Center:** Provide public access along the Chickahominy River near the 429-acre Game Farm Marsh Wildlife Management Area and New Kent Forestry Center on the Chickahominy Lake as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGC, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

LOWER CHICKAHOMINY

- ***Diascund Creek and Reservoir:*** Evaluate feasibility of establishing public access to Diascund Creek in the vicinity of the Route 60 bridge crossing. Evaluate the Diascund Reservoir in New Kent County as an opportunity for improved water-oriented recreational facilities as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan.



PAMUNKEY RIVER

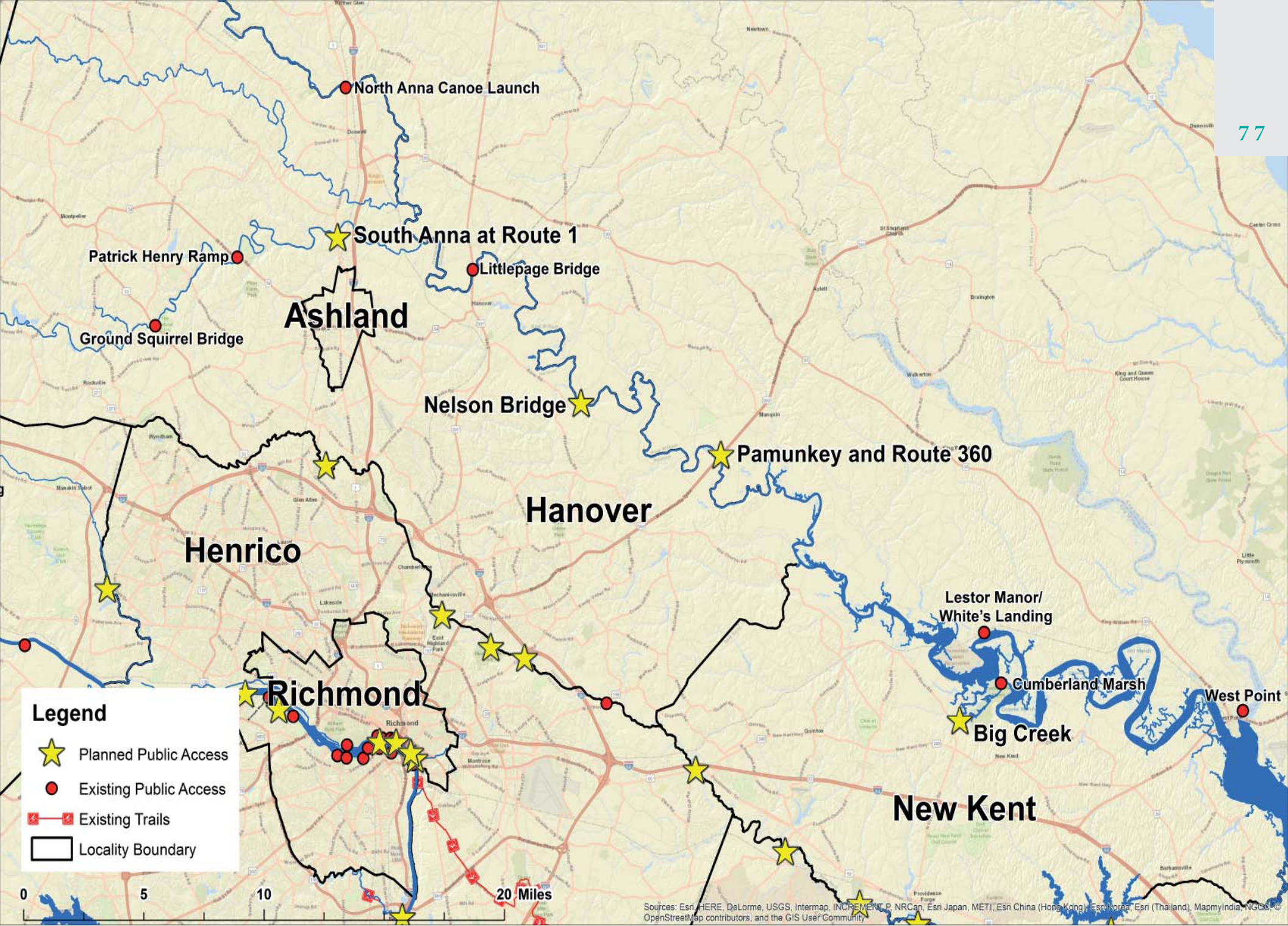
The following recommendations for publicly accessible recreational access on the Pamunkey River and its tributaries, the South Anna River, Little River, and North Anna River, are underway, already planned, or proposed:

