

EXPLORE

the

APPOMATTOX RIVER TRAIL



A VIRGINIA STATE SCENIC RIVER

Points of Interest • Boat Access • Parks

Over 20 miles of river from the dam at Lake Chesdin to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell

- 1 Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp**
Chesdin Lake Road, Dinwiddie County
Lake Chesdin is a 3,100-acre water supply reservoir on the Chesterfield-Dinwiddie County line administered by the Appomattox River Water Authority. Chesdin is a very productive lake which offers excellent largemouth bass fishing, good crappie fishing—both black and white—in spring and fall, and a great channel catfish fishery. The public boat ramp and handicap-accessible fishing pier are open 24 hours a day. Porta-johns are available.
- 2 John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area & Appomattox River Canoe/Kayak Launch**
21501 Chesdin Road, Chesterfield County
This 89-acre park provides trail and canoe/kayak access along the fall zone of the Appomattox River. Hikers can explore a 2.6 mile section of the Appomattox River Trail. Canoeists and kayakers have the option of floating 1 mile to the abutment dam, the point of no return for paddling back up to the Radcliffe Conservation Area (relatively flat water). Or they can float 3 miles to the take-out at Appomattox Riverside/Ferndale Park (Class II-III whitewater), or 7 miles to Patton Park in Petersburg (Class II-III whitewater). Be on the lookout for fallen trees/strainers along the route. This section is remote, making rescue lengthy and difficult. Amenities: picnic tables, canoe/kayak launch and hiking trails.
- 3 Appomattox Riverside/Ferndale Park**
24909 Ferndale Road, Dinwiddie County
The Appomattox Riverside Park (also known as Ferndale Park) is a popular destination for bird-watching, canoeing, fishing, and whitewater paddling. Canoeist/kayakers can enjoy a shuttle-free 3 mile circle trip by paddling up the canal and back down the river (Class II-III whitewater). Amenities: 1.5 mile canal trail, a section of the Appomattox River Trail, playground, water and trail access, canal kayak launch (gravel), picnic shelters, and a fishing pier and natural shoreline.
- 4 Battersea**
1289 Upper Appomattox Street, Petersburg
Built in 1768 on the banks of the Appomattox River for Col. John Banister, Revolutionary War Patriot, Framer of the Articles of Confederation and Petersburg's first mayor, Battersea is an important neo-Palladian style urban villa. Special features include the Chinese Chippendale staircase, the historic greenhouse and its very old trees. Open for tours by appointment only.
- 5 Appomattox River Trail—Etrick/VSU Trailhead**
3801 Main Street, Chesterfield County
This 47-acre linear park has a ¼ mile paved trail that follows the Appomattox River and ends at the CSX railroad trestle, and a rustic explorer trail that provides access to the river and viewing of the old canal that bypassed the falls of the river.

Boating & Fishing River Information



The Appomattox River from the dam at Lake Chesdin to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell is a designated Virginia Scenic River that provides a unique and beautiful setting for both whitewater and flatwater paddlers, as well as for powerboaters and fishermen. Virginia Scenic River designation is only given to rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics. You can still see the culture and history of the river with the visible remains of dams, locks and canals.

The western/upper portion of the Appomattox River from Brasfield Dam at Lake Chesdin down to Campbell's Bridge in Petersburg can be powerful and remote. High water levels and cold conditions increase this danger. At the natural fall line through the City of Petersburg, the eastern/lower portion of the river becomes tidal and tide charts should be consulted when planning a trip on this portion of the river.

Fishing
The Appomattox River contains a wide range of species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, redbreast sunfish, bluegill, flie, crappie, pickerel, and hard-fighting minnows, like fallfish and chubs. Striped bass, walleye and saugeye, which run out of Lake Chesdin, provide a seasonal fishery in the Appomattox.



A fishing license is required for anyone fishing over the age of 16 and can be purchased from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Fishing licenses can be purchased online.

