

The RAFT: Maintaining Progress in Coastal Virginia

Grant # NA23NOS4190255 Task 91.02

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management Program



INSTITUTE for
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together



The RAFT

Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool

One-Year Progress Review Workshop for the Cities of Hopewell and Petersburg

April 12, 2024
1:30-3:30 PM



INSTITUTE for
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together



COASTAL COLLABORATOR
VIRGINIA TECH



WELCOME & WORKSHOP GOALS



- Reflect on the past 12 months of implementation
- Share successes, lessons learned, and challenges from implementation of Resilience Action Checklists
- Highlight products from RAFT process and partnerships
- Explore opportunities for collaboration and continued resilience work moving forward

Many thanks to funders that support bringing The RAFT to the Crater Region:

- *Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE)*
- *Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



This project, Task #91.02 was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant FY23 #NA23NOS4190255 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, or any of its subagencies.

AGENDA REVIEW

- 1:30 Welcome and Overview of RAFT Timeline**
- 1:40 Locality Presentations: Community Achievements & Impact of RAFT**
- 2:00 Faculty Flash Presentations: Products from Working with the Cities**
- 2:25 Opportunities for Continued Resilience Work with RAFT Partners**
- 2:50 Moving Forward Together: RAFT-Facilitated Session on Next Steps**
- 3:00 Adjourn**

THE RAFT PROCESS

3 Step Process

1. QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

- RAFT Resilience Scorecard
- Interviews & Focus Groups with Community Leaders

2. SETTING PRIORITIES

- Resilience Action Workshop
- 1-Yr Resilience Action Checklists
- Locality Implementation Teams

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- One Year Ongoing Support & Technical Assistance
- One Year Progress Review Workshop



RAFT TIMELINE IN PETERSBURG & HOPEWELL

Current Status –

- We have completed a year of Implementation Team meetings
- Localities have received:
 - Direct assistance on resilience priorities
 - Connections to expertise on topics such as green infrastructure, transportation and broadband mapping, Comprehensive Plan resilience language

Today –

- Localities will share progress and lessons learned.
- We will discuss next steps for continued support

1. Scorecard, Interviews & Focus Groups

- Resilience Assessment (Summer/Fall 2022)

2. Community Workshop

- Resilience Action Checklist (February 2023)

3. Implementation

- 12 months of focused action (March 2023-March 2024)

Locality Presentations:

Community Achievements
& Impact of the RAFT



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April 12, 2024

The RAFT City of Hopewell

Kelly Davis

Senior Planner of Development,
City of Hopewell,



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
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City of Hopewell

Resilience Action Checklist

- ☐ ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
- ☐ INCREASE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON BROAD RESILIENCE STRATEGIES
- ☐ REDEVELOP THE MARINA
- ☐ UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Root Issues

A. UPTAKE OF RESILIENCE INFORMATION

B. UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

C. AWARENESS RAISING OF CITY LEVEL RESILIENCE BUILDING EFFORTS

The RAFT City of Petersburg

Naomi Siodmok

Director, Planning and Community Development
City of Petersburg



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Petersburg's Resilience Action Checklist

1. Incorporate all residents of the city of Petersburg into resilience planning efforts.
2. Develop landscape plans/standards to protect and expand urban green spaces while mitigating the water quality, air quality, and heat impacts of development.
3. Diversify the economic base for the Petersburg community.
4. Connect people to goods and services, as well as critical infrastructure through transit and broadband.
5. Incentivize capital improvements for public infrastructure, including Petersburg city public schools and public safety facilities.



Successes

- Creation of new relationship, which leads to new efforts.
- New perspectives from students to get us think creatively and equitably.
- Facilitation - Sierra



Successes

- **Creation of relationship, which lead to new resilience efforts.**
- New perspectives from students to get us think creatively and equitably.
- Facilitation - Sierra



Green Infrastructure Center

Learned about the Green Infrastructure Center and funding such as the Community Forest Revitalization Program.



Now have a grant and partnership to create:

- A tree ordinance.
- A tree master plan and maintenance plan.
- Community groups to lead plantings in areas of need.





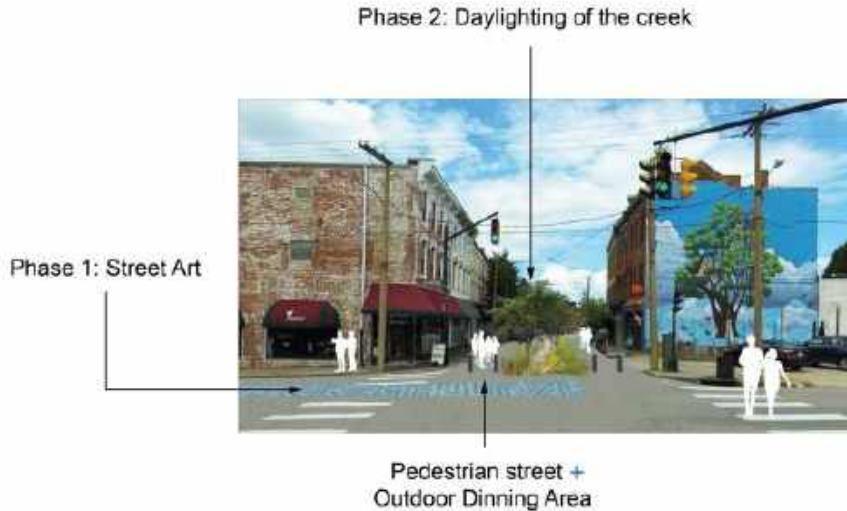
Successes

- Creation of new relationship, which leads to new efforts.
- **New perspectives from students to get us think creatively and equitably.**
- Facilitation - Sierra



UVA Course Work - Green Infrastructure

Daylight Brickhouse Run Creek and transform its surroundings into vibrant parks, fostering community engagement, and creating revenue-generating opportunities.



Economy Generation

Streets with walking and cycling projects can increase retail sales by 30% or more.



Property Prices Rise

Property values more generally were found to incrementally increase with proximity to urban green space.



UVA Course Work -

Background:

Shared Micromobility here refers to single-rider, lightweight vehicles with a 25 mph maximum speed available for rent by the minute. These are often electric scooters and bicycles operated by a private company permitted to operate by the city.

Purpose:

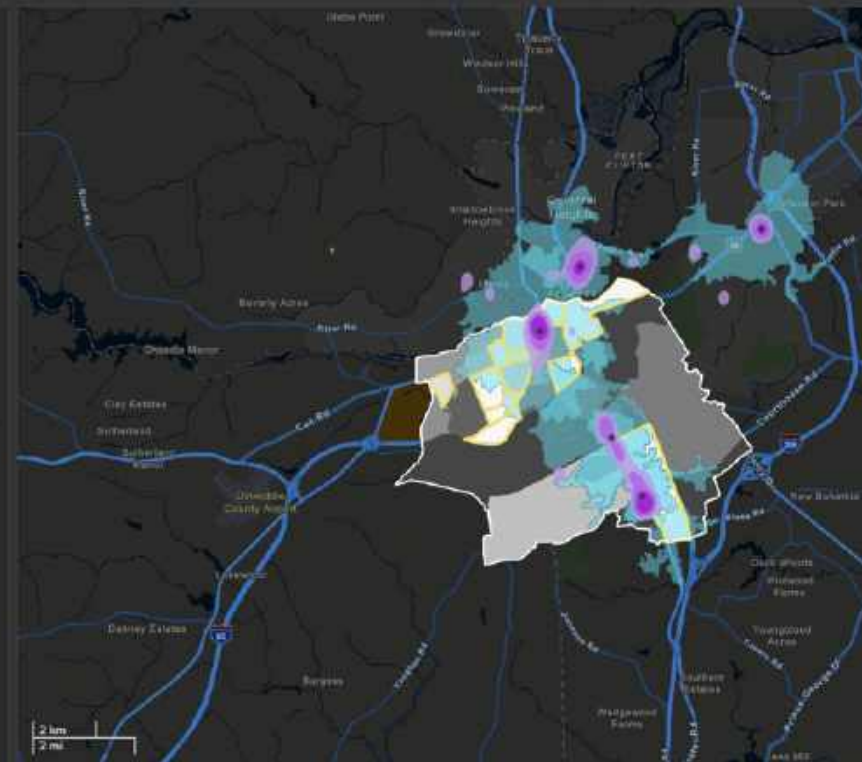
This dashboard aims to determine the utility of bringing shared micromobility to Petersburg, with special attention paid to transit riders using micromobility devices to get from their origin to a transit stop or from a transit stop to their destination (first-mile/ last-mile problem).

Method:

1. Determine likely rider destinations (bus stops, schools, activity centers)
2. Define polygons of areas from which likely rider destinations are reachable, called isochrones
3. Analyse isochrone coverage- where in Petersburg are micromobility devices most useful?
4. Consider demographics- will the groups most likely to benefit from micromobility have access?

For a more detailed look at the methodology used (including source code), click [here](#).

Dashboard created in 2023 by Emily Branch, Sylvia Lam, and Cade Johnson for PLAC 5616, Civic Technology at the University of Virginia.