HANOVER

- **Lake Anna Dam:** Public access on North Anna River below Lake Anna Dam as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **Little River Access:** Evaluate land for a nature park adjacent to the whitewater fall line section of the Little River as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **South Anna at Route 1 (Hanover County):** Establish public access to the South Anna River at Route 1 as proposed by the 2013 Virginia Outdoor Plan.
- **South Anna River Regional Park:** Evaluate the potential for lands along the scenic South Anna River to become a regional park as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **Route 360 Bridge Crossing** (Hanover County): Public access on the Pamunkey River at the Route 360 bridge crossing as recommended by the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan
- **Nelson Bridge** (Hanover County): Public access on the Pamunkey River at the Nelson Bridge as recommended by the Hanover County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan

NEW KENT

- **Big Creek:** Evaluate the feasibility of a public boat ramp at Big Creek, accessible via Old River Road, on the Pamunkey River in New Kent County as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan. This site includes several hundred acres of natural waterways, swamps and marshlands, which provide considerable opportunity for water-oriented recreation.
- **Cumberland Marsh Natural Area Preserve:** The Nature Conservancy should continue providing public access to the Cumberland Marsh Natural Area Preserve as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan



CONNECTIONS

The following projects will improve connectivity to and along the rivers of the region:

- **Appomattox River Trail:** The creation and implementation of a master plan for the Appomattox River Trail presents the single-greatest opportunity for localities along the Lower Appomattox River to benefit from outdoor recreation activity. Gaps in the trail exist resulting in a fragmented trail network. Related projects include:
 - **Complete the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail:** Complete the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System and support stronger connections to the trail system via Appamatuck Park to create a continuous two-mile open space corridor along the Appomattox River.
 - **Construct a Pedestrian and Bicyclist Bridge at John J. Radcliffe Park:** Connect the existing and planned trails on the north and south banks of the Appomattox River in the vicinity of John J. Radcliffe Park via a bicyclist and pedestrian bridge to create a cohesive trail system
 - **Appomattox River Trail Connection to Virginia Capital Trail:** The Richmond Region should begin considering how to best connect the Lower Appomattox River Heritage Trail to the Virginia Capital Trail. A prospective connection is the Benjamin Harrison Bridge.
- **Lake Chesdin Park** (Chesterfield): A 4.8-mile trail at Chesterfield County's Lake Chesdin Park, adjacent to the Chesdin Canoe Launch, is proposed. The first phase of the project will provide a connection from N. Ivey Mill Road to the canoe launch. The second phase of development consists of a 1.8-mile trail loop just west of the intersection of Lake Chesdin Parkway and N. Ivey Mill Road. The trail system will offer excellent opportunities for nature observation and interpretation, as a large portion of the trail will be located along riparian areas and swamp land.
- **Appomattox River Scenic Route** (Chesterfield): The Bikeways and Trails chapter of Chesterfield County's Comprehensive Plan proposes a pedestrian and cyclist route referred to as the "Appomattox River Scenic Route" that generally follows the Appomattox River in southern Chesterfield County. This proposed pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure will connect public spaces on the Appomattox River in Chesterfield County and complement the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System and Appomattox River Trail by making connections including a bridge across the river.
- **Reedy Creek Greenway** (Richmond): The Reedy Creek Greenway will follow the existing trail along Reedy Creek in Forest Hill Park and extend to George Wythe High School. In addition to providing access to the amenities at Forest Hill Park and Crooked Branch Park, the Reedy Creek Greenway will provide access to the neighborhoods of Woodland Heights, Forest View, and Northrup.
- **BridgePark** (Richmond): BridgePark is a conceptual linear public park proposed by the Richmond BridgePark Foundation that will connect the north and south banks of the James River via the Manchester Bridge. By utilizing excess roadway space and adding architectural flourishes, the park



Four Mile Creek Park along the Virginia Capital Trail

will create an experience that marries the urban appeal of downtown with the beauty of the James.

- ***Gillies Creek Greenway*** (Richmond): The Gillies Creek Greenway, paralleling Gillies Creek, will connect residents of the Fulton, Montrose Heights, and Church Hill neighborhoods to Richmond’s riverfront, Virginia Capital Trail, and future Bus Rapid Transit station on E. Main Street.
- ***James River Scenic Route*** (Chesterfield): The Bikeways and Trails chapter of Chesterfield County’s Comprehensive Plan proposes a pedestrian and cyclist route referred to as the “James River Scenic Route” that generally follows the south bank of the James River in Chesterfield County. This proposed pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure will connect public spaces like Falling Creek Ironworks, James River Conservation Area, Drewry’s Bluff and Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

09/ STEPS TO IMPLEMENTATION

This section identifies strategies to move the Regional Rivers Plan forward. The recently-formed James River Action Team of The Capital Region Collaborative is responsible for prioritizing the implementation of recommendations contained in this plan. Implementation actions are as follows:

- Prioritize Recommendations and Identify Sources of Funding
- Establish Structures for Implementation
- Incentivize Business Development
- Promote the Rivers of the Region