- 6 University Blvd Trailhead & Petersburg Patton Park**
University Boulevard at Campbell's Bridge, Petersburg
The University Blvd Trailhead provides great river views and access to 1 mile of trail to the west, passing over the Battersea bridges and the Battersea Dam. Patton Park is a passive recreation area along the Appomattox River near historic Old Towne Petersburg and across the river from Virginia State University. Park Amenities: trail head to 0.5 miles of the Appomattox River Trail, fishing access, canoe/kayak launch (gravel), picnic shelter and barbeque pits.
- 7 Petersburg Visitor Center**
15 West Bank Street, Petersburg
The Visitor Center is housed in the historic ca. 1839 Exchange Building. Exhibits here present Petersburg's long and storied history from its earliest days as a trading post until today.
- 8 Appamatuck Park**
151 Archer Avenue, Colonial Heights
This 14-acre park offers open space, riverbank fishing, a natural kayak/canoe launch and a trailhead for the 2-mile paved trail of the Colonial Heights section of the Appomattox River Trail. Porta-john available.
- 9 Pocahontas Island**
149 Rolfe Street, Petersburg
Pocahontas Island, actually a peninsula, was originally platted in 1749. Once a warehouse and wharf-filled urban landscape, it is where the first enslaved Africans were brought to work. In the 19th century, Pocahontas became a Freedom Colony, the first predominately free black settlement in Virginia and by 1860, one of the largest in the nation. The Pocahontas Island Black History Museum is an amazing collection of artifacts collected by John Stewart, who was born on Pocahontas Island in 1943 and known as The Mayor of Pocahontas. On the National Register of Historic Places. Museum (225 Witten St.) open by appointment only. Rotary Park is a public park with picnic shelter, 0.5 miles of the Appomattox River Trail, riverbank fishing and a natural canoe/kayak launch.
- 10 Roslyn Landing Park**
265 Charles Dimmock Parkway, Colonial Heights
This park has a ramp for launching small boats and paddlecraft, a pier for fishing and is a trailhead for the 2-mile paved trail of the Colonial Heights section of the Appomattox River Trail. Picnic shelters and porta-johns are available.
- 11 Appomattox Boat Harbor**
1604 Fine Street, Prince George County
A privately owned marina but publicly accessible. Slips and ramp available for a variety of boats including canoes/kayaks. Amenities: floating docks, wet slips, dual boat ramp, gas pump, restrooms & showers, pump out station, marine repair shop, boat storage on land, snack bar, bait shop, pool, Harbor Blast concert series, fishing tournaments, kayaks, canoes and clubhouse available to rent.



Plan your trip on the Appomattox River by first checking river and weather conditions.

FLATWATER ROUTES
On the western/upper portion of the river, boaters can put-in and take-out at John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area, floating down 1 mile to the abutment dam and back. The flatwater section of the river begins at Patton Park in Petersburg, where the river becomes tidal.

WHITewater ROUTES
You can choose a 7 mile trip from John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area in Chesterfield County to Patton Park in Petersburg, or a 3 mile trip from Ferndale Park in Dinwiddie County to Patton Park. Either trip offers a quick shuttle route along River Road in Matoaca. You can also try a shuttle-free whitewater circle trip at Ferndale Park, paddling up the canal (flatwater) and back down the main river (whitewater).



Flatwater paddlers should check the tide prediction chart at Puddledock.



Whitewater paddlers should check the river level at the Matoaca gauge – See skill level chart to right.



Check the American Whitewater website for information on rapids & current conditions.

Whitewater Paddler Skill Level Classification	
Class I - Easy	Waves small, clear passages; All obvious obstructions, no serious obstacles.
Class II - Medium	Rapids of low difficulty with passages clear. Occasional maneuvering may be required.
Class III - Moderate	Waves numerous and high, irregular, can swamp open canoe; Rapids with passages clear though narrow and fast, requiring experience in maneuvering. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties.
Class IV - Difficult	Long rapids; waves powerful, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; powerful and precise maneuvering required.
Class V - Extremely Difficult	Long and violent rapids, following each other almost without interruption; riverbed extremely obstructed; big drops; violent currents; very steep gradient. Paddlers should have prior Class IV or better whitewater experience with experienced guides who know the river.

