FOLAR has worked tirelessly to create, enhance and connect many trails along the lower Appomattox River, a significant portion of which is designated as a Virginia Scenic River. FOLAR conducts many other activities to protect and promote the river’s natural beauty and its historical and cultural significance:
— Monitors water quality
— Organizes river cleanups
— Promotes the development of an Appomattox River Natural Resources Educational Center
— Promotes tourism and economic development

One hundred percent of the money raised by FOLAR is spent on developing the greenway-blueway trail network, enhancing the river and public access to it, and organizing cleanups and other events that protect the river. In addition to recognizing and enjoying the Lower Appomattox River by attending river-related events and programs, there are two other ways to get involved directly:
— Volunteer to help FOLAR with cleanups, water-quality monitoring or trail projects.
— Join FOLAR. Membership is open to individuals, families, businesses, corporations, and civic and other organizations.

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Brochure design courtesy of Chesterfield County
Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, or FOLAR, is a nonprofit organization representing community leaders and citizens interested in promoting and enhancing the Appomattox River. With the support and cooperation of local governments, civic organizations, local and corporate businesses and concerned citizens, FOLAR is developing a “greenway-blueway” network of hiking and water trails along 22 miles of the lower Appomattox. FOLAR envisions river visitors walking, bicycling or paddling the river on a continuous route between the Lake Chesdin dam, which straddles the boundary between Chesterfield and Dinwiddie counties, and the Appomattox River’s confluence with the James River at City Point, Hopewell.

FOLAR organized as a result of the 1999 Appomattox River Corridor Plan developed by the Crater Planning District Commission, which continues to sponsor FOLAR. FOLAR’s board of directors includes 12 representatives appointed by six jurisdictions along the lower Appomattox, as well as a representative of Virginia State University and two at-large members. The member localities include Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie County, Hopewell, Petersburg and Prince George County.
The lower Appomattox River may be paddled from below the Lake Chesdin Dam to Hopewell. The river also is navigable to motorboats from Hopewell upriver to Temple Avenue in Colonial Heights, with future plans to make the river navigable upriver to Petersburg.