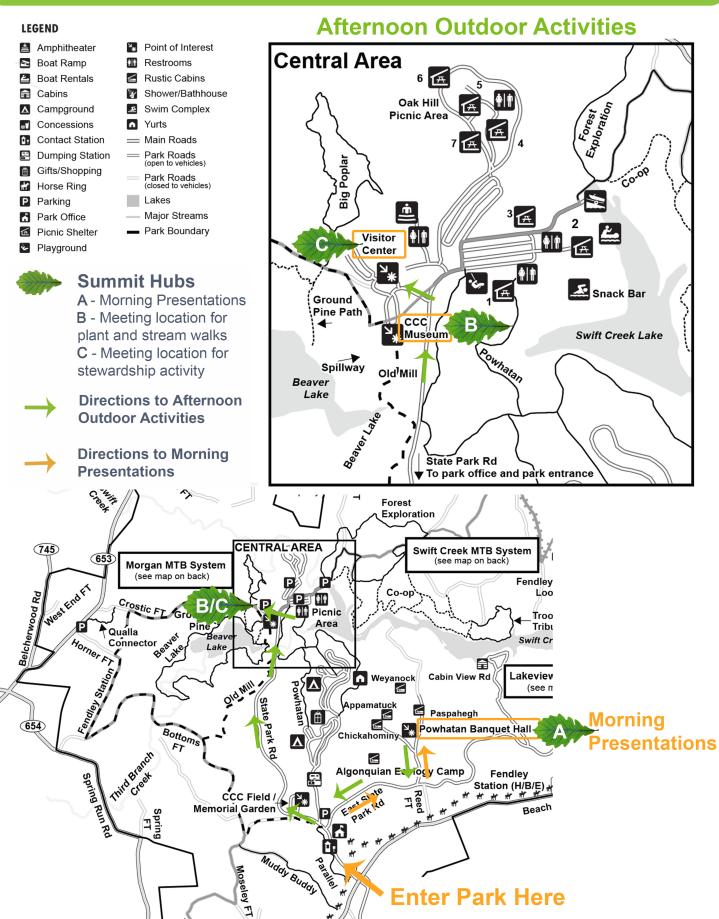
## Pocahontas State Park Map Guide (see front schedule for details)



# The Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium presents: 5th Annual 2023 Buffer Summit & Celebration

## October 18th | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Pocahontas State Park, 10301 State Park Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23832



Join Consortium partners to inspire new connections and opportunities around buffer creation and workforce development, and celebrate the benefits of buffers.

## Morning Presentations 10:00 am - 12:15 pm



## Outdoor Activities 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

B/C

(See map on back for locations and more details)

10:00 - 10:30 am

Registration & Refreshments, & Native Riparian Plant Guide Release!

10:30 - 10:50 am

Welcome + Introductions

10:50 - 11:00 am

#### **Buffer Progress Update from DEQ**

• Kevin McLean, VA Dept of Environmental Quality

11:00 - 11:25 am

#### **Growing Career Paths through the Consortium**

- Jordan Bennett, James River Association
- Sarah Vollbrecht, Conservation Legacy

11:25 - 11:45 am

## Let's Talk Turkey - Management Practice to Benefit Wildlife and Create Diversity

• Cully McCurdy, National Wild Turkey Federation

11:45 am - 12:05 pm

#### **Connecting and Protecting Riparian Corridors**

• Kim Biasiolli, Piedmont Environmental Council

12:05 - 12:15 pm

**Closing and Next Steps** 

Lunch 12:15 - 1:00 pm

#### 1:30 - 2:30 pm

- Riparian Tree ID Walk at Beaver Lake with Joey Thompson, VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation
- Creek Crawl at Powhatan Trail with
  Claire Sanderson, Rivanna Conservation
  Alliance
- Stewardship Activity: Prepping Native
   Plant Garden around the Visitor's Center

#### 3:00 - 4:00 pm

- Riparian Understory ID Walk at Beaver
  Lake with Ashley Moulton, Capital Region
  Land Conservancy and Moulton Hot
  Natives
- Creek Crawl at Powhatan Trail with Claire Sanderson, Rivanna Conservation Alliance
- Stewardship Activity: Prepping Native Plant Garden around the Visitor's Center

1:30 - 4:00 pm

#### **Ongoing Self-Led Activities**

 Hike or bike trails at park, bring your own canoe/kayak for lake, network with others

Visit www.jamesriverconsortium.org!