- 12 Swift Creek Conservation Area**
Chesterfield County
Located where Swift Creek meets the Appomattox River 5.7 miles from the confluence with the James River, this 447-acre conservation area is currently open by appointment only but offers primitive hiking trails, and canoeists and kayakers can paddle along numerous creeks through the heart of the river bottomland habitat. Water trail can be accessed from White Bank Park boat launch in Colonial Heights, but land access is by appointment only.
- 13 White Bank Park**
400 White Bank Road, Colonial Heights
The park consists of 22 acres which overlook Swift Creek, and is located across from Tussing Elementary School. The park includes two picnic pavilions which accommodate 200-300 people each, 8 individual picnic shelters for smaller groups, restrooms, 18-hole disc golf course, beach volleyball court, boat ramp, paddling access, and public playground.
- 14 Fort Clifton Park**
100 Brockwell Lane, Colonial Heights
Fort Clifton was a Confederate stronghold on the Appomattox River, serving as an important link in the line that defended Richmond and Petersburg in 1864 and 1865. Located on a high bluff at the junction of the Appomattox River and Swift Creek, the fort controlled navigation on the river north of Petersburg and was a formidable defensive bastion that wasn't taken by Union forces until the fall of Petersburg on April 3, 1865. The 24-acre park includes one picnic pavilion which accommodates 60 people, restrooms, walking trails and fishing pier.
- 15 Old Brick House**
131 Waterfront Drive, Colonial Heights
Located in Conjurer's Neck subdivision, the Old Brick House property has been settled since 1677 and has long been a landmark on the river, with navigational charts referring to the structure as "Brick House". Interior house tours are available by appointment. The house is available for rental on special occasions.
- 16 Hopewell/Prince George Visitor Center**
4100 Oaklawn Boulevard, Hopewell
The Hopewell/Prince George Visitor Center is a Certified Virginia handicap accessible rest stop off I-295, just 3.5 miles from the Petersburg National Battlefield Visitor center, providing maps, coupons, local relocation and event information as well as statewide tourism resources. Knowledgeable staff are available for assistance.

Water Safety

The river is not patrolled and rescue is difficult. Please let others know of your river plans, study river maps and know how to get off the river.

TO PREVENT PROBLEMS:

- Wear a life jacket. If paddling whitewater, wear a helmet
- Recognize and avoid hazards: Fallen trees, debris piles and dams
- Wear a wet suit in spring, fall and winter
- Carry throw ropes and first aid kits
- Never paddle alone
- Know and prepare for the weather
- Don't paddle after dark
- Use supplemental boat flotation
- Alcohol and paddling do not mix

IF YOU GET INTO TROUBLE:

- Float on your back with feet up, pointed downstream
- Do not try to stand up in swift water
- Stay upstream of your capsized boat
- Get to shore as soon as possible
- Call 911

River Level at Matoaca Gauge	Whitewater Paddler Skill Level
2.5 ft. to 3.9 ft. (~ 400-1200 cfs)	Easy to Moderate
3.9 ft. to 5.5 ft. (~ 1200-2800 cfs)	Moderate to Difficult
5.5 ft. to 7 ft. (~ 2800-4800 cfs)	Difficult to Extremely Difficult
Over 7 ft. (~ above 4800 cfs)	Very Hazardous–Expert only!

