

James Scenic River Report

Albemarle County, Buckingham County, Fluvanna County, and Town of Scottsville

Prepared By
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources

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I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In 2019, at the request of the localities, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) completed a Scenic River evaluation for a section of the James River. The section begins one mile upstream of Warren in Albemarle County, continues through the Town of Scottsville and Fluvanna County, and ends at New Canton in Buckingham County. The distance of the section is approximately 20 miles.

Based on the evaluation, the 20 miles were deemed eligible for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. The designation as a Virginia Scenic River is recommended, and it is further recommended that DCR be the administering agency.

II. REASON FOR THE STUDY

In the summer of 2019, local officials from multiple jurisdictions contacted DCR requesting that a section of the James River be evaluated for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. The requests came from: 1) the Town Council of the Town of Scottsville; 2) Albemarle County Board of Supervisors (BOS); 3) Buckingham County BOS; 4) Fluvanna County BOS; and 5) Nelson County BOS. An evaluation of 20 miles was completed in October 2019, wherein DCR concluded that the evaluated 20 miles was eligible for designation.

The local officials had also requested two additional segments to be evaluated. The upstream segment is from the confluence of Allen's Creek at the Nelson/ Amherst Counties to Warren, and the segment downstream is from New Canton to Columbia including Cumberland County (Map 1). DCR and the local officials plan to evaluate these additional segments in 2020, as time and resources permit. These and the segment evaluated October 2019, altogether combined, would be a grand total of approximately 54 miles.

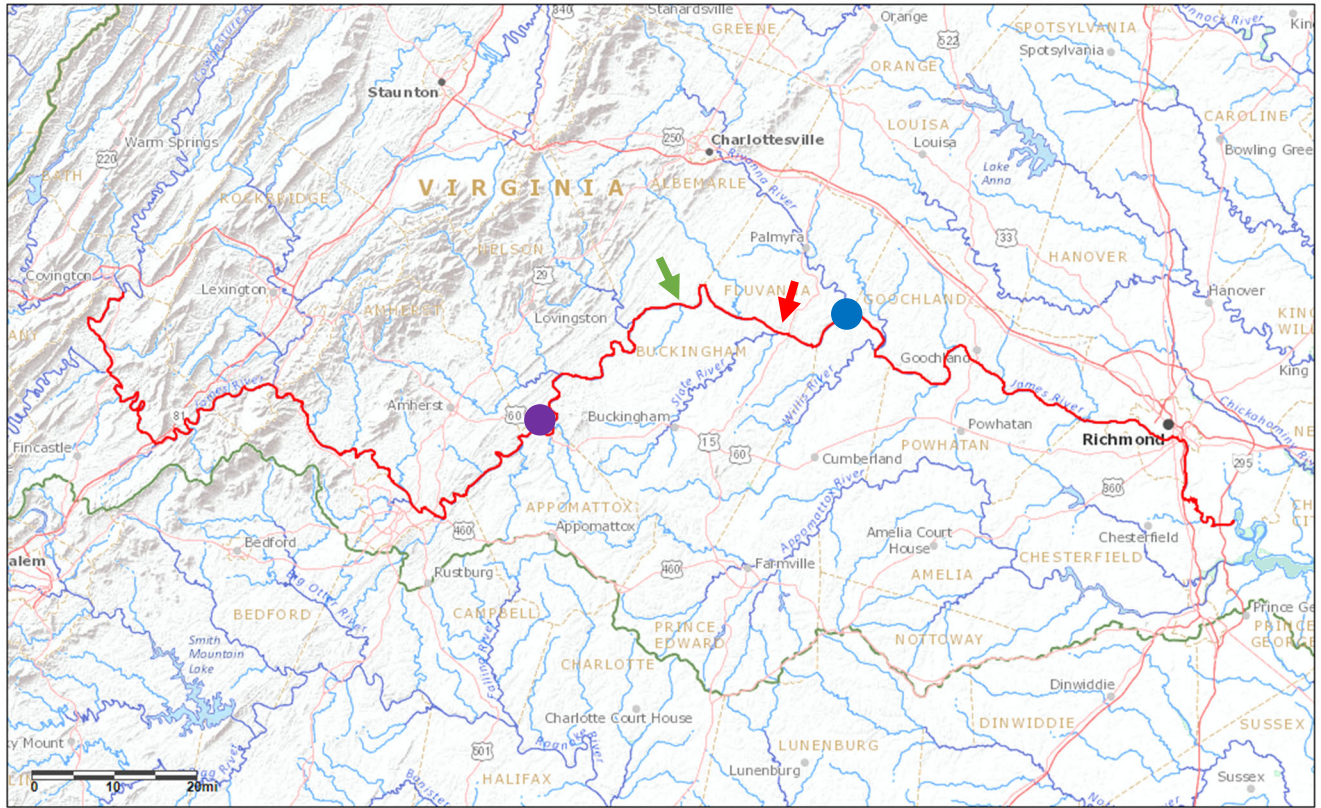
The Scenic Rivers Act instructs DCR to conduct, "studies of rivers or sections of rivers to be considered for designation," and to, "recommend to the Governor and to the General Assembly rivers or sections thereof to be considered for designation as Scenic Rivers." This report fulfills this statutory directive.

A. History of Scenic River Designation for the James River

The full length of the James River is about 340 miles¹. The river begins near the town of Clifton Forge, at the confluence of Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers. The James River then flows across Virginia and ends at the Chesapeake Bay (Map 1). The river's watershed is the largest in Virginia (Map 2), and the James is one of the longest rivers in the United States that begins and ends in the same state.

