

# 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



**COASTAL COLLABORATOR**  
VIRGINIA TECH



# 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*  
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ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE<sup>SM</sup>



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  
Environmental  
Endowment



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)

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# Locality

# Presentations:

Community Achievements  
& Impact of the RAFT



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April 12, 2024



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# 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

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# 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

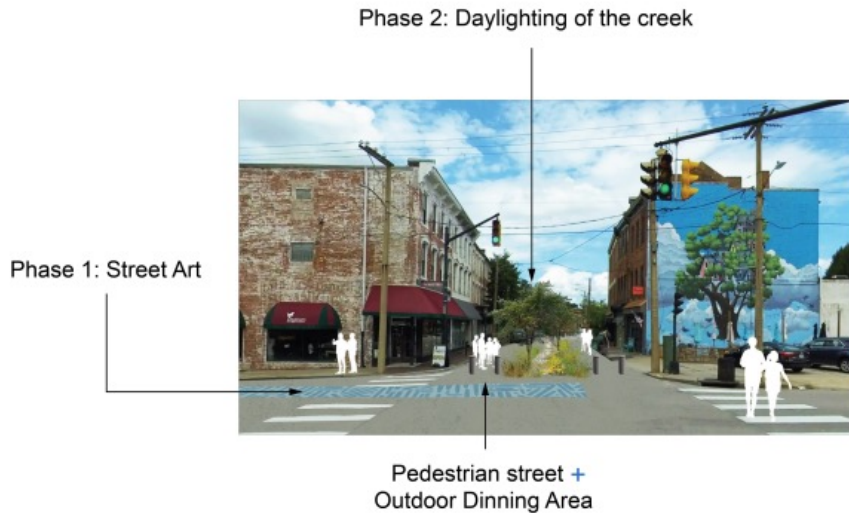
- Creation of new relationship, which leads to new efforts.
- **New perspectives from students to get us think creatively and equitably.**
- Facilitation - Sierra





# 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 - Micromobility

## 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:

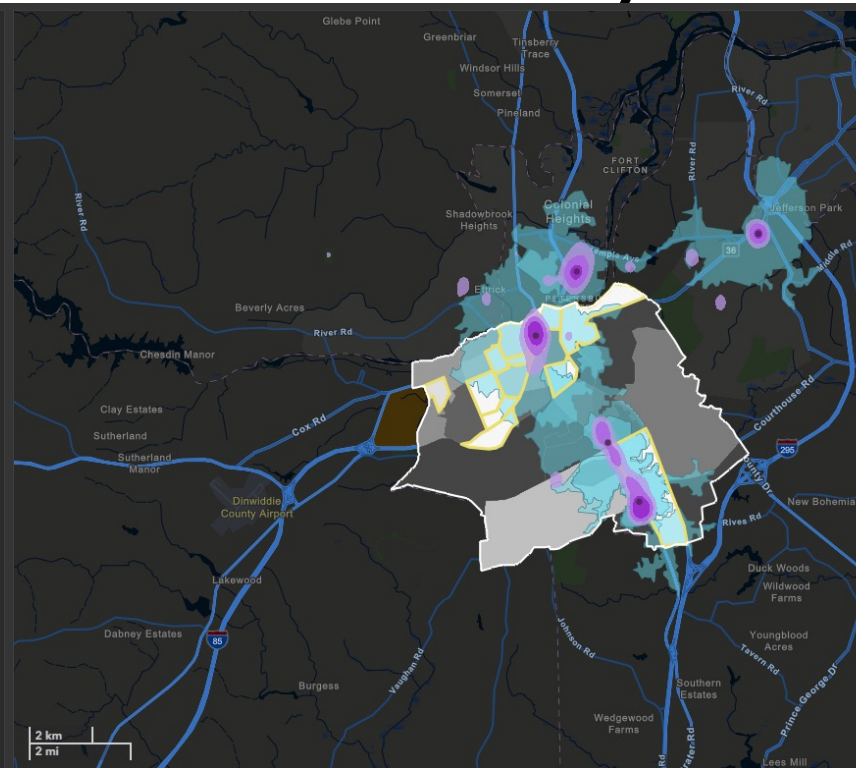
This dashboard aims to determine the utility of bringing shared micromobility to Petersburg, with special attention paid to transit riders using micromobility devices to get from their origin to a transit stop or from a transit stop to their destination (first-mile/ last-mile problem).

## 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

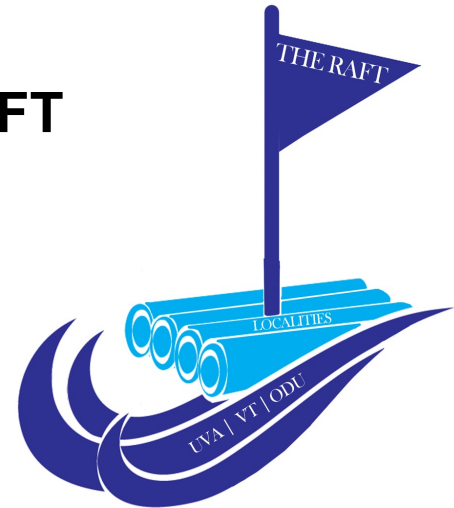


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# Faculty Flash Presentations:

**Products from Working with the Cities through RAFT**



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April 12, 2024**



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# Karen Firehock

Director, Green Infrastructure Center

Lecturer, UVA Urban & Environmental Planning and

Landscape Architecture

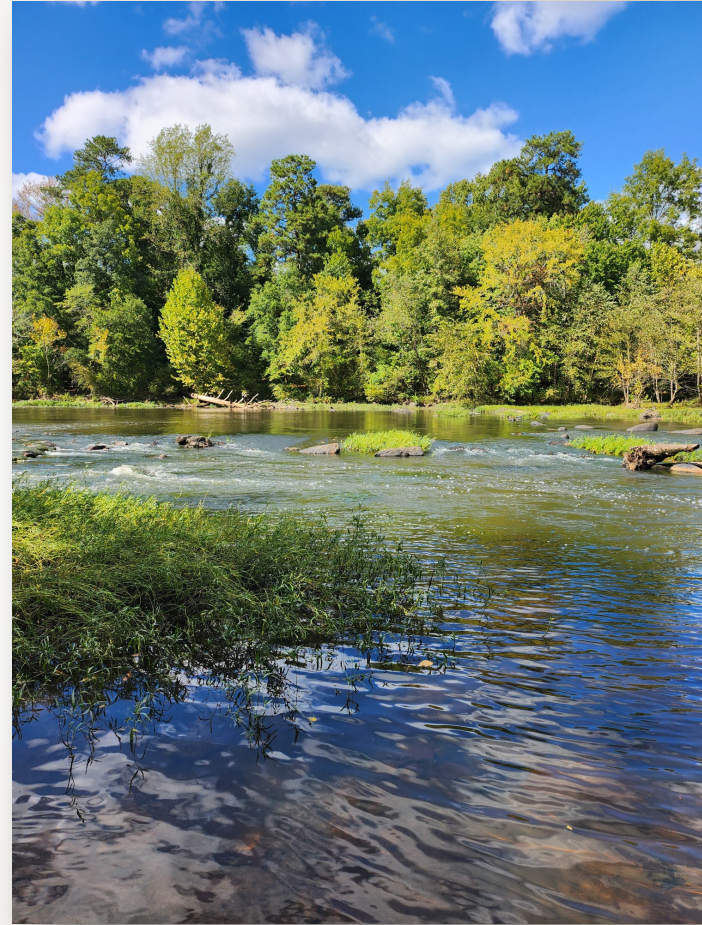


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# Conserving Natural and Cultural Assets

