

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Making the Trail Visible and Visitor Ready: A Plan for the James River Segment

December 2011



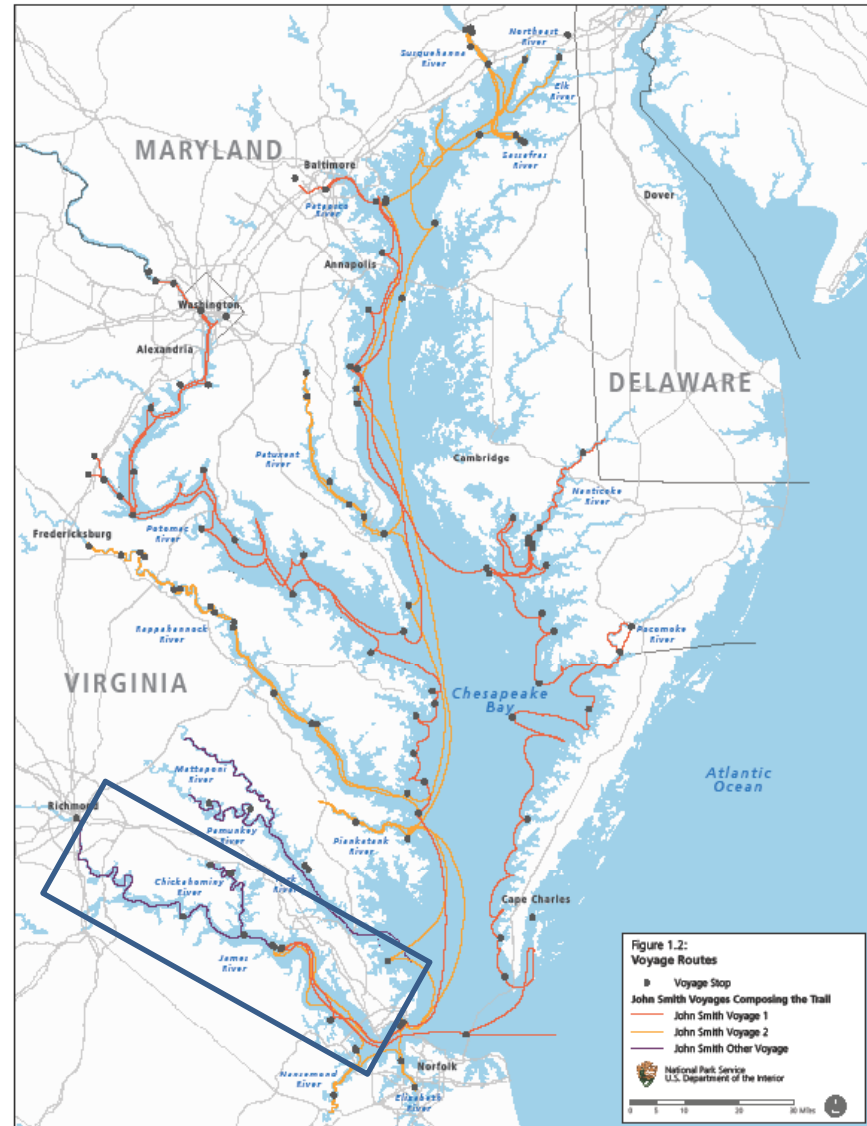
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail James River Segment

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail joined the National Trails System following designation by Congress in 2006. Managed by the National Park Service in collaboration with many partners, this 3000 mile water trail follows the routes of Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in 1607-1609. The trail:

- Commemorates the voyages of John Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries
- Shares knowledge about American Indian societies and cultures of the 17th century
- Interprets the natural history of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries
- Provides recreational experiences on water and on land along the trail

In short, the trail helps visitors experience, envision, understand, and protect what the explorers and inhabitants of the region encountered 400 years ago.

Given the 3,000 mile scope and diverse resources, the trail is being developed and managed in segments. The tidal James River is the first stretch of the trail for which a segment plan is being developed. This plan outlines how the trail could be enhanced along the James – from Richmond to the route 17 bridge near Newport News – over the next few years.



**Making the Trail
Visible & Visitor Ready:
A Plan for
the James River Segment**

Captain John Smith Chesapeake
National Historic Trail

Prepared by:

National Park Service
Chesapeake Bay Office

in cooperation with:

Commonwealth of Virginia, James River
Association, Chesapeake Conservancy, and
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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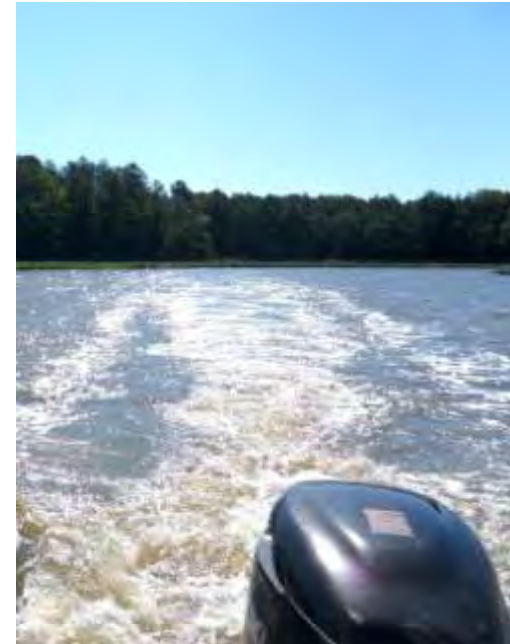
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Front Cover Photo: Along the Pagan River

Introduction

In many ways the James River segment anchors the 3,000 mile Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. This is the river to which Smith and the English colonists first came, and from which all his explorations began.

The James River segment of the trail is dramatically large. From the fall line at Richmond to the river mouth at Hampton Roads is more than 95 river miles. From its midpoint to the mouth, much of the river is one and a half to five miles wide. The segment also includes some twenty river miles of the Chickahominy, plus many smaller tributary creeks.

The James River segment is also extremely diverse, with many intensely visited and populated sites. From urban Richmond and Hampton Roads to nearly pristine portions of the Chickahominy; from scenic, rural counties to anchors of the “Historic Triangle” at Williamsburg and Jamestown; the James is a complex river and landscape.

Four hundred years ago American Indians inhabited the same terrain. Captain John Smith and fellow colonists explored the same watercourses. While the landscape has changed over time, many places retain an appearance evocative of Smith’s time.

The challenge is to outline how to enhance the John Smith Trail as it passes through the James River segment. How can it be made vital and visible for visitors? How might it best interpret the stories of American Indian life, Smith’s explorations, and the nature of the 17th century Chesapeake? How can it reach its full potential as an educational, recreational and tourism asset for the region? This plan addresses these questions.

A set of focus group interviews held in spring 2011 provided key insights into ways to further develop the trail along the James. Interviewees included a broad range of stakeholders – tourism officials, local and state government, American Indians, site managers, private sector tour operators, and non-governmental organizations.

Interviewees agreed that to make the trail more viable and “real” on the James several things need to occur:

- The trail needs to stand out among the other stories and events already being depicted within the area.
- Initial efforts should concentrate on the key areas with significant trail resources which already have visitor services and operational capacity.

- The focus, in the near term, needs to be on connecting people through personal experiences and interactive interpretation to the places, stories and themes of the trail.
- Promotion and marketing through multiple media and events with a consistent message must invite visitors to experience the trail.
- There need to be early successes in developing the trail that build momentum and funding for additional steps.

An assessment of trail resources and a series of site visits also pointed to a number of discrete areas along the James with high quality trail-related resources, excellent potential trail experiences, and existing capacity to provide visitor services.

All these factors outlined a core approach for enhancing the trail along the James in the near-term consisting of three components:

- A limited set of initial focus areas for relatively rapid trail enhancement; coupled with,
- A set of strategies for supporting these focus areas and connecting, promoting, interpreting, protecting and further enhancing the trail.
- Later, additional areas for trail enhancement.

This plan describes this approach in some depth. The approach, and a draft of the plan, were also discussed in depth at a stakeholder workshop held in July 2011. The pages that follow provide:

- An introduction to the trail's foundation – its significance, resources and themes (Section 1);
- A description of the five initial focus areas and the concepts for enhancing them (Section 2);
- A discussion of overarching strategies for supporting and linking the trail (Section 3); and
- An outline of potential trail partnerships and actions for implementation (Section 4).



*Harbor at Jamestown Settlement
Photo Credit: Meghan Carfioli*

Section 1

Foundation for Trail Development

The Trail's Significance, Associated Resources and Primary Interpretive Themes

This section provides information on the foundation of the trail – the structure on which its development and management is based. Overall trail management is guided by the trail's Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), finalized in February 2011. Much of the text in this section is drawn from the CMP.



Exploratory Voyages of Captain Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries in 1607 - 1609

Significance

John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries formed the basis of his published writings and maps. Those publications, in turn, encouraged English settlement of Virginia, the Bay area, and the Eastern Seaboard. They also suggested a policy of private land ownership that the Virginia Company and the Crown eventually adopted. This policy, and the success of the English colonization, significantly altered the environment of the Bay and the lifeways of the native peoples.

Smith's publications were unique for the time because he wrote at length from his own experience and observations (albeit sometimes exaggerated) and described it for a distant audience. His maps were so accurate colonists found them useful for most of the rest of the 17th century, and modern archeologists have employed them to locate Indian towns. Smith's accounts have profoundly influenced our assumptions about the early colonial experience, and certain aspects – such as his story of Pocahontas – have even entered popular culture.

Associated Resources

- Places cited by Smith in his journals and on his map
- Places described by Smith in his writings
- The route of Smith's voyages
- Locations of crosses claiming land for England
- Maps and journals by Smith and others in his crew
- Names of rivers and other places named by Smith
- Places of seminal events of Smith's voyages and his exploration

Primary Interpretive Theme

Captain John Smith's voyages in the Chesapeake, and his subsequent maps and writings, profoundly impacted world politics and the evolution of our nation by spurring European settlement of the Bay region and the eastern seaboard, influencing colonial affairs for more than a century, disrupting the native peoples' lifeways in the mid-Atlantic, and increasing human influences on the Bay environment.

Along the James – In Brief

The English entered the James River in April 1607, ultimately forming the settlement at what would become known as Jamestown. Between 1607 and 1609, the colonists engaged in some eighteen expeditions on the James, in addition to the two exploratory voyages down the James and throughout the Chesapeake Bay. John Smith only participated in some of these. The James River water expeditions extended as far as the falls of the James and up the Chickahominy River and were launched for a variety of purposes, including the original search for a settlement site, contacting American Indians, trading for food, and pursuing military goals. (Rountree, Clark & Mountford, 2007)



American Indian Societies and Cultures of the 17th Century

Significance

The Chesapeake Bay region of 1607 was home to thousands of native people who lived along its shores and tributaries in large and small towns. They belonged to a complex society consisting of tribes, clans, chiefdoms, and other polities. Chesapeake Bay Indians hunted, fished, and farmed, both preserving and altering their environment. They used the natural world for their subsistence in a manner that sustained over the long-term the bounty on which they depended for survival. They also maintained an elaborate trading and communication network that extended for hundreds of miles, even to the Great Lakes. The English newcomers consistently underestimated the sophistication of the native world they were invading.

John Smith's writings offer an insightful (though biased) glimpse into this world. His writings reveal that the success of the Bay explorations, as well as the survival of the English colony itself, depended largely on the goodwill and assistance of American Indians. Comparing Smith's writings to his maps, it is also apparent that he relied on native people for information about rivers and lands he had neither the time nor the means to explore.

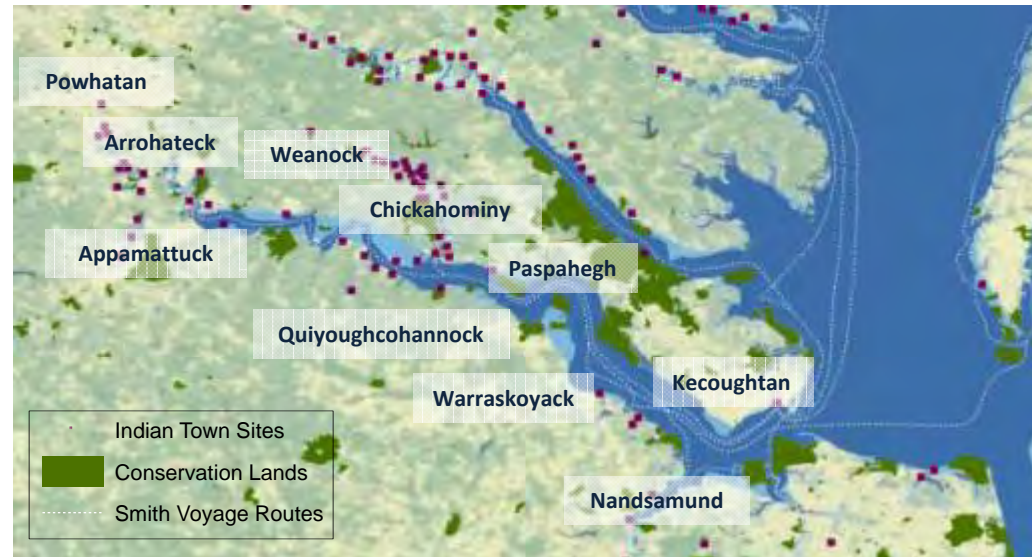
Our present understanding of the American Indian world of Smith's time comes not

only from Smith's writings but the subsequent work of archeologists and anthropologists.

More importantly, many descendants of American Indians still live in their ancestral homeland, enriching modern Americans' experience with the Chesapeake environment. Although the Bay's native inhabitants were largely displaced by the newcomers to America, their continued presence through their descendants offers an opportunity for visitors to understand their role in utilizing, altering, and preserving the Bay and its resources.