- 17 R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks**
201 Enon Church Road, Chesterfield County
This 178-acre park offers 3 miles of trails through several habitats including eastern deciduous forest, riparian environment of the Appomattox River and tidal freshwater marsh. Good site for birdwatching and nature observation. Trails take you through all habitats to include Ashton Creek Marsh along a ¼ mile floating boardwalk. This is an excellent place to study wetland birds and dragonflies. Amenities: restrooms, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas and athletic fields.
- 18 Historic Point of Rocks Park**
1005 Enon Church Road, Chesterfield County
This 30-acre park with ½ mile of Appomattox River shoreline is open by appointment only. Conservation and historical interpretive focus on 1840s Strachan house, Civil War hospital activities and river riparian environments. History programs and events scheduled throughout the year.
- 19 Appomattox River Regional Park**
800 Folar Trail, Prince George County
Over 65 acres of pristine woods on the river features over 3 miles of hiking trails, including a section of the Appomattox River Trail, fishing pier, birdwatching, picnic pavilions, a canoe/kayak launch, an observation pier, fitness trail and restrooms.
- 20 Anchor Point Marina**
303 Beacon Ridge Road, Hopewell
A private marina to serve both Anchor Point residents and the general public that provides wet/dry slips and small boats/canoes are welcomed. Amenities: gas pump, restrooms & showers, pump out station, marine repair shop, snack bar and patio use.
- 21 Weston Manor**
400 Weston Lane, off of 21st Avenue, Hopewell
One of the last remaining historic homes on the Appomattox River, Weston is notable for its original interior, especially its distinctive moldings, wainscoting, and chair rails. The house was built in 1789 and is a classic example of Virginia Georgian architecture and the very essence of the Tidewater plantation mansion. All three floors and the kitchen dependency are open to the public through guided tours. Concerts on the lawn are held on Sundays during May & June. It has a fishing pier open to the public free of charge.
- 22 Hopewell City Marina**
1051 Riverside Avenue, Hopewell
A public, municipal marina with covered and open boat slip rentals. Amenities: four-lane ramp for motorized craft, ship store, accessible restroom & showers, accessible canoe/kayak launch, fishing area with pier, picnic tables, pavilion overlooking the river, fishing tournaments, Rockin' on the River concert series.

Do's & Don'ts OF BOATING AND HIKING

Boating Etiquette:

- Respect private property
- Don't litter—pack out all trash
- Paddlers should pass fishermen quietly and give lots of room
- Don't block ramps and access points—they are for launching and retrieving boats only

Trail and Park Etiquette:

You can also enjoy the beauty of the scenic Appomattox River from the land—whether you enjoy hiking, biking, fishing or picnicking, remember some of these tips from the American Hiking Society:

- Stay on trails. Do not enter private property
- Hike quietly. Speak in low voices
- Turn your cell phone down, if not off
- If taking a break, move off the trail to allow others to pass by
- Don't toss your trash—not even biodegradable items
- When bringing a pet, be sure to keep it on a leash and don't forget to pack out pet waste
- Don't feed the wildlife
- Leave what you find
- Help preserve the trail by staying on the trail (walk through puddles, not around)
- If hiking in a group, don't take up the whole width of the trail; allow others to pass
- No motorized equipment except for official and emergency vehicles and motorized wheelchairs



Other Services DINING, SHOPPING & LODGING

There are plenty of great places to eat or shop after a day spent outdoors at the Appomattox River. For more information on where to dine, visit or stay in the region, please visit the Petersburg Area Regional Tourism website.