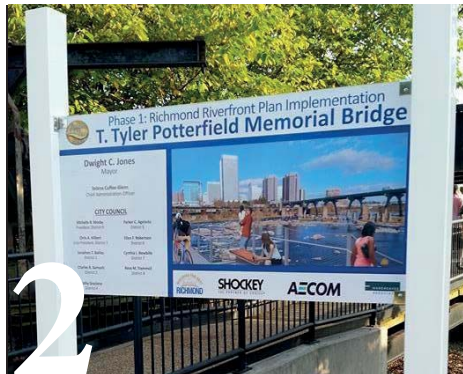
The James River action team will track progress using the following indicators:

- Acreage of public space on rivers
- Number of public river access sites
- Number of river dependent businesses
- Number of river dependent industrial use
- Riverview restaurant seating capacity
- Number of visitors to parks and public river access sites
- Number of attendees at riverfront events



Prioritize Recommendations & Identify Sources of Funding

The James River Action Team of The Capital Region Collaborative will evaluate recommendations of the plan and prioritize them. Projects will be prioritized based on their ability to fulfill the vision of the plan. A variety of funding sources exist for implementation. Local Capital Improvement Programs are critical tools for implementation. State, federal, and philanthropic sources of funding should be leveraged to support implementation.



Establish Structures for Implementation

As the population of the Richmond Region grows, development and maintenance of publicly accessible riverfronts, conservation areas, boat ramps, canoe and kayak launches, and other recreational sites are priorities. A regional entity responsible for multi-jurisdictional public access development and maintenance is recommended.



Incentivize Business Development

To retain and attract businesses, state, regional, and local resources should be utilized. Virginia cities, counties, and towns are permitted by the Code of Virginia to establish Tourism Zones. Tourism Zones provide tax incentives and regulatory flexibility to qualified tourism-related businesses while increasing tax base, creating jobs, and promoting tourism.



Promote the Rivers of the Region

Localities of the Richmond Region will need to work with Richmond Region Tourism and stakeholders to develop a brand and marketing plan for regional river attractions. The Virginia Tourism Corporation's Marketing Leverage Program should be leveraged to promote the region's rivers.

1. PRIORITIZE RECOMMENDATIONS AND IDENTIFY SOURCES OF FUNDING

The James River Action Team of the The Capital Region Collaborative will evaluate and prioritize the recommendations of this plan, thereby commencing implementation. Projects should be prioritized based on their ability to expand public recreational access, encourage river-dependent business development, and promote tourism. After project prioritization is complete the James River Action Team will identify relevant localities, agencies, organizations, and stakeholders and appropriate funding sources for each project.

A variety of funding sources exist for implementation. Local Capital Improvement Programs are critical tools for implementation. State, federal, and philanthropic sources of funding should be leveraged to support implementation.

- **Local Capital Improvement Programs:** Local Capital Improvement Programs are critical sources of funding for many of the projects recommended in this plan. Local governments are encouraged to leverage public investments with grants and private funding.
- **State Funding Sources**
 - o Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - o Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

- o Virginia Recreational Trails Program
- o Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- o Virginia Department of Transportation
- o Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - o Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program

- **Federal Funding Sources**

- o Transportation funds
- o Conservation Funds
 - o Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - o National Park Service

- **Private Foundations and Philanthropic Sources**

2. ESTABLISH STRUCTURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

As the population of the Richmond Region grows, the development and maintenance of publicly accessible riverfronts, conservation areas, boat ramps, canoe and kayak launches, and other recreational sites are priority. A regional entity responsible for multi-jurisdictional public access development and maintenance is recommended.

Public River Access Authority

A regional public access authority will build upon regional partnerships to expand and enhance the network of public access sites in the region. The purpose of a regional public access authority, could include:

- Expanding the regional public access network to accommodate a variety of recreational activities
 - o Determining ownership of proposed and prospective access sites
 - o Securing land for new sites and ensure sites are properly maintained
- Increasing the usefulness of existing sites through physical enhancements
- Determining the appropriate public use level for each access site

Benefits of an authority would include the facilitation of regional collaboration, ability to leverage funding for river access, and regional connectivity along the river and via land trails, communities, and businesses. A regional public access authority should be modeled after other authorities in the Commonwealth of Virginia including the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority and Northern Neck Public Access Authority.

Management Board for Richmond's Riverfront

The Richmond Riverfront Plan recommends the creation of a Riverfront Management Board with a defined structure and responsibilities. The entity will balance autonomy and accountability, coordinate publicly and privately owned resources, maintain a consistent mission for the entire riverfront system, and create an entity capable of carrying out the Richmond community's vision. The creation of a Riverfront Management Board would formalize the city's commitment to making its riverfront a spectacular recreation, cultural, and economic asset. The Board should have a clear mission and the capacity to coordinate with stakeholders to execute the multiple integrated tasks to make the riverfront open spaces and exciting,

diverse, and successful open space system. The Board should work closely with existing City agencies and officials, and its board could include representatives selected by the Mayor, City Council, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, and other important agencies and stakeholder groups such as Venture Richmond and Friends of the James River Park.

Governance Alternatives for Richmond's James River Park System

Governance alternatives for the James River Park System should be evaluated in an effort to improve the overall management of the park system. As the most-visited attraction in the region, the James River Park System will benefit from a governance structure that ensures effective operations, maintenance, and meaningful programming. A variety of successful models exist across the United States that could be applied in Richmond to enable needed flexibility to better coordinate responsibilities.