Successes

- Creation of new relationship, which leads to new efforts.
- New perspectives from students to get us think creatively and equitably.
- **Facilitation**



Challenges

- Incorporating residents in the resilience efforts beyond the Comprehensive Plan.
- Getting from conversation/ideas to implementation.
- Keeping the right players engaged and involved.
- Getting multiple implementation strategies going at once for the goals.



Lessons Learned

- RAFT is an opportunity to get diverse groups together looking to achieve common goals.
- Local organizations are interested in resiliency in Petersburg and we should keep those relationships going after RAFT.



Next Steps and Future Opportunities

- Continued relationships with local organizations focused on resiliency.
- Opportunities to utilize student ideas and tie funding to them.

Q&A



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Faculty Flash Presentations:

Products from Working with the Cities through RAFT



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Karen Firehock

Director, Green Infrastructure Center

Lecturer, UVA Urban & Environmental Planning and

Landscape Architecture



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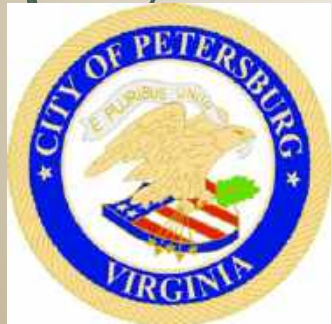
Conserving Natural and Cultural Assets

Strategies for the Green
Infrastructure of
Petersburg, Virginia

by the Green Infrastructure Cities Class
Fall 2023



Thanks to our funders and students at UVA!



Shaima Alharbi

Mariya Anwar

Anna Bernstein

Chris Chao

Sean Michael Cursain

Maddy Duval

Vishal Jayan

Connor Loeber

Joe Mallon

Shunan Na

Nkosinobubelo Ndebele

Charlotte Pitts

Andre Rezaie

Abigail Sepulveda Diaz

Xinyi Shao

Elizabeth Suffa

Trent Vera

Zoque Wahid

John Ward

Emily Routman

Key Focus Areas and Teams

q Trees & Habitats

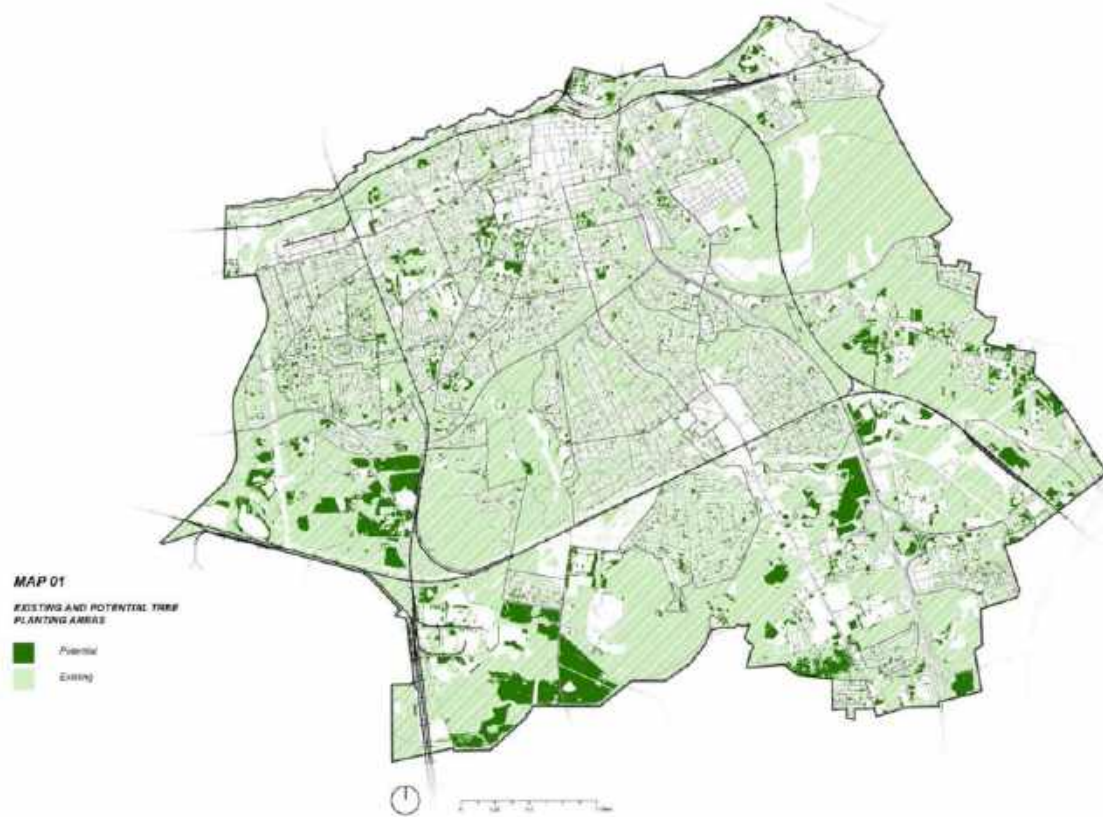
q Water

q Recreation

q Culture



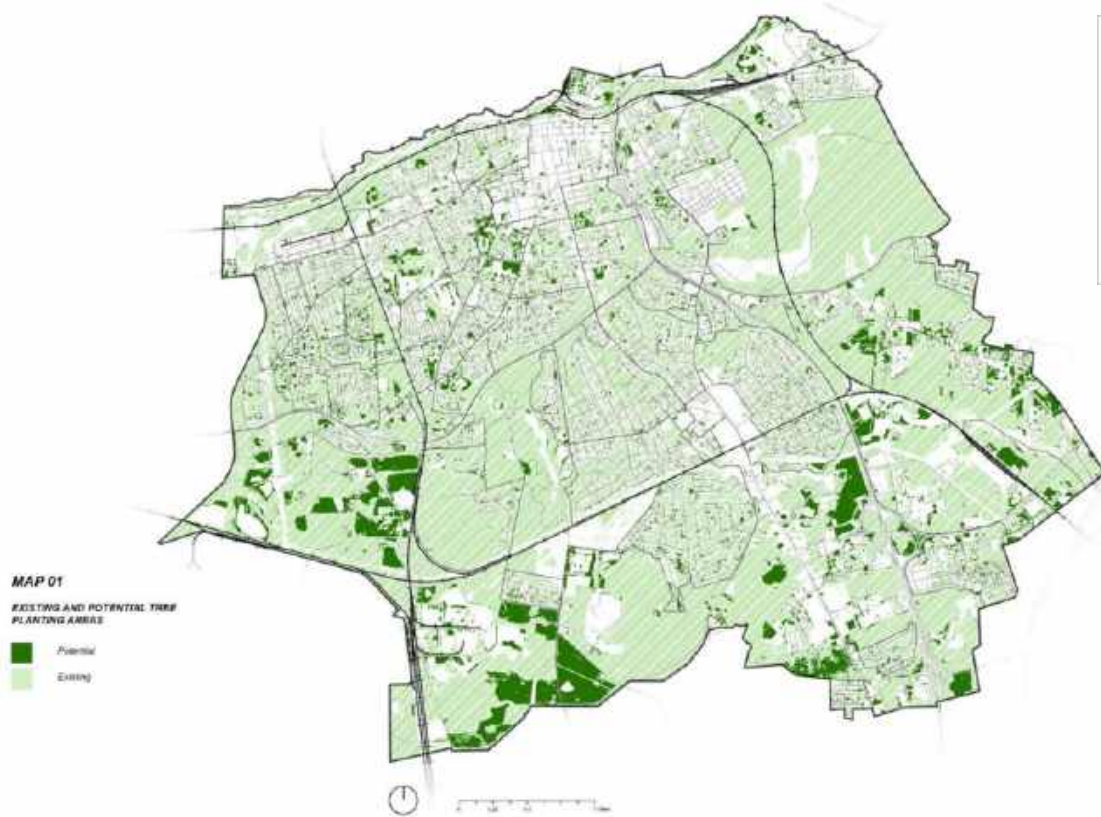
Urban Forests & Habitats - Canopy Overview



Benefits of urban trees:

- Retain and control **stormwater runoff**
- Improve **air, soil, and water quality**
- Reduce **surface temperature** and mitigate urban heat islands
- Bolster **community health**
- Enhance **economic stability and raise home values**