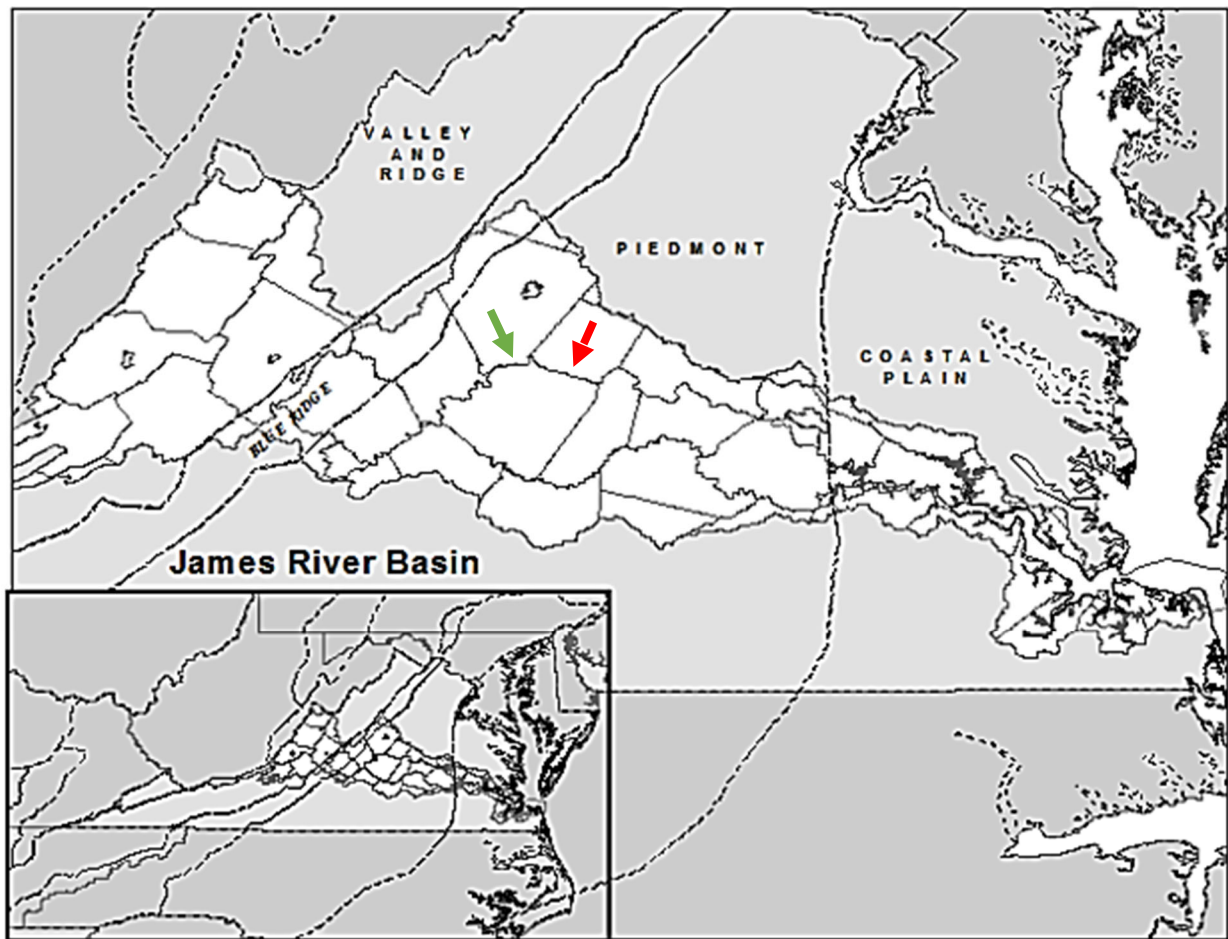
At present, three other segments of the James River are part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System: the Historic Falls of the James (8.6 miles), approved in 1972 and extended in 1984; part of the Upper James River (59 miles), approved in 1985 and extended in 2017; and part of the Lower James Historic River (25 miles), approved in 1988.

¹ <https://thejamesriver.org/explore-the-james/james-river-maps/>



Visit Streamer at <https://txpub.usgs.gov/DSS/Streamer/>
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*Map 1. The James River's connection to the Atlantic Ocean. The James River begins near the town of Clifton Forge, at the confluence of Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers. The James then crosses Virginia and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The **green** arrow (**left**) represents where the Scenic River evaluation began, and the **red** arrow (**right**) represents where the Scenic River evaluation ended. The two circles represent additional segments that may be studied at a future date: from Allen's Creek at the Nelson/Amherst Counties to Warren (**purple circle to left arrow**), and from New Canton to Columbia (**right arrow to blue circle**). The scale at the bottom of the map is 20 miles. Source: USGS Streamer, <https://txpub.usgs.gov/DSS/Streamer>*



Map 2. James River basin. The watershed is Virginia's largest river basin, and covers over ten thousand square miles, or about 24 percent of Virginia's total land area. The map above shows that the basin covers the four physiographic provinces of Virginia: Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain. The **green** arrow (**left**) represents where the Scenic River evaluation began, and the **red** arrow (**right**) represents where the Scenic River evaluation ended. Source: James River Basin Summary, Virginia Water Resources Plan, October 2015

B. Benefits of Designation

The Scenic Rivers Act (the Act), found in Title 10.1, Chapter 4, §§ 10.1-400 through 10.1-418.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, was enacted in 1970 as a means of recognizing the Commonwealth's scenic rivers and their immediate environs. In order to be eligible for Scenic River designation, a river must contain superior natural, scenic, recreational, and historical attributes. Designated rivers need not include the entire river, and may include tributaries. At the request of the locality(s), DCR evaluates a specified river segment, determines whether or not it qualifies for designation, and writes a report documenting these attributes.

Since the passage of the Act, 33 river segments, totaling nearly 860 miles, have received Scenic River designation from the General Assembly. A list of those rivers can be found at:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/document/srlist.pdf>

The Virginia Scenic River designation accomplishes the following:

- Allows riparian landowners to continue using their land as they did before designation, except as provided in §10.1-407 (§10.1- 408), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-408/>
- Requires the Federal Energy Commission (FERC) to consider the impact of proposed hydropower or related projects on a designated Scenic River using the Scenic River report developed in the qualification process
- Requires all state agencies to consider visual, natural, and recreational values of a Scenic River in their planning and permitting process (§10.1-402) <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-402/>
- Gives riparian landowners, local citizens, and local governments a greater voice in the planning and implementation of federal and state projects that might affect the river (§10.1-406.1), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-406.1/>
- Requires authorization by the General Assembly for the construction, operation and/or maintenance of any structure, such as a dam, that would impede the natural flow of a Scenic River (§10.1-407), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-407/>

The Virginia Scenic River Program is a state-level program for recognizing the uniqueness and quality of a river. Note that the program is different from the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The national-level system has a different set of criteria, and requires designation by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior. According to www.rivers.gov, Virginia has approximately 49,350 miles of river, but no congressionally designated Wild and Scenic rivers.

C. Designation Process

Before an evaluation of a potential scenic river, DCR needs, in hand, a letter from the local governing body, county administrator, city manager or town manager requesting that a study be conducted.

Scenic river evaluations involve data collection from state agencies, map surveys, related literature reviews and a field study to validate existing land use information and rank the river according to relative uniqueness or quality. Field evaluations include physically canoeing, boating or walking the stretch of river being evaluated and rating the characteristics of the resource.

In order to determine whether a river (or river segment) is eligible for Virginia Scenic River designation, it must be evaluated by the following criteria, which provide a uniform gauge for all river studies:

1. River Corridor Vegetation
2. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications
3. Human Development of Visual Corridor
4. Historic Features
5. Landscape

6. Quality of Fishery
7. Special Natural Flora and Fauna
8. Water Quality
9. Parallel Roads
10. Crossings
11. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics
12. Public Recreational Access
13. Land Conservation

An in-depth discussion is completed in Section IV: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS (page 9).

The fieldwork, combined with the data collected from multiple sources, is used to validate existing land use information and rank the river according to relative superior resources, uniqueness and quality.