Hudson River Park – New York, New York: Hudson River Park is the longest waterfront park in the United States, attracting 17 million visits each year. The Park offers recreational and educational activities for local residents and visitors alike, and plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River environment itself. The park has also served as an important catalyst for economic development and job creation. Over the past decade, it has attracted \$3 billion in new construction at 94 new buildings in adjacent neighborhoods.

Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction and operation of the four-mile Hudson River Park. The Trust employs a staff with experience in parks, design, finance, public policy, operations and maintenance. Both the Trust and the park are governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established both the park and its requirements. The Trust operates on a premise of financial self-sufficiency, supporting staff as well as the operations and maintenance of the park through income generated within the park area by rents from commercial tenants, fees, concession revenues, grants and donations. Capital funding has historically come primarily from the local, state, and Federal budget appropriations. The Trust works closely with Friends of Hudson River Park to expand the park's funding base to include private donations and has a fifty-member Advisory Council which plays an integral role in the park planning process. The Advisory Council is comprised of elected officials and representatives from the business, environmental and civic communities.

Goals of the Hudson River Park Trust include:

- o Continue advancing park construction to achieve the full vision for a magnificent waterfront park as outlined in the Hudson River Park Act

- o Operate and maintain the park at a high level so that it remains a community asset and economic generator, and continues to serve the millions of New Yorkers and tourists who use it annually
- o Improve the park's Estuarine Sanctuary through public education, research and habitat enhancement
- o Provide free or low-cost recreational opportunities for New York City residents
- o Ensure the park's future financial self-sufficiency by developing the remaining major commercial nodes

3. INCENTIVIZE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Virginia cities, counties, or towns can currently establish Tourism Zones as allowed by the Code of Virginia. Tourism Zones provide tax incentives and regulatory flexibility to qualified businesses. Tourism Zones increase tax base, create job opportunities, and benefit tourism-related businesses. Riverfront Tourism Zones will enhance the ability of Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell to attract and retain tourism-related businesses.

A qualified tourism business must make a substantial investment and create new tourism-related jobs. A tourism business includes, but is not limited to, retail trade establishments, dining establishments, hotels, museums, bed and breakfasts, theaters, cultural art centers, health clubs/fitness centers, conference centers, commercial parking garages

and commercial recreation facilities. In exchange for the tax revenue and job creation, businesses can be awarded incentives such as:

- Reduction or waiver of business license tax
- Reduction or waiver of permit fees and/or water and sewer availability fees
- Reduction of any type of gross receipts tax (meals, lodging, admissions, local sales)
- Reduction of machinery, tools, and business personal property taxes, as applicable

Localities interested in pursuing financing from the Commonwealth of Virginia Tourism Development Financing Program must have a defined tourism zone or zones within which a proposed project is contained. The key action to establish Tourism Zones in Richmond, Petersburg, and Hopewell is for each locality to develop its own tourism development plan. Each locality interested in pursuing financing will need to submit a Tourism Development Plan which will be reviewed and certified by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The Tourism Development Plan submitted can be an existing plan already adopted by a locality, or a plan can be created using the Virginia Tourism Corporation's website. The purposes of the plan are to outline the specific void the proposed project will fill, provide accurate representations of a locality's current tourism product and assets, infrastructure, marketing efforts and visitor profiles, and show the return on investment the proposed project will have to the local tourism economy.

As of May 2016, the City of Richmond is working towards establishing Tourism Zones in five areas:

- o Downtown-East End Tourism Zone
- o Fan/Boulevard/Carytown Zone
- o Manchester Zone
- o Port of Richmond Zone
- o Scott's Addition Zone

To retain and attract businesses state, regional, and local resources should be utilized. Local Economic Development Authorities and regional organizations like the Greater Richmond Partnership and Virginia's Gateway Region should be engaged in this effort.

Nashville, Tennessee:

New Riverfront improvements are planned and managed by Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation and are designed to provide new public attractions, parkland and waterfront access, giving residents and visitors a reason to enjoy both banks of the Cumberland River. When fully implemented, the project area will be ten times the size of the existing Riverfront Park. These modifications include public features such as fountains, spraygrounds, boardwalks, overlooks, piers, performance spaces, wetlands, plazas, new docking facilities, increased bikeways, and open play space.

- Nashville employs a variety of incentives to promote business development along the Cumberland River
 - o Tax abatements
 - o Land incentives
 - o Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
 - o Relocation funds

Hood River, Oregon:

The Port of Hood River was created and incorporated on July 28, 1933 as a result of the Bonneville Dam Project, due to the expressed desire by the Oregon State Legislature and the United States Government to develop industrial land in the Columbia River Basin for jobs and economic development. Recreational and economic development opportunities are abundant at the port's waterfront public access sites. The Port developed access sites for the local community and visitors resulting in recreation tourism. The waterfront has a variety of public access and event sites used for activities, including windsurfing, kiteboarding, boating, dog walking, and fishing.