Associated Resources

- Sites of American Indian towns of the 17th century
- Natural resources harvested by Indians of the time (e.g., tuckahoe and bald cypress)
- Fossils from exposed cliffs used as decorations
- Landforms that suggest an Indian encampment or settlement
- Archeological sites with known associations with American Indian cultures of the early 17th century
- Established trade routes



Native peoples and town sites along the James and its tributaries at the time of English settlement. Tribal areas are schematic and not intended to indicate precise boundaries.

American Indian Societies and Cultures of the 17th Century, cont'd.

Primary Interpretive Theme

Substantial and sophisticated societies of native peoples existed in the Chesapeake region centuries before Smith arrived and although their communities were disrupted and some were ultimately displaced by European colonization, many descendant tribes sustain their identities and cultural values in the region today.

Along the James – In Brief

During Smith's time, the area of the tidal James River was occupied by some eleven Algonquian-speaking American Indian tribes: the Chesapeake, Nansemond, Kecoughtan, Warraskoyack, Paspahegh, Chickahominy, Quiyoughcohannock, Weyanock, Appamattuck, Arrohateck and Powhatan. American Indian communities were numerous, with more than sixty documented by Smith and through subsequent research; these were more numerous from Jamestown upstream. These communities were adjacent to the water and located close to the resources on which the peoples depended, such as seed and tuber producing marshes and good corn-growing soils. (Rountree, Clark & Mountford, 2007)

Natural habitat and an example of an indigenous cultural landscape in the vicinity of Historic Jamestown.

Photo Credit: Deanna Beacham



The Natural History of the Bay of the 17th Century

Significance

When Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, he found an abundance of natural resources, including fish, birds, mammals and plant life. Smith had harvested deer, turkeys and fish while in Jamestown. He had also observed oyster beds in that area, but it wasn't until he explored the Bay that he discovered the extent of the vast domain these beds occupied.

The Chesapeake's natural resources, as Smith reported them in his published works, helped attract English settlement. The wildlife provided a base of sustenance for European colonists, the trees were used to construct their houses and vessels, and the land was transformed into farmsteads. Until recent time, when pollution and overuse reduced the Bay's resources, the harvesting of fish and oysters constituted a major industry for Bay-area residents.

Associated Resources

- Landscapes and viewsheds evocative of the 17th century
- Stands of submerged aquatic vegetation
- Wooded or forested marshlands
- Highly brachiated shorelines
- Areas with little or no outside noise or light pollution

- Vegetative stands associated with high salinity areas and freshwater areas
- Patterns of native forestation illustrating tidewater versus upland areas
- Substantial wildlife migrations

Major Interpretive Theme




During the seventeenth century, Captain John Smith encountered a verdant and varied ecosystem in the Chesapeake Bay region. Although much has changed during the intervening centuries, there are still places where such beauty and diversity endure, and efforts are underway to conserve and restore aspects of the Bay's integrity.

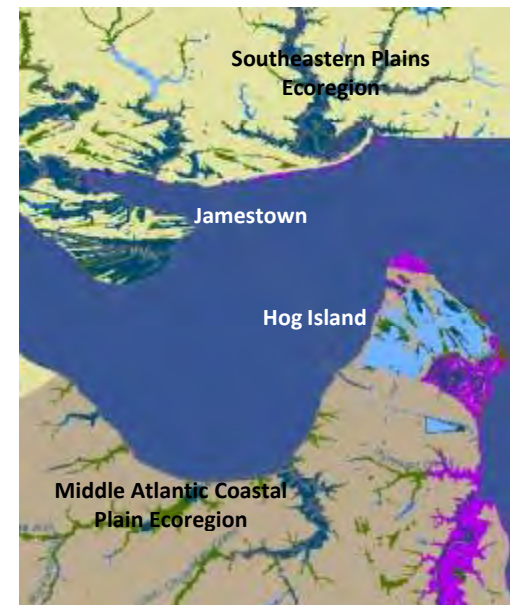
Along the James – In Brief

From the falls at present day Richmond to its mouth, the James River is some 95 miles in length and is influenced by the tides. The large meanderings of the tidal river (oxbows) in its upper stretches contain expanses of wetlands and adjacent tidal marshes. The same occurs on tributaries. Oysters were abundant on the lower James in the 17th century, though not today. The river also had – and still has – significant fishery resources, though the mix of species has changed dramatically over time. Much of the James landscape

was forested in the 17th century – more so than today. But many of the dominant – and useful – tree species of the time are still present today: bald cypress, tulip poplar and pines, all used for American Indian and colonial boat builders. (Rountree, Clark & Mountford, 2007)

Remnant habitats in Vicinity of Jamestown and Hog Island

-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



Recreation and Visitor Experiences Along the Trail Route

Significance

The 3,000 mile John Smith Trail traverses water bodies and touches sites that are the focus of much public recreation. Visitors flock to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for quiet paddles on small streams and ambitious boating on open water. They come to historic sites, parks and wildlife refuges to reconnect with the outdoors and their heritage. These places and the recreational opportunities they provide are a significant source of the quality of life in the Chesapeake region.

The trail brings potential new and enhanced ways for visitors to experience and enjoy recreation and heritage tourism. Recreational and educational visits provide ways for people to: vicariously experience the 17th century Chesapeake, better understand and appreciate an important part of our collective heritage, embark on personal journeys of exploration and discovery, instill reverence and stewardship of the special places along the trail, and contribute to local economies along the route.

Moreover, recreational and educational visits are the primary means through which the trail's three major interpretive themes are experienced. Through the use of recreational facilities and

interpretive media, visitors can experience Smith's voyages on the Bay and its tributaries, understand the American Indian cultures of the 17th century, and appreciate what the Bay and its natural resources were like at the time of Smith's explorations and how these resources merit conservation today.

Associated Resources

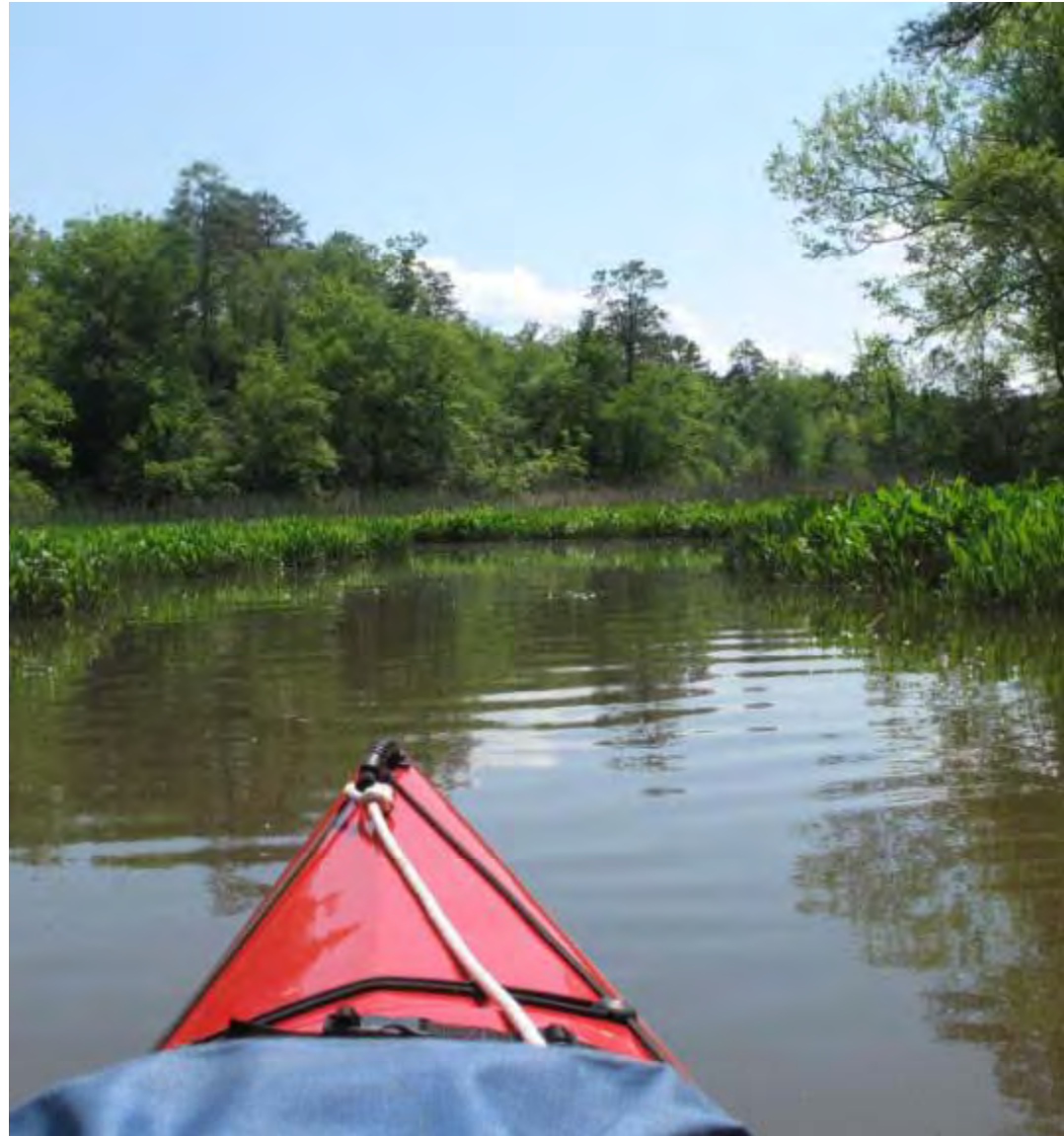
- Developed water trails throughout the Bay region
- Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System
- Existing public access sites including those providing boat launches, beaches, swimming, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing
- Land trails and auto tour routes
- Existing visitor contact facilities
- Visitor support services including lodging, food service, rental equipment, etc.
- Heritage tourism experiences

Along the James – in Brief

Between Richmond and Hampton Roads the James River, its tributaries and the sites along the shores offer a variety of recreational and visitor experiences. Many of these experiences directly relate to trail themes. There are a multitude of visitor support facilities, particularly in the

vicinity of Richmond, Hampton Roads, the Williamsburg/Jamestown area, and Smithfield. A network of roads, including two Virginia Byways (Route 10 and Route 5), provide land based connections to most all of the area's major attractions. Interpretive and educational opportunities are available at key sites throughout the James corridor including Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement, Henricus Historical Park, Chickahominy Riverfront Park and Chippokes Plantation State Park. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and other partners developed a series of water and land trails tied to sites with trail-related themes. The associated "John Smith's Adventures" maps and signage have contributed to making the trail real along the James. In total, these resources provide a major base on which to enhance the trail's recreational and visitor experience opportunities.

Section 2
Initial Trail Focus Areas



*Paddling on tributary of Morris Creek
(Chickahominy River)*

Identifying the Focus Areas

Five initial focus areas have been identified along the James River segment. Each contains solid resources and stories associated with Smith's explorations, American Indian cultures of the time, and significant, evocative 17th century landscapes. Each focus area provides a variety of immersive visitor experience opportunities associated with the trail.

Each area also contains a key anchor site that already provides public access and key visitor amenities, receives high visitation, and has the potential for significantly contributing to trail themes in concert with existing programming.

These anchor sites will serve as primary locations for directing visitors to a variety of trail opportunities and resources within a specific focus area – and to the other focus areas along the James. As the trail weaves through each area it will act as a thread tying together multiple sites on the river. This will help expand visitation at all sites and enhance the overall visitor experience.

Three of the focus areas, due to their already existing high visitor profile and extraordinary trail related resources and stories, are viewed as the first tier locations for trail development efforts. These are the: Jamestown and Powhatan Creek;

Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park; and James River Oxbows.

The other two locations – each with strong capabilities for trail related visitor experiences, but with a somewhat lesser level of visitor use and resources – are: Chippokes Plantation State Park/Hog Island Wildlife Management Area; and Pagan River and Smithfield.

The following maps introduce how the five focus areas are associated with trail themes and key anchor sites. After the maps is a discussion of each of the five areas, including information on their location, trail-related themes and resources represented, and desired trail experiences and how they might be achieved.

The set of overarching strategies for supporting these focus areas – and for connecting, promoting, interpreting, protecting and further enhancing the trail – is presented in section 3.

Please note the areas described on the following pages are *initial* focus areas where the trail can and should be easily enhanced in the near-term. It is expected that *additional* areas along the trail would be enhanced in the future.