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

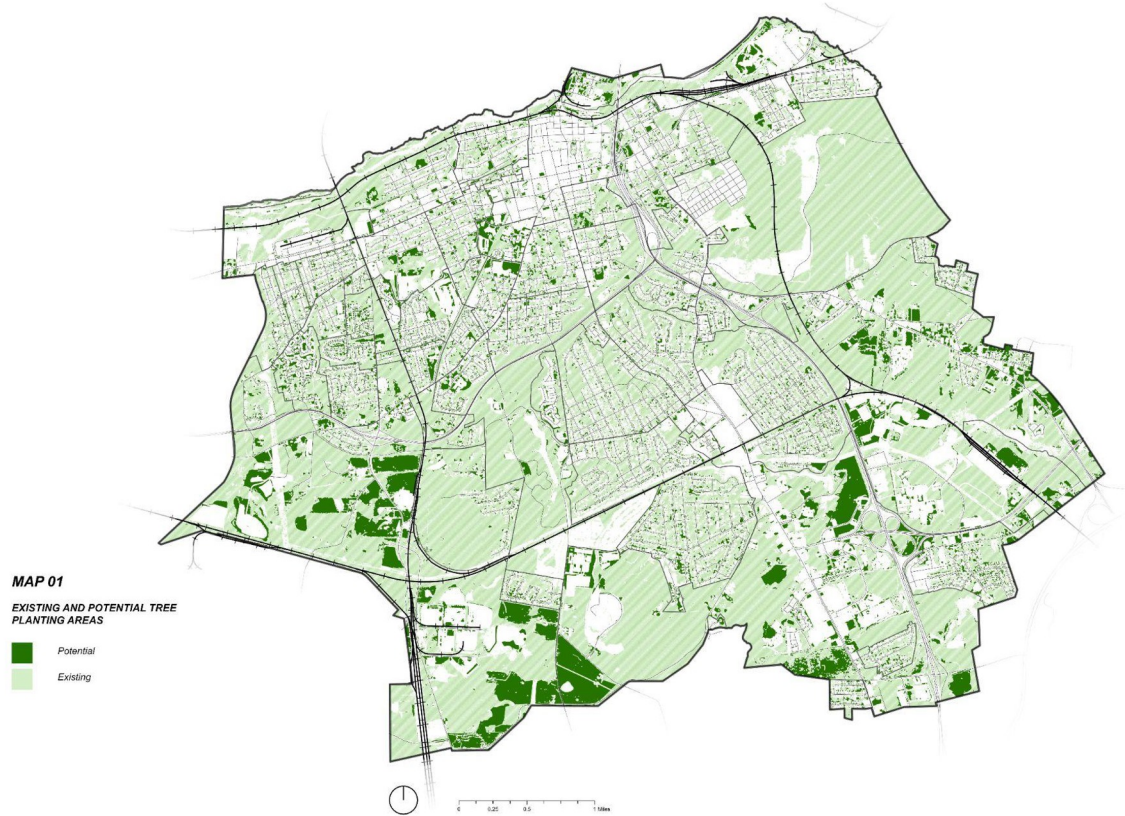
Andre Rezaie  
Abigail Sepulveda Diaz  
Xinyi Shao  
Elizabeth Suffa  
Trent Vera  
Zoque Wahid  
John Ward  
Emily Routman

# Key Focus Areas and Teams

- Trees & Habitats
- Water
- Recreation
- Culture



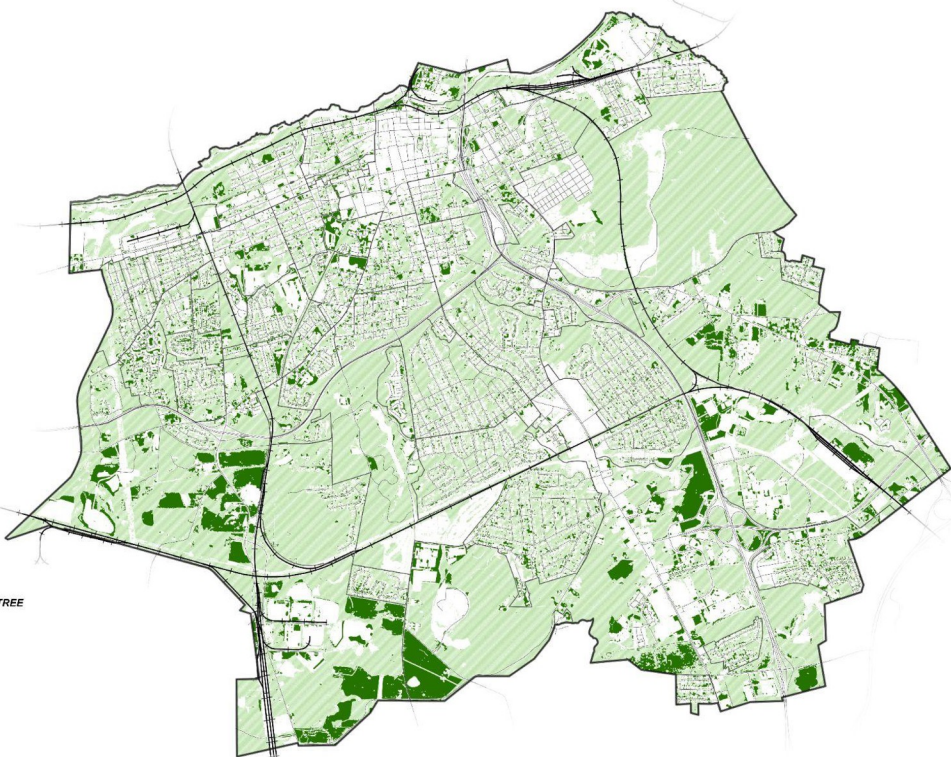
# Urban Forests & Habitats - Canopy Overview



## *Benefits of urban trees:*

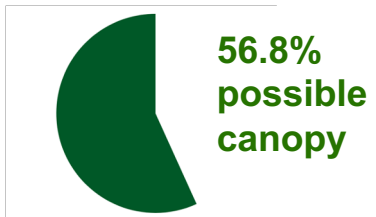
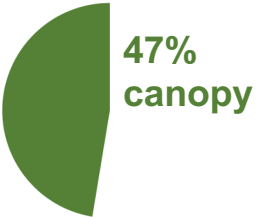
- Retain and control **stormwater runoff**
- Improve **air, soil, and water quality**
- Reduce **surface temperature** and mitigate urban heat islands
- Bolster **community health**
- Enhance **economic stability and raise home values**