- Business Development
 - o The Port of Hood River guides economic development and quality of life initiatives
 - o Owns 60% of waterfront
- Waterfront Business Park Marketing Strategy
 - o Business Development
 - o Job Retention and Creation
 - o Quality Development
 - o Collaborative Process
 - o High Quality Recreation
- Enterprise zone along waterfront abates businesses from property taxes for 3-5 years
 - o Business licenses and building permits are required and take ~3 months to finalize
 - o Three small business food vendors operate at event site on waterfront June through September
- Windsurfing and kiteboarding schools
 - o Permits are limited and businesses must use certified instructors and have liability insurance

4. PROMOTE THE RIVERS OF THE REGION

Localities of the Richmond Region will need to work with Richmond Region Tourism and stakeholders to develop a brand and marketing plan for regional river attractions.

The Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing Leverage Program is designed to stimulate new tourism marketing through partnerships by leveraging limited marketing dollars, resulting in increased visitor spending. A minimum of three entities must partner financially to apply and may consist of Virginia towns, cities, counties, convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, other local or regional destination marketing organizations, private businesses, museums, attractions, cultural events, and other not-for-profit entities.

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River is currently seeking proposals from professionals with experience in community branding and wayfinding to provide planning and design services in developing a brand identity, logo design, and signage master plan that considers welcome signage, informational signage, wayfinding signage, and interpretive signage. After the desired planning and design services are provided, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River and its partners should apply to the Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing Leverage Program.

Continue to support the efforts of the Route 5 Corridor Coalition, specifically the Take 5! Campaign, which launched a promotional campaign to attract visitors to Route 5, a Virginia Scenic Byway paralleling the James River, with financial assistance from a Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing Leverage Program grant awarded in 2014.

The James River Advisory Council (JRAC) produces James River Days, a publication promoting programs and events on the river. In 2015, the brochure featured 126 programs offered by 46 partners.





10/ CONCLUSION

As the Richmond Region pursues improved quality of life for its residents and economic development, rivers and riverfronts must be leveraged as venues for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. The implementation of region-wide and local recommendations will combine to create a coordinated regional public access network that is accessible and accommodating

to as many residents of the region as possible. Ensuring all residents benefit from the implementation of this plan is of the utmost importance and the responsibility of those who implement the plan. The successful implementation of this plan in the coming years will result in the expansion of the regional public access network, new business activity, and tourism.

APPENDIX A: PLANS AND STUDIES

Appomattox River Interpretive Guide

Source: Appomattox River Interpretive Guide, Crater Planning District Commission, 2013

Appomattox River Trail at Ettrick/VSU Trailhead

Source: Chesterfield Parks and Recreation, Chesterfield County, 2016

Bottoms Bridge Access

Source: Bottoms Bridge Access, James River Association, 2015

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Source: Making the Trail Visible and Visitor Ready: A Plan for the James River Segment, National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, December 2011

Charles City County 2014 Comprehensive Plan

Source: Charles City County 2014 Comprehensive Plan, Charles City County, 2014

Chesterfield County Bike Routes

Source: Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, 2015

Chesterfield County Conservation Areas

Source: Chesterfield Parks and Recreation, Chesterfield County, 2016

Chickahominy River Recreational Access Study

Source: Chickahominy River Recreational Access Study, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, October 31, 2007

City of Petersburg, Virginia Comprehensive Plan 2014

Source: City of Petersburg, Virginia Comprehensive Plan 2014, City of Petersburg, 2015

Comprehensive Plan Dinwiddie County, VA

Source: Comprehensive Plan Dinwiddie County, VA, Dinwiddie County, 2014

Comprehensive Plan Hanover County, VA 2012-2032

Source: Comprehensive Plan Hanover County, VA 2012-2032, Hanover County, 2013

County of Powhatan 2010 Long-Range Comprehensive Plan

Source: County of Powhatan 2010 Long-Range Comprehensive Plan: Sustainable and Intelligent Planning for the Future, Powhatan County, 2010

Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System (C.H.A.R.T.S.)

Source: Colonial Heights

Deep Bottom Park Master Plan

Source: Deep Bottom Park Master Plan, Henrico County, 1999

Gillies Creek Greenway Plan

Source: Gilles Creek Greenway Plan, Josh Mallow, 2015

Goochland County 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Source: Goochland County 2035 Comprehensive Plan, 2015

Greenwood Park

Source: Greenwood Park Phase 1 Plan, Henrico County, 2016

Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan

Source: Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan, Henrico County, 2009

James River & Kanawha Canal Blueway

Source: Recreational Plan for the James River & Kanawha Canal Blueway, Phil Riggan, 2015

James River National Wildlife Refuge

Source: James River National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2015

Lower Appomattox River Heritage Trail

Source: Greenway and Blueway Concept Plan for the Lower Appomattox River Corridor, Community Design Assistance Center of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2001

Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County

Source: Moving Forward...The Comprehensive Plan for Chesterfield County, Chesterfield County, 2012

New Kent County Comprehensive Plan

Source: New Kent County Comprehensive Plan, New Kent County, 2012

Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape

Source: Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape, T. Tyler Potterfield, 2009

Prince George County, Virginia 2014 Comprehensive Plan

Source: Prince George County, Virginia 2014 Comprehensive Plan, Prince George County, 2014

Richmond Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Source: Richmond Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 2014

Richmond Riverfront Plan

Source: Richmond Riverfront Plan, City of Richmond, 2012

Rivers of the Richmond Region: A Public Access Guide

Source: Rivers of the Richmond Region: A Public Access Guide, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 2015

The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Colonial Heights

Source: City of Colonial Heights Comprehensive Plan 2044, City of Colonial Heights, 2015

Tuckahoe Creek Park

Source: Tuckahoe Creek Park Master Plan for Ridgefield Parkway to Old Coach Lane, Henrico County, 2014

Tucker Park at Maidens Crossing

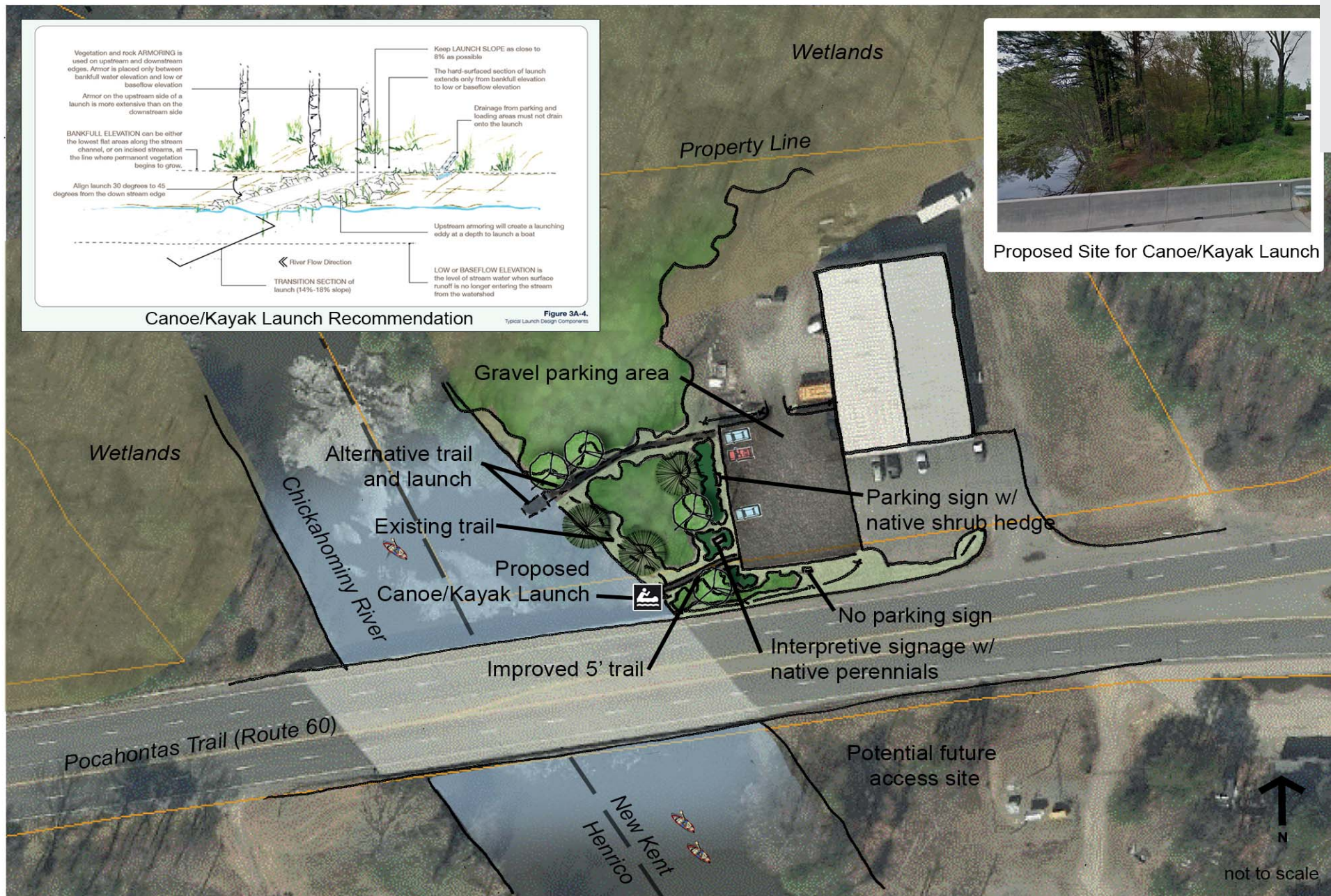
Source: Goochland County 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Goochland County

