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|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 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

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PRODUCED BY THE CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
AUGUST 2015

### LAKE CHESDIN TO CITY POINT

YOUR GUIDE TO THE APPOMATTOX RIVER INCLUDING WATER FEATURES, HISTORIC SITES, AND TRAILS

#### 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 JOHN J. RADCLIFFE CONSERVATION AREA & APPOMATTOX RIVER CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH

These areas provide trail and boat access along the fall zone of the Appomattox River. Hikers can explore 2.6 miles of trails. Canoeists and kayakers can float down one mile to the abutment dam (relatively flat water). Or they can float three miles down to Appomattox Riverside/Ferndale Park (Class II-III whitewater) or seven miles down to Petersburg (Class II-III whitewater).  
*21300 Chesdin Road (Chesterfield County)*

#### 3 APPOMATTOX RIVERSIDE/FERNDALE 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, broad-leaf 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 parking, a canoe/kayak takeout, 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 SOUTH SIDE DEPOT

Built in 1854, this depot served the South Side Railroad line, the last railroad left operating during the Siege of Petersburg. When Union troops finally severed the rail line, it ensured the surrender of Petersburg and Richmond, bringing the war to an end. South Side Depot will serve as a visitor contact station for Petersburg National Battlefield beginning in the Summer of 2015.  
*37 River 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 VISITOR CENTER/FARMERS BANK

One of the oldest bank buildings in the United States, the Farmers Bank was built in 1817. During the Siege of Petersburg, the building was hit by three shell fragments and went bankrupt in 1865 after investing in Confederate bonds. The Visitor Center is currently housed here but is planned for relocation in 2016.  
*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 artillery, 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 THE WARD CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

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 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/PRINCE GEORGE VISITOR CENTER

The Hopewell/Prince George Visitor Center offers one-stop shopping including statewide tourist literature, lodging coupons, maps, local attractions, and relocation information.  
*4100 Oaklawn Boulevard (Hopewell)*

#### 21 R GARLAND DODD 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 65 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, a fitness trail, and restrooms.  
*800 Folar Trail (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.  
*21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Weston Lane (Hopewell)*

#### 25 RIVERSIDE HARBOR PARK

A picnic pavilion overlooking the Appomattox River with large swings, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, an open play area, and parking.  
*910 North 21<sup>st</sup> Street (Hopewell)*

#### 26 HOPEWELL MARINA

Public, municipal marina with slip rentals, ship store, restroom/ shower facilities, four-lane ramp for motorized craft, ADA accessible canoe and kayak launch, fishing area with pier, picnic tables, and ample parking.  
*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.  
*12<sup>th</sup> 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.  
*10<sup>th</sup> 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.  
*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)*





CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
CPDC



Virginia Coastal Zone  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



NOAA  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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#### 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)*

For more information, please visit these websites:



Friends of the Lower Appomattox River:  
[www.folar-va.org](http://www.folar-va.org)

FOLAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the Appomattox River between the Lake Chesdin Dam and City Point in Hopewell. With the support and cooperation of the surrounding localities, FOLAR is developing a "greenway-blueway" network of hiking and water trails along this 22-mile stretch of river.

Petersburg Area Regional Tourism:  
[www.petersburgarea.org](http://www.petersburgarea.org)

Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System:  
[www.colonialheightstrails.org](http://www.colonialheightstrails.org)

Crater Planning District Commission:  
[www.craterpdc.org](http://www.craterpdc.org)

Willcox Watershed Conservancy:  
[www.leeparkpetersburg.org](http://www.leeparkpetersburg.org)

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov)

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)

Online Mapping Application:  
[www.craterpdc.org/webmaps/arig](http://www.craterpdc.org/webmaps/arig)