Urban Forests & Habitats - Canopy Overview

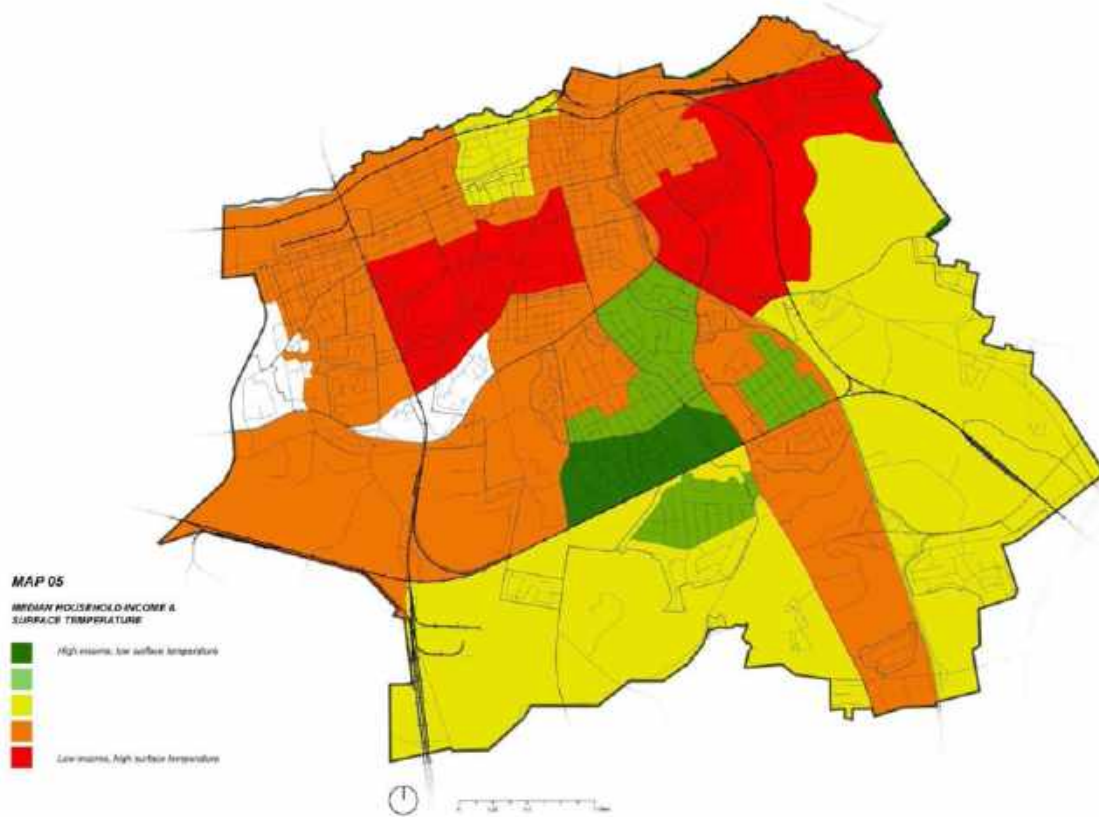


47%
canopy



56.8%
possible
canopy

Urban Forests & Habitats - Household Income



Observations:

Areas with high % of impervious surfaces & high surface temperatures = lower income

Opportunity:

Address environmental inequalities head on with strategic urban tree-canopy initiatives and programs in key neighborhoods



WATER TEAM

Abigail Sepulveda | Joe Mallon | Lizzie Suffa | Vishal Jayan | Zoque Wahid

Water – Challenges

30% of Petersburg is currently comprised of **impervious surfaces** while most of the waterways in the city are categorized as impaired.

Large parking lots with impervious surfaces lead to stormwater pooling.

Multiple road surface materials creates junctions that leads to potholes and puddles during heavy rains.

What kind of stormwater system does Petersburg have?



Water – Opportunities

By planting **50% of the potential planting area**, we can **increase stormwater uptake by 4.8 million gallons (4 Olympic swimming pools!)**.

Pocket parks can double up as retention ponds in the event of a storm.

The city's existing anti-pollution campaign can be strengthened to reduce trash and debris flowing into the drains



Water - Goal 2 – Objective 1-Tasks

Decrease impervious surfaces within the city.

Identify and transform vacant lots in flood-prone areas into stormwater management parks and retention ponds.



[Parking lot transformed into a stormwater retention pond at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas](#)

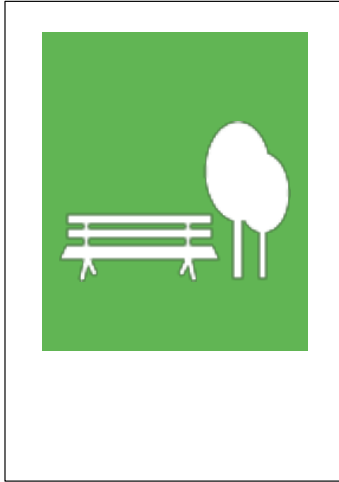


Source: psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/manchester-stormwater-factsheet.pdf



Source: Manchester Stormwater Park - NW Cascade

Manchester Stormwater Park



PARKS AND RECREATION

PLAC 5800/LAR 5290 Green Infrastructure: Green Cities

ANNA LOU BERNSTEIN / MARIYA ANWAR / ANDRE REZAIE /
JOHN WARD / SEAN MICHAEL CURSAIN

Why Parks?



NEWS

What makes a city healthy? Study puts Petersburg's 'health' at the bottom of the Va. list.

Towards a healthier Petersburg: A series exploring the reasons and faces behind Petersburg's poor health outcomes, and what's being done to right the wrongs.



16.7%

Diabetes Prevalence

National Median: 10.4%



44.6%

Obesity Prevalence

National Median: 36.2%



14.2%

Unemployment Rate

National Median: 6.5%



\$45,085

Median Household Income

National Median: \$58,759



22.6%

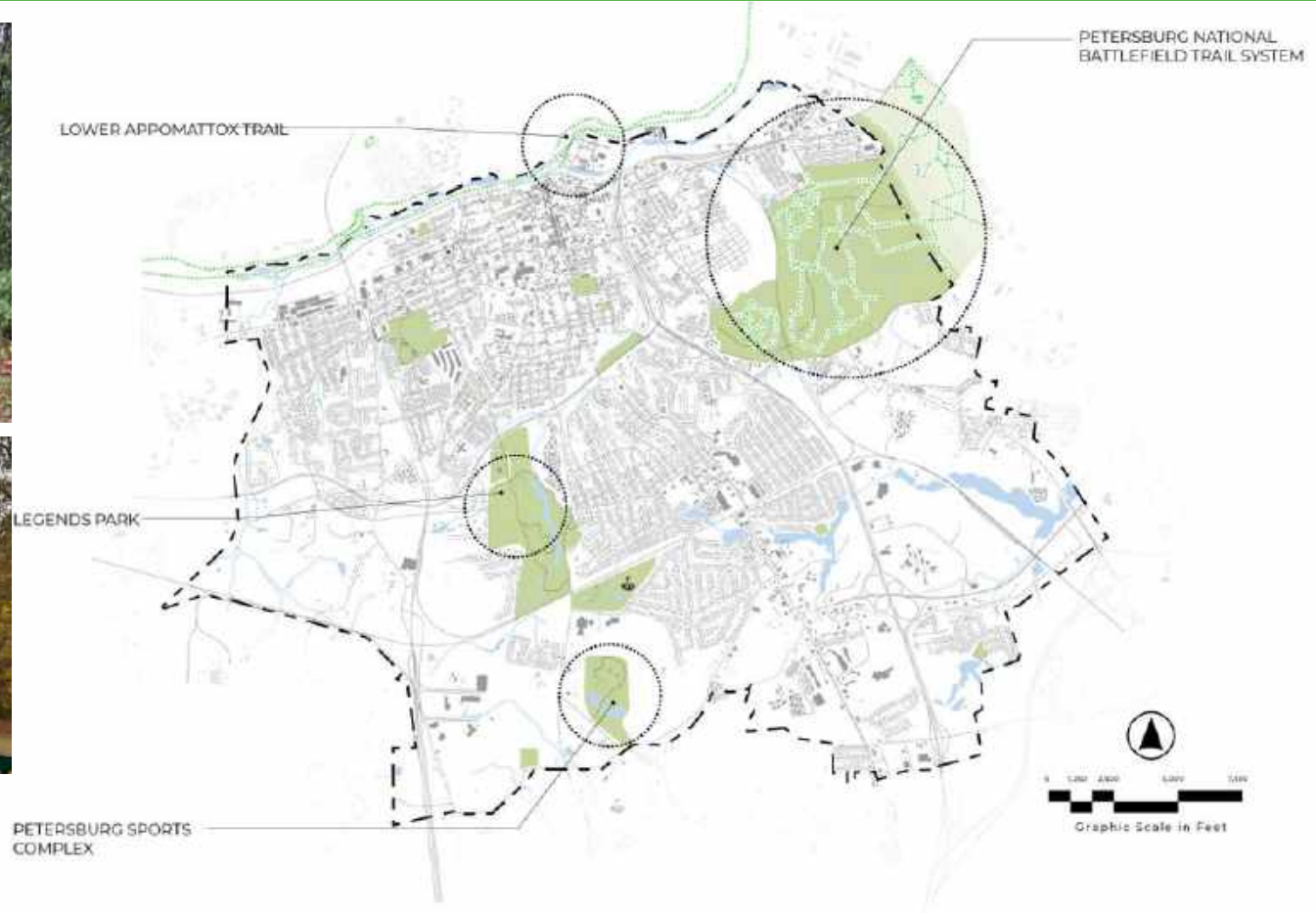
Poverty Rate

National Median: 13.6%

(Overview of Petersburg City, 2023)

City of Petersburg Parks Overview

18 municipally-owned park sites

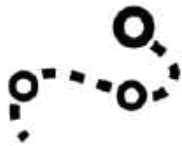


Outcomes

Ensure every resident in the City has **access to a park within a 10-minute walk time** (*Petersburg 2040 Comprehensive Plan, 2021 update; Trust for Public Land*) **improved Physical and mental health outcomes.**