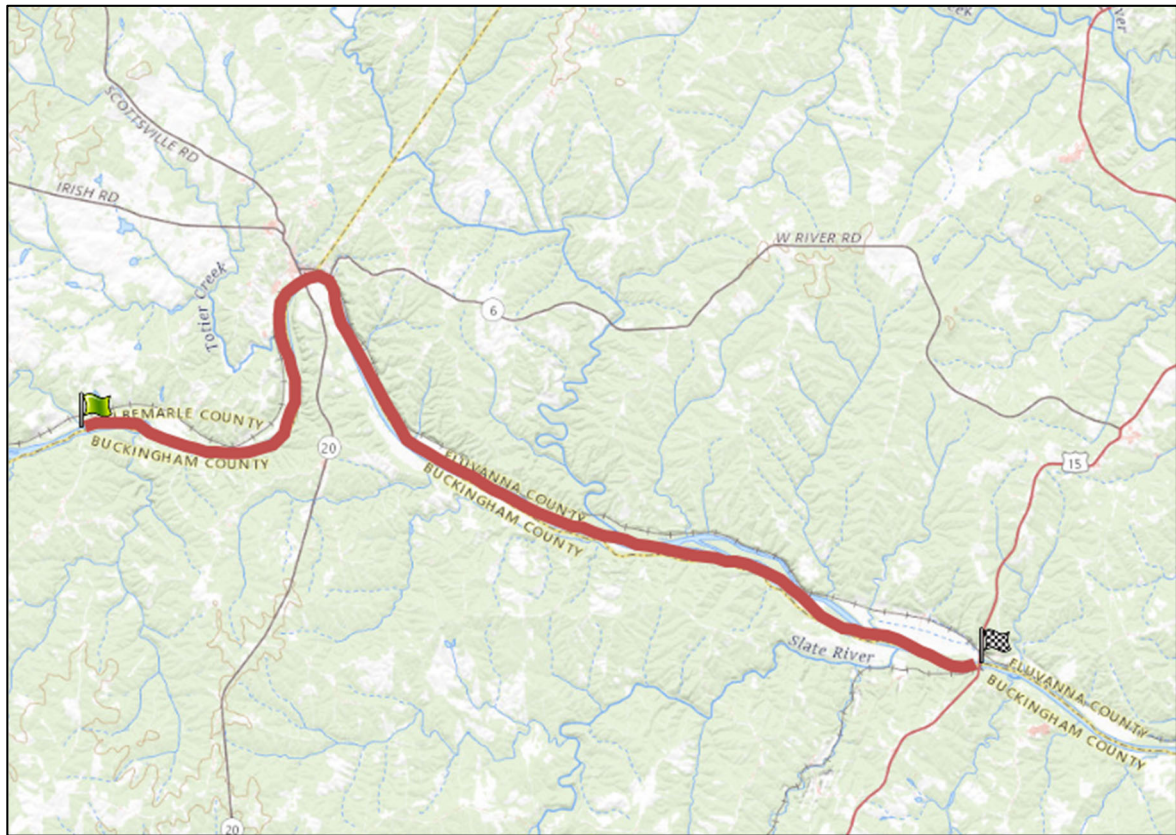
Once the study has been completed, and DCR has finalized a report and designation recommendations, resolutions and letters of support are solicited from as many governmental and civic groups and individuals as possible. These letters and resolutions can become part of the official record if a public hearing on the designation recommendation is held.

The support of local members of the General Assembly is necessary for designation. They introduce the designation legislation and also provide support throughout the legislative process. Sample legislation is provided by DCR staff. For proposed legislation, see **Appendix D**.

III. CORRIDOR STUDY MAP

The James River originates within Botetourt County at the confluence of the Cowpasture River and the Jackson River. The James then flows east until it reaches the Chesapeake Bay.

This report will discuss 20 miles of the James River (Map 3). The evaluated section begins one mile upstream of Warren in Albemarle County, continues through the Town of Scottsville and Fluvanna County, and ends at New Canton in Buckingham County.



Map 3. The section of the James River evaluated. The **green flag** represents the starting point, at Warren. The **checkered flag** represents the ending point, at New Canton. Source: EnviroAtlas, <https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/>

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Personnel from Albemarle County, Buckingham County, the Town of Scottsville, James River Association, other local citizens, and DCR's Division of Planning and Recreation Resources completed the field evaluation together on September 27, 2019 and October 4, 2019. The first date, September 27th, the team evaluated the river from Warren to the Town of Scottsville. The second date, October 4th, the team evaluated the river from the Town of Scottsville to New Canton. The following is a description of the qualities and conditions of the resource that make the James River a candidate for the Virginia Scenic River System.

A. River Corridor Vegetation

The evaluation team gave this criterion a moderate score. The team estimated that from Warren to Scottsville, about 77 percent of the shores had forested buffers of at least 100 feet, and from Scottsville to New Canton (Image 1), less than 50 percent of the shores had forested buffers of at least 100 feet (Image 2).



Image 1. Lush, forested buffer along the James River between Warren and Scottsville.



Image 2. Shore along the James River between Scottsville and New Canton. Note the lack of buffer.

B. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications

The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score for having no impoundments or channel modifications.

The 20 miles evaluated were free-flowing and meandering with no modifications to the river. Naturally occurring outcrops, islands, cliffs, rapids, riffles, and in-stream rock formations added visual and paddling interest (Image 3, Image 4).



Image 3. Rapids and islands along the James River.



Image 4. Cliff along the James River.

C. Human Development of Visual Corridor

The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score. There is almost no urban development, and relatively low rural development.

The 20-mile section was remote, with forestland on either side of the river. The first part, from Warren to Scottsville, had six houses, cabins, industrial buildings or clusters visible from the river, for an average of 0.5 such structures per mile. The second part, from Scottsville to New Canton, had an average of less than 0.5 such structures per mile (Image 5, Image 6). Mobile homes were not included in the counts.



Image 5. Home next to the James River. Note the absence of forested buffer.



Image 6. Home next to the James River. Note the lack of forested buffer.

D. Historic Features

The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score for having historic sites or structures of national significance within 1,000 feet of the river.

According to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), four hundred years ago Native Americans called the river the *Powhatan Flu*, while European colonists called it the *James River*, after England's King James. NPS adds that, over the centuries of settlements, war, disease, and slavery, "the landscape around the James River was altered physically, emotionally, socially, and economically. No other settlement pattern or landscape was as instrumental to the founding of both Virginia as a colony and America as the new nation" (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/traveljamesriverva/intro.htm>).

DCR manages the Virginia Treasures program. The program recognizes over one thousand locations in Virginia with important ecological, historic, scenic, and recreational value. According to the Virginia Treasures web page (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-treasures-total>), the 20 miles evaluated is home to one Virginia Treasure: the Hatton Ferry. The ferry is five miles southwest from the Town of Scottsville and connects Albemarle and Buckingham counties. The ferry was established in 1870 and is still in use today. To read more about the ferry, see **Section L: Public Recreational Access** (page 29).

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) lists 17 historical/cultural features of significance within 1000 feet of each side of this James River section. These are places that are either eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Resources.

