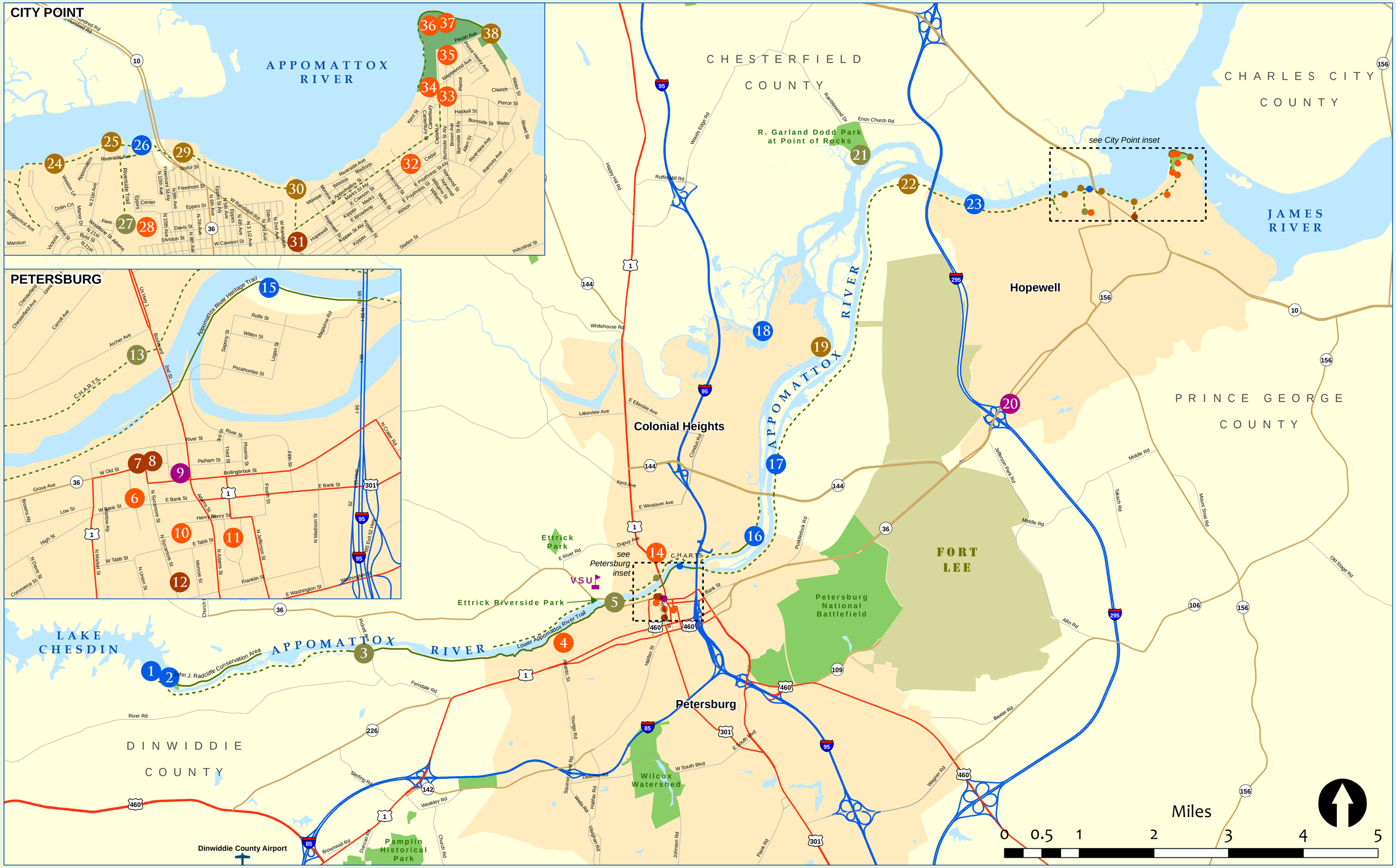
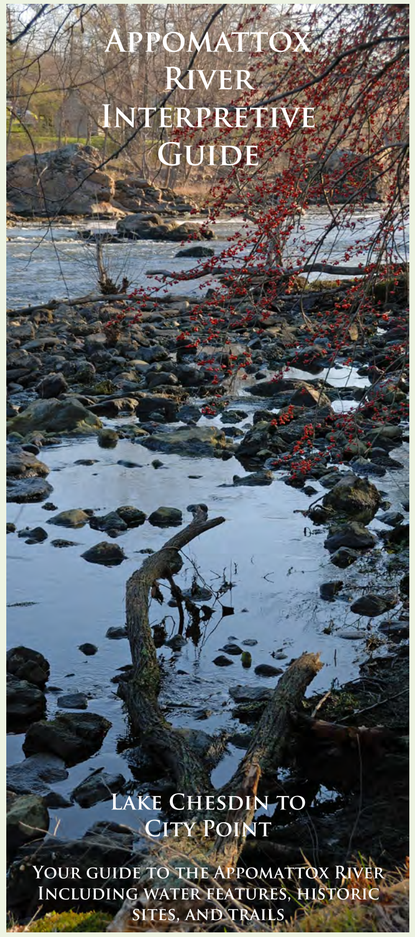