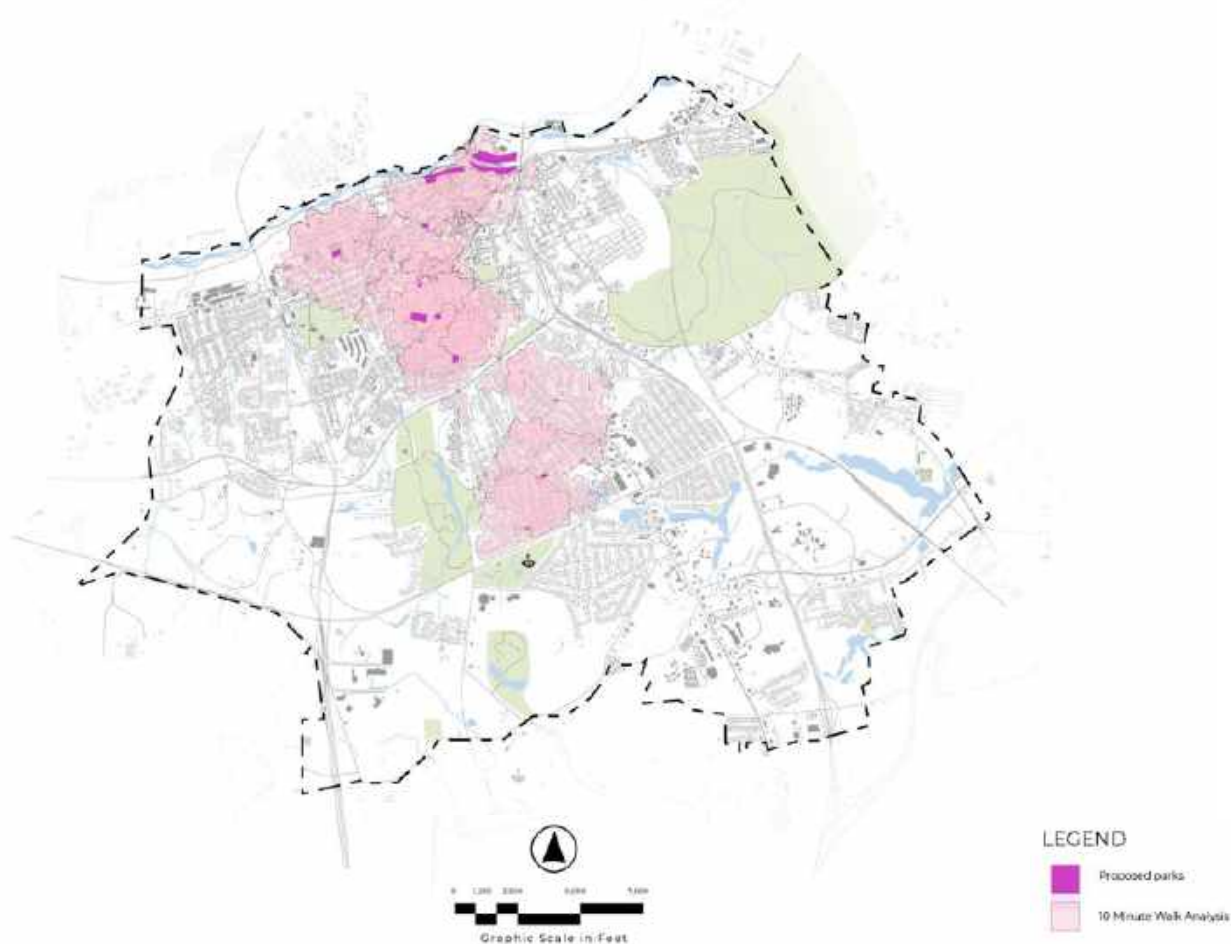


Identify and designate a trail network throughout the city which **connects parks and green spaces, culturally and historically significant sites**, and other **places of interest** to **celebrate Petersburg's rich heritage** and **generate economic benefits.**



Top image: Peter Jones Trading Station at Tavern Park
Bottom image: Wilcox Lake at Legends Park

PROPOSED PARKS



Summary + Takeaways

- Potential to expand opportunities for **nature-based recreation** in Petersburg
- Potential to integrate **natural systems** into the urban environment
- A robust, connected park network provides **economic benefits**
- Equitable access to parks and trails **improves residents' health and well-being**



Appomattox River Lower Falls

Culture and History - Overview

- Value in protecting, preserving, and celebrating Petersburg's cultural and historic assets
- Significance of acknowledging and honoring underrepresented stories and heritage in addition to Revolutionary War/Civil War history
- Evaluation of existing assets (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) from site visits to Petersburg
- Create more opportunities for revenue for the City and local businesses



Culture and History - Issues and Opportunities

Top Issues Identified:

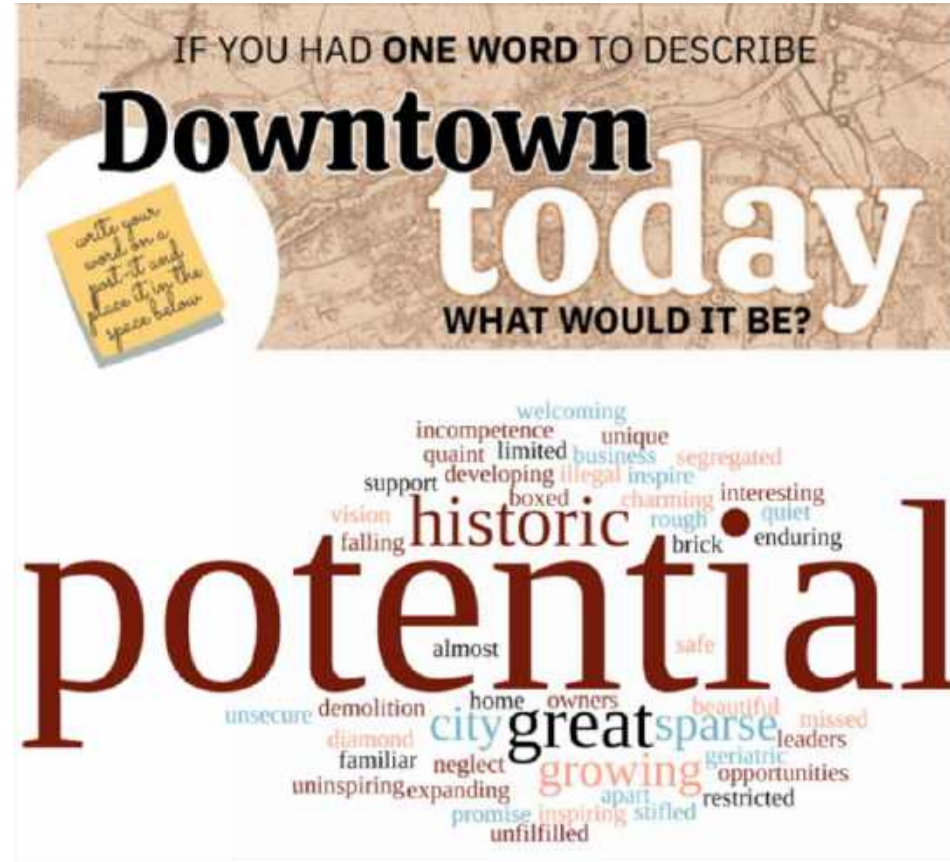
- Lack of cohesive branding for tourism
- Lack of wayfinding signage
- Lack of continuous historic signage
- Many existing wayfinding/historic signage out of date or hard to read
- No distinct tourism website
- Entrance corridors could be stronger
- Poor tree canopy coverage in Old Towne area



