Protecting the Future
Discovering the Past;

A visit to the Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway offers an opportunity to connect with the rich history and environment of the surrounding area. This 23-mile tributary of the James River passes through an area between the York and James Rivers, which is considered one of the most environmentally and historically significant natural resources on the Virginia Peninsula.

Before the first permanent English settlers established their homes along the James River more than 400 years ago, the watershed was part of the Powhatan Indian Confederacy. For hundreds of years American Indians used this creek as a resource for transportation and survival. As British settlement began, they too used this important waterway to meet their basic human needs. The creek also passes through several important Colonial American landmarks including Jamestown Island, Greensprings Plantation, and Mainland Farm—the oldest continually cultivated farm in America.

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Public Access Points

The Blueway, open 24 hours a day, is located off Jamestown Road. The approximately 17-mile roadway is eight miles from Powhatan Creek Park to the Causeway end back. Only well-prepared and highly skilled paddlers should attempt the additional eight-mile trip around Jamestown Island.

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The Blueway, open 24 hours a day, is located off Jamestown Road. The catamaran-style roadway is about eight miles from Powhatan Creek Park to the Causeway end and back. Only well-prepared and highly skilled paddlers should attempt the additional eight-mile trip around Jamestown Island.

Public Access Points

Much land along this creek is privately owned; please do not use private land. Public access points are located at:

- Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway
- Jamestown Island
- Mainland Farm

For park information, call 757-259-5599 or visit jamescitycountyva.gov/parks.

Emergencies

Did 911 for all emergencies.

Call phones are the best means of communication. The dispatcher can contact the appropriate agency for aid. Although cell phones have become a widely used tool, do not rely on them entirely; you may be out of transmission range, call phone hotline have a short life, and some equipment is affected by the marine environment. For these reasons, VHF FM radio is an alternative.

Knowing your precise location is difficult, but in an emergency, it is essential if help is to reach you quickly. For exact location, a hand-held GPS receiver is ideal. Waterproof nautical charts and compass will always help you. Be sure to track your trip progress and current position.

When asking for help, remain calm and be prepared to provide relevant information. This could include:

- Name of emergency: injury (exact description of the injury), person overboard, missing person, etc.
- When the problem occurred and how long the person(s) has been in the water.
- Exact location (pointers) or distance from recognizable landmarks.
- Trip origin and destination (Point A and Point B).
- Local weather conditions, including tide, currents, and wave action.
- What equipment or materials are needed?
- Name and address of person(s) involved and whom to notify, if needed.

Visit https://www.nps.gov/chba/index.htm for more information.

Contact Information

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Parks & Recreation
5340 Palmer Lane, Suite 1A
Williamsburg, VA 23188
P: 757-259-5599
F: 757-259-5680
jamestowncountyva.gov/parks
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- Description of craft(s) and person(s) involved.
- How many people and what equipment, including survival gear and first aid supplies, are available
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Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway

Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway, a Chesapeake Bay Gateway, is one of your entry points to enjoy and
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is a complex ecosystem. Home to over 15 million people, it has supported human occupation for 13,000 years.
The Bay’s natural abundance has fed multitudes, fueled rich economies and nurtured diverse cultures. Explore this and other places in the
Gateway Network to experience the Bay’s stories, spirit and mystery. Learn about the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and how you can contribute.
For park information, call 757-259-5360.
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- Always wear a life jacket when on the water.
- Keep weight centered and as low as possible at all times.
- Keep all gear neatly stowed when not in use.
- Never to a trip to yourself or another person, especially a child.
- Do not exceed the capacity of your boat.
- Wear safety equipment, including a life jacket.
- Be careful of sharp objects in the river. Floods carry items that can cut your feet.
- If your boat flips over, remain calm. Hold your paddles and the boat if possible, keeping the boat downstream of you.
- Be prepared for inclement weather and have the gear you need. Be alert to sudden weather changes. Wind and rain, even in summer can lead to hypothermia.
- Cold water can kill unprepared boaters. Always wear your life jacket, especially when the water is cool. Huddle together in cold water to prevent heat loss. Do not swim or dive into cool water. Do not swim or wade in open water.
- When it’s hot, wear light clothing, sunglasses and a hat. Apply sunblock and drink plenty of fluids.

Directions

If approaching from Newport News, follow Interstate 64W to Exit 243. If approaching from Richmond, take I-64E to Exit 234. Both of these accesses are Interstate 199. From Interstate 199 to Jamestown Road. Turn left on Jamestown Road from Newport News and right onto Jamestown Road if coming from Richmond. Follow Jamestown Road to Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway which will be on your right, 1831 Jamestown Road.

The Powhatan Creek Park and Blueway and the surrounding areas are a work in progress. For more information about future developments, please visit our website at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

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