More details about the sites are below:

- (1) **Ellen Miyagawa House (Descriptive), Melrose (Historic/Current)**
5210 Shores Road, Route 640, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.73891412; Longitude: -78.36247134
- (2) **John H. Cocke Memorial Bridge (Bridge No. 1987) (Current)**
Route 15, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.71173104; Longitude: -78.30225373
- (3) **Bremo Bluff Railroad Bridge (Current), New Canton Bridge (Historic)**
Route 15, Buckingham County
Latitude: 37.71060982; Longitude: -78.30187181
- (4) **VEPCO Power Plant, 1038 Bremo Rd (Function/Location), Virginia Electric and Power Company (Historic)**
1038 Bremo Road, Route 656, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.70934273; Longitude: -78.28799418
- (5) **Glen Arvon (Historic/Current)**
Route 602, Buckingham County, Cumberland County, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.70183292; Longitude: -78.24322967

- (6) **Howardsville Historic District (Current)**
Route 602, Albemarle County
Latitude: 37.73510672; Longitude: -78.65083859
- (7) **Bremo Historic District (NRHP Listing), Bremo Plantation Historic District (Historic/Current), Bremo Recess (Historic), Lower Bremo (Historic), Upper Bremo (Historic)**
Route 15, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.73138029; Longitude: -78.32033107
- (8) **New Canton Historic District (Historic/Current)**
Cross Street, Ferry Road, Main Street, Buckingham County
Latitude: 37.70161379; Longitude: -78.29817876
- (9) **Farm. 6280 Bremo Road (Route 656) (Function/Location), Rivanna Farm (Historic)**
6280 Bremo Road, Route 656, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.73704316; Longitude: -78.20881445
- (10) **Seven Islands Archaeological and Historic District (44FV134, 44BK220-223, 226) (NRHP Listing)**
State Route 652, Buckingham County and Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.71943216; Longitude: -78.35145979
- (11) **Scottsville Historic District (Historic/Current)**
Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, and Town of Scottsville
Latitude: 37.80027663; Longitude: -78.49542504
- (12) **Bremo Bluff Village Historic District (Current)**
Route 656, Route 657, U.S. Route 15, Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.71324486; Longitude: -78.29852332
- (13) **Columbia Historic District (Historic/Current)**
Cameron Street - Alt Route 1101, Fayette Street - Alt Route 1102, K Street - Alt Route 1105, Old Columbia Road - Alt Route 667, St. James Street - Alt Route 6, St. Patrick Street - Alt Route 1108, Stage Junction Road - Alt Route 659, Tammany Street - Alt Route 1109, Washington Street - Alt Route 1104
Fluvanna County, Town of Columbia
Latitude: 37.75402673; Longitude: -78.16313298
- (14) **Western View (Historic/Current)**
Fluvanna County
Latitude: 37.73484954; Longitude: -78.35571271
- (15) **Jefferson-Carter Rural Historic District (Historic), Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District (NRHP Listing)**
Blenheim Road, James Monroe Parkway - Alt Route 20, Jefferson Mill Road, Milton Road,

Rolling Road

Albemarle County, Buckingham County, Charlottesville, Nelson County, Town of Scottsville

Latitude: 37.86495943; Longitude: -78.54854061

(16) Point of Fork (Historic/Current), Point of Fork Plantation (NRHP Listing)

1210 Point of Fork Road - Alt Route 624, 1214 Point of Fork Road - Alt Route 624

Fluvanna County

Latitude: 37.75224705; Longitude: -78.17737241

(17) Rivanna Canal Navigation Historic District (Current Name), Rivanna Navigation (Historic)

Rivanna River, Town of Columbia, Lake Monticello

Latitude: 37.82609617; Longitude: -78.23307854

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E. Landscape

The evaluation team gave this criterion a moderate score for having moderate diversity of corridor features and vegetation. However, the section from Warren to Scottsville had a high range of views (background of several miles).

The 20-mile section of the James River is in Virginia's Piedmont province. According to DCR (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/va-physiographic-provinces>):

“Virginia's Piedmont Plateau province is a gently rolling upland bounded on the east by the Fall line and the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The western boundary of the Piedmont is characterized by distinct peaks and ridges, comprising the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. To the east, the Piedmont continues to slope more gently toward the Fall Line. The Fall Line marks the zone of transition from the hard, resistant bedrock underlying the Piedmont to the softer sediments underlying the Coastal Plain. Streams are able to cut more easily through the sands, gravels, and clays of the Coastal Plain, and rivers widen as the topography flattens. In the northern part of the state this boundary is sharply delineated by falls and rapids. From foothills to rapids, these varying site conditions support a mosaic of plant communities.”

The James features rapids, islands, and cliffs, and forested buffers (Image 7). This portion of the James also offers some mid-distance views of one mile or less (Image 8), and long-range view of several miles (Image 9).



Image 7. Foreground view along the James of a small stream flowing underneath an arched canopy.



Image 8. An example of a mid-range view offered on the James River.



Image 9. Long-range view along the James between Warren and Scottsville. Distant land is visible in the middle of the photo above the "V" in the mid-distance tree line.

F. Quality of Fishery

The evaluation team concluded that the game fish populations at the 20-mile section are between moderate and excellent, and that there are good fishing opportunities.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has supporting information. According to the DGIF web page for the Middle James River (<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/waterbody/james-river-upper-middle/>):

“Howardsville to Scottsville

“Distance: 9.8 miles

“The ramp at Howardsville provide the starting point for this relatively long trip. A concrete ramp at Scottsville (reached by following the signs from Rt. 6) is located downstream of the Rt. 20 bridge, and is suitable for most boats. The river is generally wide and shallow throughout this section with many small islands. This is an easy float, but will take some time when the river is low. Smallmouth bass, redbreast sunfish, channel catfish, and longnose gar will provide most of the fishing action.

“Scottsville to Hardware River W.M.A.

“Distance: 5.8 miles

“Good concrete boat ramps are present at both access points. The ramp at Hardware River Wildlife Management Area is reached by following the signs from Rt. 6. The upper portion of this float has long shallow pools, while the lower portion passes through a multitude of islands. The takeout at Hardware River WMA is located immediately upstream from the mouth of the Hardware River, and you should stick to the left (north) bank of the river as you near the takeout. Fishing in this section is excellent for redbreast sunfish, and good for smallmouth bass.

“Hardware to New Canton

“Distance 6.9 miles

“A braided channel with many small islands. Very scenic with much Class I and II riffles. Redbreast and smallmouth provide most fishing action. Take out downstream from Route 15 bridge, on right.”

G. Special Natural Flora and Fauna

The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score for having multiple species with state-level or national-level conservation status. The team photographed different animals and plants during the September 27th fieldwork day (Image 10, Image 11, Image 12, Image 13, Image 14).

Hardware River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is 1,034-acres of forestland. The WMA is managed by DGIF and is located along the evaluated section of the James River. According to the DGIF website (<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma/hardware-river/>):

“The majority of the Hardware River Wildlife Management Area is wooded, primarily with hardwood species. These include many of the oaks, plus maple, hickory and gum. Some pure pine stands are found on the highest ground. Most of these stands occupy former farmland abandoned during the early thirties. Except for the low-ground along the James River, this is an area of low ridges and gentle slopes.... Wildlife viewers will find ample viewing opportunities throughout the management area. Deer and turkey can be observed along the edges of numerous openings throughout the area. Both woodland and early successional bird species are common. Water birds are observed regularly along the James and Hardware Rivers and Canada geese can be observed as they move up and down the James throughout the year.”

Year-to-year bird observations at Hardware River WMA can be found at ebird.org (<https://ebird.org/barchart?bmo=1&emo=12&byr=1900&eyr=2019&r=L718500>).



Image 10. Underwater vegetation in the James River (September 27, 2019).



Image 11. Shell found during the James River evaluation fieldwork (September 27, 2019).



Image 12. Flock of birds in the sky (September 27, 2019).