# Urban Forests & Habitats - Canopy Overview

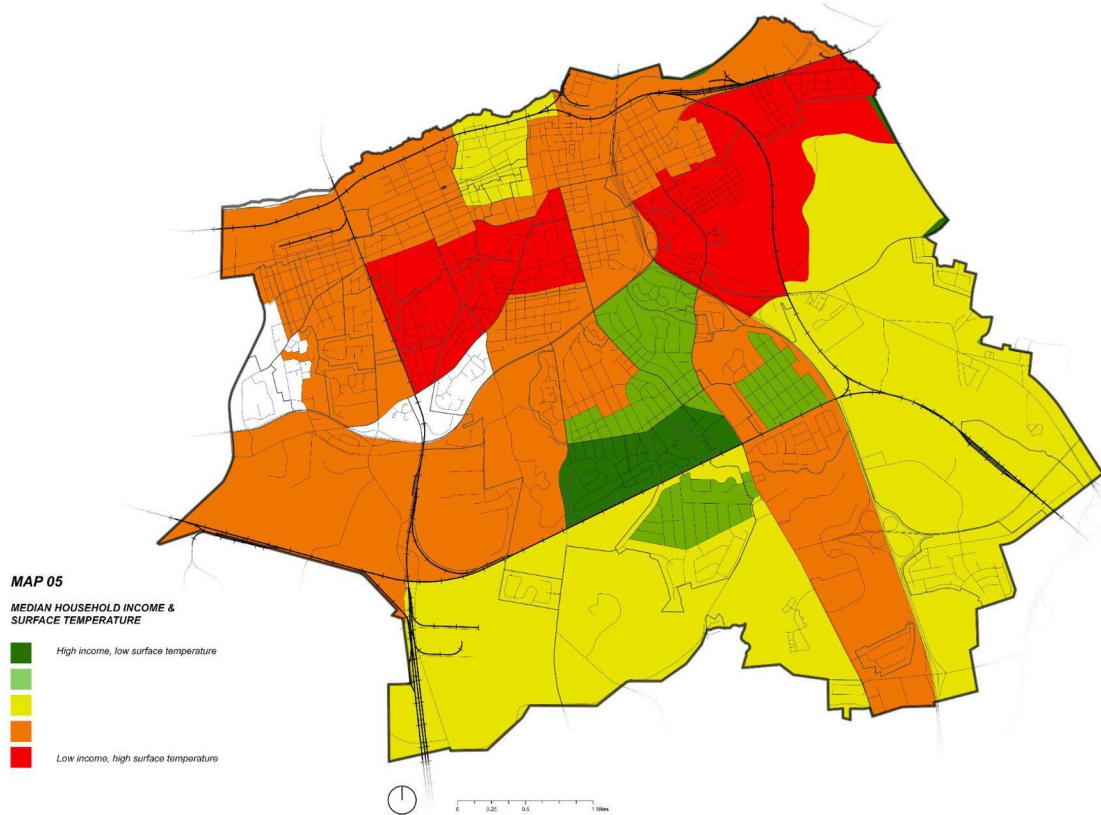


**MAP 01**  
EXISTING AND POTENTIAL TREE  
PLANTING AREAS

- Potential
- Existing



# 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](#)

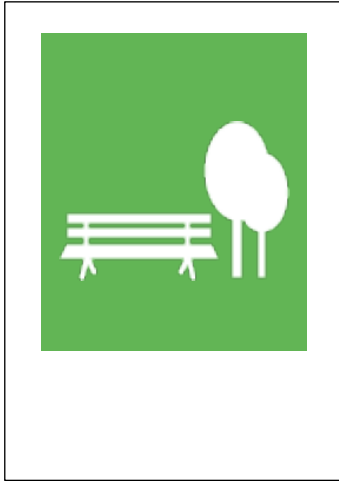


Source: [psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/manchester-stormwater-factsheet.pdf](https://psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/manchester-stormwater-factsheet.pdf)



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?

PLACE  
ice Classifieds

The Progress-Index

ews | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Opinion Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals 56°F 36° 49° Clear

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

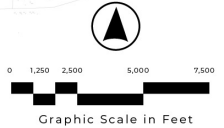


LOWER APPOMATTOX TRAIL

PETERSBURG NATIONAL  
BATTLEFIELD TRAIL SYSTEM

LEGENDS PARK

PETERSBURG SPORTS  
COMPLEX

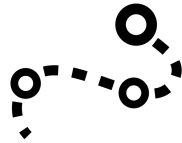


# Outcomes

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.**

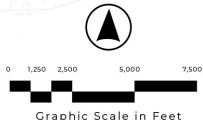
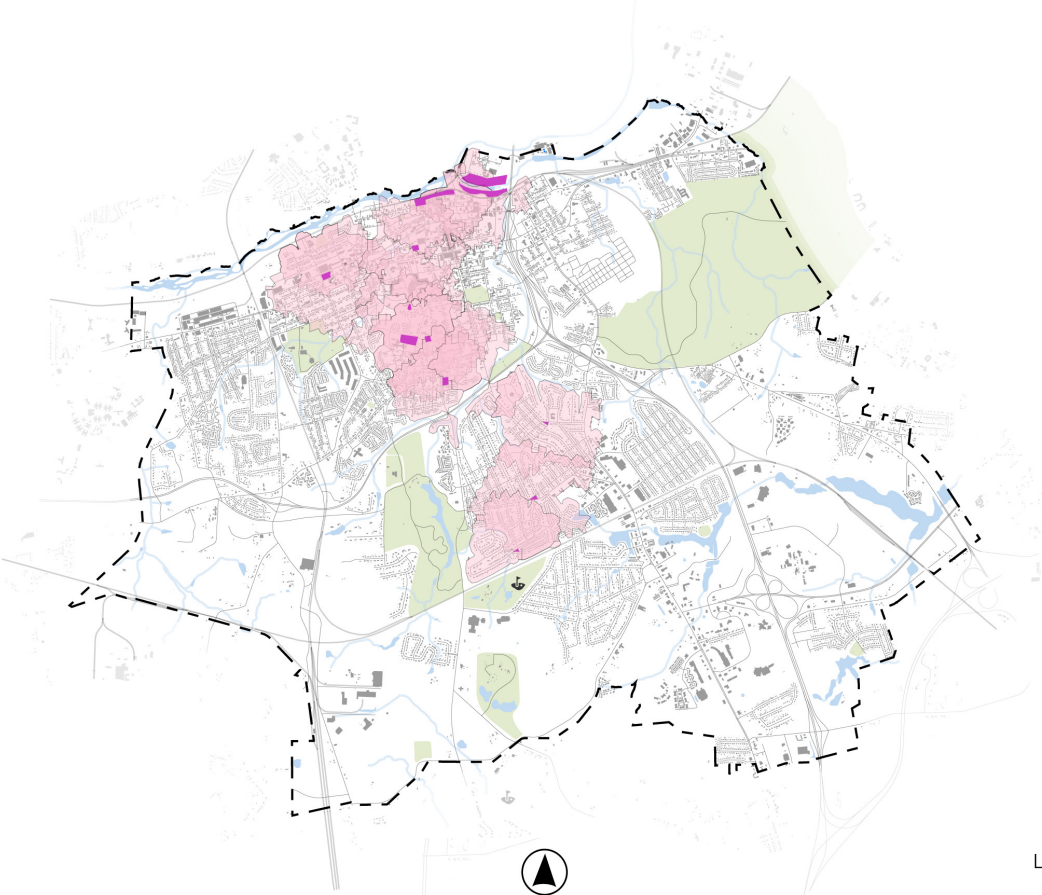