Water Feature	Cultural Site	Existing Trail	U.S. Route
Outdoor Recreation	Historic Site	Proposed Trail	State Route
Overlook	Visitor Center	Interstate	Local Roadway

Appomattox River Interpretive Guide



Appomattox River Interpretive Guide

1 Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp
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 that 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.
Chesdin Lake Road (Dinwiddie County)

2 Appomattox River Canoe Launch
Woodlands of maple, sycamore, sweetgum, oak, ash, and pine surround the launch site, which includes a paved parkway with picnic facilities. The woodlands serve as habitat for a variety of birds, as do the open fields just north of the park. From the boat launch, look for spotted sandpiper on the rocks and fish-eating birds such as belted kingfisher. A short trip to the road's end will allow you to scan the reservoir for osprey and wintering waterfowl.
21400 Chesdin Road (Chesterfield County)

3 Appomattox Riverside Park
The Appomattox River is a Virginia State Scenic River and deservedly so. Spectacular views of the river are obtainable from the trails that begin at the old visitor's center. The mosaic of habitats should be attractive to wildlife during any season. Look for mallards and other waterfowl, great blue heron, bald eagle and osprey all hunting and feeding along the river. American sycamore is the dominant tree species in the riparian zone. Shrubby vegetation along the banks provides both shelter and food for birds such as northern cardinal, Carolina wren, eastern towhee and yellow-rumped warbler. A maintained power line cut is heavily vegetated with warm season grasses, broadleaf herbs and small shrubs. The sustained early successional habitat attracts many types of birds, such as sparrows feeding on seed heads, especially in the fall. Return to the parking lot and explore the mixed woodlands where pine warblers can be heard making their presence known to prospective mates. Woodpeckers, including pileated, downy, and red-bellied, work the woods in search of hidden insect larvae. Also look for tufted titmouse, Carolina chickadee, American crow, fish crow, and ruby-crowned kinglet.
Ferndale Road (Dinwiddie County)

4 Battersea
Built in 1768 on the banks of the Appomattox River for Colonel John Banister, Petersburg's first mayor, Revolutionary War Patriot and framer of the Articles of Confederation, Battersea is an important colonial urban villa. It is built in the neo-Palladian style that was popularized in England in the eighteenth century and embraced in Colonial Virginia, and features a spectacular Chinese Chippendale staircase. Each year on the third weekend in April, Battersea is the setting of a commemorative reenactment of the Battle of Petersburg fought on April 25, 1781.
1289 Upper Appomattox Street (Petersburg)

5 Patton Park
A passive recreation area filled with walking and jogging trails. The park also features a picnic area, pavilion, barbecue pits, and a New England-style covered bridge.
Squaw Alley (Petersburg)

6 Siege Museum
Housed in the ca. 1839 Exchange Building, the Siege Museum interprets civilian life in Petersburg before, during, and immediately after the Civil War. Through artifacts, documents and photographs, emphasis is given to the ten-month siege of Petersburg (June 1864 - April 1865) - the longest period of time that an American city has been under a military siege. The exhibition illustrates how the siege impacted civilian life in Petersburg.
15 West Bank Street (Petersburg)

7 Sycamore Rouge Theatre
Sycamore Rouge is a performing arts organization located in the heart of Old Towne Petersburg that produces over 200 events annually, including show stopping jazz performances, Parisian-style cabaret, live theatre and classic films. Sycamore Rouge is dedicated to enriching the region by encouraging involvement in the arts. It includes a relaxed dining area and lounge with world-class gourmet creations inspired by European bistros and Parisian sidewalk cafes.
21 West Old Street (Petersburg)