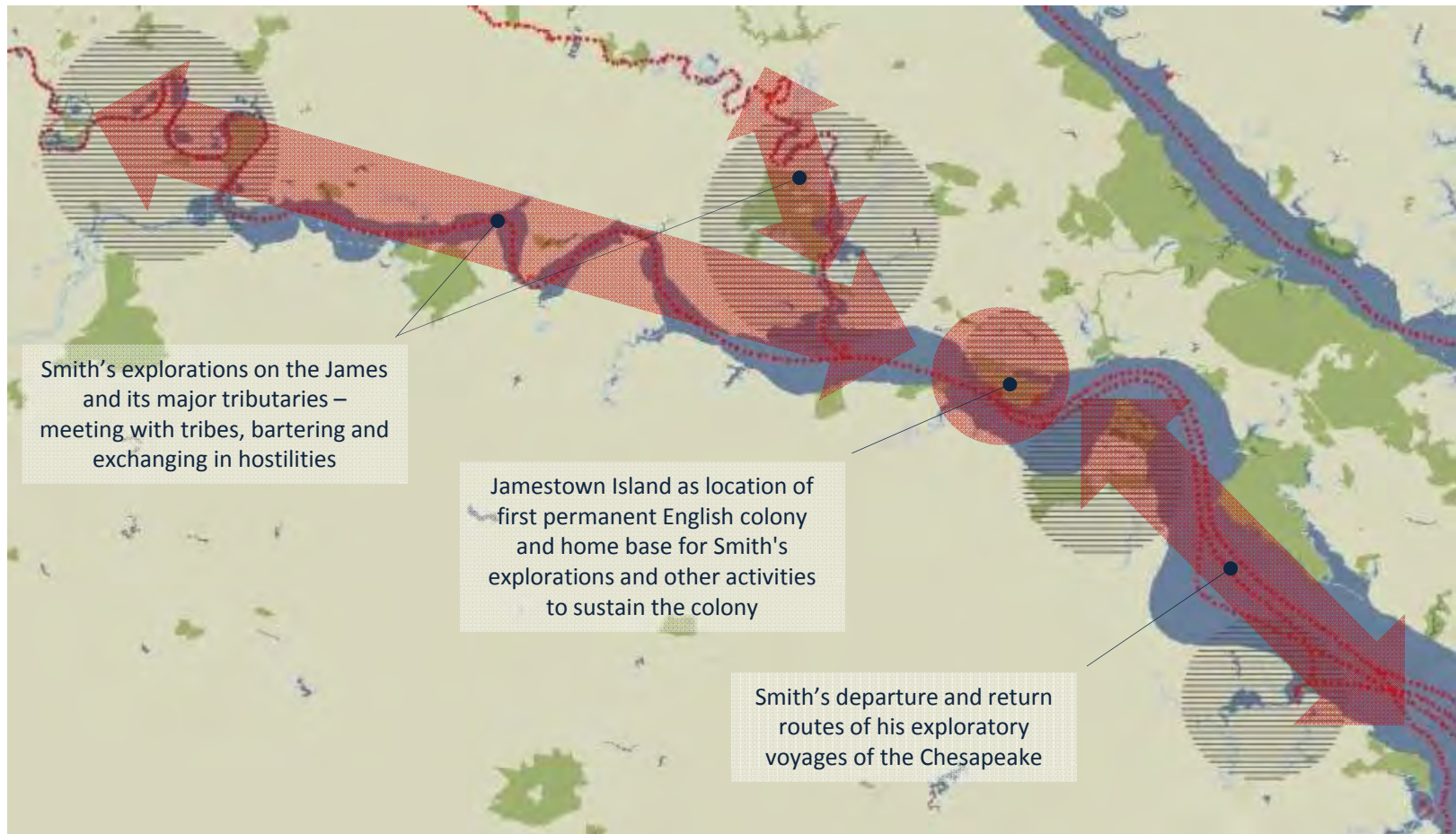
Focus Area Locations

The illustration below shows the five focus areas described in this section. Each contains solid resources and stories associated with Smith's explorations, American Indian cultures of the time, and significant, evocative 17th century landscapes. Each focus area provides a series of different immersive visitor experience opportunities associated with the trail.



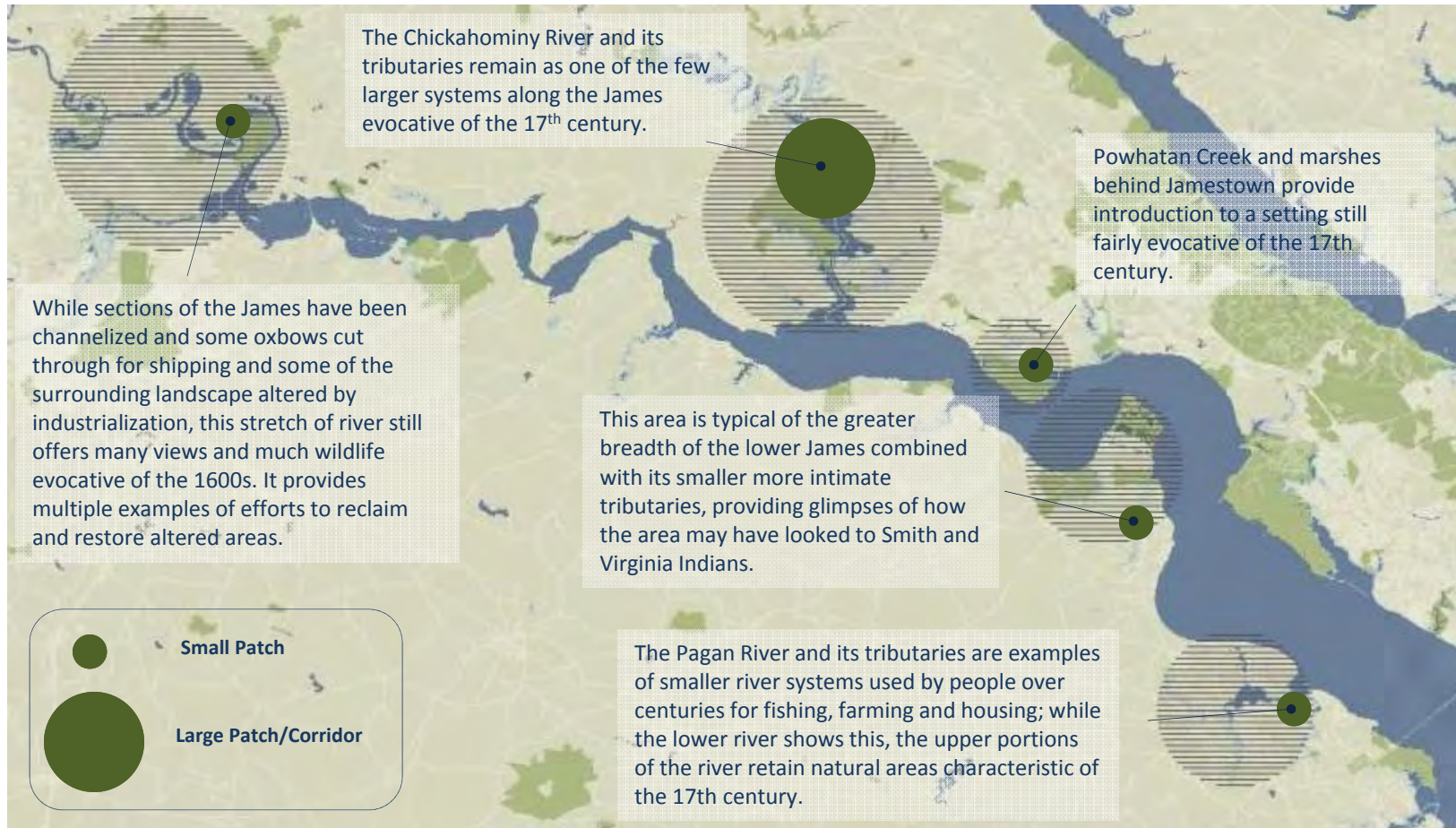
Focus Areas in Relation to the Trail's Major Journey Themes

The map below depicts the five initial focus areas in relation to several major themes associated with John Smith's journeys on the James. These represent major themes only; a series of more detailed stories are associated with each focus area.



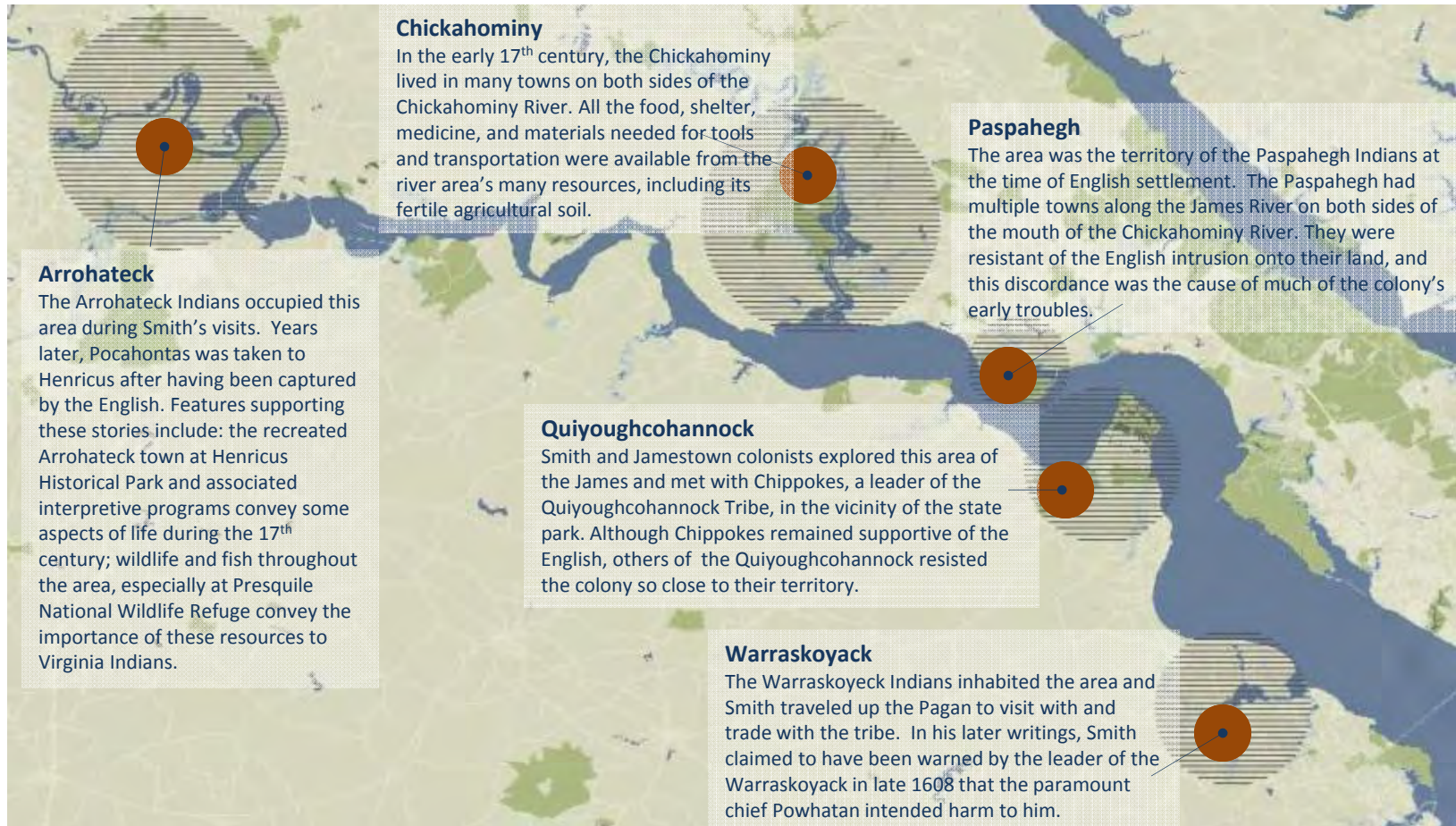
Evocative Landscapes Associated with Focus Areas

Each of the proposed initial focus areas retains key locations evocative of the 17th century landscape. Many of these represent indigenous cultural landscapes (see page 48) as well. This graphic summarizes the landscape character of each of the focus areas.



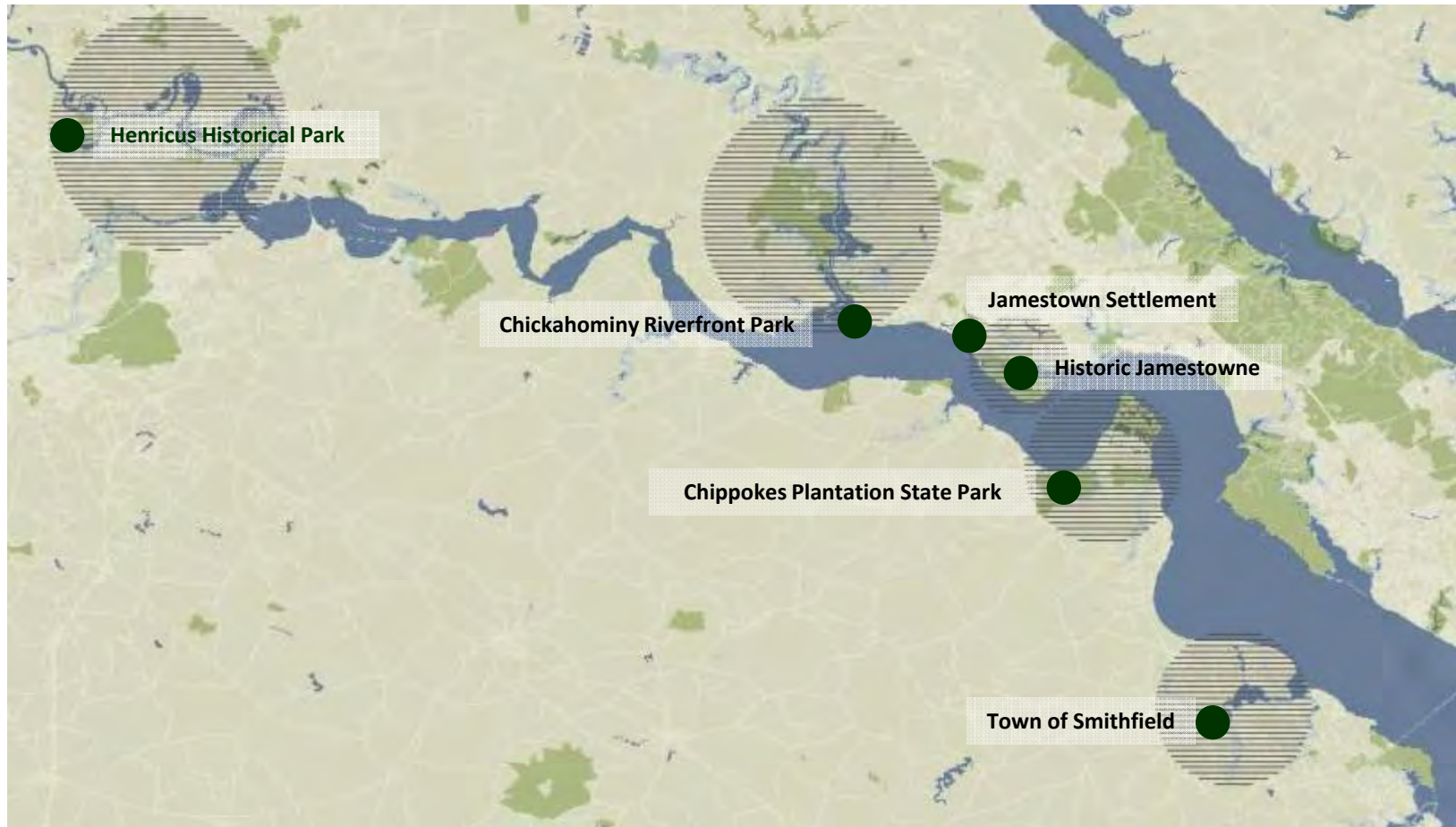
Indian Tribes Associated with Focus Areas

Each of the focus areas has an association with one or more Indian Tribes. This graphic briefly summarizes several main associations. There are numerous more specific stories and resources associated with each.