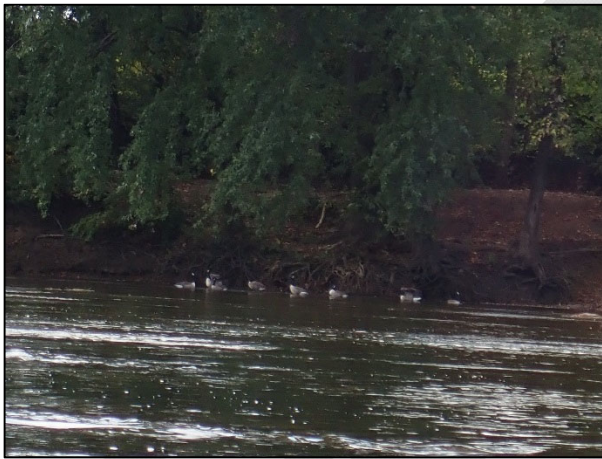


Image 13. Canada geese in the James River (September 27, 2019).



Image 14. Purple flowers nearby the James River (September 27, 2019).

Species with Conservation Status

This section of the James River has several animal and plant species with state-level or national-level conservation status. The following list was provided by the DCR Natural Heritage Program.

For species ranking definitions (G1, G2, etc.), please see **Appendix B**.

(1) Yellow Lance/ *Elliptio lanceolata*
G2G3/S2S3/LT

This elongate, freshwater mussel has shells over twice as long as tall. This species probably is rather sessile with only limited movement in the substrate. The yellow lance mussel exists in the Patuxent, Rappahannock, York, James, Chowan, Tar, and Neuse River basins in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. It is also native to the Potomac River, but hasn't been reported in recent years. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 15).



Image 15. Yellow Lance, cc-by-nc, © Femorale

(2) Atlantic Pigtoe/ *Fusconaia masoni*
G2G3/S2S3/LT

The Atlantic pigtoe is a freshwater mussel/clam native to the Atlantic Slope drainage in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The shell of the Atlantic pigtoe is a rounded square shape with a distinct posterior ridge. The outer surface of the shell is tan to dark brown and parchment-like, while the inner layer is iridescent blue to salmon, white or orange. Although larger specimens exist, the Atlantic pigtoe rarely exceeds two inches in length. Information and photo source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region. (Image 16).



Image 16. Atlantic pigtoes ready for release.
Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(3) Green Floater/ *Lasmigona subviridis*
G3/S2/LT

Freshwater mussel. Preferred substrate is gravel and sand in water depths of one to four feet. This species is more likely to be found in hydrologically stable streams, not those prone to flooding and drying. Good water quality is also important. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 17).



Image 17. *Lasmigona subviridis* exterior, cc-by-nc-sa-3.0 © Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology

(4) Bradley's Spleenwort/ *Asplenium bradleyi*
G4/S2

This is a small, tightly packed fern that grows upright from the cracks in cliff faces and rocks. The leaves are 4-20 cm long and divided once into 6-14 pairs of triangular leaflets that have toothed edges. The lowest pair are the largest and the leaflets very gradually diminish in size toward the tip of the leaf. The lower half of the leaf stalk is black and shiny and the upper half is green. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 18).



Image 18. Bradley's spleenwort growing in a rock crevice in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, cc-by-sa-3.0, © Choess.

(5) Nodding wild rye/ *Elymus canadensis* var. *canadensis*
G5/S1

The erect or arching stems of this cool-season, short-lived perennial grow 2-4 ft. tall. Terminal, spike-shaped seedheads of oat-like seeds with long, bristly awns, cause the stems to bend and droop. Canada wild rye establishes easily, providing quick initial cover. It is a versatile, cool-season plant, requiring little to no maintenance. It displays heavy, whiskery, nodding seed heads in early fall. Information source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 19).



Image 19. *Elymus canadensis*, cc-by-nc-sa, © Peter Gorman.

(6) Small-flower halfchaff sedge/ *Lipocarpa micrantha*
G5/S2

A tufted dwarf sedge with slender culms, bract-like leaves, and 1-3 short ovoid spikes per culm. Sandy strands, shores, pond and lake margins, bogs, along streams, beaches, and vernal wetlands. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers (Image 20).



Image 20. *Hemicarpha micrantha*, John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers.

(7) Stalkless yellow cress/ *Rorippa sessiliflora*
G5/S2

This plant is a winter or summer annual about 1-3' tall; it branches occasionally. The stems are light green and grooved. The alternate leaves are up to 5" long and 2" across, becoming smaller as they ascend the stems. Information and photo source: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers (Image 21).



Image 21. *Rorippa sessiliflora*, John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers

(8) Virginia sida/ *Sida hermaphrodita*

G3/S1

A tall (1-3+ m) perennial herb with deeply palmately lobed, toothed leaves with the lobe tips dramatically elongated. Produces clusters of white flowers. Fruit is a schizocarp. Flowering from June to August. Fruiting in September and October. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (Image 22).

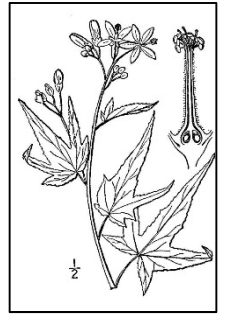


Image 22. *Sida hermaphrodita* (L.) Rusby – *Virginia fanpetals*. Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 2: 520.

(9) Rough vervain/ *Verbena scabra*

G5/S1

This species is a member of the verbena family (family Verbenaceae), which includes about 75 genera and 3,000 species of herbs, shrubs, and trees, mostly of tropical and warm temperate regions. Among them, teak is a highly prized furniture wood, and Vervain, Lantana, Lippia or Frog Fruit, and Chase Tree or Vitex are grown as ornamentals. Information and photo source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (Image 23).



Image 23. Rough vervain, Unrestricted, Robert L. Stone, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

H. Water Quality

The evaluation team gave this criterion a moderate score for having rarely visible pollution, and for having turbid or muddy waters during less than one-third of the six warm season months (May through October).

Visibility through the water column was clear (Image 24) and trash was infrequent along the entire study length (Image 25).



Image 24. Clear waters of the James River.



Image 25. A tire along the James River. Trash appeared infrequently on the river.