8 Petersburg Area Art League
The Petersburg Area Art League showcases the works of local artists through exhibitions that change on the second Friday of each month to coincide with the "Friday For The Arts!" event in Old Towne Petersburg. The local artists create works in oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, jewelry, sculpture and mixed media. For over 70 years resident artists have conducted art lessons on-site for local students. Original works and prints are available for sale.
7 East Old Street (Petersburg)

9 Petersburg Downtown Visitor Center
Located in the historic Farmers' Bank, ca. 1817, one of only a few bank museums in the U.S., the Visitors' Center offers one-stop shopping including statewide tourist literature, local real estate information, and maps.
19 Bollingbrook Street (Petersburg)

10 Petersburg Courthouse
The Petersburg Courthouse, built between 1837 and 1839, was the official Confederate headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg. On April 20, 1861, local volunteers formed in its square to enlist. On June 9, 1864, its bell sounded the warning for the local militia to meet the advancing Union cavalry. During the Siege, soldiers from both sides could see the courthouse clock from the trenches and they set their timepieces by it. The clock tower was a favorite target of Union artillerists, who poured an estimated 20,000 shells into the city. When Petersburg fell on April 3, 1865 a Union flag waved above it.
150 North Sycamore Street (Petersburg)

11 Centre Hill Mansion
Built in 1823 by Robert Bolling IV, Centre Hill Mansion remained an opulent Petersburg residence until 1936. The interior features outstanding examples of Greek revival architectural ornamentation as well as earlier Federal style and later Colonial Revival style architectural modifications. Through guided tours, visitors learn about the history of Centre Hill, including its role during the Civil War and the two Presidential visits to the house. Examples of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century decorative arts, many from the Petersburg area, are also exhibited. Visitors can also view the tunnel, constructed in the 1840s that led from the back of the house to nearby Henry Street.
1 Centre Hill Avenue (Petersburg)

12 Petersburg Regional Arts Center
Housed in an historic structure built in 1858, the Art Center is a facility where local and regional artists create and showcase their work. The public is invited to view the ever changing exhibits, meet the artists and purchase their works.
132 North Sycamore Street (Petersburg)

13 Appamatuck Park
This planned park will have a canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, recreational facilities and a trailhead, as well as be part of the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System (C.H.A.R.T.S.).
Archer Avenue (Colonial Heights)

14 Violet Bank Museum
With an interpretive period spanning over half a century, from 1815 to 1873, the Museum maintains a wide array of artifacts: guns, furniture, glass & ceramics, textiles, accoutrements, books, swords, and other items. Owned and operated by the City of Colonial Heights, The Violet Bank Museum boasts some of the most sophisticated and beautiful Adam-style ceiling moldings in the country, as well as original woodwork, doors, fireplaces and floors. Violet Bank served as General Robert E. Lee's Headquarters from June 8, 1864 to November 1, 1864.
300 Virginia Avenue (Colonial Heights)

15 Pocahontas Island
Named after the legendary Indian Princess, Pocahontas Island is Petersburg's earliest predominantly African-American neighborhood. Home to the largest populations of free African Americans during the 1800's. John Stewart, who was born on the 66-acre island in 1943, purchased an 18th century house there in 2002 and began collecting and amassing artifacts related to black history. By 2004, he had collected enough items to open the house as the Pocahontas Island Museum. It includes everything from a mysterious military trunk to photographs of the headstones of free slaves of Pocahontas Island. On the National Register of Historic Places. There is a public park and non-motorized boat access area.
Rolfe Street (Petersburg)

16 Roslyn Landing Park
This park has a ramp for launching small boats and a pier for fishing, as well as the first phase of the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail system.
East Roslyn Road (Colonial Heights)

17 Appomattox Small Boat Harbor
Privately-owned but publicly accessible. Slips and ramp available for a variety of boats.
1604 Fine Street (Prince George County)

18 White Bank Park
The park consists of 22 acres which overlook Swift Creek, and is located across from Tussing Elementary School on White Bank Park Road. The park includes two picnic pavilions which accommodate 200 - 300 people each, and 8 individual picnic shelters for smaller groups.
White Bank Park Road (Colonial Heights)

19 Fort Clifton Park
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.
5501 Conduit Road (Colonial Heights)

20 Hopewell Visitor Center
The Hopewell Visitor Center offers one-stop shopping including statewide tourist literature, local real estate information, maps, snacks, beverages and a gift shop.
4100 Oaklawn Boulevard (Hopewell)