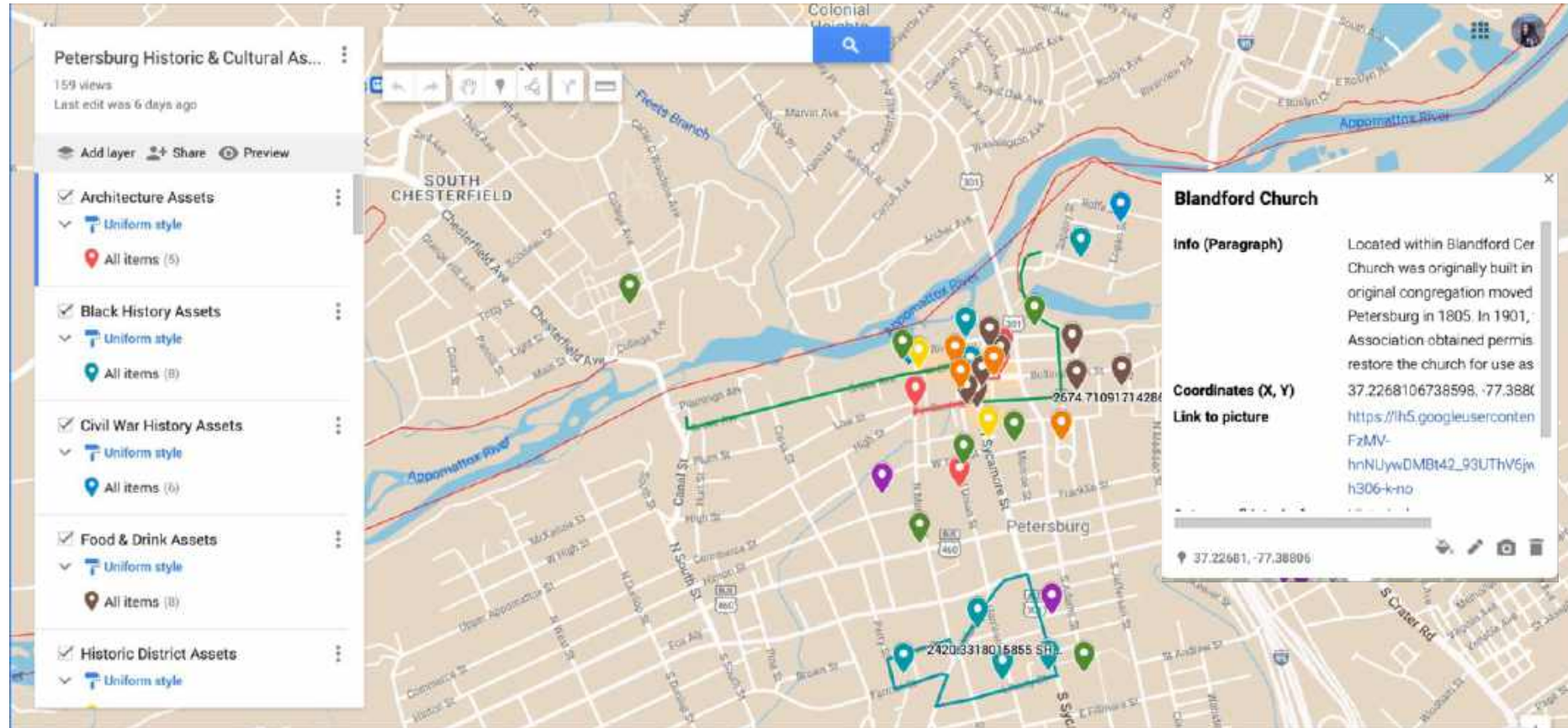
Culture and History - Issues and Opportunities

Top Opportunities Identified:

- Ample culture and history to be highlighted
- Underutilized walkable street grid with many vacant historic assets
- Ability to highlight non-Civil War histories, such as Civil Rights and Underground Railroad
- Murals and other public art could become a highlight
- Potential to connect Appomattox River Trail with cultural/historic sites



Culture and History - Updated Historic & Cultural Assets Map



NEXT>>>>

- Petersburg is considering how to include options in city plans and policies
- GIC is assisting the city with drafting an improved tree protection ordinance.
- UVA students are now developing site designs for 4 sites to provide green space and reduce stormwater
- Petersburg has applied to be adopted to create a tree care and planting plan and canopy goal.



Kun Xie

Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University
Department of Civil & Environmental
Engineering



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Mapping Pedestrian Facilities with an AI-powered System

Kun Xie, PhD

Assistant Professor, Civil & Environ. Eng.

Director, Transportation Informatics Lab

Email: kxie@odu.edu



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

Automate Mapping of Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Train computer vision models to detect sidewalks, crosswalks, and footpaths from aerial images
- Convert the detection results into geo-referenced polygons
- Generate a topologically interconnected centerline network



Methodology

- Step 1. Extract aerial image of ODU campus from Google Maps



Methodology

- Step 2. Split the aerial image into tiles



0_0_0.png



0_1_1.png



1_0_2.png



1_1_3.png



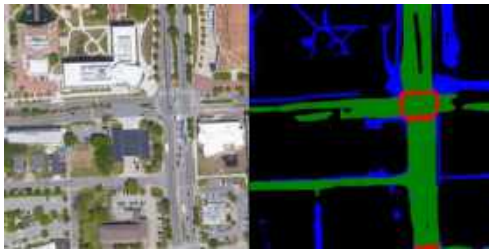
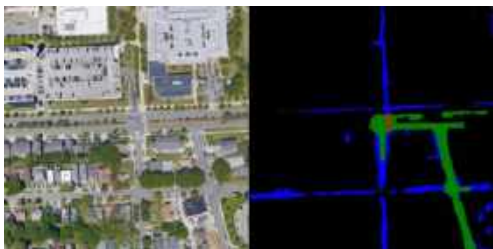
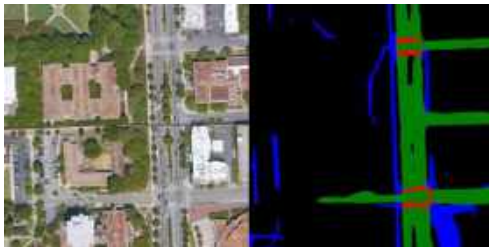
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2_1_5.png

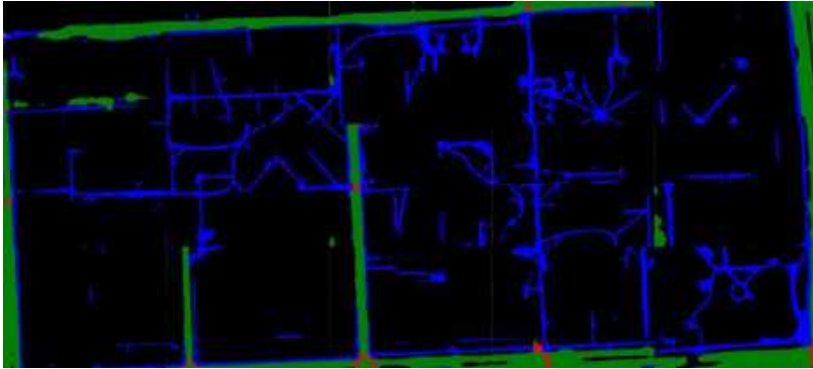
Methodology

- Step 3. Detect sidewalks and crosswalks from each tile

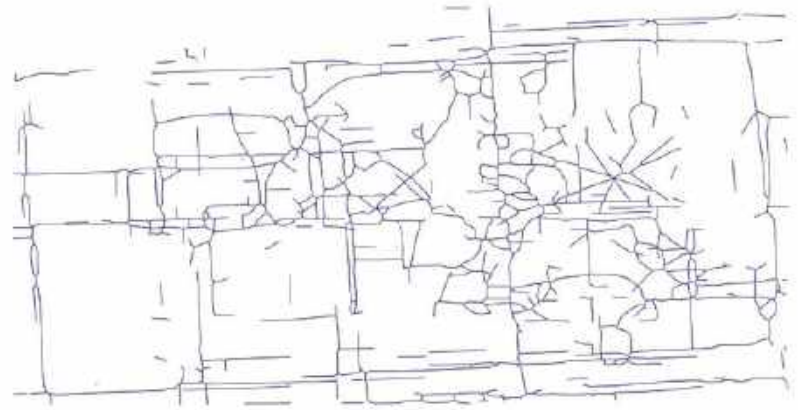


Methodology

- Step 4. Stitch tiles and generate the centerline network



Geo-referenced polygons



Centerline network

Extract Pedestrian Infrastructure from Hopewell and Petersburg



Hopewell



Petersburg

Extract Pedestrian Infrastructure from Hopewell and Petersburg

- Good Examples



Hopewell



Petersburg

Extract Pedestrian Infrastructure from Hopewell and Petersburg

- Bad Examples



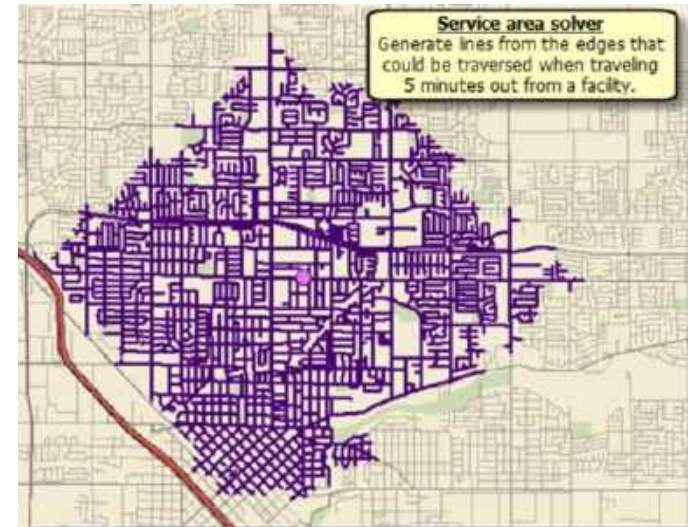
Hopewell



Petersburg

Future Opportunities

- Better aerial imagery data
- Use additional input data - OpenStreetMap
- Label more data for training
- Better AI models
- Evaluate pedestrian accessibility



Identify the accessible areas through the pedestrian infrastructure



Questions?

Kun Xie, PhD

Assistant Professor, Civil & Environ. Eng.

