

## James River Association

JAMES RIVER WATER TRAIL  
Lower SectionMap 5 of 5: Ragged Island Wildlife  
Management Area to Chesapeake Bay

## 52) Newport News Waterfront

Large, overhead cranes and steel structures mark this working waterfront. Newport News Shipbuilding was founded to repair ships in the area. Its shipyards build many of the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers, submarines, and other ships.

## Y Leeward Marina

(757) 247-2376  
Within walking distance of Huntington Park; offers docking capacity but no boat ramp.  
Lat: -76.45297; Long: 37.01210

## X Huntington Park

(757) 886-7911  
City park offers a public beach and huge 13,000 square foot playground overlooking the James. The Virginia War Museum offers interpretation of American military history from 1775 to the present. The fishing pier adjacent to the park is almost a mile long. Bait shop and restaurant onsite.  
Newport News Parks and Recreation • 757-886-7911  
www.newport-news.va.us/parks/index.htm  
Virginia War Museum • (757) 247-8523  
www.warmuseum.org  
Lat: -76.45543; Long: 37.01899

## CC Willoughby Bay Marina

(757) 588-2663  
Lat: -76.29765; Long: 36.96551

## BB Peterson's Yacht Basin

(757) 886-7911  
Public ramp open 24 hrs a day. Muddy banks provide a foraging site for a variety of migratory songbirds.  
Lat: -76.39788; Long: 36.98195

## DD Willoughby Harbor

(757) 583-4150  
Slip space available.  
Lat: -76.29177; Long: 36.96514

## EE Rebel Marina

(757) 588-6022  
Slip space available.  
Lat: -76.27217; Long: 36.95935

## 53) Northern Suffolk Blueway Trail

The Northern Suffolk Blueway Trail ties in waterfront amenities such as parks, natural areas, and public and private launch sites along Chuckatuck Creek, Bennett's Creek and the Nansemond River. Currently under development.  
Suffolk Parks and Recreation • 757-925-2360

## Z Harbour Side Marina

(757) 484-8700  
Award-winning marina includes the Harbour Side Restaurant, which boasts fried seafood specials nightly and an outside deck.  
Lat: -76.47801; Long: 37.86585

## AA Bennett's Creek Ramp

(804) 367-1000  
Lat: -76.48441; Long: 36.85147

## 54) Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve

This 142-acre urban sanctuary provides a natural setting for viewing wildlife in Hampton Roads. It includes a tidal creek and salt marsh, a riparian forest of pines and hardwoods, a native wildflower meadow, and a non-tidal brackish lake.  
757-398-9151 • www.hoffercreek.org

Existing numbered buoys and beacons spaced approximately 5 miles apart have been included to assist in navigation.

## 55) Monitor-Merrimack Overlook Park

Civil War ironclads the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (a converted Union frigate, formerly known as the USS Merrimack) fought each other to a standstill in this section of Hampton Roads. The public fishing pier offers views of wintering loons and other assorted waterfowl.  
Newport News Parks and Recreation • 757-886-7912  
www.newport-news.va.us/parks/index.htm

## 56) Craney Island Disposal Area

Constructed in the 1950's, this 2,500-acre area is a depository for dredged river sediment from Hampton Roads.

## 57) Norfolk Waterway Trail System

Developing trail system will follow thirty-eight miles of the City of Norfolk's waterfront, providing views of natural estuarine habitat and re-established wetlands. Free maps featuring access points and other amenities will be available.  
City of Norfolk • 757-441-2400 • www.norfolk.gov

## 58) The Elizabeth River Trail

Built on an old railroad right-of-way, this trail follows a mile-long section of Norfolk's waterfront, combining a mix of older marine and seafood businesses, new residences, and a major medical complex. No nearby boat access; future expansion underway.  
757-664-4769

## 59) Nauticus National Maritime Center

Combines the Chesapeake Bay's remarkable naval heritage with exciting interactive exhibits exploring two centuries of naval history and the power of the sea. Explore the deck of the USS Wisconsin through a self-guided audio tour.  
800-664-1080 • www.nauticus.org

## 60) Norfolk Naval Base

World's largest naval station and the homeport to 75 ships and 134 aircraft, including aircraft carriers, submarines and helicopters. Site of the first naval aviation flight; a pilot in a 50-horsepower plane cleared a 60 ft. wooden ramp built on the USS Birmingham's bow before landing on Willoughby Spit.

## 61) Hampton University

Built in 1868 during Reconstruction and founded to teach freed African-Americans to "go out and lead their people." Established a formal education program for Native Americans in 1878, the ties of which remain today.

## 62) Fort Monroe Military Reservation

Built 1819-1834, it is the largest moat-encircled masonry fortification in the United States. The Casemate Museum interprets naval history in the area.  
Casemate Museum • 757-788-3371

## 63) Fort Wool

Dividing the Chesapeake Bay from Hampton Roads, Fort Wool was constructed on an artificial stone island built by Union forces during the Civil War.

## Legend

Public Boat Access	Telephone	Rivers, Streams, Lakes
Private Marina	Danger	Park/Preserve/Natural Area
Restrooms	Navigation Buoy/Beacon	Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Member
Parking	Warning Buoy/Beacon	Northern Suffolk Blueway Trail
Food/Grocery	Points of Interest	Norfolk Waterway Trail System
Drinking Water	Access Sites	County Boundary
Fishing Access	Historical Information/Other	Roads/Highways
Fuel	Park/Preserve/Natural Area Information	Interstates
Birding Area	Water-Related Information	Primary Roads
Paddling Area		