Identify and designate a trail network throughout the city which **connects parks and green spaces, culturally and historically significant sites**, and other **places of interest to celebrate Petersburg's rich heritage and generate economic benefits.**



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

# PROPOSED PARKS



- LEGEND
- Proposed parks
  - 10 Minute Walk Analysis



# 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:

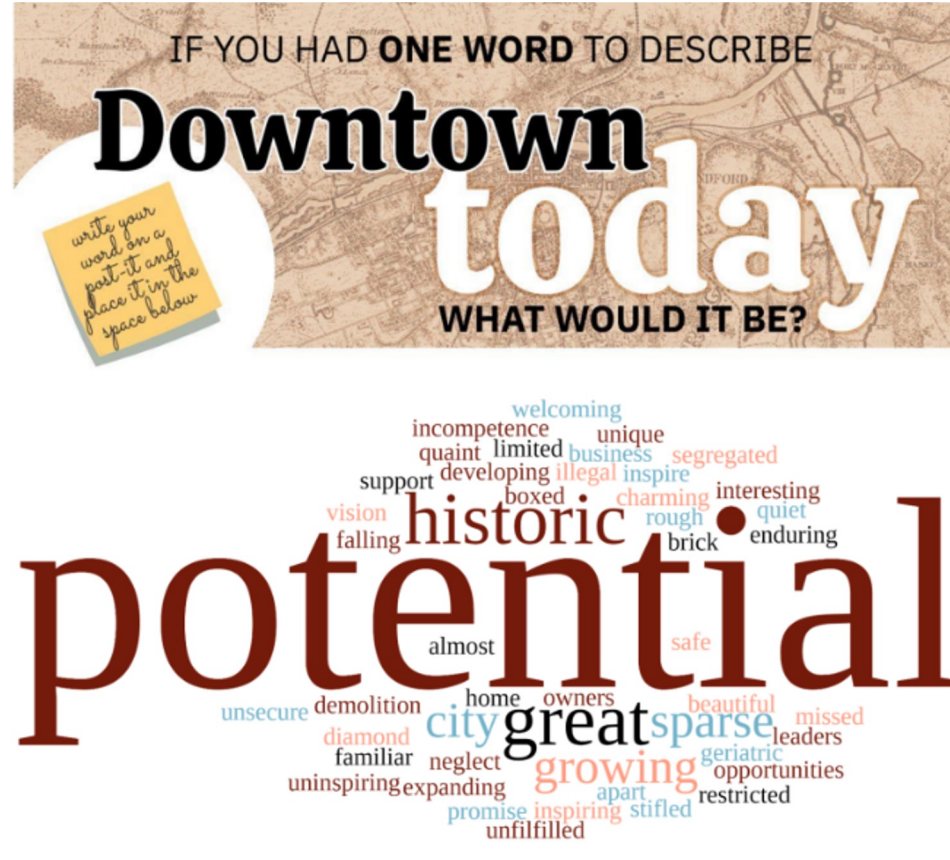
- Lack of cohesive branding for tourism
- Lack of wayfinding signage
- Lack of continuous historic signage
- Many existing wayfinding/historic signage out of date or hard to read
- No distinct tourism website
- Entrance corridors could be stronger
- Poor tree canopy coverage in Old Towne area



# 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

**Petersburg Historic & Cultural As...**  
159 views  
Last edit was 6 days ago

☰ Add layer   👤 Share   👁 Preview

- Architecture Assets
  - Uniform style
  - All items (5)
- Black History Assets
  - Uniform style
  - All items (8)
- Civil War History Assets
  - Uniform style
  - All items (6)
- Food & Drink Assets
  - Uniform style
  - All items (8)
- Historic District Assets
  - Uniform style

**Blandford Church**

**Info (Paragraph)** Located within Blandford Cer Church was originally built in original congregation moved Petersburg in 1805. In 1901, Association obtained permis: restore the church for use as

**Coordinates (X, Y)** 37.2268106738598, -77.3886

**Link to picture** [https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/FzMV-hnNUywDMBt42\\_93UThV6jw-h306-k-no](https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/FzMV-hnNUywDMBt42_93UThV6jw-h306-k-no)

📍 37.22681, -77.38806

# NEXT>>>>

- Peterburg 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.



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# 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](mailto:kxie@odu.edu)*

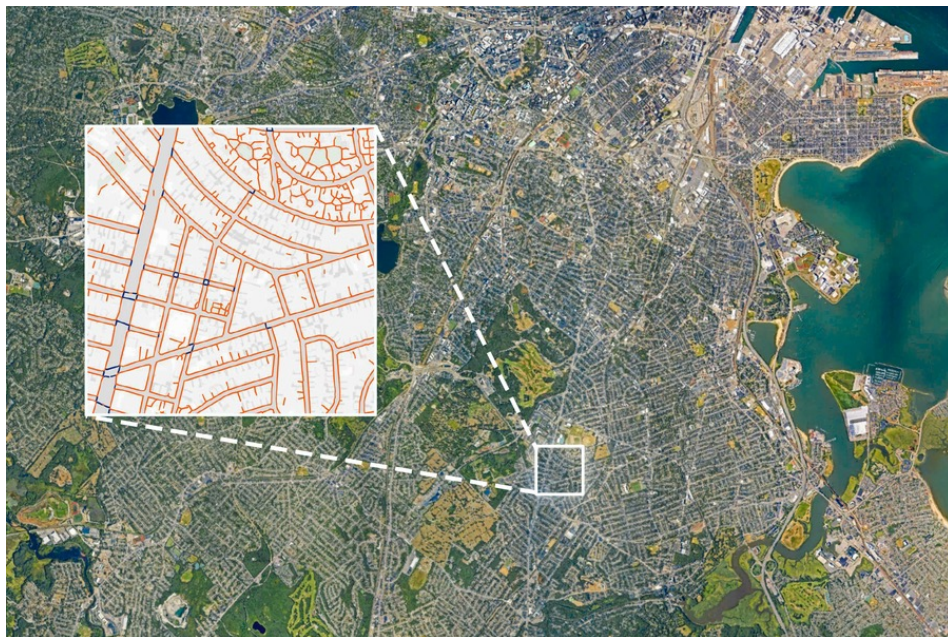


**OLD DOMINION**  
UNIVERSITY



# 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

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



# Methodology

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- Step 2. Split the aerial image into tiles