Director, Transportation Informatics Lab

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Bev Wilson

Associate Professor,
University of Virginia Urban &
Environmental Planning Department



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Leslie Hoglund

Clinical Assistant Professor, ODU School
of Community and Environmental Health



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Q&A



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Opportunities for Continued Resilience Work with RAFT Partners



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Crater Planning District Commission

Kit Friedman

Planner II, Environment & Resilience,
Transportation, GIS
Crater Planning District Commission



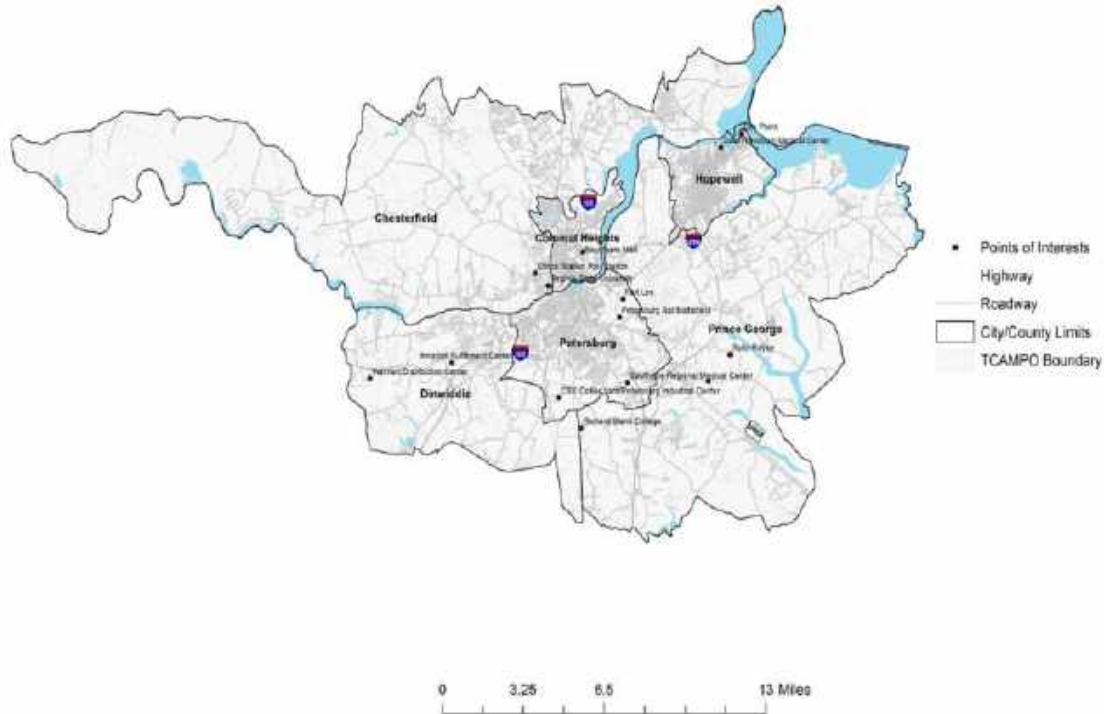
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Interdisciplinary Planning for a Resilience Future

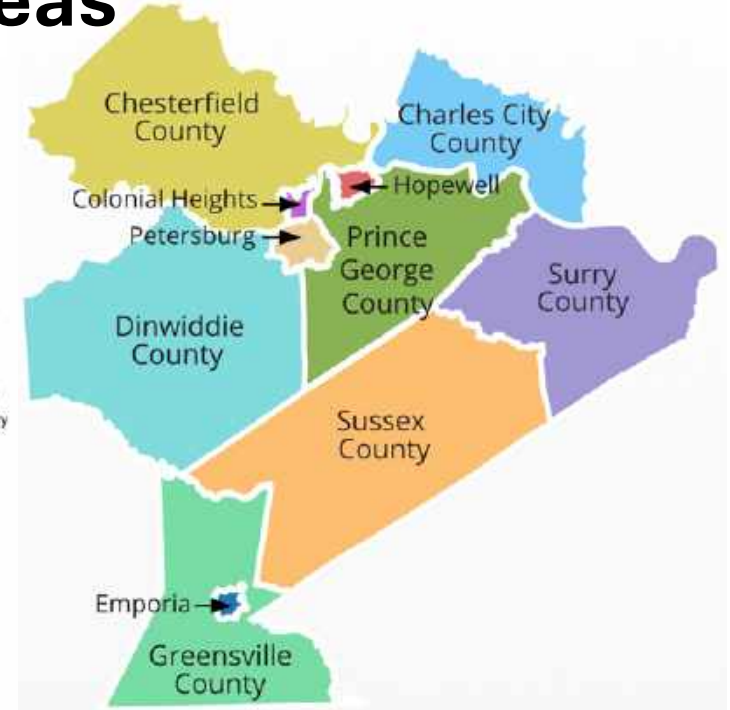
Kit Friedman

*Crater Planning District
Commission & Tri-Cities Area MPO*

Service Areas



**Tri-Cities Area MPO
(TCAMPO)**



Crater PDC

Multimodal Mobility



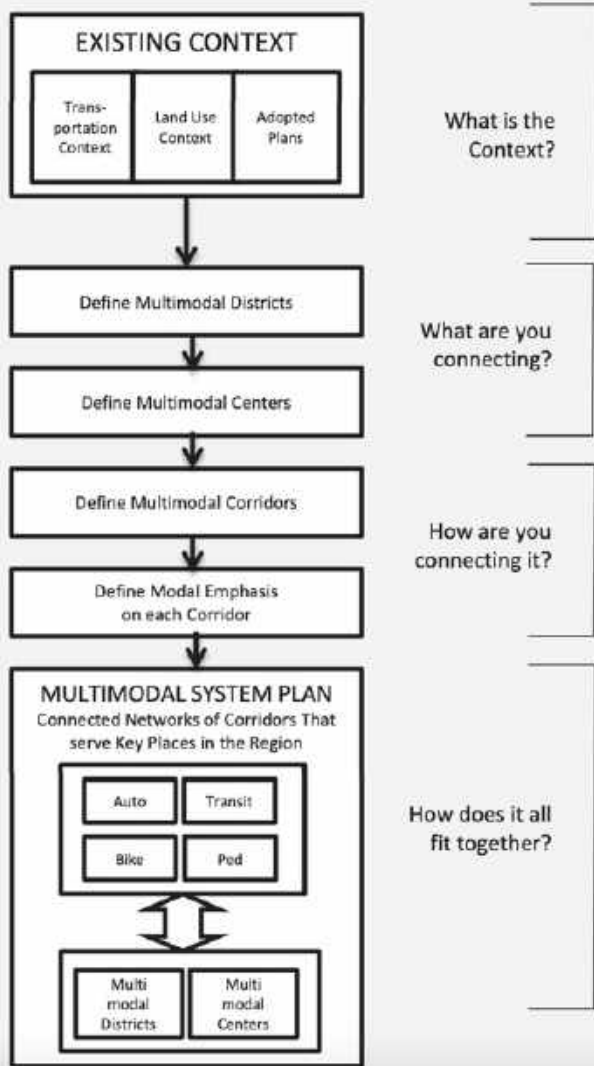
What is multimodal mobility & why is it important?



Roughly 20% of Petersburg residents do not have a car, with some areas exceeding 50%.



American communities are developed around car-centric convenience, at the expense of accessibility via public transit, walking, and biking



TCAMPO Regional Multimodal Mobility Plan

- Kicked off in March 2024, estimated to be completed by Spring 2025
- Examining existing conditions and mapping multimodal districts, centers, and corridors
- Public engagement on the street, in public meetings, and via surveys
- Needs assessment: what are key locations we can target to improve regional connectivity?
- Recommendations: Identification of 10 places across the region that, with strategic improvements, will greatly improve accessibility/multimodal mobility
- Implementation: What types of funding sources can we use to ensure these recommended solutions become reality?
- Plans to expand the plan to include the entire CPDC service area upon completion

Crater PDC

Resilience Plan

- Funded by the Community Flood Preparedness Fund through the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, slated to kick off summer 2024
- Encompasses all eleven CPDC localities
- Examines flooding, heat islands, air and water pollution, and wildland conservation/restoration
- Creates a new position at CPDC for a full-time environmental planner and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM)



Other Ongoing CPDC Efforts

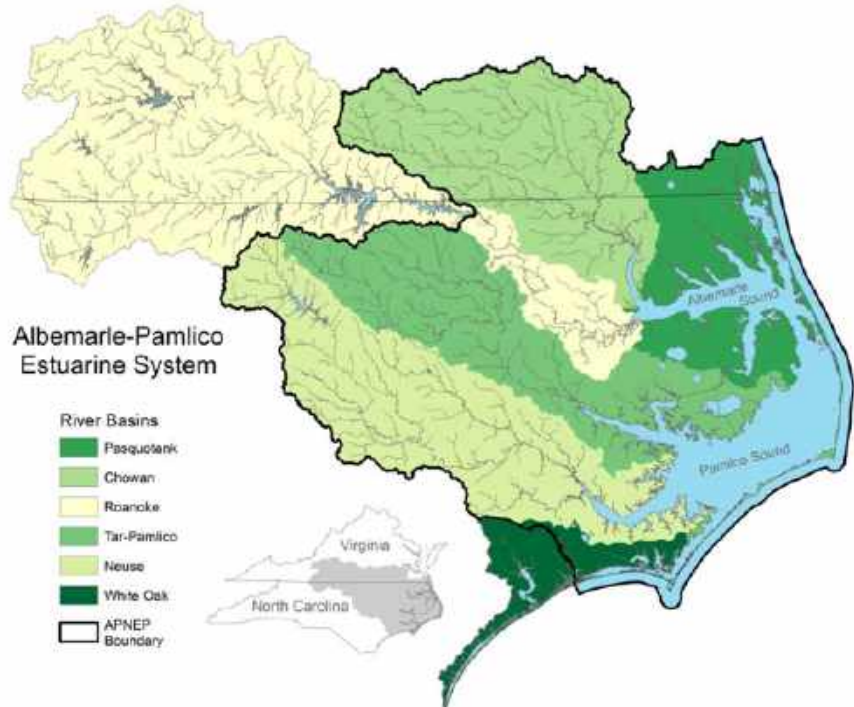
Albemarle-Chowan Watershed
Roundtable revival

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM)
Services to localities free of charge

Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant for
Charles City County tree planting

Hopewell EPA BMP Tree Planting Grant

Environmental Resource Management
Task Force



Questions?