Anchor Sites in Focus Areas

This map summarizes the anchor sites associated with each of the focus areas.



Jamestown and Powhatan Creek Focus Area

This focus area includes the sites and resources in the immediate vicinity of Jamestown. Primary visitor sites include Historic Jamestowne (on Jamestown Island) managed by the National Park Service in conjunction with Preservation Virginia and nearby Jamestown Settlement managed by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Combined, 677,000 people visit these sites annually. Other key sites contributing to this focus area include the Colonial Parkway, Jamestown Marina, Scotland Ferry, and the trail head for the Virginia Capital Trail. The primary natural resource sites in this area are Powhatan Creek (focus of the Powhatan Creek Blueway) and the expansive marshes bordering the creek and the inland side of Jamestown Island.

Area Characteristics

The area is characterized by a mix of protected resources and upscale residential development. It is a significant part of the “Historic Triangle” – Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown – and a major destination drawing visitors from all over the world. The area is easily accessible by road and air and has a multitude of nearby visitor support services. The key sites have full-time staff and provide interpretive services (programs) year-round. This is a logical major anchor for the trail.



Jamestown and Powhatan Creek Focus Area

Jamestown and Powhatan Creek

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

In this area there are the following key story lines associated with trail themes:

Jamestown Island and the James River – as the locations of the first permanent English colony in North America – are the “home base” from which all of John Smith’s Chesapeake explorations depart. Further, his trading trips and other nearby travels are all related to sustaining the Jamestown colony itself.

Features supporting this story include: Historic Jamestowne and its visitor center, exhibits and programming; the views out over the James that provide a feeling for the river and the magnitude of Smith’s explorations; the nearby Jamestown Settlement and its recreation of the Jamestown fort with costumed interpretive staff and replicas of the ships that brought Smith and the colonists to the new world; a NOAA interpretive buoy just off Jamestown Island, providing real time river environmental data and a Smith narrative. In combination, this area is rich in Smith stories.

Powhatan Creek and the marshes behind Jamestown Island – while nestled in an area which is fairly urbanized – provide an easily accessible introduction to a setting still fairly evocative of the 17th century.

Extensive marshes and forested buffers along these waterways block out most intrusions and provide a very natural experience for visitors. Along Powhatan Creek is a massive 400 year old bald cypress dating back to Smith’s time. These features are accessible from public access sites and excellent views are provided from the tour road around Jamestown Island.

The area was the territory of the Paspahegh Indians at the time of English settlement. The Paspahegh had multiple towns along the James River on both sides of the mouth of the Chickahominy River. They were resistant of the English intrusion onto their land, and this discordance was the cause of much of the colony’s early troubles. Features of the area supporting this theme include: the marshes and woodlands of Powhatan Creek used by the Paspahegh; and a recreated Indian exhibit of several houses at Jamestown Settlement with associated interpretive programming.

The stories noted above are also supported by a base of existing protected lands along the river, including county park land, NPS protected lands, and private lands with conservation easements.



Historic Jamestowne



Jamestown Settlement

Jamestown and Powhatan Creek

Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides significant trail related experiences and has near-term potential to enhance and/or provide a larger variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The desired types of trail experiences include:

Boating (both paddle and power) in an evocative 17th century landscape. Whether on self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Jamestown Marina or from James City County's access site on upper Powhatan Creek to explore the creek and extensive marsh system behind Jamestown Island. One can paddle or travel in a small motor skiff up to the 400 year old cypress. The views in the creek allow for a mini-immersion into the resources of the 17th century.

Visiting Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement. Travel back in time to the days of Smith, the colonists, and the American Indians at the time of European contact. See what life was like in the Fort and understand the resources used by Paspahegh Indians and how the interaction of the two cultures affected the survival of the settlers. Whether by foot, bike or car one can view and experience the story of Jamestown and gain a "Smith perspective." The visitor centers and archeological exhibits bring to life the culture of both the Indians and colonists in the 17th century.

Jamestown/Scotland Ferry trip. As it crosses the James River at Jamestown, the ferry offers views of Jamestown Island, the fort at Jamestown Settlement and the replica ships. Through an on-board interpretive program, visitors riding the ferry could receive an orientation to the trail and be given an inkling of the views of the area the colonists and Smith had as they arrived by water on the James. The ferry also provides a connection to the Chippokes State Park/Hog Island Wildlife Management Area focus area.

Visits tied to walking-biking along Virginia Capital Trail. This major bike and walking trail has a trail head at the Jamestown Settlement site. As part of a trip on the trail, visitors could stop and tour either the Jamestown Settlement or the Jamestown Island sites, or link to a boating trip on Powhatan Creek.

Launching longer cruising adventures along the trail. The area would be a suitable location for those with cruising sail or power boats to launch from or visit as part of a longer trip to follow Smith's route around the Chesapeake or explore shorter segments of the trail.

These experiences would target and engage several audiences: families, individuals and groups visiting the Historic Triangle for heritage tourism experiences; casual outdoor enthusiasts seeking outdoor activities; recreationists (paddlers, boaters, hikers, bikers); youth and school groups.



Jamestown Settlement

Jamestown and Powhatan Creek

Achieving the Trail Vision In the Near-Term

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that conveys this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Trail Orientation

Primary Trail Anchor Sites: Existing visitor patterns suggest Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement as primary trail anchors for this focus area. They are highly used and adjacent to Route 5, Colonial Parkway, Scotland Ferry and the Virginia Capital Trail. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels and a standalone exhibit at Historic Jamestowne addressing the entire trail and what visitors can do in the focus area.
- A site orientation panel at Jamestown Settlement with information on other sites in focus area.
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area.
- A single local orientation panel at the Virginia Capital Trail junction or inclusion in the existing electronic information kiosk.
- A short taped narrative about the trail broadcast on the Ferry.

Other Key Trail Access Sites: Visitors would benefit from a branded CAJO sign and concise orientation panel at other key access sites, including Jamestown Marina and the public access site on upper Powhatan Creek.

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. These might include:

Guided boat and paddle tours: Out of Jamestown Marina – or possibly from the boat basin at Jamestown Settlement – visitors could engage a tour guide, pontoon boat, sailing craft or a rented boat for an interpreted trip on either Powhatan Creek or the James River.

Guided hike or bike tours: From either the Settlement site or the NPS site, visitors could join a guided interpretive walking or biking tour around Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement or on the Virginia Capital Trail.

Self-guided itineraries: Visitors planning their own boating, walking or biking trips might use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be

available on-line, as apps or in hard copy through a kiosk at the park and provide detailed directions and appropriate trail stories; for example, boating itineraries along Powhatan Creek or on the James River.

Settlement/Park programs: Visitors at Historic Jamestowne or Jamestown Settlement could participate in interpretive programs which incorporate trail themes. In particular, there is potential for engaging Virginia Indians in interpreting historic lifeways and depicting about the tribes today; also for programs focused on Smith's trading endeavors.

Smith Shallop Experience: From the festival park or an adjacent area, guests could see and get in a replica of the Smith Shallop. They would have a firsthand experience of this small craft that went on the remarkable 3,000 mile voyage. With costumed interpreters it could be either a land or water based experience.

Smith video story: At the interpretive kiosk at Historic Jamestowne, visitors could select a John Smith story in which he would relate some element of his explorations. This would help visitors understand the life Smith and others led in the colony and the perils and adventure associated with his voyages.

Jamestown and Powhatan Creek

Signature events: There are already a number of events conducted in this area. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail. Examples might include: cultural festivals, paddling races, boating regattas, bike rallies, geocache trails, or reenactments which feature the trail.

Visitor Facilities & Recreational Access

This focus area is already well served by existing public facilities and recreational access such as the boat launches on Powhatan Creek. However, virtually all focus groups strongly voiced a desire for a soft landing on Jamestown Island to allow access from the water, as well as some access to and from the water via paddle craft from the Colonial Parkway. But, private landings and launchings from land within Colonial National Historical Park are prohibited by federal regulation (36 CFR 7.1). There may be potential to locate a guided boat tour dock at Historic Jamestowne; such a proposal is included in a 2003 Development Concept Plan. A guided boat tour launch site could also be explored at the Jamestown Settlement site.

Top Photo
Boardwalk at Historic Jamestowne

Lower Photo
Visitors at Jamestown Settlement



Jamestown and Powhatan Creek

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

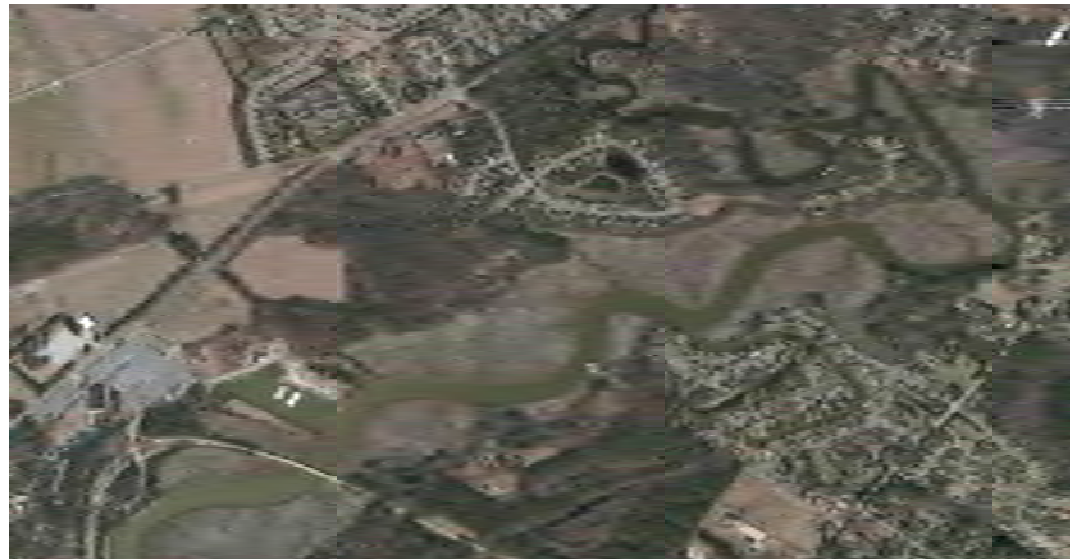
VDOT
James City County
Colonial National Historical Park
Jamestown Settlement – managed by
Yorktown/Jamestown Foundation
Preservation Virginia
Friends of Powhatan Creek
Marina Concessioner
Williamsburg Land Conservancy
College of William and Mary
VA Department of Forestry (tree protection
partner for 400 year old bald cypress)

The steering group described in section 4 will work with partners on collaborative efforts to implement the plan in this area.

*Upper Left Photo
Marina launching site adjacent to
Jamestown Settlement*

*Upper Right Photo
400 year old bald cypress on Powhatan
Creek*

*Lower Photo
Aerial photo of Powhatan Creek*



Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park Focus Area

This focus area includes the sites and resources along the tidal portion of the Chickahominy River including Gordon's and Nettles Creeks and Morris Creek. The primary developed site here is James City County's Chickahominy Riverfront Park with 145,000 visitors annually. Other significant sites include marinas and campgrounds on the upper part of the river, a trail head for the Virginia Capital Trail and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which offer both public boating access and wildlife viewing areas.

Area Characteristics

This area is characterized by a nearly unspoiled river and marsh system evocative of the 17th century. It was and still is a significant resource to the Chickahominy Indians and demonstrates a long history of sustainable use. The area is easily accessible by road and has direct connections to Jamestown via the Virginia Capital Trail and Route 5, a designated Virginia Byway. Chickahominy Riverfront Park, staffed full time, offers a variety of amenities for visitors.



Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park Focus Area

Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

In this area there are the following key story lines associated with CAJO themes:

The Chickahominy River – while altered over time in some locations – remains one of the few whole larger systems along the James evocative of the 17th century with natural resources characteristic of the time.

Specific features include: extensive marshlands; long stretches of wooded shorelines with no or few intrusions from modern development; several unspoiled tributary creek systems flowing into the river; and rich native bird life. All of these are viewable from the water and key land areas such as the Chickahominy WMA.

The Chickahominy Indians had – and continue to have – a strong presence in the area. In the early 17th century, the Chickahominy lived in many towns on both sides of the Chickahominy River. All the food, shelter, medicine, and materials needed for tools and transportation were available from the area's many resources, including its fertile agricultural soil. Today's Chickahominy Indians are most knowledgeable of the area's modern and traditional significance to Virginia Indians and are partners in efforts to address American Indian themes along the trail.

Specific features or resources supporting this theme include: the extensive marshes, woodlands and wildlife along the river; and the fish and shellfish within the river.

John Smith and Jamestown settlers ventured up the Chickahominy multiple times to trade for food, as the Chickahominy Indians were the only nearby tribe willing to do so after the colony's first few months. The upper Chickahominy was

also the site of Smith's capture from which he was transported to Werowocomoco. At the present time, there are no sites or features supporting this story other than the interpretive signage of the Chickahominy Water Trail at Chickahominy Riverfront Park, River's Rest, and the nearby Chickahominy Tribal Center.

The stories noted above are also supported by a base of existing protected lands along the river, including the state WMA, county park and private lands with conservation easements.



James City County's Riverfront Park

Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park

Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides or has near-term potential to provide a variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The optimal types of trail experiences here include:

Boating (both paddle and power) in an evocative 17th century landscape. Whether on self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Chickahominy Riverfront Park or River's Rest to explore the river or three key itineraries: Gordon's & Nettles Creeks, Morris Creek or Big Marsh Point. These areas provide one of the Chickahominy River's best values – the opportunity for solitude and reflection in a natural environment.