## **About the Panelists & Presenters**



#### Jordan Bennett, Restoration Coordinator James River Association

Jordan is the Restoration Coordinator for the James River Association. She started her career as an intern in the James River Stewardship Program in summer, 2022, and now helps to manage the program. Jordan graduated from Bridgewater College in 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, crocheting, and spending time with her dogs.



#### Kim Biasiolli, Senior Conservation Specialist Piedmont Environmental Council

Kim joined PEC in September of 2022 with over 20 years of experience working on biodiversity protection, natural resources management, and land conservation projects and initiatives. Prior to joining PEC, Kim worked as the natural resources manager for Albemarle County, where she led projects focused on protecting biodiversity and stream health. She also supported land management, climate action, and long-range planning efforts. Kim received a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the Evergreen State College and a M.S. in Natural Resources: Forest Ecology from the University of Vermont. She lives in Charlottesville and enjoys road biking, cooking, and spending time with family.



#### Cully McCurdy, District Biologist-VA, WV, NC National Wild Turkey Federation

Cully McCurdy is the District Biologist for the National Wild Turkey Federation for VA, WV and NC. Prior to his hiring by the NWTF in 2010, he was employed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for 18 years. His current efforts for the NWTF focus on administering agreements with state and federal agencies to complete resource management work on public lands. The NWTF currently has a long standing agreement with the VA Department of Wildlife Resources to administer funds derived from the sale of National Forests Stamps to support management objectives on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.



#### Kevin McLean, Chesapeake Bay Program Manager Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Kevin is responsible for coordinating the state's participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program. He previously served as the coordinator for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation and M.S. in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation from Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and the Environment. Outside of work, he enjoys life on the family farm with his wife, two young sons, and an old hound dog and many of the hiking trails found throughout the Bay watershed and beyond!



# Ashley Moulton, Capital Region Land Conservancy & Moulton Hot Natives

Ashley works for the Capital Region Land Conservancy as a land conservation specialist in Richmond. In addition, Ashley founded Moulton Hot Native Plants, sustainably raising Virginia natives and consulting with landowners on natural resource management practices. For her master's degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, she worked on one of the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research study sites on the Virginia Coastal Reserve, studying how increased nutrient availability (expected with climate change) alters plant-community composition in a coastal grassland. As an undergraduate, she studied wetland seed-bank dynamics from seed collected at the VCU Rice Rivers Center. Ashley is the publicity chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society.



#### Claire Sanderson Rivanna Conservation Alliance

Claire Sanderson joined the Rivanna Conservation Alliance as their Monitoring Program Manager in February 2022. In this position, Claire oversees RCA's water quality monitoring efforts and manages and supervises the activities of more than 100 dedicated volunteers. Claire holds a Bachelor's degree in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences and a PhD in Veterinary Science from the University of Sydney. She most recently completed her Masters in Natural Resources at Virginia Tech.



#### Joey Thompson Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Joey is a Vegetation Ecologist for the Virginia DCR Natural Heritage Program since joining in January 2022. Joey works to maintain and expand the Commonwealth's dataset on rare and exemplary natural plant communities with the goal of protecting significant occurrences through the Natural Areas Preserve system. Joey received a B.S. in Biology from The College of William and Mary and an M.S. in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Previously, Joey worked all over the East Coast as an environmental consultant surveying properties for rare plants, wetlands, and natural communities. He serves as Education Chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society, is on the Board of Directors for the Flora of Virginia Project, and is a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates. When not exploring natural areas, he plays drums, hikes, or swims in the James River with his wife, 1 year-old son, and beagle.



#### Sarah Vollbrecht Conservation Legacy

Sarah is a recent graduate from Virginia Tech with a degree in Fish and Wildlife Conservation. She has worked with Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation as an interpretive ranger and currently works as a crew leader for the Appalachian Conservation Corps. Her team partnered with JRA in spring of 2022, working to plant riparian buffer systems on agricultural land.

Notes	