0\_0\_0.png



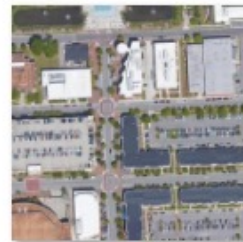
0\_1\_1.png



1\_0\_2.png



1\_1\_3.png



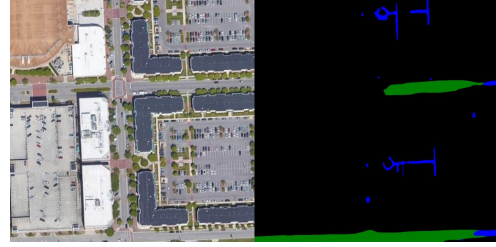
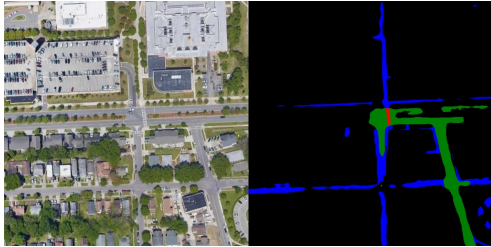
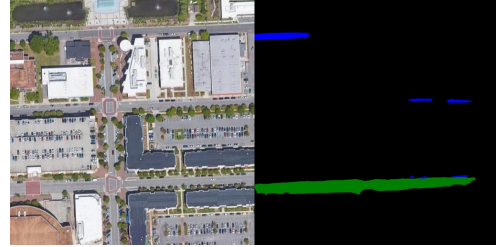
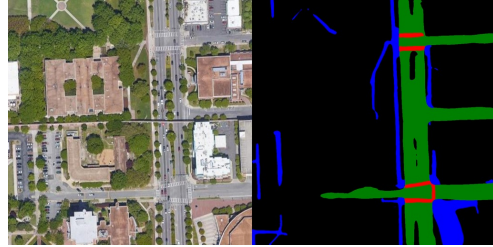
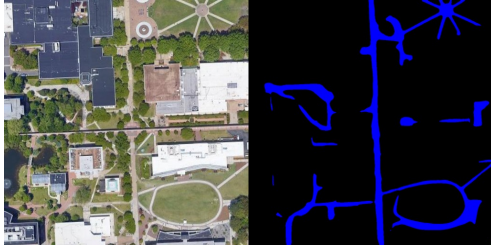
2\_0\_4.png



2\_1\_5.png

# Methodology

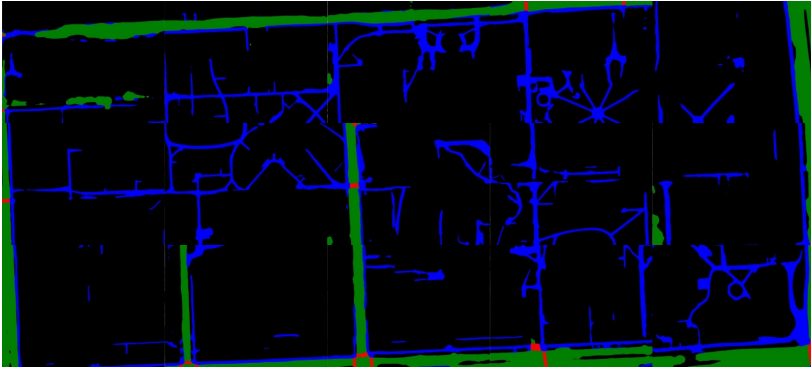
- Step 3. Detect sidewalks and crosswalks from each tile



# Methodology

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- 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

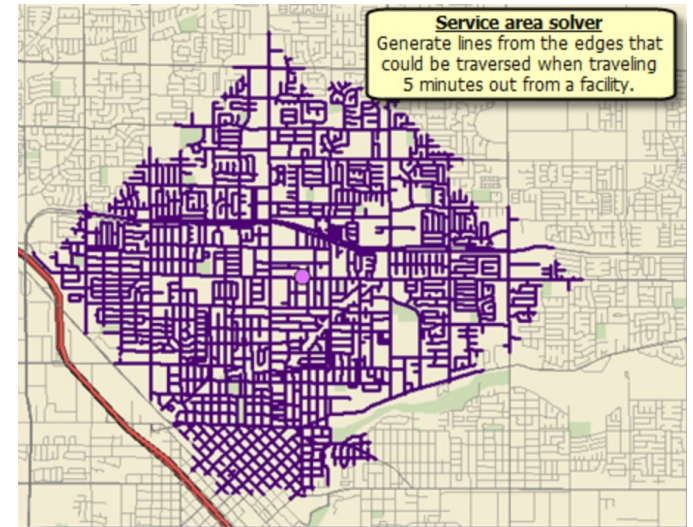


Petersburg



# 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*

*Email: [kxie@odu.edu](mailto:kxie@odu.edu)*



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# Bev Wilson

Associate Professor,  
University of Virginia Urban &  
Environmental Planning Department



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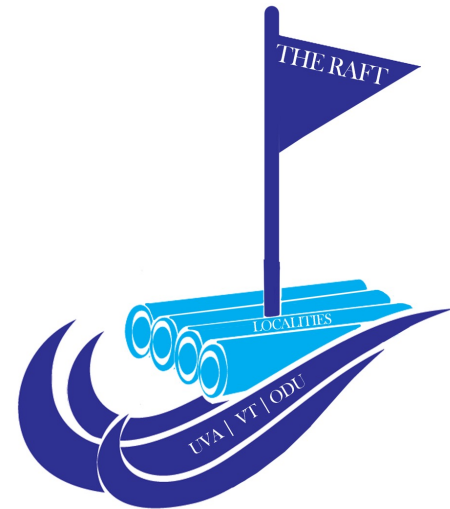
# Leslie Hoglund

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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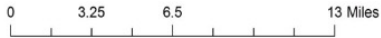
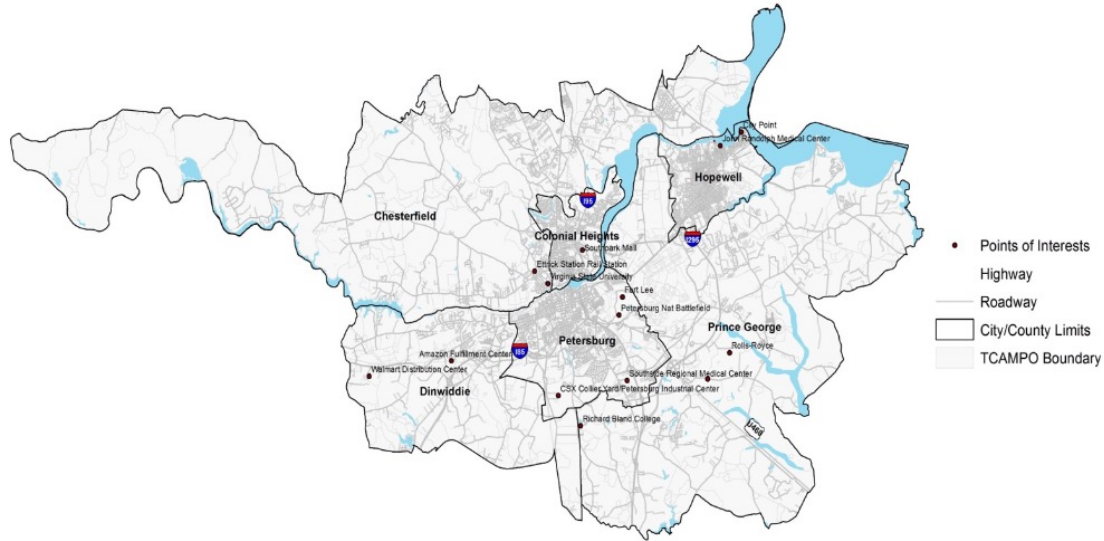
# Interdisciplinary Planning for a Resilience Future