I. Parallel Roads

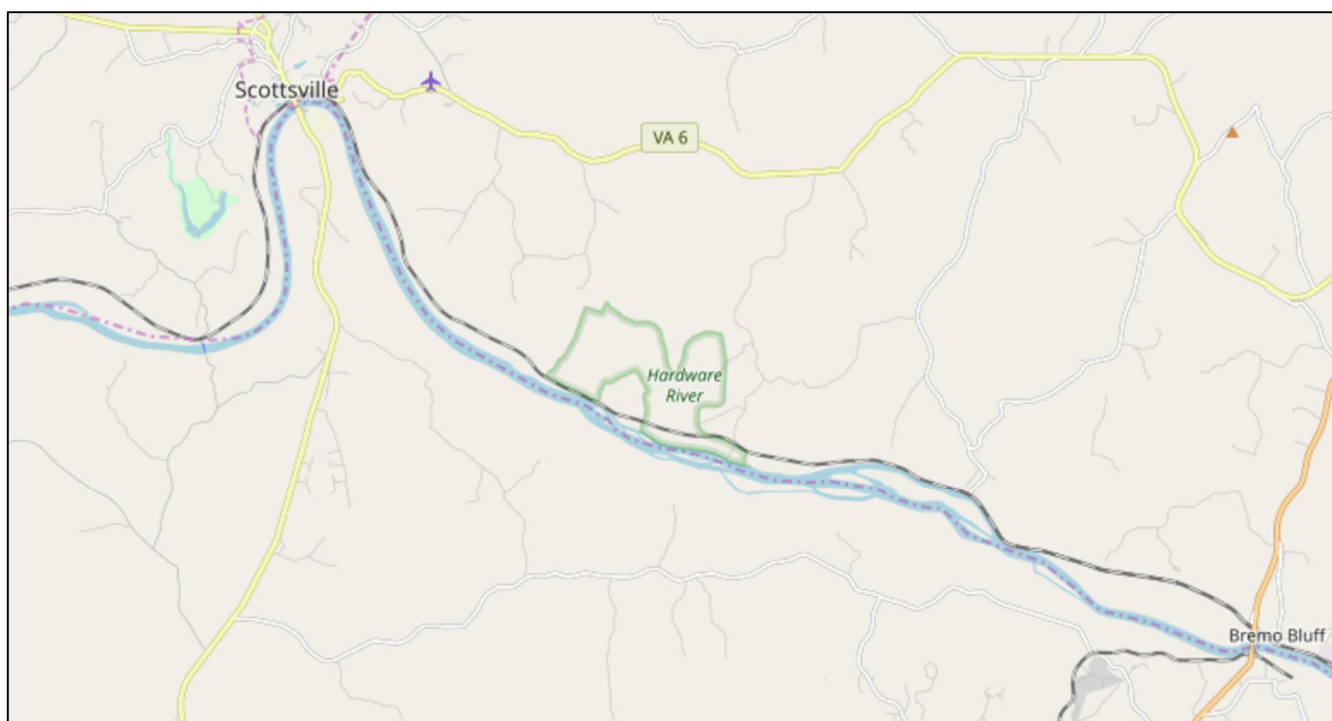
The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score for Warren to Scottsville for having few parallel roads, and a moderate score for Scottsville to New Canton for having up to five miles of parallel road per 10 miles of stream.

While roads may negatively impact the sights and sounds of a river, the impact can be minor due to vegetation, elevation, or minimal use of the river. Some roads may even offer benefits to the river's scenic quality, by allowing fishing access and providing passerby views of the river. For example, VA-6 is parallel to the part of the James that passes through the Town of Scottsville (Map 4). The street VA-6 is listed as a Virginia Byway in the Virginia's Scenic Byways program, managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in partnership with DCR. The program recognizes roads that provide access to scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, natural, and archeological sites.

The entire 20-mile section of the James is parallel to the CSX railroad. The railroad is visible along some parts of the river.



Image 26. A train on the CSX railroad, as seen on the James River near the Town of Scottsville.



Map 4. The James River segment evaluated, and the nearby streets. The road VA-6 is parallel to the section of the James that passes through the Town of Scottsville. Meanwhile, the CSW railroad is parallel to the entire 20-mile section of the James River (represented as a **black and white line**). Note that the railroad crosses the river at Brems Bluff. Source: The National Map, <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>

J. Crossings

The evaluation team gave this criterion a moderate score for having several crossings.

Crossings are roads, pipelines, and power/communication lines that cross a river. Although crossings reduce the sense of remoteness along a river, they can provide visual and physical access to the water and to more distant views.

There is only one major powerline crosses the James (Image 27).

Two major bridges cross the James (Map 4): in the Town of Scottsville, the Scottsville Bridge (South Constitution Route, SR 20) (Image 28); and in New Canton, the John H. Cocke Memorial Bridge (James Madison Highway, US. Route 15) (Image 29). Next to the memorial bridge is the Brems Bluff Railroad Bridge (Image 29, Map 5). This bridge is part of the CSX railroad, and was mentioned earlier in this report in **Section D: Historic Features** (page 12).



Image 27. Large powerline between Warren and Scottsville.



Image 28. Scottsville Bridge (South Constitution Route, SR 20) over the James River.



Image 29. The John H. Cocke Memorial Bridge (James Madison Highway, US. Route 15) over the James River. Behind the memorial bridge is the Bremo Bluff Railroad Bridge that is part of the CSX railroad.



Map 5. Aerial view of the John H. Cocke Memorial Bridge (James Madison Highway, US. Route 15) over the James River. The bridge crosses over the James River in New Canton. To the right of the memorial bridge is the Bremo Bluff Railroad Bridge that is part of the CSX railroad. Source: Google Earth, <https://earth.google.com/>

K. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics

The evaluation team gave the section between Warren and Scottsville a high score, and the section between Scottsville and New Canton a moderate score. The first section has unique or interesting in-stream rock formations, culturally significant sites, islands, rapids, mature forests, cliffs, special geological features, and remoteness. Except for the mature forests, the second section also had these features.



Image 30. Lush forested buffer along the James River between Warren and Scottsville.



Image 31. Forest and riffles along the James River between Scottsville and New Canton.

L. Public Recreational Access

The evaluation team gave this criterion a high score for having public boat/canoe/kayak launch sites and public use trails along the corridor.

Recreationists can paddle, fish, swim, body surf, and tube down the river (Image 32).

Bank access along the James is limited, therefore boaters should rely on the three publicly-accessible boat ramps (Map 6): the Town of Scottsville (Image 33), the confluence with the Hardware River (Image 34), and New Canton. Boaters can also find access to the river at Hatton Ferry (Image 35).

Hatton Ferry crosses the James River at Hatton Ferry Road, about five miles southwest from the Town of Scottsville (Map 6). The ferry is in the list of Virginias Treasures, and is often called America's last poled ferry (Image 36, Image 37, Image 38, Image 39).

Campers can find privately-owned campgrounds at Hatton Ferry and the Town of Scottsville. Hikers can find public trails at Hardware River WMA (Map 6, Map 7). Motorists can enjoy the terrain around the James River on VA-6, a Virginia Byway that passes through the Town of Scottsville (Map 6).

Hunting in the Hardware River WMA is open to the public. According to Find Wildlife VA (www.vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov), hunters can find deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, waterfowl, quail, and woodcock. The public should contact DGIF for questions about licenses and access permits.



Image 32. Swimmers jumping into the James River.



Image 33. Boat access to the James River in the Town of Scottsville.



Image 34. Concrete boat ramp to the James River in Hardware River WMA.

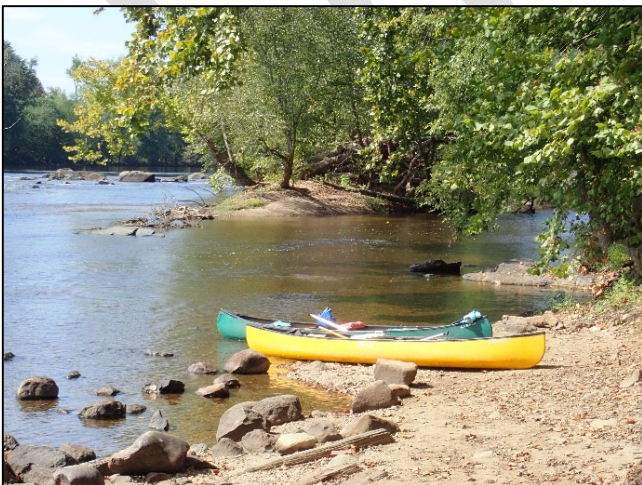


Image 35. The evaluation team rested their boats on the shore next to Hatton Ferry.