21 Point of Rocks Park
Point of Rocks Park offers 3 miles of trails providing access to several habitats, including eastern deciduous forest, the banks of the Appomattox River, and tidal freshwater marsh. The forest edge may be entered from several parking lots behind the tennis courts where there are also picnic facilities. The trails through the forest offer viewing access for a variety of typical eastern birds. As the forest trails yield to the freshwaters of Ashton Creek Marsh, the trail continues as a floating boardwalk. The boardwalk provides an excellent place to study a number wetland birds and dragonflies. Watch the marsh for wetland songbirds such as swamp sparrows and common yellowthroat in addition to the waders and bald eagles.
201 Enon Church Road (Chesterfield County)

22 Appomattox River Regional Park
Over 50 acres of pristine woods on the river holding 1.5 miles of trail, this recently created park offers fishing, bird watching, hiking, picnic pavilions, a canoe/kayak launch, an observation pier, and restrooms.
River Road (Prince George County)

23 Anchor Point Marina
The Anchor Point Marina, a separate facility to serve both Anchor Point residents and the general public, provides wet/ dry slips, and small boats/ canoes are welcomed. Future plans include additional dry storage slips, two private lakes, a recreation center with tennis courts, swimming pool and walking trails.
303 Beacon Ridge Drive (Hopewell)

24 Weston Plantation
Listed on the National Register of Historical Places, Weston Plantation is considered notable for preserving much of its original interior, especially its distinctive moldings, wainscoting and chair rails. The main house was built in 1789 and overlooks the Appomattox River. It has been described by one Virginia historian as a classic example of Virginia Georgian architecture and the very essence of the Tidewater plantation mansion. All three floors and the kitchen dependency are furnished with antiques and reproductions and open to the public through guided tours. It has a fishing pier open to the public free of charge.
21st Avenue and Weston Lane (Hopewell)

25 Riverside Harbor
A picnic pavilion overlooking the Appomattox River with large swings, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, an open play area, and parking.
910 North 21st Street (Hopewell)

26 Hopewell Marina
Public, city-maintained marina has slips and ramps for motorized boats and non-motorized boats, as well as a separate pier, an overlook and picnic tables.
1051 Riverside Avenue (Hopewell)

27 Riverside Park
A Specialty Park with basketball courts, tennis courts, water fountain, baseball/softball, an open play area, restrooms and parking.
12th Avenue and Division Street (Hopewell)

28 City Point National Cemetery
City Point (today's Hopewell) served as General Grant's headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg. Seven hospitals there administered most of the care for the injured and mortally wounded. Casualties were originally interred in burial grounds near the hospitals. Later they were re-interred at City Point National Cemetery. More than 5,200 Federals are buried there, including at least 1,000 African-Americans who died fighting for the Union. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.
10th Avenue at Davis Street (Hopewell)

29 Evergreen Overlook
This river overlook provides opportunities to view wildlife including eagles, ospreys and great blue herons. The site is accessible from Riverside Drive off Randolph Road near the C. Hardaway Marks Bridge. The overlook has a view of the Appomattox River as it flows toward its confluence with the James River.
Riverside Drive and Randolph Road (Hopewell)

30 City Park
Located off of Appomattox Street across from the new Appomattox Regional Library. Trails, benches, fishing, a walking bridge crossing and a wonderful view of the Appomattox River.
205 Appomattox Street (Hopewell)

31 Beacon Theatre
One of Hopewell's most visible landmarks, the Beacon Theatre opened in 1928 and captured the hearts of film goers until its closing in 1981. An ambitious restoration effort begun in 1987 has made it a one-of-a-kind entertainment and meetings venue. The completely remodeled reception area, conference center and grand ballroom feature soaring cathedral ceilings, expansive picture windows, distinctive Brazilian cherry hardwood floors and Italian tile work. The facility hosts a year-round schedule of musical, artistic and performing arts events, as well as weddings, balls and corporate meetings. The final phase of the Beacon's transformation will be the restoration of the 637-seat, art deco theatre as a multipurpose performing arts center.
401 North Main Street (Hopewell)

32 Union Fort
Specialty Park/historical area and gazebo, located at Appomattox Street, with picnic tables, horseshoes and an open play area.
Appomattox Street (Hopewell)