Wildlife viewing and fishing in rich natural areas. Whether along the banks at select sites, at trails in the WMA, or from a boat, visitors could come to the Chickahominy to engage in two significant activities: fishing in the river and streams; and bird-watching in an area known for bald eagles, osprey, a perennial heron rookery, and a variety of migratory birds.

Camping. Whether in Chickahominy Riverfront Park with its many amenities or in the more primitive setting of Chickahominy WMA, visitors could camp in the setting of an evocative landscape. In managed camping areas there could be the

opportunity for interpretive programs, activities and events tied to trail stories and themes.

Visits tied to walking-biking along Virginia Capital Trail. This major biking and walking trail crosses the river near Chickahominy Riverfront Park. As part of a trip along the trail, visitors could stop at the park to sample a bit more of the river and activities and programs at the park.

These experiences would target and engage several audiences: families and individuals of various ages seeking outdoor activities; outdoor enthusiasts (paddlers, boaters, birders, fishers, hikers, bikers); youth and school groups.

Achieving the Trail Vision In the Near-Term

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that convey this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Trail Orientation

Primary Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at Chickahominy Riverfront Park. It is highly used and adjacent to Route 5 and the Capital to

Capital Trail. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels introducing the overall trail and key trail spots along the James, and visitor opportunities along the Chickahominy.
- A single local orientation panel at the Virginia Capital Trail junction.
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area.

Other Key Trail Access Sites: Visitors would benefit from a branded CAJO sign and standard orientation panel at other key access sites, including Chickahominy WMA, River's Rest Marina, Rockahock Marina & Campground, and public boat launches.



Paddlers on Morris Creek

Chickahominy River and Riverfront Park

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. This might include:

Guided boat and paddle tours: At Chickahominy Riverfront Park (or River's Rest) visitors could engage a tour guide, pontoon boat and rented boats for an interpreted trip on the river or one of its related creeks.

Guided hike or bike tours: At the park, visitors could join a guided, interpretive walking or biking tour in or along the WMA or the Virginia Capital Trail.

Self-guided itineraries: Visitors planning their own boating, walking or biking trips might use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be available on-line, as apps or in hard copy through a kiosk at the park and provide detailed directions and appropriate trail stories; for example, boating itineraries along Gordon's and Nettles creeks; on Morris Creek, and around Big Marsh Point.

Park programs: Visitors or campers at the park could participate in interpretive programs (such as campfire programs) focused on trail themes. In particular, there

is potential for engaging Virginia Indians in interpreting historic lifeways and modern issues; also for programs focused on Smith's trading endeavors and his capture.

Signature events: Chickahominy Riverfront Park already hosts a number of events. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail, including: cultural festivals, paddling races, bike rallies, geocache trails, or reenactments which feature the trail.

Visitor Facilities & Recreational Access

This focus area is already well served by existing public facilities and recreational access such as boat launches and campsites. In the near-term, no specific added facilities are essential to achieving the trail potential described here.



River's Rest Marina on the Chickahominy River

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

VDOT
James City County
VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Rivers Rest Marina
Rockahock Marina and Campground
Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Eastern Chickahominy Tribe
Charles City County
New Kent County
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
James River Association
National Park Service

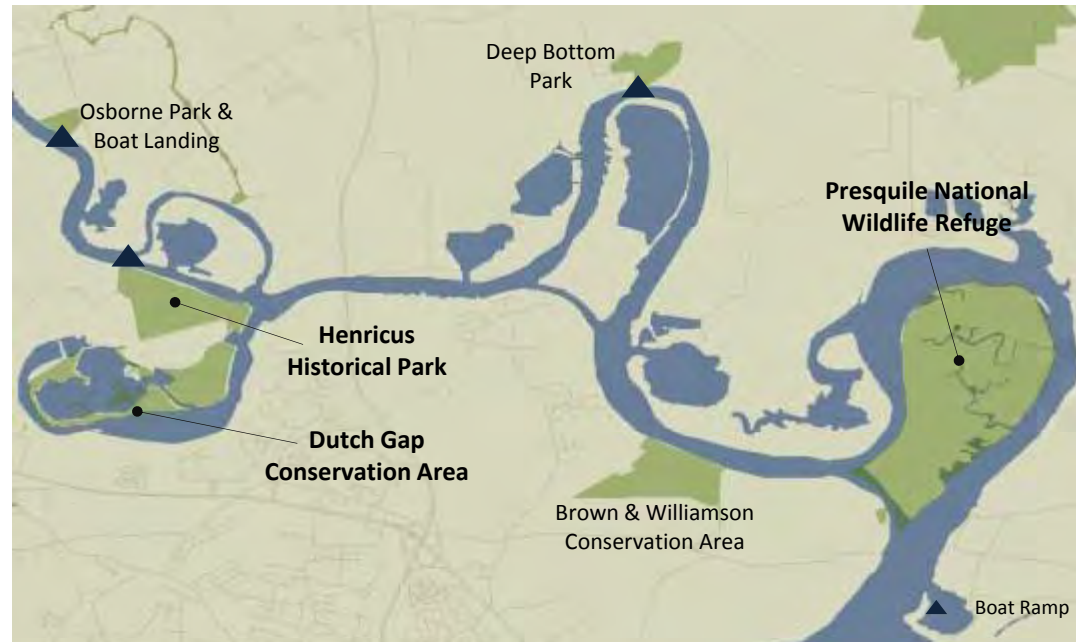
The steering group described in section 4 will work with partners on collaborative efforts to implement the plan in this area.

James River Oxbows Focus Area

This area includes the sites and resources along the oxbows of the upper portion of the James River. Major elements include: Henricus Historical Park, a reconstruction of the second oldest English settlement; the adjacent Dutch Gap Conservation Area; and Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). These sites have a combined annual visitation of over 145,000 people, the bulk of whom visit Henricus. Other contributing sites are Henrico County's Osborne and Deep Bottom parks, which provide major boating and fishing access to the James River. The area is rich in Smith related history, natural landscapes, and American Indian history.

Area Characteristics

Close to Richmond, this area is characterized by a marked contrast between heavily impacted industrial sites and lands which are nearly pristine in appearance and evocative of the river as Smith saw it in the 1600s. Henricus and Dutch Gap, while adjacent to an industrial site, offer major opportunities for wildlife viewing and observing how the area is reclaiming itself from human impact. Henricus offers a glimpse of early 17th century colonial and Virginia Indian life. Presquile NWR offers evocative views along an oxbow reminiscent of the 17th century. Its interior creeks allow for paddling in a



James River Oxbows Focus Area

natural environment known for its American bald eagle population and other bird species. Between these sites are other public conservation lands and multiple historic sites.



Boat Landing at Henricus Historical Park

James River Oxbows

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

In this area there are the following key story lines associated with CAJO themes:

John Smith and Jamestown settlers ventured through this area several times, making contact with Indian towns, trading for food, and exploring the river. Later, the area became the location of the second oldest English settlement in Virginia - Henricus. Features supporting these stories include: the reconstructed English settlement and Arrohateck town at Henricus Historical Park; views of the oxbows and subsequent channel cuts illustrating the navigational challenges Smith and subsequent ships have faced.

The Arrohateck Indians occupied this area during Smith's visits. Years later, Pocahontas was taken to Henricus after having been captured by the English. Features supporting these stories include: the recreated Arrohateck town at Henricus Historical Park and associated interpretive programs conveying some aspects of life during the 17th century; wildlife and fish throughout the area, especially at Presquile NWR convey the importance of these resources to Virginia Indians.

While sections of the James have been channelized, some oxbows cut through for shipping, and some of the surrounding landscape altered by industrialization, this stretch of river still offers many views and much wildlife evocative of the 1600's. Moreover, there are multiple examples of efforts to reclaim and restore altered areas and formerly abundant fish populations.

Features supporting this story include: old oxbows, such as around Presquile; several smaller creeks, such as Turkey Island Creek and Four Mile Creek; natural areas and reclaimed areas at Dutch Gap and Presquile; extensive wildlife habitats including bald eagle nesting areas, heron rookeries, and potential sturgeon spawning sites; shad and American sturgeon restoration programs. This area has a base of existing protected lands, including some conservation easements on private lands, and some undeveloped conservation lands (e.g. Brown & Williamson Conservation Area), which may provide future visitor opportunities.



Henricus Historical Park



Henricus Historical Park

James River Oxbows

Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides or has near-term potential to provide a variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The desired types of trail experiences here include:

Boating (both paddle and power) in an evocative 17th century landscape as well as in restoration areas. Whether on self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Henricus Park, Osborne Park & Boat Landing or Deep Bottom Park to explore the river. Opportunities exist to take “journeys through time” exploring the river’s environment - how it once was, what has happened and how it is being reclaimed. Areas such as Four Mile Creek and the old oxbows are evocative of the 17th century while the marsh lagoons at Dutch Gap demonstrate how reclamation has occurred. Excellent itineraries exist for trips in and around Presquile NWR, the Henricus/Dutch Gap area, and on Four Mile Creek.

Wildlife viewing and fishing in rich natural resource areas. Whether from the county parks, Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, along the banks at select sites, or from a boat, visitors could come to this area to engage in two significant activities: fishing in the river; and bird-watching in an area known for bald eagles and a variety of migratory birds. In addition, the Dutch Gap

Conservation Area contains a large great blue heron rookery visible from both trails and the water. Sturgeon, a fish being restored to the James – and of great significance to Indians and colonists in the 17th century – can sometimes also be seen.

Visiting the reconstructed 17th century Henricus complex. Visitors could tour the reconstructed City of Henricus. Here they may see what life was like in the early 1600’s and understand what it meant to be a colonist during that time period. Further exploration could take them to a reconstructed Arrohateck Indian town for an immersive experience with Virginia Indian cultures and life.

These experiences would target and engage several audiences, some of whom are already users of the area: families and individuals of various ages interested in heritage tourism experiences (colonial and Virginia Indian); outdoor enthusiasts (paddlers, boaters, fishers, birders); Richmond area residents; youth and school groups.

Osprey in the early morning on the James River at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge
USFWS/Cyrus Brame



James River Oxbows

Achieving the Trail Vision In the Near-Term

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that convey this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Trail Orientation

Primary Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a primary trail anchor site for this focus area at Henricus Historical Park. It receives significant use, is staffed and is in close proximity to Route 10. Effective visitor orientation here might include: (1) orientation panels introducing the overall trail, key spots along the James and visitor opportunities within the James River Oxbow area, and (2) rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area.

Other Key Trail Access Sites: The following trail orientation materials should also be present, including: (1) a multi-panel kiosk at the high use Osborne Park & Boat Landing to orient visitors to the trail and key trail spots along the James River and (2) a single local orientation panel at Deep Bottom Park and at Presquile NWR.

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. This might include:

Guided boat and paddle tours: At Henricus Park, Presquile NWR, or Osborne Landing visitors could engage a tour guide, pontoon boat and rented boats for an interpreted trip on the river.

Guided walks/historical tours: At the Henricus Historical Park, visitors could participate in a guided interpretive walking tour through the restored colonial village and Arrohatock town. Guided hikes could also be done through components of the Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Programs could address historic lifeways and modern issues; restoration and recovery of the natural resources; Smith's explorations and Pocahontas's kidnapping. Similarly, guided walks at Presquile NWR could be offered for wildlife viewing.

Self-guided itineraries: Visitors planning their own boating or walking trips might use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be available on-line, as apps or in hard copy through a kiosk at the park and provide

detailed directions and appropriate trail stories; for example, boating itineraries around Presquile (Turkey Island) on Four Mile Creek, and the impoundments of Dutch Gap.

Signature events: Henricus Park already hosts a number of events. Additional cultural events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail.

Visitor Facilities & Recreational Access

While there is excellent public access to the water at select sites, there is a near term need to enhance access in the vicinity of Presquile NWR. One potential site for a soft launch is in the area where Route 5 and the planned Virginia Capital Trail intersect with Turkey Creek. Enhanced water to land access at Presquile is also desirable. There is also the potential for enhancing paddle craft access at Henricus Park and within the Brown and Williamson Conservation Area. This section of the James could also benefit from campsites, accessible from the water by small craft.

James River Oxbows

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

VDOT
Henrico County
VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
James River Association
National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Chesterfield County
Henricus Foundation
Phillip Morris
Dominion Resources
VCU

The steering group described in section 4 will work with partners on collaborative efforts to implement the plan in this area.



James River as seen from the dock at Henricus Historical Park

Chippokes Plantation State Park and Hog Island Wildlife Management Area

This focus area includes two primary sites and resources along the south side of the James River across from Jamestown Island: Chippokes Plantation State Park and the Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA). These two sites have an annual visitation of over 80,000 people. Lower Chippokes Creek on the southern end of the state park offers an excellent opportunity to view a natural creek reminiscent of the 1600's.

Area Characteristics

This area is characterized by the broad section of the James River on which it fronts. Jamestown Island – on the opposite shore – is visible from the state park. Chippokes, for whom the plantation and park were named, was an Indian leader of the Quiyoughcohannock Tribe who welcomed the English (although other members of his tribe did not).

The State park is staffed year around and offers a variety of amenities for visitors, including camping sites, cabins, visitor center, trails and a swimming pool. To the east of the park, Hog Island WMA is managed primarily for waterfowl habitat as well as hunting and other wildlife related recreation.

The main tract of Hog Island WMA is accessibly only through the security station at the nearby Surry Nuclear Power Plant. Visitors must be prepared to have their vehicle searched and must present valid IDs. Access to Hog Island WMA is limited during various hunting seasons. Boating access at Hog Island WMA includes a public access boat ramp on Lawnes Creek at the Carlisle Tract.

The primary natural resources in this area include the marshes of the WMA and the forested landscapes, farmland, and scenic vistas from the park or WMA. The area is easily accessible by scenic Route 10 and via the Scotland Ferry which connects to the Jamestown side of the River.