Image 36. Signage for Hatton Ferry that shows the operating season: “Mid April – End October.”



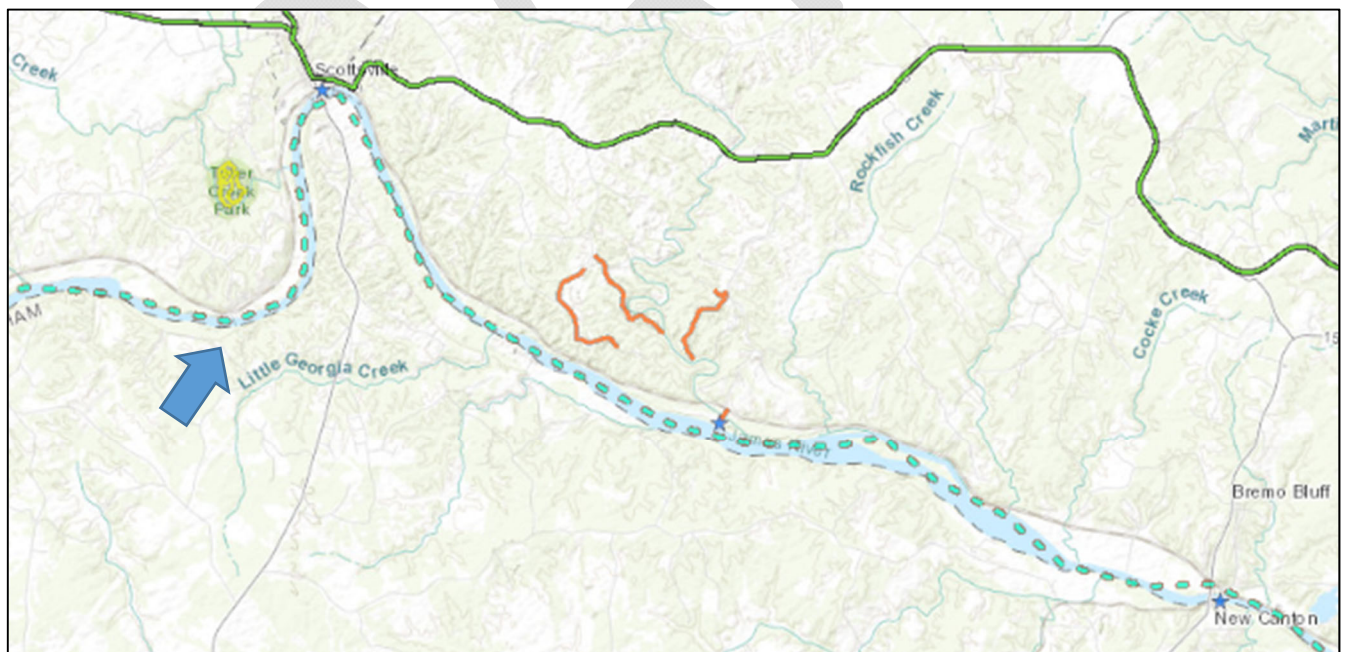
Image 37. Signage for Hatton Ferry with rules about trespassing.



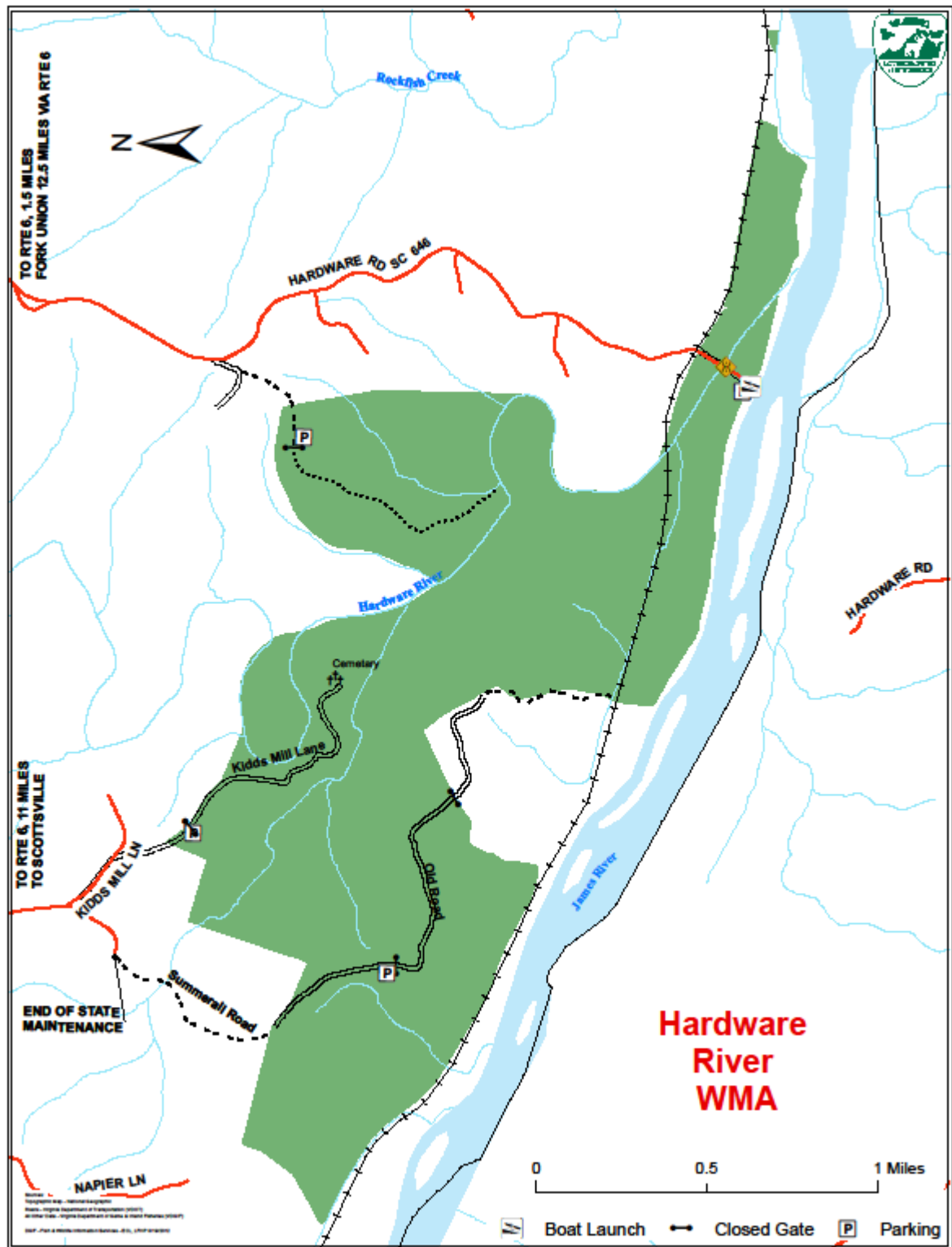
Image 38. Information boards about Frank Hatton, the U.S. Postmaster General from 1884 to 1885, and the namesake of the Hatton Ferry.



Image 39. Hatton Ferry, a poled ferry still in operation today.