Turkey Island Creek Access

Source: Turkey Island Creek Access Concept Plan, James River Association, 2013

Virginia Outdoors Plan

Source: Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 2013

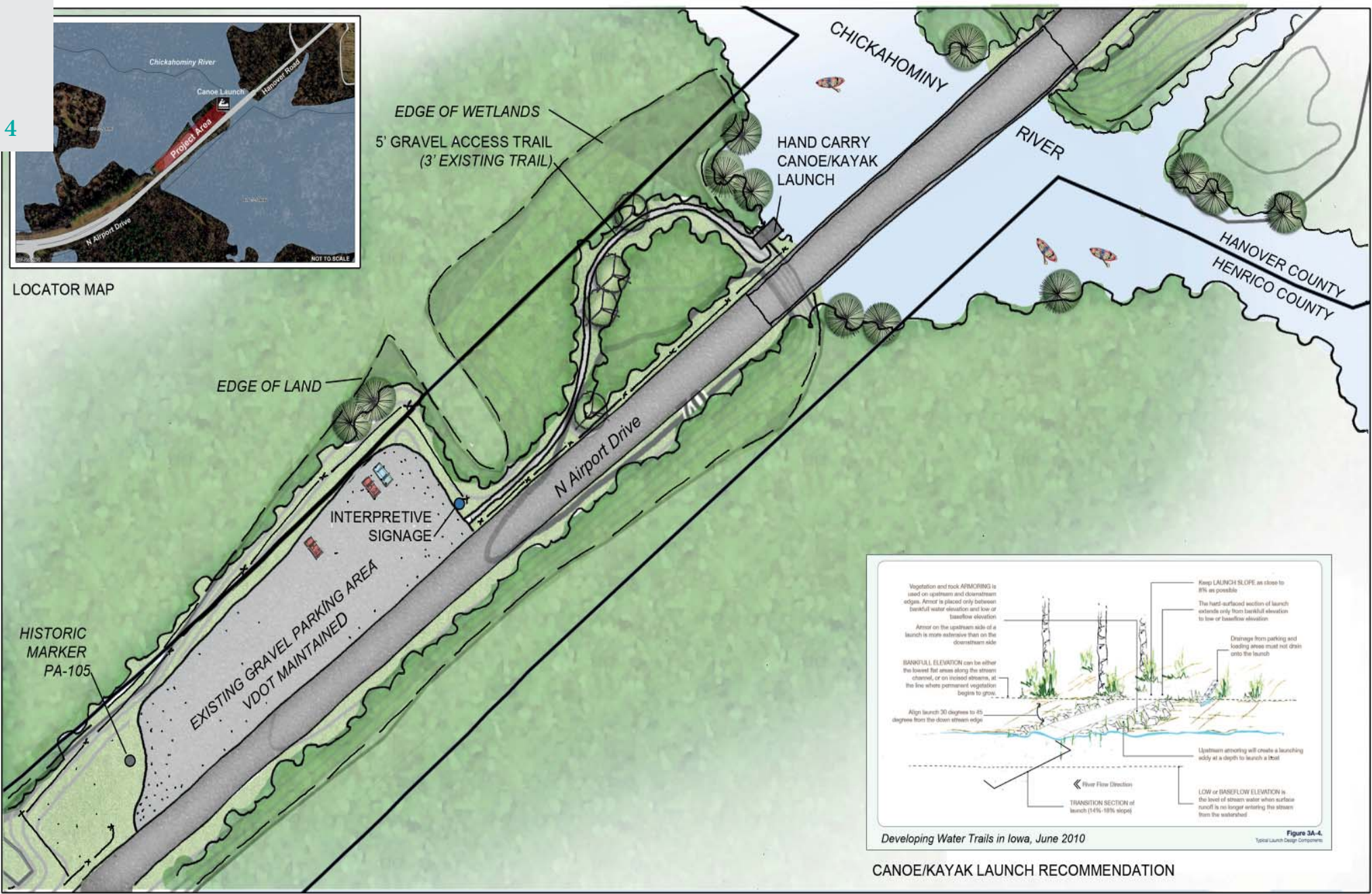


BOTTOMS BRIDGE ACCESS - New Kent, VA

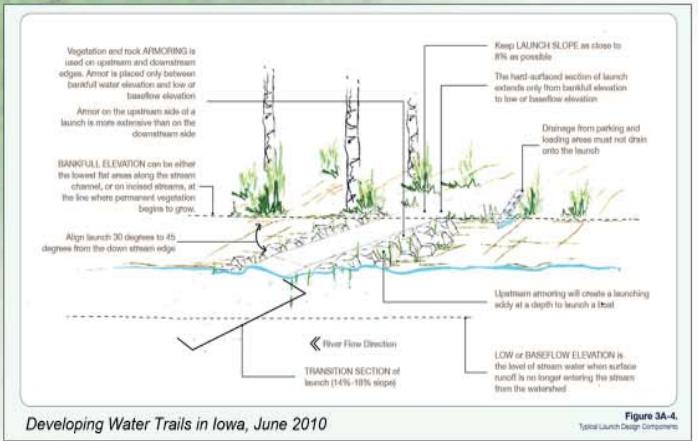
Canoe/Kayak Launch Concept Plan

Date: 8/14/15
 Drawn by: Amber Ellis
 Aerial/Topo Source: New Kent GIS
 Image Source: Google Maps