*Kit Friedman*

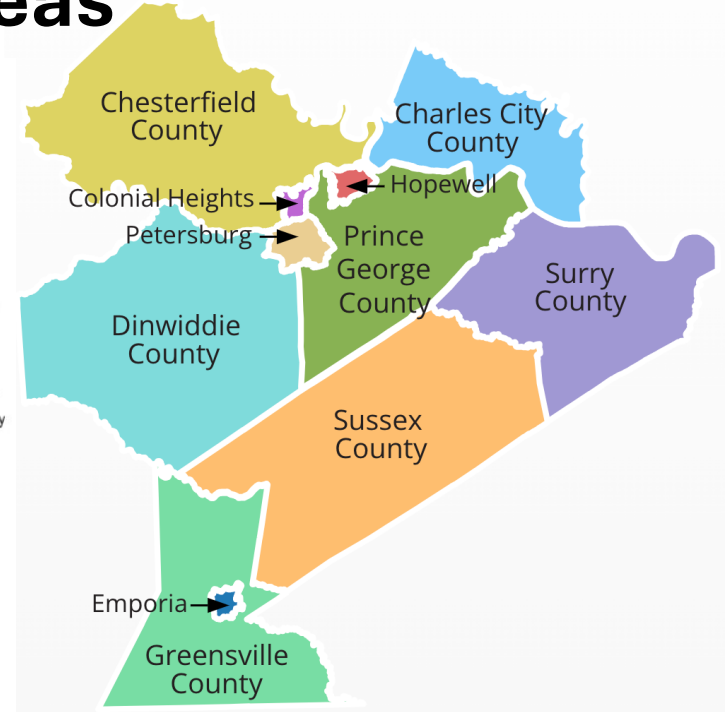
*Crater Planning District  
Commission & Tri-Cities Area MPO*



# Service Areas



## Tri-Cities Area MPO (TCAMPO)



## Crater PDC

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# Multimodal Mobility



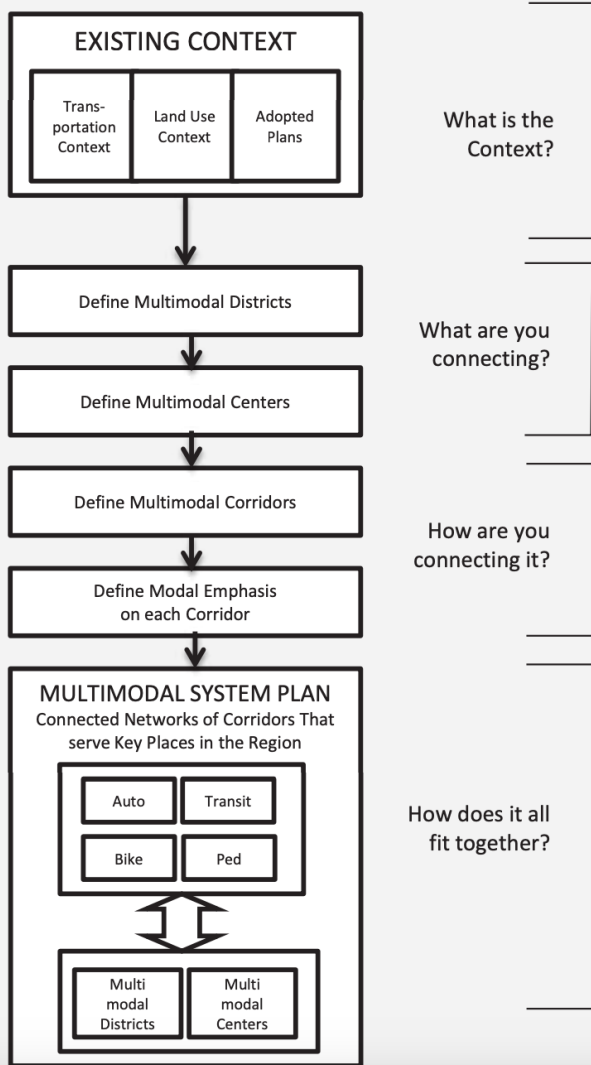
What is multimodal mobility & why is it important?



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



What is the Context?

What are you connecting?

How are you connecting it?

How does it all fit together?

# 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

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# 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

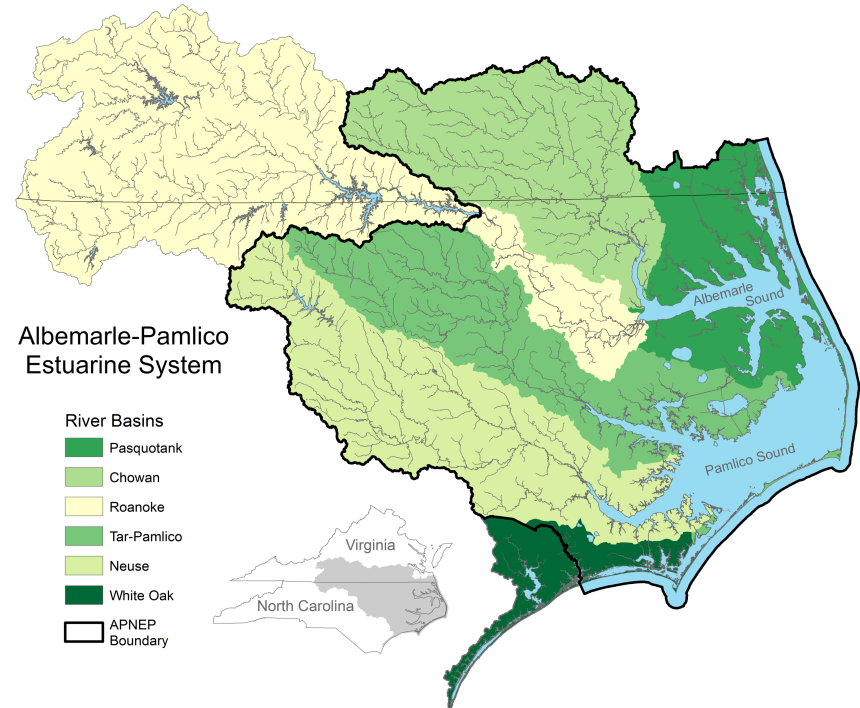
Albemarle-Chowan Watershed  
Roundtable revival

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

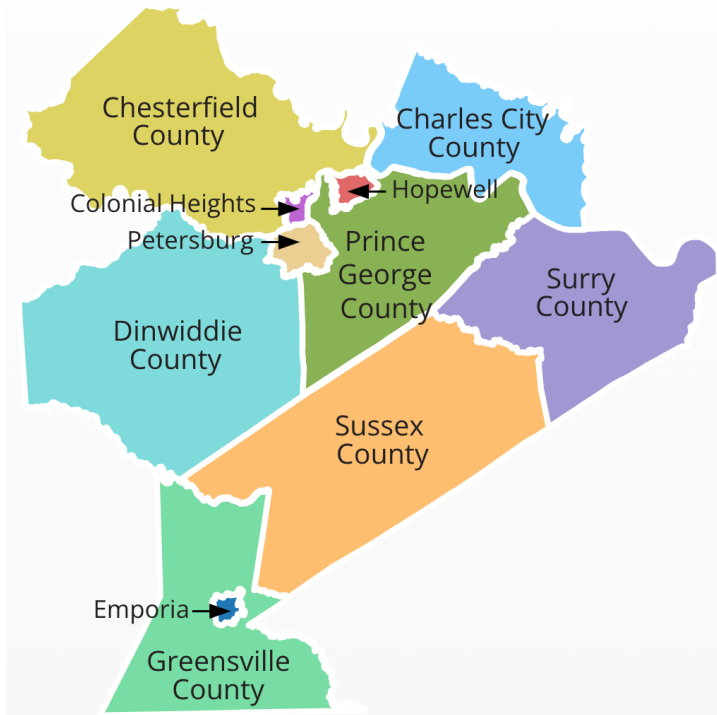
Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant for  
Charles City County tree planting