33 City Point Open Air Museum
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 Revolutionary War skirmish took place on its banks. General Ulysses S. Grant directed the ten-month Siege of Petersburg from the grounds of Appomattox Plantation. Overnight the tiny village became one of the world's busiest ports, supplying 100,000 Union troops. A pleasant walking tour highlights 25 historic homes and structures, with most focusing on City Point's Civil War history. Outdoor storyboards located throughout the historic area enhance the visitor's experience. Beautiful views of the James and Appomattox Rivers add to the charm.
505 Cedar Lane to Water Street (Hopewell)

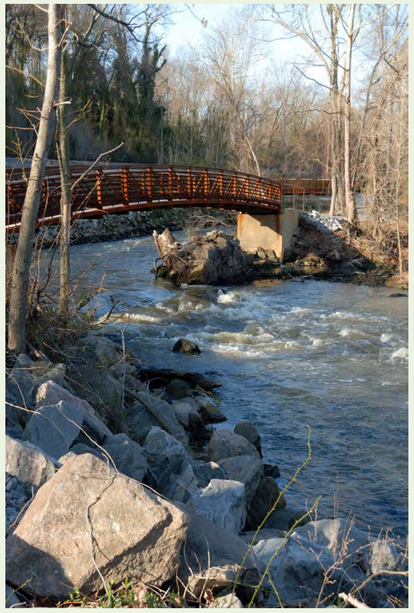
34 Hunter House
This historic residence is proposed for renovation to serve as a City Museum and Visitor Contact Station for the National Park Service and Petersburg National Battlefield. The Museum would provide a permanent residence for various historical artifacts and promote understanding of past history in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life. The Museum would house historical collections of maps, photographic images, artifacts and exhibits to include interactive technologies.
510 Cedar Lane (Hopewell)

35 City Point Early History Museum
The City Point Early History Museum displays exhibitions highlighting the rich history of the area. It is housed in the St. Dennis Chapel in the National Historic District of Hopewell. The Museum is located in the City Point Historic District, where a walking tour highlights 25 historic homes and structures dating from 1635 to 1916.
609 Brown Avenue (Hopewell)

36 Appomattox Plantation
Built in 1763, this plantation home is located at the junction of the James and Appomattox Rivers. It is a National Park Service site and part of Petersburg National Battlefield. Weddings and receptions may be held on the grounds.
1001 Pecan Avenue (Hopewell)

37 General Grant's Headquarters
While laying siege to Petersburg during the Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant established his headquarters at City Point, a small port town at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Overnight, the town and adjacent Appomattox Plantation became one of the busiest ports in the world as hundreds of ships delivered food, clothing and ammunition. While running the war from City Point, General Grant received many notable political and military visitors, including President Abraham Lincoln and General William T. Sherman.
1001 Pecan Avenue (Hopewell)

38 Old City Point Waterfront Park
There is a boardwalk, benches, picnic tables, a gazebo, and restrooms. This is a popular fishing spot. It is on the James River.
Pecan Avenue (Hopewell)

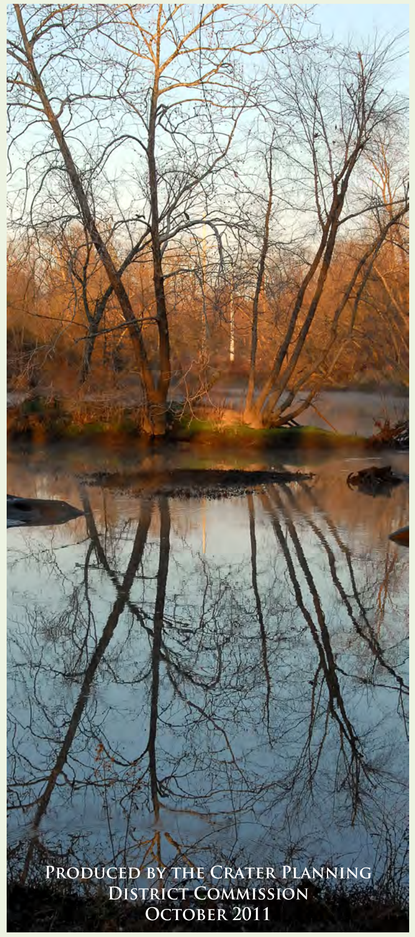


Crater Planning District Commission
CPDC

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

This guide was funded in part by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA10NOS4190205 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA
U.S. Department of Commerce



For more information, please visit these websites:

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River:
www.folar-va.org

Petersburg Area Regional Tourism:
www.petersburgarea.org

Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System:
www.colonialheightstrails.org

Crater Planning District Commission:
www.craterpdc.org

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:
www.dcr.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:
www.dgif.virginia.gov