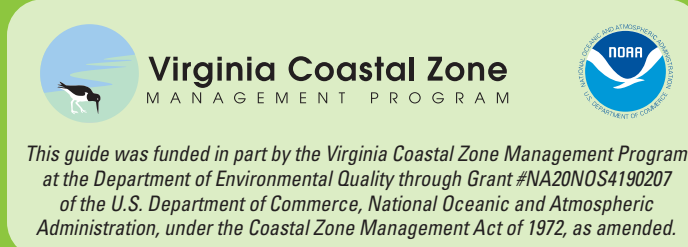
Petersburg Area
Regional Tourism

www.petersburgarea.org

- 23 Riverside Park**
500 North 12th Avenue, Hopewell
A city park with basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, and access to the Riverside Greenway, a section of the Appomattox River Trail.
- 24 Hopewell Riverwalk at City Park**
205 Appomattox Street, Hopewell
Located off Appomattox Street across from the Appomattox Regional Library, this park offers a riverfront beach area, nature inspired play space, an accessible fishing pier, wildflower garden, picnic pavilion, accessible portable restrooms, and access to the Hopewell Riverwalk, a section of the Appomattox River Trail.
- 25 The Beacon Theatre**
401 N. Main Street, Hopewell
This is the region's centerpiece for concerts offering a wide range of music to suit any taste from country, bluegrass, rock, beach, soul, R & B, to heavy metal and more. It was built in 1928, designed by Fred Bishop, and was a silent movie and vaudeville show house through the 1930s and 40s and then transitioned to a movie house until closing in 1981. The restoration of this beautiful, intimate venue is spectacular.
- 26 Union Fort**
Appomattox Street, Hopewell
This historic site along the Appomattox River Trail contains the most prominent Civil War-era earthworks in the City of Hopewell as well as picnic tables and interpretive signs.
- 27 City Point Open Air Museum**
505 Cedar Lane to Water Street, Hopewell
City Point, the oldest part of Hopewell, was founded in 1613 by Sir Thomas Dale for the Virginia Company. Its strategic location on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers ensured a key role in Virginia's history. A pleasant walking tour highlights 25 historic homes and structures, with most focusing on City Point's Civil War history. Outdoor storyboards are located throughout the historic area. Beautiful views of the Appomattox and James Rivers.
- 28 Grant's Headquarters at City Point**
1001 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell
This beautiful 1760s plantation owned by the Eppes family sits at the confluence of the James & Appomattox Rivers in City Point. In 1863, it became one of the busiest ports in the world and General Ulysses Grant's headquarters during the Civil War Siege of Petersburg. President Lincoln visited three times to confer with his generals and admirals to draft a strategy for ending the war. It is a staffed National Park Service site as part of Petersburg National Battlefield and open to the public daily.
- 29 Old City Point Waterfront Park**
1199 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell
This park and popular fishing spot sits on the James River and offers a boardwalk, accessible fishing pier, riverfront trail, benches, picnic tables and restrooms.

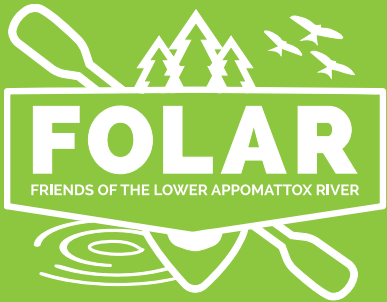


Produced by Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (folar-va.org) and Crater Planning District Commission (craterpdc.org)



VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

09/21



The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) is the only non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Appomattox River for all to enjoy between the Lake Chesdin Dam and City Point in Hopewell. FOLAR is leading the effort to create the Appomattox River Trail, over 20 miles of public open space, including accessible trails and river access. **We have miles to go to complete the trail and it can cost \$189 per foot to build.**



Join FOLAR as a member to help support the Appomattox River and Trail.
www.folar-va.org



Our thanks to the following photographers who made their photos available for this map: E. M. Betts, III, Kristy Fowler, Daniel Jones, Ken Newman, John A. Rooney, Jr.



EXPLORE

the

APPOMATTOX RIVER TRAIL

Mile by mile, the Appomattox River Trail connects our neighborhoods and communities and gives us opportunities to access and protect the river. The trail gives us places to explore and learn while providing increased opportunities for physical activity and wellness. It even helps attract businesses and individuals that will make our region stronger and more prosperous.



MAP LEGEND

- Marina
- Boat Launch
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Fishing Pier
- Playground
- Restroom
- Accessible*
- Outdoor Recreation
- Points of Interest
- Marina
- Appomattox River Trail
- Future Trail

KEY TO RIVER RAPIDS & DAMS

NAME	CLASS
A. Abutment Dam	II-III
B. Picnic Rapids	II
C. Jughandle	II-III
D. Spiked Dam	II
E. Pipeline at Battersea Dam	II-III
F1. Target Rock Rapids A	II
F2. Target Rock Rapids B	II-III
G. Whirlpool Rapids	III-IV

*Not all facilities at the location may be accessible.

01 0.5 2 MILES