Contact Info

Kit Friedman

Phone: 804-861-1666 x 260

Email: kfriedman@craterpdc.org

Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

**Environment & Resilience, Transportation, & GIS
Planner**

**Crater Planning District Commission & Tri-Cities
Area MPO**

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR)

Heather Barrar
Regional Trails Program Director
FOLAR



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Empowering Conservation, Stewardship, and Sustainability

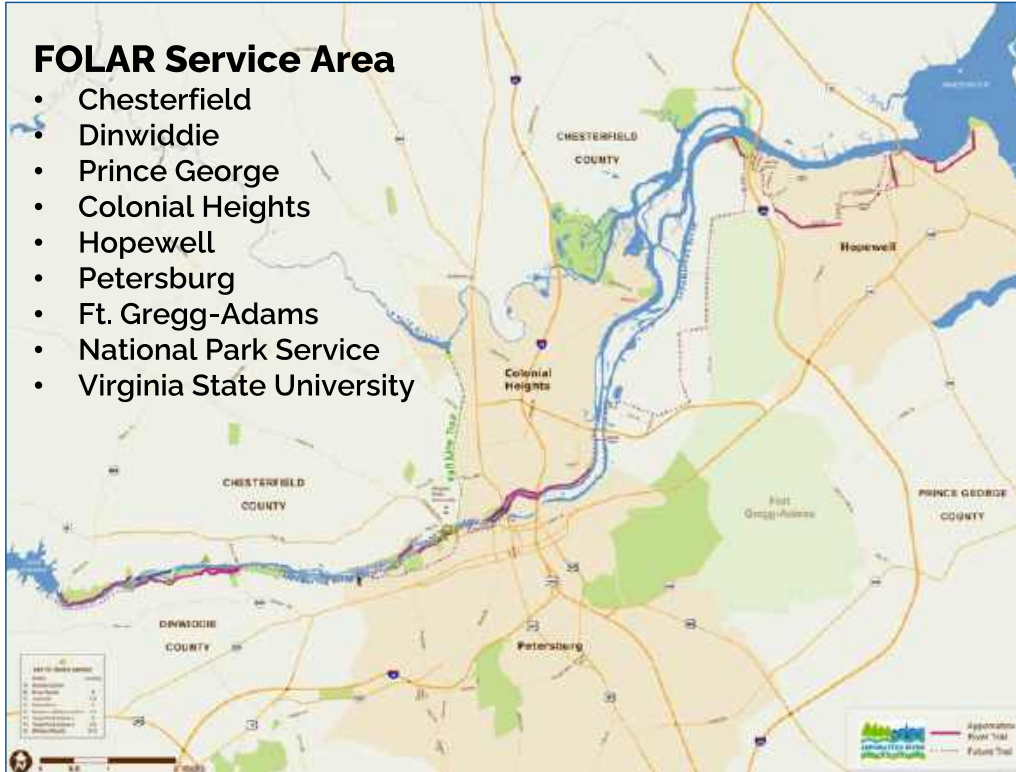


We envision a welcoming Blueway-Greenway of extraordinary beauty and cultural richness that forever connects nature, people, and vibrant communities.

Appomattox River Blueway-Greenway

FOLAR Service Area

- Chesterfield
- Dinwiddie
- Prince George
- Colonial Heights
- Hopewell
- Petersburg
- Ft. Gregg-Adams
- National Park Service
- Virginia State University



FOLAR Appointed and Elected Board of Directors

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Kimberly Conley, *Secretary*, Assistant Director
Citizen Information and Resources

Mark Endries, CPA, Senior Project Manager, Luck Stone Corp

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Karen Epps, Colonial Heights Office of Economic Development
Vacant

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Tammie Collins, Deputy County Administrator of Dinwiddie County

Sam Hayes, *Chair*, Sr. Transportation Engineer,
Dinwiddie Planning Commissioner

HOPEWELL

Mark Haley, Retired Hopewell City Manager

Paul Reynolds, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, UVA

PETERSBURG

Wayne Crocker, Director of the Petersburg Public Library System

Wert Smith, President of Owen Printing Company

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Keith Rotzoll, Director of Prince George Parks and Recreation

Susan Watson, Biologist at VA Dept. of Wildlife Resources

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

M. Omar Faison, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (CPDC)

Jay Ellington, Executive Director

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

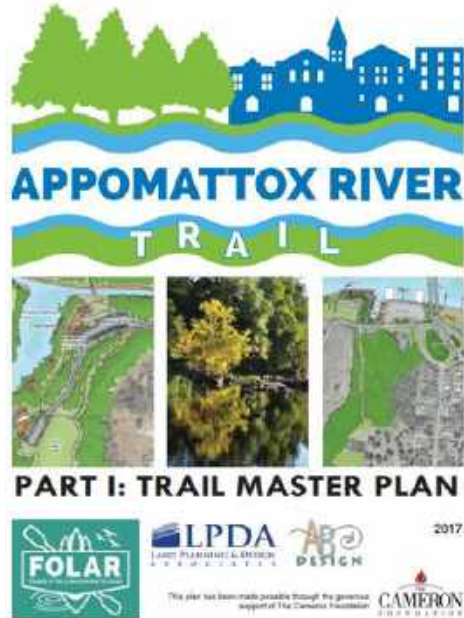
Betty Estes, *Treasurer*, Owner/Realtor at Rockwater Realty

Mike Golden, Retired Director of Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation

Chris Rizzo, Retired Master Deputy of Police in Loudon County

Christian Volk, Ph.D., Water Quality Manager of Virginia American Water

Appomattox River Trail Master Plan



Planning Efforts

2023 Accomplishments:

- Master Plan - Appomattox River Regional Park (Prince George)

2024 Goals:

- Construction Plans – Appomattox River Regional Park (Prince George)
- Design Plan – Ferndale Park (Dinwiddie & Petersburg)



Ferndale Park and Appomattox River Trail Master Plan
DRAFT Master Plan



Land Conservation

2023 Accomplishments:

- 7.9 acres acquired (Petersburg)
- 34.8 acres protected (Chesterfield)



2024 Goals:

- 1.8 acres donated (Petersburg)
- 9.7 acres protected by easement (Petersburg)
- Seek grant funding for shared trailhead park – intersection of Appomattox River Trail & Fall Line Trail (Petersburg)



24 % Corridor Conserved = 906.9 acres

Trail Construction

2023 Accomplishments:

- 3.0 miles of bike lanes (Hopewell)
- 864' extension of Hopewell Riverwalk

2024 Goals:

- 0.42 miles of trail in extended east from Roslyn Landing Park (Colonial Heights)



Natural Resource Management

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

Habitat loss and invasive plants are the leading cause of native biodiversity loss. Changes in plant community diversity reduce the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat.