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](mailto: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



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



# 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.

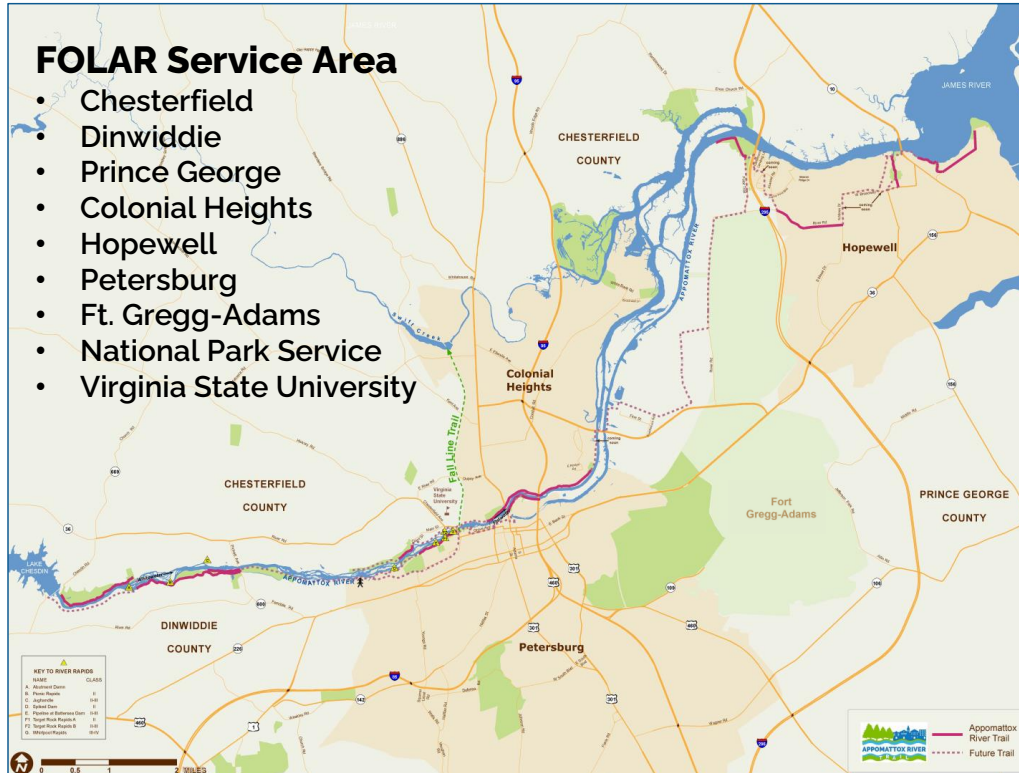


# Appomattox River Blueway-Greenway

## FOLAR Appointed and Elected Board of Directors

### FOLAR Service Area

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



### 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



## PART I: TRAIL MASTER PLAN



2017

This plan has been made possible through the generous support of The Cameron Foundation.



## Appomattox River Trail Master Plan



## PART II: Signage Master Plan



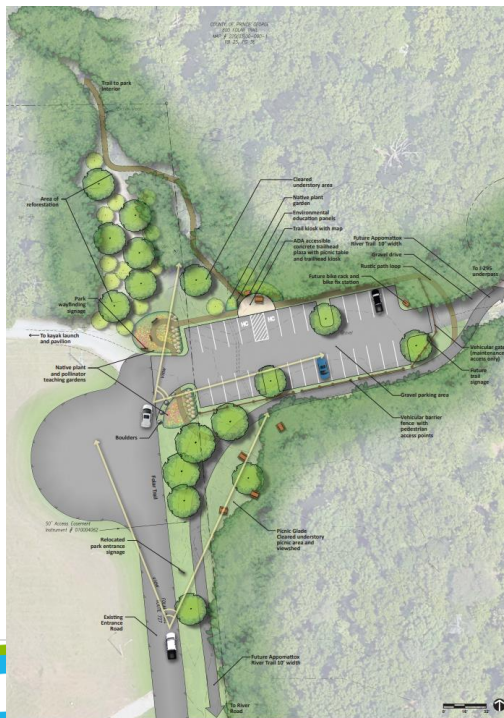
# Planning Efforts

## 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)



Appomattox River Regional Park-Trailhead and Parking Concept Plan  
LPDA September 2023



Ferndale Park and Appomattox River Trail Master Plan  
DRAFT Master Plan



Ferndale Park and Appomattox River Trail Master Plan | Cover

LPDA  
June 2022

# Land Conservation

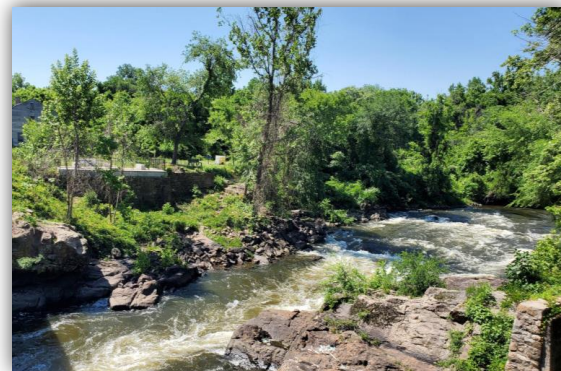
## 2023 Accomplishments:

- 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

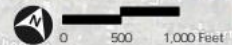
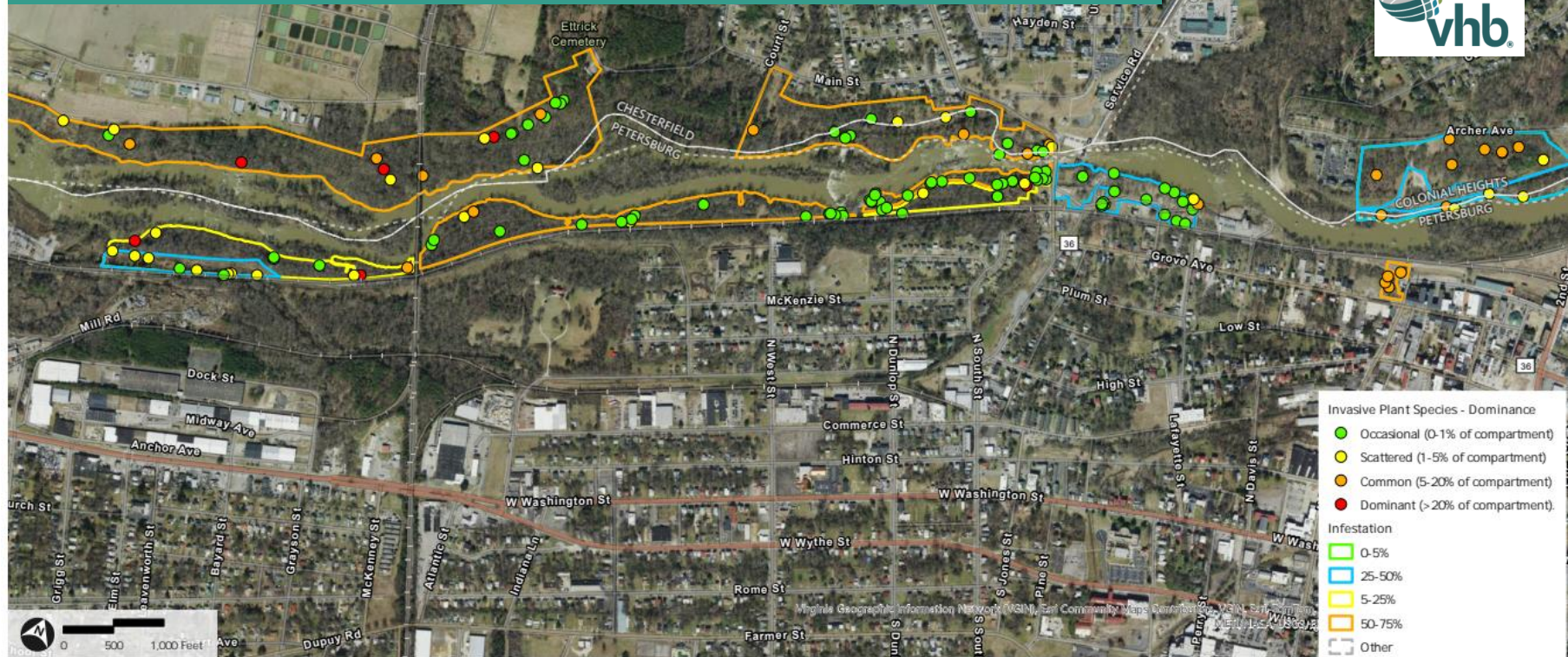
A partnership program from the James River Association and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, supported by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
Saving a National Treasure

# 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.



Source: USGS Most Recent Ortho-imagery

# 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

Donate

Join Us

About

Trail Map

Shop

Donate



## Appomattox River Trail Viewer

User Tips



- All Features
- Outdoor Recreation
- Attractions
- Marinas
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Picnic Areas
- Padding 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

Map labels: Chesdin Rd, Abutment Dam, Whitewater, Picnic Area, Westbrar Ln, Autumn Dr, E Autumn Dr



## State of the Trail

February 22



## 5K Trail Run-Walk

April 13



## Community Service Awards

May 31



## Paddle Battle

September 21

# 2024 Events



**LEARN MORE AT**

[folar-va.org/events/calendar-of-events](https://folar-va.org/events/calendar-of-events)



# 2024 Volunteering Opportunities

LEARN MORE AT [folar-va.org/join-us/volunteer](https://folar-va.org/join-us/volunteer) OR EMAIL ELISE ([eneuscheler@folar-va.org](mailto:eneuscheler@folar-va.org))

- |                       |  |                            |   |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| <b>January 15</b>     | MLK Day of Service   | <b>July 13</b>             | Stewardship Saturday  |
| <b>February 17</b>    | Stewardship Saturday (Pruning Workshop)                              | <b>August 17</b>           | Stewardship Saturday  |
| <b>March 9</b>        | Stewardship Saturday (Riparian Buffer Planting)                      | <b>September 5 &amp; 7</b> | Fall Trail Count Days   |
| <b>March 23</b>       | Stewardship Saturday (Native Planting)                               | <b>September 14</b>        | Stewardship Saturday (James River Advisory Council Regional Clean-Up) |
| <b>April 6</b>        | Stewardship Saturday (Annual Appomattox River Clean-Up)              | <b>October 19</b>          | Stewardship Saturday  |
| <b>May 9 &amp; 11</b> | Spring Trail Count Days  | <b>November 16</b>         | Stewardship Saturday  |
| <b>May 18</b>         | Stewardship Saturday   | <b>December 7</b>          | Stewardship Saturday  |
| <b>June 1</b>         | Stewardship Saturday (Chesapeake Bay Foundation 'Clean the Bay Day') |                            |   |

# 235 N Market St. | Petersburg VA

## Ribbon Cutting – May 31

**WE'RE MOVING!**

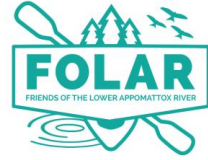




## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

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**



# FOLLOW US



@folarva



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  
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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



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

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:

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

**VIRGINIA FRESH MATCH**

Spend SNAP/EBT to get **FREE** fruits and vegetables

- 1 GO to River Street Market or Market @ PPL (Petersburg Public Library)
- 2 SWIPE your SNAP/EBT card
- 3 GET FREE fruits and vegetables

Match your SNAP/EBT dollars at Virginia Fresh Match farmers markets and community food stores near you! Find more locations at [www.virginiafreshmatch.org](http://www.virginiafreshmatch.org)

**FAIR ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD!**

Year-round markets featuring local fruits and vegetables, food, and artisan goods!

**River Street Market**  
9am-12pm, Saturdays  
30 River Street,  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Double SNAP/EBT for produce

For more information, visit [RiverStreetMarket.com](http://RiverStreetMarket.com)  
@RiverStreetMarket

**MARKET @ PPL (Petersburg Public Library)**  
12-6pm, Monday-Thursday  
201 W. Washington Street,  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
50% off produce

For more information, visit [facebook.com/MarketatPPL](http://facebook.com/MarketatPPL)

This program is supported by the USDA, the Community Development Block Grant Program.

# 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

Median revenue per  
farmer/producer \$4,170

2,385 people served  
through 32 events

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](mailto: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**

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# Moving Forward Together

## Virginia Environmental Endowment Supported Implementation



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



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# Next Steps for Implementation



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

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# 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

# THE RAFT CONTACTS

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**VISIT THE RAFT WEBSITE:**  
<https://raft.ien.virginia.edu/>



INSTITUTE *for*  
ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION  
Shaping Our World Together



COASTAL COLLABORATOR  
VIRGINIA TECH



INSTITUTE FOR  
ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE<sup>SM</sup>

  
OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY

## Acknowledgment of Funders

This RAFT product was created with funding from:

**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management Program\***



We are grateful to these funders for supporting various phases of The RAFT from 2015-Present.

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2017- Present

Virginia Environmental Endowment, Virginia Program, 2017- Present

University of Virginia Environmental Institute, formerly Environmental Resilience Institute, 2018- Present

Virginia Sea Grant Adaptation and Resilience Program, 2017-2024

Jessie Ball duPont Fund, 2019- 2024

Natural Hazards Center, Public Health Disaster Research Award Program, 2022-2024

Agua Fund, 2022-2023

University of Virginia School of Architecture, Faculty Summer Research Program, 2018, 2022

Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency, 2021-2022

Anonymous, 2018-2019

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Restoration and Community Stewardship Grant, 2016- 2018

For more information visit The RAFT website: [raft.iem.virginia.edu](http://raft.iem.virginia.edu)

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