Chippokes and Hog Island WMA Focus Area



Chippokes Plantation State Park and Hog Island Wildlife Management Area

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

In this area there are the following key story lines associated with CAJO themes:

This area is typical of the great breadth of the lower James combined with its smaller, more intimate tributary creeks. Between them, they provide glimpses of how the area may have looked to Smith and Virginia Indians. Features supporting this story include: sections of wooded shoreline and marsh buffers; Lower Chippokes Creek and Grays Creek with natural resources reminiscent of the time period; and extensive wildlife at the WMA.

Smith and Jamestown colonists explored this area of the James and met with Chippokes, a leader of the Quiyoughcohannock Tribe, in the vicinity of the state park. Although Chippokes remained supportive of the English, others of the Quiyoughcohannock resisted the colony so close to their territory. Smith also built a block house at Hog Island (where the colonists let hogs run wild). The general landscape features in the park and in the WMA support these stories.

Farming and agriculture practices were an important component to the life of Virginia Indians and Jamestown colonists. Chippokes Plantation State Park reflects

over 400 years of continual agricultural practices from the time of settlement and Indian use for a much longer period.

Resources exist at the park to support and demonstrate a variety of agricultural approaches practiced by both the English and Indians during the 1600s.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides or has near-term potential to provide a variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The desired types of trail experiences here include:

Boating (both paddle and power) in an evocative 17th century landscape. Whether on self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Chippokes Plantation State Park or Hog Island WMA to explore the river or two key creeks, Grays and Lower Chippokes. Lower Chippokes Creek could provide experiences particularly evocative of the 1600's landscape.

Wildlife viewing in a rich natural area. Along the trails in the state park or the WMA visitors could enjoy a significant wildlife viewing experience. From the wooded areas and trails in the park to trails providing views of the extensive marshes in the WMA, there are opportunities to see a variety of wildlife common to the Smith period.

Farming in the Indian Community and during the Colonial Period. Interpretive programming along with demonstration areas could show how Virginia Indians used the resources and worked the land prior to European contact. Adjacent sites could demonstrate the English agricultural methods. Visitors could possibly try some hands on farming techniques to experience agrarian practices.

Camping. Chippokes Plantation State Park provides a full service campground and cabin complex. Visitors could camp in the setting of an evocative landscape. This managed camping area could potentially offer interpretive programs, activities and events tied to trail stories and themes.

These experiences would target and engage several audiences: area and regional (Richmond to Virginia Beach) residents seeking camping and associated experiences (paddling, hiking, horseback riding, interpretive programs and events); day-trip visitors from Jamestown (via Scotland Ferry); birders; youth and school groups.

Chippokes Plantation State Park and Hog Island Wildlife Management Area

Achieving the Trail Vision In the Near-Term

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that convey this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Trail Orientation

Trail Anchor Site: Existing visitor patterns suggest a trail anchor site for this focus area at Chippokes Plantation State Park. It is highly used, adjacent to Route 10 and close to Scotland Ferry, which connects with Jamestown and the Virginia Capital Trail. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels at the state park introducing the overall trail, key trail spots along the James, and visitor opportunities specific to this focus area.
- A single local orientation panel at each Hog Island WMA access area.
- A single local orientation panel at the Scotland Ferry terminal and a short narrative message on the Ferry.
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area.

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. This might include:

Guided boat and paddle tours: At Chippokes Plantation State Park visitors could engage a tour guide for an interpreted trip on the river or one of its related creeks.

Guided hike or bike tours: At the park, visitors could participate in a guided, interpretive walking or biking tour through a section of the park.

Self-guided itineraries: Visitors planning their own boating, walking or biking trips might use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be available on-line, as apps or in hard copy through a kiosk at the park and provide detailed directions and appropriate trail stories; for example, boating itineraries along Grays or Lower Chippokes creeks; or self guided bike trails in the park or possibly to the WMA.

Park programs: Visitors or overnight guests at the park could participate in interpretive programs (such as campfire programs)

focused on trail themes. In particular, there is potential for engaging Virginia Indians in interpreting historic lifeways and modern issues; also for programs focused on Smith's trading endeavors or the Indians' change in view of the English.

Signature events: Chippokes Plantation State Park already hosts a number of events. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail, including: cultural festivals, paddling races, bike rallies, geocache trails, or reenactments which feature the trail.

Visitor Facilities & Recreational Access

This focus area is already reasonably well served by the existing public facilities and recreational access. However, paddling on Lower Chippokes Creek would be greatly enhanced by a new launch site at the state park; the current site requires hauling boats a long distance from the public parking area.

Chippokes Plantation State Park and Hog Island Wildlife Management Area

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

VDOT
Surry County
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

James River Association
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

The steering group described in section 4 will work with partners on collaborative efforts to implement the plan in this area.

*Lower Left Photo
A section of Chippokes
Plantation State Park*

*Lower Right Photo
A section of Hog Island Wildlife
Management Area*



Pagan River & Smithfield Focus Area

This focus area includes the sites and resources along the lower south side of the James River, the Pagan River and the Town of Smithfield, as well as the major creeks off the Pagan River in Isle of Wight County. The primary developed sites are the Town of Smithfield and its Windsor Castle Park. The town has an annual visitation of 55,000 people. The Pagan River and two tributaries - Jones Creek and Cypress Creek – are the primary natural resource areas. Jones Creek has a public boat launch.

Area Characteristics

This area is characterized by a broad section of the lower James River and its tributary, the Pagan River. The lower section of the Pagan, below Smithfield, is scenic and generally rural. While it includes open water and marshes, the frequency of visible residences along the river's edge prevent this section from appearing evocative of the 17th century.

Above Smithfield, the river is more narrow with long stretches of wooded shoreline and marshes. Though occasional houses are visible, this upper segment appears more scenic and evocative of Smith's time. The town of Smithfield sits adjacent to the river, has an interesting walkable historic section with small shops and eateries, and has a very accessible river front with transient dockage for large and small craft.

Not far from the town center and bordering along Cypress Creek is the town's Windsor Castle Park. The park is connected to the town by trail and offers excellent paddling craft launch facilities. Smithfield is also home to a nearby large Smithfield Foods hog processing plant. Route 10, a rural and very scenic Virginia Byway, connects this site to other focus areas up the south side of the James River. There is currently no related interpretation in Smithfield.

Pagan River & Smithfield Focus Area



Pagan River & Smithfield

Key Stories and Associated Features and Resources

In this area there are the following key story lines associated with CAJO themes:

The Pagan River, its tributaries and bordering lands are examples of smaller river systems used by people over centuries for fishing, farming and housing; while the lower river shows more contemporary evidence of these activities, the upper portions of the river retain natural areas characteristic of the 17th century. Specific features key to this include: extensive marshlands; long stretches of wooded shorelines with few intrusions from modern development; and rich native bird life. All of these are viewable from the water as it winds and turns through the marsh system. In addition to the waterfowl, the river also offers excellent fishing opportunities.

The Warraskoyeck Indians inhabited the area and Smith traveled up the Pagan to visit with and trade with the tribe. In his later writings, Smith claimed to have been warned by the leader of the Warraskoyack in late 1608 that the paramount chief Powhatan intended harm to him.

Desired Trail Experiences

This area already provides or has near-term potential to provide a variety of visitor experiences for different types of trail users. The desired types of trail experiences here include:

Boating (both paddle and power) in an evocative 17th century landscape. Whether on self-guided or guided trips, visitors could depart from Jones Creek Landing, Smithfield or from Windsor Castle Park to explore the upper portion of the Pagan River, Jones Creek or Cypress Creek. These areas provide scenery reminiscent of the 1600's.

Wildlife viewing and fishing in a rich natural areas. Whether along the banks at available sites, from Windsor Castle Park, or from a boat, visitors could come to the Pagan to engage in two significant activities: fishing in the river and adjacent creeks; and wildlife/bird-watching in an evocative setting.

Exploring the Town of Smithfield. The town with its historic area, easy access by water from the Pagan River, walkable/bikeable streets, museum, and connection to Windsor Castle Park offers a variety of visitor experiences. There are multiple opportunities for interpretive programming and numerous venues related to trail themes.

Visits tied to walking and biking. With close proximity to Rt. 10 (a Virginia Byway) and roads with low traffic volume, cyclists could tour the Smithfield area and visit trail stops in the Town of Smithfield or in Windsor Castle Park. Short walking loops between the town and the park as well as exploratory walks around the town could be enjoyed.

These experiences would target and engage several audiences: area residents; day trippers from Williamsburg and Virginia Beach attracted by a small town and river visit; outdoor enthusiasts (paddlers, boaters, birders, fishers, bikers); longer-distance boaters; and tourists traveling the Virginia Byways system.



Launching ramp at Jones Creek Access Site

Pagan River & Smithfield Focus Area

Achieving the Trail Vision In the Near-Term

Providing visitors with these optimal trail experiences in a way that convey this area's features, resources and key stories could best be achieved if the following actions were carried out:

Trail Orientation

Trail Anchor Site: The Town of Smithfield, located at a central point on the Pagan, with various visitor amenities, and ease of access by car or water, is the logical trail anchor site for this focus area. Effective visitor orientation here might include:

- Orientation panels introducing the overall trail, key trail spots along the James and trail opportunities along the Pagan and its associated creeks.
- A single local orientation panel at Windsor Castle Park.
- A trail exhibit at the Isle of Wight Museum.
- Rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in the area.

Other Key Trail Access Sites: Visitors would benefit from a branded CAJO sign and standard orientation panel at other key access sites, including Jones Creek, Rescue, and other public boat launches.

Interpretive Programming and Media

Meaningful trail experiences would best be supported by additional programs and events interpreting key stories and engaging visitors in the trail and its themes. This might include:

Guided boat and paddle tours: From the docks at the Town of Smithfield or from Windsor Castle Park visitors could engage a tour guide, pontoon boat or rented boats for an interpreted trip on the river or one of its related creeks.

Guided hike or bike tours: At the park or from the town's visitor center, guests could join a guided and interpreted walking or biking tour of the town, surrounding area, or the park.

Self-guided itineraries: Visitors planning their own boating, walking or biking trips might use itineraries and accompanying interpretive materials to add richness to their experience. Materials could be available on-line, as apps or in hard copy through a kiosk at the park and provide detailed directions and appropriate trail stories; for example, boating itineraries along various sections of the Pagan; on Jones Creek, and Cypress Creek.

Interpretive programs: Visitors to the Town or at Windsor Castle Park could participate in interpretive programs focused on trail themes. In particular there is potential for tying in to the rich water based resources of the area, including the waterfowl, oysters, crabs, and fish which were important to both the colonists and Indians of the region. The life of American Indians of the period could also be interpreted.

Signature events: The Town of Smithfield already hosts a number of events. Additional events could be developed and promoted to engage visitors with the trail, such as cultural festivals, paddling races or bike rallies.

Visitor Facilities & Recreational Access:

This focus area is already fairly well served by existing public access facilities from Smithfield down to the James. Paddling along the upper Pagan would be enhanced by an additional kayak/canoe access upstream from Smithfield in the vicinity of the Route 626 bridge.

Pagan River & Smithfield Focus Area

Trail Partners

Carrying out the actions above can only occur through collaborative partnerships sharing expertise and resources. Potential partners in this area include:

- VDOT
- Isle of Wight County
- Smithfield Foods
- Isle of Wight County Historical Society
- Town of Smithfield
- VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

The steering group described in section 4 will work with partners on collaborative efforts to implement the plan in this area.



*Upper Left Photo
Paddle boat access site at Windsor Castle Park*

*Upper Right Photo
Friends chatting in the Town of Smithfield*

*Lower Photo
Pagan River*



Section 3

Supporting and Linking the Trail Along the James

Each of the preceding focus area descriptions includes a proposed series of actions tailored to a particular focus area. This section outlines several cross-cutting actions necessary for supporting the focus areas, as well as for connecting, promoting, interpreting, protecting and further enhancing the trail.

The cross-cutting actions are grouped in the following categories:

- Orientation and Interpretation
- Promotion, Marketing and Events
- Expanding Public Access
- Connecting Sites by Land
- Resource Protection



Orientation and Interpretation

In addition to the actions listed for each focus area, several other actions would enhance orientation and interpretation. These include the following:

Urban Area Orientation Sites

Trail orientation signage should be provided at key sites along the river in both the Richmond and Hampton Roads metropolitan areas. In Richmond this might be a site such as Main Street Station, Shiplock Park, or Rocket’s Landing; in Hampton Roads several sites are possible. In both cases the panels would include overall trail information and an orientation to trail sites along the James.

Fort Monroe National Monument

President Obama’s November 1, 2011 proclamation declaring Fort Monroe a National Monument created a new unit of the National Park System at the mouth of the James River. While planning for the new park will occur over many months, the site is significant to the John Smith Trail.

Smith passed by the area now known as the fort multiple times. He called Point Comfort, on which the fort sits today, “an isle fit for a castle” when he first saw it in 1607, heralding its military-based future. In

1608, Smith spent Christmas with the Kecoughtan Indians nearby Point Comfort and later described the richness of the Kecoughtan’s resources and the foodstuffs served up at the feast.

Today, the upper portion of the property offers the opportunity to experience the last intact indigenous cultural landscape of the Kecoughtan Indians, who entertained John Smith. Fort Monroe could become the site of one of the trail’s interpretive and education centers, in addition to being a location for visitors to explore this entrance point to the James. A trail orientation kiosk should also be sited at Fort Monroe. National Park Service officials for the trail and the new park will work together to explore how best to fully address the trail at the new national monument.