Restoration helps increase resiliency of the river corridor and climate change adaption



NATIVE PLANTINGS

2023 Accomplishments:

- Remove invasives & site preparation

2024 Goals:

- Riparian Buffer Planting (Colonial Heights)
- University Boulevard Native Garden Plantings (Petersburg)



JAMES RIVER BUFFER PROGRAM

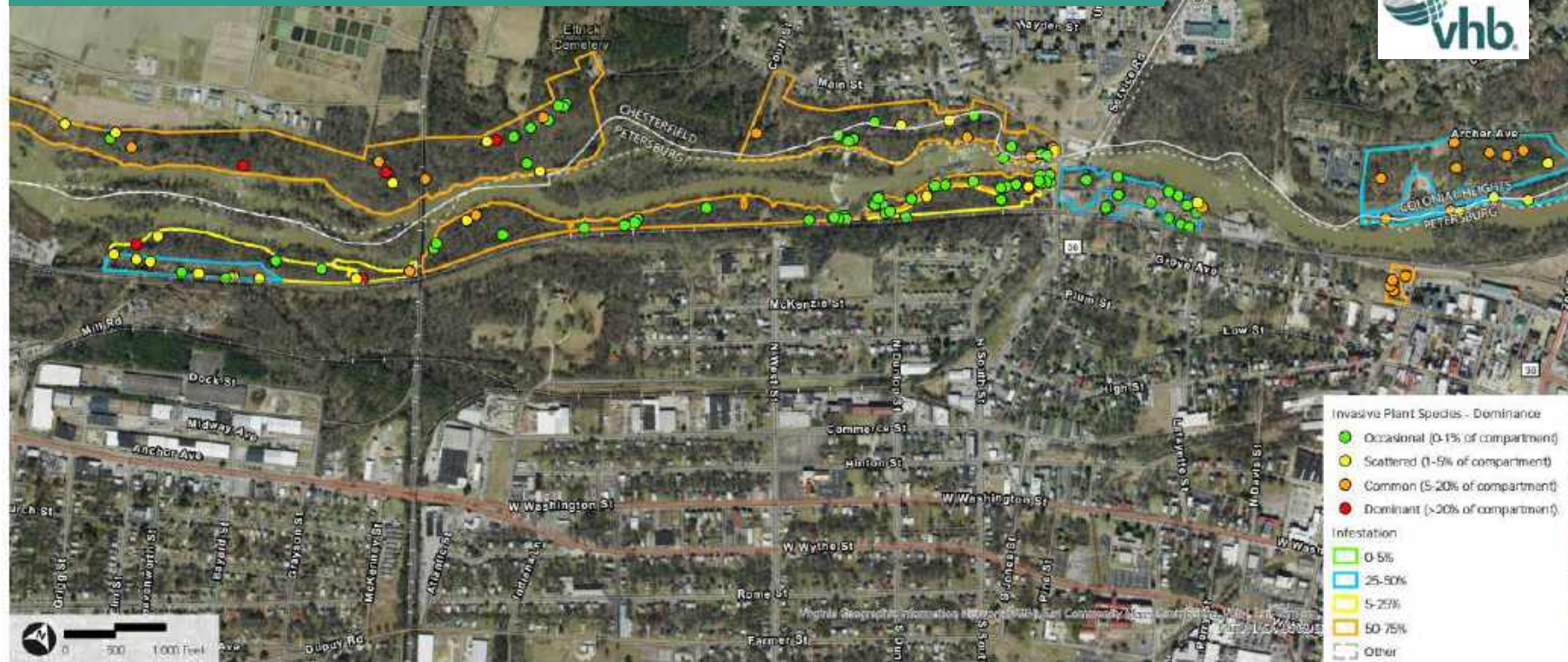
A partnership program from the James River Association and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, supported by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Setting a National Standard

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOLAR is improving forest health through invasive plant management and natural area restoration along the Appomattox River Blueway-Greenway Corridor in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry.



Volunteer Engagement



261 Total Volunteers

1,219 Hours Served

26 Activities

\$38,764 Total Volunteer Labor Value



2023 Trail Counts

Two Methods

- TRAFx Counters – Collects data year-round (infrared)
- Volunteer Trail Counts – Collects data twice a year



LOCATION	Ferndale (Dinwiddie)	University Boulevard (Petersburg)	Appamattuck Park (Colonial Heights)	Roslyn Landing (Colonial Heights)	Appomattox River Regional Park (Prince George)	Riverside Greenway (Hopewell)	Hopewell Riverwalk (Hopewell)
TRAIL TRAFFIC	18,457	25,490	17,001	51,705	4,605	1,699	54,741

TOTAL TRAFFIC: 173,698



Friends of the Lower Appomattox River

Appomattox River Trail

Events

What We Do

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About



Trail Map

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Appomattox River Trail Viewer

User Tips



All Features

Outdoor Recreation

Attractions

Marinas

Parking

Restrooms

Picnic Areas

Paddling Access

Boat Launches



Appomattox River Trail



Outdoor Recreation



Attractions



Marinas



John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area

description This 89-acre park provides trail and canoe/kayak access along the fall zone of the Appomattox River. Hikers can explore a 2.6 mile section of the Appomattox River Trail. Canoeists and kayakers have the option of floating 1 mile to the abutment dam, the point of no return for paddling back up to the Radcliffe





State of the Trail

February 22

2024 Events



5K Trail Run-Walk

April 13



Community Service Awards

May 31



Paddle Battle

September 21



LEARN MORE AT

folar-va.org/events/calendar-of-events



2024 Volunteering Opportunities

LEARN MORE AT folar-virginia.org/join-us/volunteer OR EMAIL ELISE (eneuscheler@folar-virginia.org)

January 15 MLK Day of Service

February 17 Stewardship Saturday (Pruning Workshop)

March 9 Stewardship Saturday (Riparian Buffer Planting)

March 23 Stewardship Saturday (Native Planting)

April 6 Stewardship Saturday (Annual Appomattox River Clean-Up)

May 9 & 11 Spring Trail Count Days

May 18 Stewardship Saturday

June 1 Stewardship Saturday (Chesapeake Bay Foundation 'Clean the Bay Day')

July 13 Stewardship Saturday

August 17 Stewardship Saturday

September 5 & 7 Fall Trail Count Days

September 14 Stewardship Saturday (James River Advisory Council Regional Clean-Up)

October 19 Stewardship Saturday

November 16 Stewardship Saturday

December 7 Stewardship Saturday

235 N Market St. | Petersburg VA

Ribbon Cutting – May 31





COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Join us for an evening awards celebration that honors the impact of individuals and organizations who have made a difference for our community through exemplary service and philanthropy in support of conserving and protecting the Appomattox River for all to enjoy

Save the Date - May 31



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FOLAR - Friends of the
Lower Appomattox River



FOLAR - Friends of the
Lower Appomattox River

Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership (PHOPs)

Lisa Homa

Virginia Tech Center for Public Health
Practice & Research,
PHOPS Lite team member

with input from:

Fancie Terrell

PHOPs Lite Local Project Director and
HCAT Coordinator



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
of Petersburg & Hopewell
April 12, 2024



PHOPS LITE & RIVER STREET EDUCATION LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS & NUTRITION SECURITY



April 2024

Petersburg-Region Food Hub & Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen Market Study

Goals

- ✓ To Assess supply and demand to inform a Feasibility Study
- ✓ Build capacity for local food businesses
- ✓ Develop local food systems and economies



Are you a Farmer, Food Producer,
or Food Entrepreneur in the
Petersburg Region?

*Could a Food Hub or Shared-Use Commercial
Kitchen Support Your Food Business?*

We want to hear from you!

Scan this code
to participate in
a short survey



This market study will inform the demand for these
facilities, which can support the development of
a local and resilient food system.



Questions or concerns? Please reach out to:

Petersburg-Region Food Hub & Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen Market Study

Do you know farmers/growers, food producers and/or food entrepreneurs who produce or sell food products in the Petersburg Region?

- Chesterfield
- Colonial Heights
- Dinwiddie
- Hopewell
- Petersburg
- Prince George
- Sussex

Promoting SNAP & Virginia Fresh Match Opportunities to the Community



Social Marketing

Aim: Increase purchasing and eating of nutrient-dense foods

Channels:

- Social media
- Community partners
- Community champions



Local Food Purchase Assistance program

Partner Food Pantries & Schools

- Justin J. Davis Heart Foundation
- Emmanuel COGIC
- Little Creek Kung Fu Wudang
Daoist Temple of Va
- Petersburg League of Urban
Growers (PLUG)
- Petersburg City Public Schools

In 2023, through the Local Food Purchasing Assistance (USDA) program, we partnered with



to provide free LOCAL produce & food

from LOCAL FARMERS & PRODUCERS	to the PEOPLE of PETERSBURG
\$44,100 in revenue to 7 local businesses	2,385 people served through 32 events
Median revenue per farmer/producer \$4,170	18,225 pounds of food distributed
	97% of orders included produce

If your organization would like to participate in this program, please reach out to us at rsmvendors@gmail.com.

Petersburg Healthy Community Action Team (HCAT)

Current Programs

Partnership with VSU's Agriculture Department to cultivate Pleasants Lane Elementary School Learning Garden and develop a new Farm-to-School curriculum

Continuing collaborations with:

Greater Richmond Fit4Kids

YMCA

Boys & Girls Club



Get In Touch

Petersburg Healthy Community Action Team
(HCAT)

Fancie Terrell
fancie@vt.edu

PHOPs Lite & River Street Education

Lisa Homa
lmh217@vt.edu



Q&A



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
of Petersburg & Hopewell
April 12, 2024

Moving Forward Together

Virginia Environmental Endowment Supported Implementation



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
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April 12, 2024

Next Steps for Implementation



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
of Petersburg & Hopewell
April 12, 2024

RAFT-Facilitation Session on Next Steps for Implementation



One-Year Virtual Progress Workshop for the Cities
of Petersburg & Hopewell
April 12, 2024



DISCUSSION

Question 1: How has the implementation process been most useful for the work you are doing? What specific implementation activities or discussions have been particularly helpful in prompting action or growth for your locality?

Question 2: What has been the biggest challenge of implementing the resilience priorities identified over the past year?

Question 3: What resources are needed to meet your remaining goals and objectives? How can The RAFT team support the next steps?



Evaluation

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<https://raft.iem.virginia.edu/>



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COASTAL COLLABORATOR
VIRGINIA TECH



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Anonymous, 2018-2019

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For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ien.virginia.edu

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