LOCATOR MAP



Developing Water Trails in Iowa, June 2010

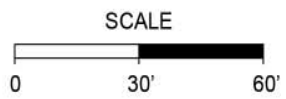
Figure 3A-4. Typical Launch Design Components

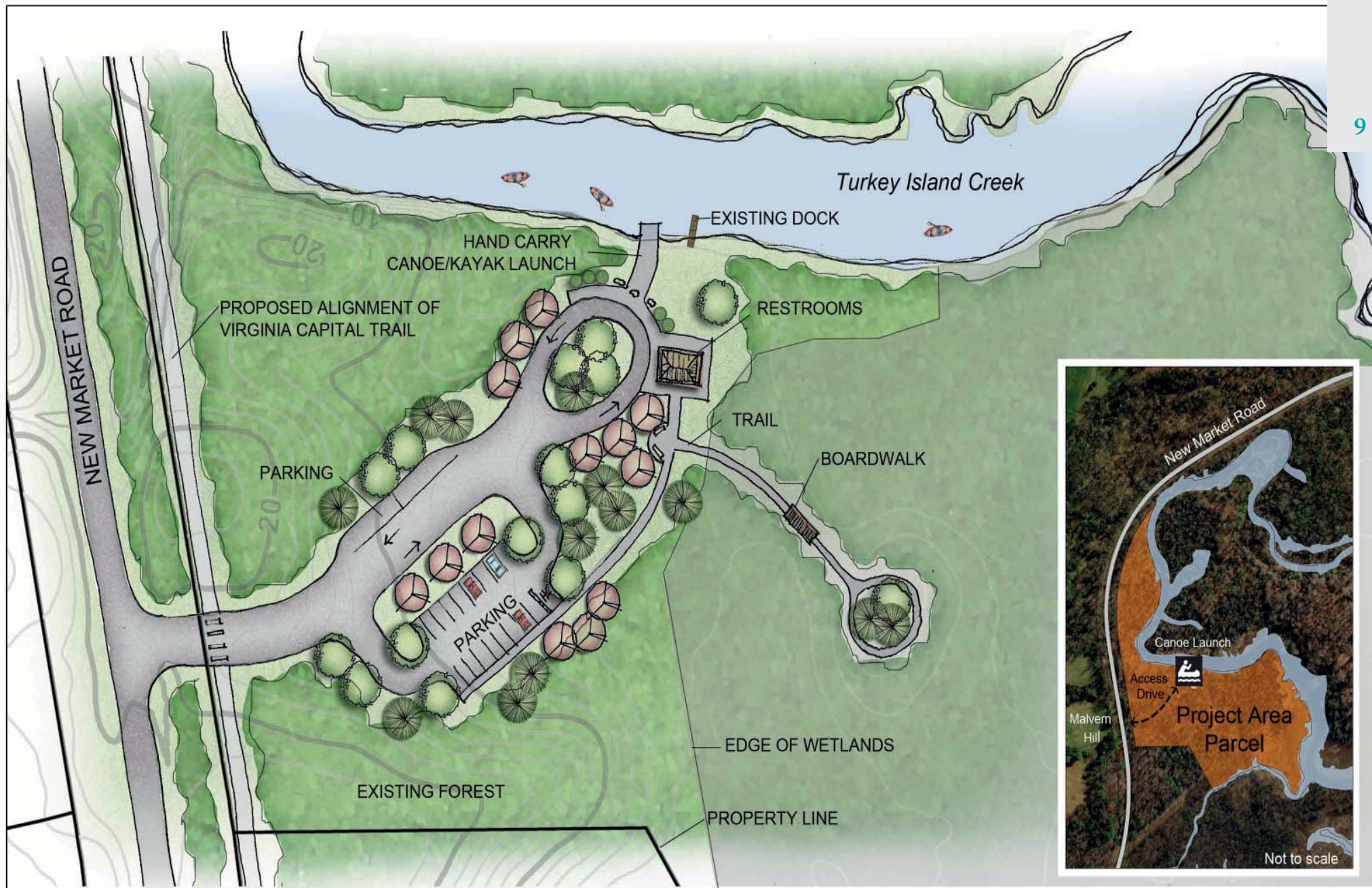
CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH RECOMMENDATION

CHICKAHOMINY RIVER ACCESS - CONCEPT PLAN

Hanover and Henrico, Virginia

Date: 11/21/2013
Drawn by: Amber Ellis
Mapping Source: Henrico County





TURKEY ISLAND CREEK ACCESS - CONCEPT PLAN Henrico, Virginia

Date: 9/17/2013
 Drawn by: Amber Ellis
 Mapping Source: Henrico County