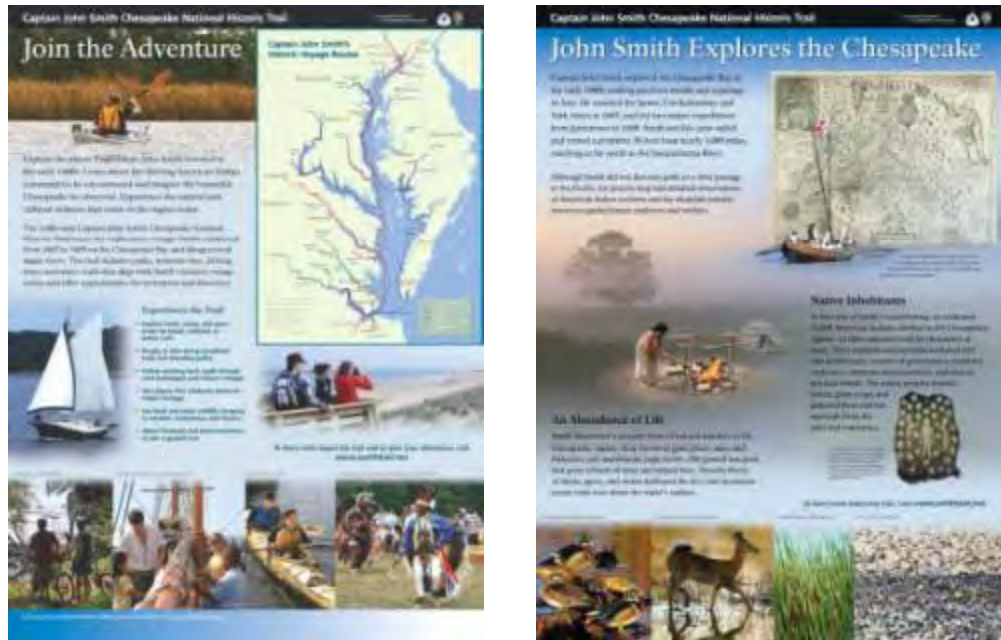
Standardized Orientation Signage

To maximize efficiency and consistency along the entire trail, the National Park Service has developed standard two standard orientation panels. One orients visitors to the overall trail and one introduces the trail’s interpretive themes. The panels can be placed in one, two or three panel frames. For many anchor sites, the optimal arrangement would be a three-panel kiosk with the third panel custom designed to address site specific interpretive or orientation information.



Three-panel kiosk showing two standard trail-wide orientation panels.

Orientation and Interpretation (continued)



Two standard trail-wide orientation panels. The panel on the left orients visitors to the overall trail while the right panel introduces visitors to key trail interpretive themes. Both panels are fully designed and ready for fabrication.

Assistance for Interpretive Planning and Development

Sites in focus areas might benefit from technical assistance from trail partners to plan and develop interpretive media and programs.

Guide Training, Materials and Certification

Guided tours have the potential for providing visitors with truly optimal trail experiences. These tours might be provided by organizations managing sites along the trail as well as by private sector guides. Focus group participants noted that some support, materials and consistency could benefit both guides and visitors. This could include development of shared training and materials on trail themes, resources and stories. In addition, the National Park Service is exploring the potential for a guide certification program through which guides could meet certain standards and then market their services as certified trail guides.

Promotion, Marketing and Events

Attracting visitors to the trail requires a concerted effort. The adage “build it and they will come” is not really true. Effectively communicating with potential visitors requires several things:

- A visible trail presence on the ground – at key visitor sites and along transportation routes – and on the internet and mobile devices
- A continuing series of events and programs designed to draw targeted audiences to the trail
- Strategic marketing and promotion activities by tourism organizations and the private sector

The focus area concepts and actions described in the previous section speak to several of these: increasing trail visibility through signage, visitor services information, certain programs – such as a radio broadcast narrative on the Scotland Ferry – and events at key locations. In particular, there are many opportunities for events and programs that can be marketed to visitors. For example, the growing interest in challenge events holds much promise. Reaction to the Captain John Smith Geotrail launched in 2011 has been very positive and further expansion is possible.

In addition, the trail’s presence on the internet is established through www.smithtrail.net and its link to the National Park Service website www.nps.gov, which draws many visits.

The National Park Service is also beginning development of a mobile device application that will include the trail as a major component. This app is anticipated for launch in 2012.

One crucial component requiring further development is a strategic marketing and promotional effort, including the use of electronic and social media. Stakeholders along the James have made clear that social media, blogs and apps are crucial sources of information for today’s visiting public. Development of a strategic marketing and promotional effort will be most effective when organized and led by tourism officials along the James and the Virginia Tourism Corporation, in collaboration with other trail partners.

Expanding Public Access

Currently 15 boat ramps and 15 hand-carry public access sites exist along the James River segment of the trail, including along the Chickahominy and Pagan rivers. However, long stretches of the river, some as long as forty miles, have no access sites. Along with needing added launch and landing sites for both trailered and paddle craft, an expressed need exists for small camping sites along the river; these would primarily be for those who are paddling or using small powered boats to explore the trail. Specific public access opportunities are listed below.

Access Within Focus Areas

For the most part, the five focus areas have a solid base of existing access sites. However, the previous descriptions note four specific areas where additional access would benefit visitors:

- *Jamestown/Powhatan Creek* – While there has been a documented public desire for a small water to land access site at Historic Jamestowne, current Federal code prohibits the development of such a site for individual private watercraft. There is, however, potential over the long-term for development of a small pier on the back side of the island for use by tour operators. A paddle craft launch site could also be considered at James City County's beach area just north of Scotland Ferry.

- *James River Oxbows* – There is an opportunity for improving access near and to Presquile National Wildlife Refuge through developing a hand carry launch site on Turkey Creek near its intersection with Route 5. Such a site would provide paddle access to the oxbow around Presquile and to the interior tidal creeks of the refuge. Allowing water to land access at the refuge could also be considered.
- *Chippokes and Hog Island* – A more accessible paddle launch site is needed to Lower Chippokes Creek at Chippokes State Park.
- *Pagan River and Smithfield* – A hand carry launch site along the Pagan River upstream of Smithfield near the Route 626 bridge could expand paddling opportunities.

Other Key Locations Along the River

Beyond the focus areas, there are several other strategic locations along the river where new or improved public access would fill gaps and connect focus areas. A high priority site is Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park in Charles City County which has a designed and permitted launch site awaiting funding and development. Other key potential locations include: a formal paddlecraft access site at College Landing Park along College Creek near Williamsburg, City Point at Hopewell, and generally along the James in the area between Deep Bottom Park and Chickahominy Riverfront Park, both sides of the river, where little public access now exists.

A broader view on expanding public access is being carried out through development of a watershed-wide public access strategy. This effort is being coordinated by the National Park Service in collaboration with Chesapeake Bay watershed states. The strategy is expected for release in 2012.

Connecting Sites by Land

The focus areas address land and water connections within each area, plus a couple of connections between areas – specifically the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry and the Virginia Capital Trail. Two other key actions would support roadway connections between sites along the James.

Land Touring Itineraries

The principal roads for accessing all sites along the James segment of the trail are Virginia routes 5 and 10, plus the several bridges crossing the river. They also offer many miles of scenic driving through rural landscapes associated with the James. As part of *John Smith's Adventures on the James*, developed for the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement, a series of driving routes were developed. Those itineraries for touring the area and accessing trail sites could be revised and updated to better connect visitors with the focus areas and other sites.

Wayfinding Signage

Along routes 5 and 10 and some additional access roads, visitors would benefit from standardized trail marker signage and limited wayfinding signs pointing to trail sites and access points. The National Park Service is developing a system for such signage. Implementation would require collaboration with the Virginia DOT.

Adventures site interpretive exhibit at Deep Bottom Park (below) and preliminary design for land route marker (right)



Illustrated below are existing driving routes established through the John Smith's Adventures initiative. They follow Routes 5 and 10 and link the focus areas and other sites associated with the trail.



Resource Protection

Visitor experiences of the trail's major themes – John Smith's voyages, American Indian cultures of the 17th century and the Chesapeake environment of the time – depend on the continued presence of key resources along the trail. The most well known example on the James is the original Jamestown colony at Historic Jamestowne with its extensive archaeological resources.

Based on field visits to the five focus areas, resources of particular importance to visitors' experiences of the trail fall into two categories: evocative landscapes and indigenous cultural landscapes.

Evocative Landscapes Within View of the Trail

Evocative landscapes are areas along the trail where the natural setting of the James River and its tributaries remains generally free from intrusion by modern development – where the landscape is composed of water, wetlands and wooded shores providing habitat for wildlife and affording an opportunity for visitors to vicariously share the experiences of John Smith, his crew, and of American Indians in the 17th century.

More than any other resource feature along the trail, evocative landscapes are central to providing visitors with an impression of what the James was like

during Smith's time. Evocative landscapes are evident in each of the five focus areas – and along the greater James as well. Some focus areas – such as the Chickahominy River – include significant, large stretches of these landscapes, while others have somewhat smaller but equally important tracts. In some cases, individual features within evocative landscapes have special importance, such as the individual bald cypress on Powhatan Creek which may date to Smith's time.

Indigenous Cultural Landscapes

These landscapes generally encompass the cultural and natural resources that would have been associated with and supported the historic lifestyle and settlement patterns of American Indian peoples at the time of European contact. American Indians lived around the James and its tributaries within large, varied landscapes, using different parts of those landscapes in different ways – for obtaining food, medicine and clothing, for making tools and objects related to transportation and the household, for agriculture, and for settlements.

In many cases along the James, the evocative landscapes noted above are also indigenous cultural landscapes, given American Indian use of waterways, wetlands and forest resources. For

example, the marshes along the Chickahominy River – so important for retaining a sense of what the area was like 400 years ago – were used as locations for procuring specific foods and materials at the time. Indigenous cultural landscapes provide another way of understanding and appreciating these resources; they are also important to American Indian communities who exist in the area today.

Other more site-specific resources, some falling within either of the two categories above support the trail and merit protection as well. They include: Smith's voyage stops, 17th Century American Indian archaeological sites, and historic American Indian town sites (National Park Service, 2010; Beacham, 2010).

Resource Protection (continued) Current Protection Strategies

An initial assessment has identified a number of resource protection strategies expected to contribute to protecting trail-related resources:

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act

Through local ordinances the Act sets out Resource Protection Areas (RPA) which include tidal wetlands, tidal shores, non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal wetlands or perennial streams and a 100 foot shoreline buffer. Much of the evocative landscape visible from the water falls within the Act's RPAs. Most land uses are generally prohibited in RPAs unless they are water-dependent.

Virginia Wetlands Act

Proposed uses in tidal wetlands are regulated through this Act by local wetlands boards.

Local Planning and Zoning

Local planning and zoning ordinances guide land uses and density of development. Across the focus areas are a variety of local regulations, some of which may help to protect forests and other features of evocative landscapes associated with the trail.

Public Lands

Most of the focus areas include some significant land areas in public ownership for conservation purposes, either by state, local or federal government.

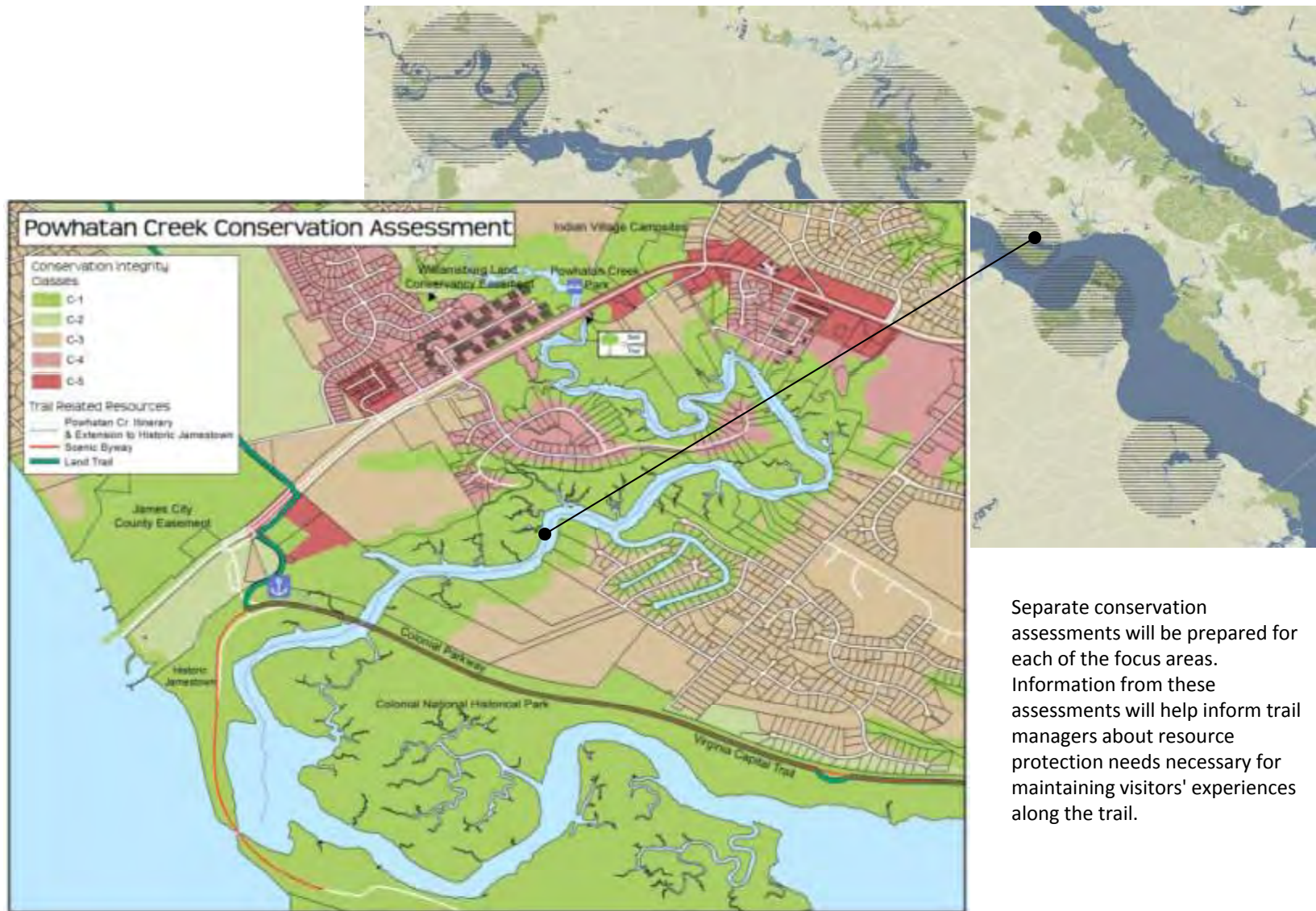
Other Protected Lands

Numerous private lands are protected through conservation easements held by either public agencies or non-governmental organizations (e.g. local land trusts). In addition, some non-governmental organizations own and protect land directly for conservation purposes.

Future assessments could determine the extent to which the evocative landscape and other key resources within each focus area are protected through these and other measures. Additional approaches to resource protection could include: promoting awareness of the trail and its protection needs, incorporating the trail in public policy plans, strategic conservation planning; and landowner assistance programs.

Separate from this concept plan, the National Park Service will develop a trail-wide land protection strategy to help inform resource protection efforts.





Separate conservation assessments will be prepared for each of the focus areas. Information from these assessments will help inform trail managers about resource protection needs necessary for maintaining visitors' experiences along the trail.

Section 4 Building Partnerships and Trail Implementation

This section outlines an interim trail management process, opportunities for collaborative partnerships, and both short and long term implementation actions.



Partnerships and Trail Development

The success of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail depends on collaborative partnerships – among local, state and federal government and the private sector.

No single entity can fully manage or develop the James segment of the trail. The sites and resources – and the capacity to further develop the trail – are spread among many organizations. The actions identified in each of the focus areas will require collaboration among all potential partners if the trail is truly to become a success.

Current budgets make it challenging at all organizational levels to contribute to trail development. However, this segment plan is intentionally designed to build on existing strengths along the trail and to focus efforts in areas where many resources are already in place. The actions required to elevate the Smith Trail's presence and visitor experiences in these areas are truly feasible in the near-term.

Still, it will take innovative and efficient collaborative efforts for the trail to reach its full potential as an educational, recreational and tourism asset for the region. What may be impossible for a single entity to achieve may well be feasible in collaboration with partners. Such partnerships could involve anything from fund-raising to technical assistance; from resource protection to facility development; from interpretive program development to marketing.

Who Can Help Make the Trail a Reality

Public Site Managers

Historic Sites
Wildlife Refuges and Management Areas
Federal and State Parks
County and Municipal Parks
Recreational Trails and Ferry Services
Water Access Sites

Non-Profit Organizations

Watershed and River-Based Organizations
Organizations Associated with Particular Sites
American Indian Organizations
Land Conservation and Historic Preservation Organizations
Trail Clubs
User Groups

Tourism Organizations

State
County
Local

Commercial Facilities and Services

Marinas
Campgrounds
Motels and Other Overnight Accommodations
Guide Services
Equipment Sales and Rentals

Educational and Research Institutions

Area Universities and Associated sites
Community Colleges

A Few Sample Potential Partnerships

The proposed actions found in the chart at the end of this section offer numerous opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. These can be developed as opportunities arise and are considered among the potential partners.

A few illustrative examples of potential collaboration which could help advance trail actions are as follows:

Guided Boat Tours of Powhatan Creek

Launching the suggested series of guided boat tours along Powhatan Creek from the James City Marina could involve collaboration between James City County, the National Park Service, the county's marina concessionaire and perhaps others. The National Park Service might assist in developing interpretive stories related to key trail themes and potentially providing a tour boat dock on the creek side of Jamestown Island. James City County might provide the marina as an operational area from where the tour boats could depart. A private operator could provide the experience for visitors.

Development and Installation of Orientation Signage

Efficient creation of orientation signage for many sites could involve collaboration

among the National Park Service, site managers and potential fund-raisers. The National Park Service has developed a template and two standard designs for signage and could assist in planning additional signs. Some partners could focus on fund-raising for sign fabrication. Site managers could address installation and maintenance of signs at identified sites within their management units.

A Training/Certification Program for Interpretive Guides

Developing a program to foster consistent, effective trail interpretation across many sites could require collaboration among a number of partners. The National Park Service might facilitate coordination among State agencies, site managers, and universities. Partners could collect and develop themed information specific to the James segment and its various sites. Training could be organized for guides and other program providers; and an official trail guide certification process could be established.

These are just a few illustrations of possible collaborative efforts to help implement the James segment plan.



Several partners could collaborate to develop guided boat tours at Powhatan Creek and other locations.

Management and Implementation

The National Park Service serves as the overall managing organization for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. In carrying out this role, the Park Service collaborates with a broad range of trail partners at the site, local, state and regional levels. In Virginia, collaboration with Commonwealth agencies for state parks, historic resources, tourism, wildlife management and transportation is of particular importance.

Along individual segments of the trail the Park Service works closely with a lead regional organization, the Commonwealth and several trail-wide partners to coordinate trail implementation.

For the James River segment, the collaborating partners for this segment plan will serve as a steering group for plan and trail implementation over the coming twelve to eighteen months. The steering group consists of representatives of: the National Park Service, the James River Association, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Chesapeake Conservancy and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Morris Creek boat launch at Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area



The steering group will focus on a short set of functions:

- Support and coordinate implementation of commitments made by specific partners and the actions called for at key sites;
- Help advance a short list of top priorities which can be completed in the near term;
- Detail how long term segment coordination and management functions will be handled.

The steering group will focus on the following top priorities over the coming year. Each is critical to raising awareness of the trail and making it “real” to visitors.

- Provide clear, consistent trail orientation and marking signage at key sites.
- Assist in and promote development of guided tours, equipment rentals, and itineraries which get people out on the trail who may not have the equipment to do so on their own.
- Promote and assist in development of interpretive programs that explicitly engage people with trail stories and resources at selected key sites.
- Work towards an effective, collaborative marketing campaign for the trail that connects with other marketing efforts; emphasis in initial stages will be placed on linking with and expanding electronic media opportunities.

- Work to enhance public access opportunities/facilities at feasible sites.

While the steering group has key roles, trail implementation is even more dependent on leadership from the many organizations managing sites and resources along the James. It is at these locations that the real trail action takes place!

Section 2 of this plan identifies specific actions in each focus area to implement the trail. Section 3 also identifies a number of segment-wide actions. These actions are based on focus group findings, site visits, contributions from participants in a broad stakeholder workshop and consultations with site managers. All of these actions are grouped by focus area and site in the action agenda table shown on pages 58 to 62.

Many of these actions are relatively low in cost and capable of being implemented quickly if funds are available. These are the actions all partners and the steering group will seek to help advance as quickly as feasible. Other actions – such as establishment of new public access sites – will require more site-specific assessment and resources to implement. They are, however, just as important to the long term success of the trail.

The steering group will develop additional information to support trail funding and implementation and to track and coordinate progress on completing projects listed in the action agenda.

Putting each of these actions into effect will require the mobilization of multiple trail partners. But the potential benefits are significant – making the trail more visible and useable for visitors, increasing visitation at trail sites, extending visitor stays and encouraging repeat visitation over the course of the trail, adding tourism dollars to local economies, stimulating development of guided tours along the trail, introducing children and all visitors to compelling stories of earlier inhabitants of the James and how the river has changed over time, and more.

Help make the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail real along the James. Join the Adventure!

- Focus Area Names** (abbreviated)
1. Jamestown & Powhatan Creek
 2. Chickahominy
 3. James River Oxbows
 4. Chippokes and Hog Island
 5. Pagan River and Smithfield

Proposed Actions in Focus Areas

Focus Areas:	1					2		3			4		5						
	Jamestown Settlement	Historic Jamestowne	Powhatan Creek Park	Jamestown Marina	Scotland Ferry	Chickahominy Riverfrt. Park	Chickahominy WMA	Henricus - Dutch Gap	Presquile NWR	Deep Bottom Park	Osborne Park & Landing	Brown & Williamson	Chippokes Plantation St. Pk.	Hog Island WMA	Isle of Wight Museum	Jones Creek Boat Launch	Town of Smithfield	Windsor Castle Park	Route 626 Bridge
Action Categories																			
Visitor Facilities & Recreation Access																			
Paddlecraft - Water and Land Access																			
Paddlecraft - Water to Land Access Only																			
Tour Boat Departure Site																			
Trail Orientation																			
Panels - Focus Area Specific																			
Panels - James Segment																			
Panels - Trailwide																			
Rack Cards - Trail Services																			
Taped Narratives																			
Interpretive Programming & Media																			
Trail Exhibits																			
Kiosk Videos																			
Interpretive Programs																			
Guided Tours - Tour & Paddle Boats																			
Guided Tours - Hike or Bike																			
Signature Events																			
Install Shallop Replica																			

Proposed Actions for Selected Sites Outside of Focus Areas

Action Categories	College Crk., Williamsburg	Fort Monroe	Hampton Roads	Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park	Richmond Metro	Routes 5 and 10	Virginia Capital Trail
Visitor Facilities & Recreation Access							
Paddlecraft - Water and Land Access	■						■
Boat Ramp and Paddlecraft Access				■			
Trail Orientation							
Panels - Focus Area Specific		■					■
Panels - James Segment		■	■		■		
Panels - Trailwide		■	■		■		
Revised Road Itineraries						■	
Wayfinding Signage						■	
Interpretive Programming & Media							
Interpretive Programs		■					
Guided Tours - Hike or Bike							■
Interpretive & Education Center		■					

Proposed Trail Actions Along James Segment - Sorted by Focus Area and Site

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Chickahominy River & Riverfront Park	Chickahominy Riverfront Park	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop series of signature events
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area
		Install standard trail-wide orientation/interpretation kiosk
		Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
		Add link from park website to www.smithtrail.net
	Chickahominy WMA	Develop guided hike tours
Chippokes & Hog Island	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop guided hike or bike tours
		Develop paddlecraft access site on Lower Chippokes Creek
		Develop series of signature events
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install standard trail-wide orientation/interpretive kiosk/panels
		Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area
	Hog Island WMA	Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
James River Oxbows	Brown & Williamson Conservation Area	Develop paddlecraft access site
	Deep Bottom Park	Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
	Henricus Historical Park – Dutch Gap Conservation Area	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop paddlecraft access site
		Develop series of signature events
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels
		Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail services in area
		Osborne Park & Boat Landing
	Install orientation panel for immediate focus area and James segment	
	Presquile NWR	Develop guided boat and paddle tours
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Develop water to land access site for paddlers
Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area		
Virginia Capital Trail	Develop soft launch access site at Turkey Island Creek and Route 5	
Ancarrows Boat Landing	Install orientation panel for immediate focus area and James segment	

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION		
Jamestown & Powhatan Creek	Historic Jamestowne	Develop guided hike or bike tours		
		Develop trail interpretive programs		
		Develop voyage videos tied to kiosks		
		Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels		
		Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment		
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area		
		Consider guided tour boat access site		
		Add geocache location		
	Jamestown Marina	Jamestown Marina	Link park and trail websites	
			Develop guided boat and paddle tours	
			Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area	
		Jamestown Settlement	Jamestown Settlement	Add kayak, bike and GPS rentals
				Develop guided boat and paddle tours
				Develop tour boat departure site
				Develop trail interpretive programs
				Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels
				Install third orientation panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment
Jamestown Settlement	Jamestown Settlement	Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area		
		Install Shallop replica		
Jamestown Settlement	Jamestown Settlement	Link Jamestown Settlement and trail websites		

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION
Jamestown & Powhatan Creek, cont'd.	Multiple Sites	Develop series of signature events
	Powhatan Creek Park	Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
	Powhatan Creek	Request state scenic river study of creek by DCR (Friends of Powhatan Creek)
	Virginia Capital Trail	Develop guided hike or bike tours
		Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
		Add link from VCT website to www.smithtrail.net
		Add John Smith Trail screens to trailhead electronic kiosk at Jamestown Settlement
Pagan River & Smithfield	Isle of Wight Museum	Develop trail exhibit
	Jones Creek Boat Launch	Install orientation panel addressing immediate focus area
	Route 626 Bridge	Develop paddlecraft access site
	Town of Smithfield	Develop guided hike or bike tours
		Develop series of signature events
		Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels
		Install third panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment
		Install rack cards or other media introducing trail related services in area
	Link town website to www.smithtrail.net	
	Windsor Castle Park	Provide kayak and bike rentals
Develop geocache site		
Develop guided boat and paddle tours		
Develop trail interpretive programs		
Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels		
Install third panel addressing immediate focus area and James segment		
Overarching Strategies	College Landing Park, Williamsburg	Develop formal paddlecraft access site
	Fort Monroe	Develop interpretive and education center
		Develop trail interpretive programs
		Install standard trail-wide orientation kiosk/panels

FOCUS AREA	SITE	PROPOSED ACTION	
Overarching Strategies, cont'd.	Hampton Roads	Install orientation panel addressing James segment	
		Install standard trail-wide orientation panel	
	Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park	Develop public boat launch site	
		Install standard trail-wide orientation panel	
	Richmond Metro	Install orientation panel addressing James segment	
		Install standard trail-wide orientation panel	
	Routes 5 and 10	Develop revised James segment itineraries for use along routes 5 and 10	
		Develop standard trail wayfinding signage along routes 5 and 10 and access roads.	
		Scotland Ferry	Develop taped narrative for ferry riders
			Install trail orientation panels on ferry
Install trail way-finding marker at ferry landings			
Cross-cutting		Establish memorandum of understanding between Commonwealth and NPS	
		Develop focus area itineraries	
		Develop guide training and certification program	
		Fabricate standard trail-wide orientation and interpretive panels	
		Provide technical assistance for interpretive planning and development	
		Provide site managers with information resources for developing programming	
		Develop electronic social media applications – facebook, twitter, apps	
		Provide email updates to partners on progress	
		Provide further perspective on Virginia Indians from indigenous people themselves; public programs, interpretive materials, networks of collaborative organizations	
		Promote trail development in 2013 VA Outdoors Plan and state grant rounds	
Develop and implement promotional and marketing strategy			

James River Segment Planning Team

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*Planning team members at
Henricus Historical Park*



The James River, looking downstream from the I-295 bridge