Map 6. Map of the James River showing amenities for recreational activities. Motorists can enjoy the Virginia Scenic Byway that goes through Scottsville, represented as a **green line**. Boaters can find boat access points at three points, represented on the map as **blue stars**: Scottsville, the Hardware River, and New Canton. The location of Hatton Ferry is represented as a large **blue arrow**. State-managed trails are represented as **brown lines**. The trails are in Hardware River WMA, which is managed by DGIF. Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer, <http://vanhde.org/content/map>

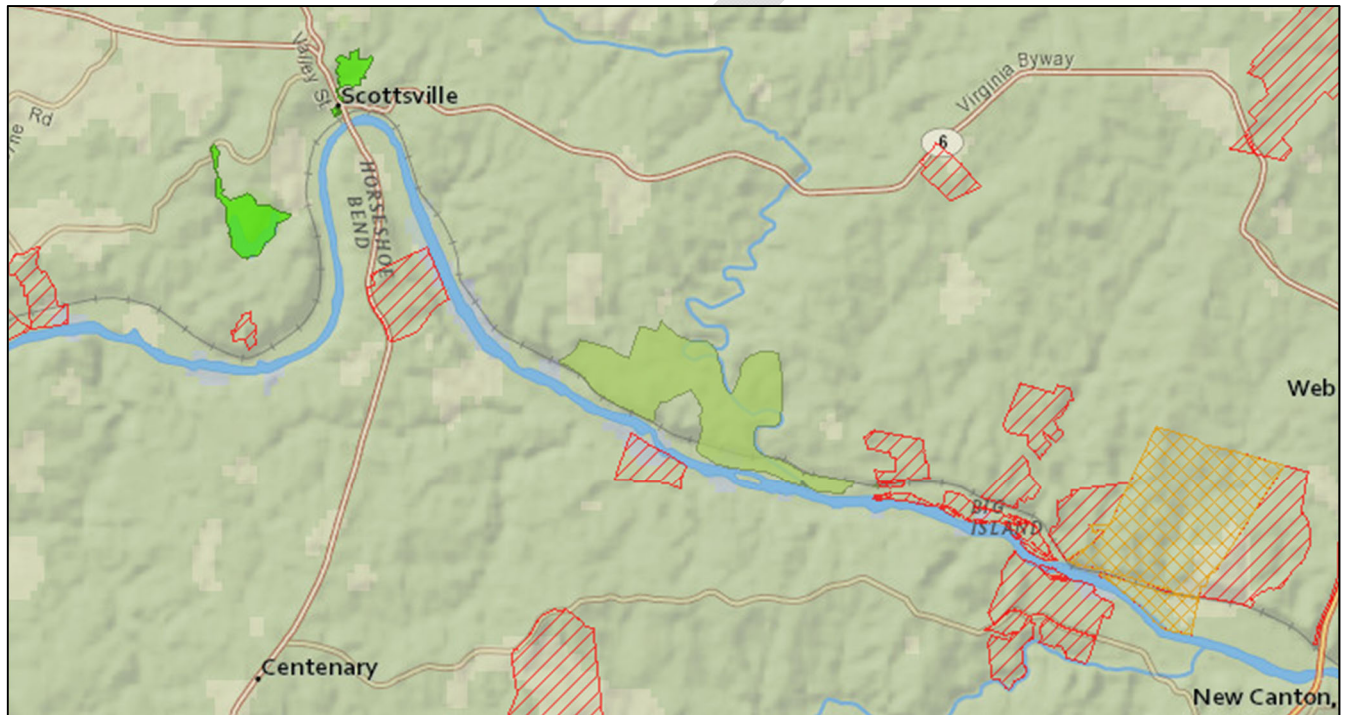


Map 7. Map of the Hardware River WMA. The area encloses parts of the Hardware River. The area also has trails, roads, parking space, the CSX railroad, and a boat launch. Source: Hardware River WMA website, <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma/hardware-river/>

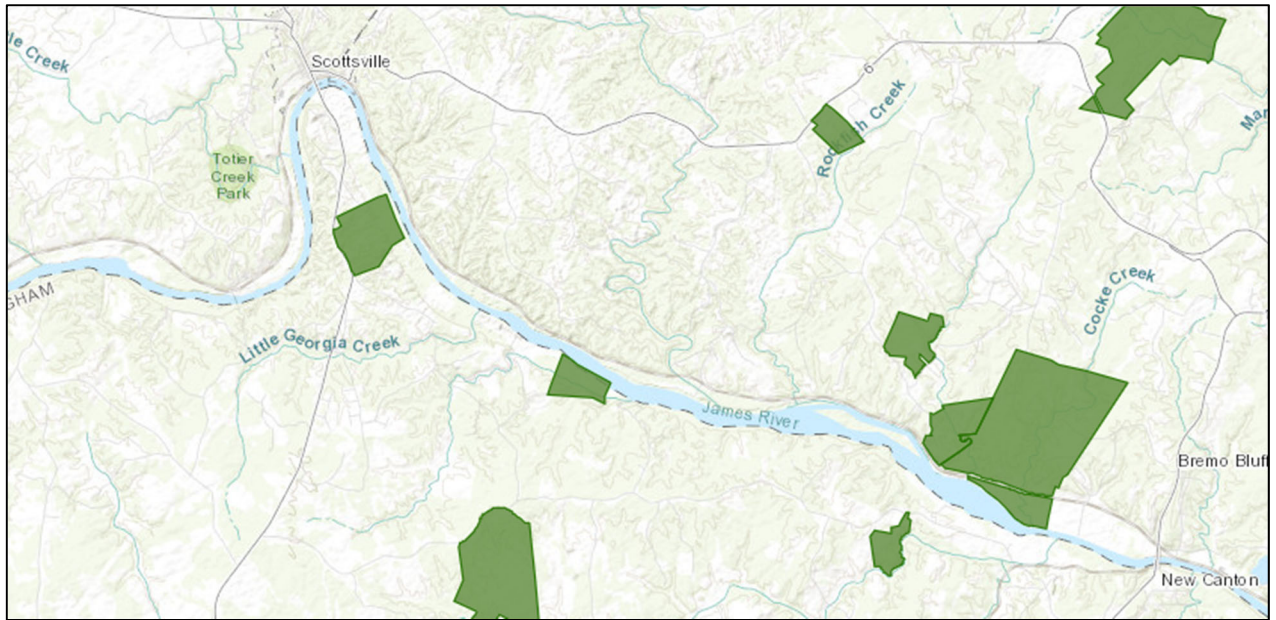
M. Land Conservation

The evaluation team gave this criterion a low score for having less than 25 percent of the corridor protected through an easement or other permanent measure.

According to DCR's Natural Heritage Program, the 20 miles of the James River has some protection from development (Map 8). In between Scottsville and New Canton, and enclosing part of the Hardware River, is the Hardware River State WMA, managed by DGIF. Upstream and downstream are various parcels of easements managed by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) (Map 9).



Map 8. Land conservation along the evaluated section of the James River. State lands are in **light green** (i.e., the Hardware River WMA), local lands are in **neon green** (i.e., Totier Creek Park and Van Clief Nature Area), coheld easements are in **orange crisscross** (i.e., the area nearby New Canton), and conservation easements are in **red stripes**. Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer, <http://vanhde.org/content/map>



Map 9. VOF conservation easements (in **green**) along the James. Some of these parcels match the easements shown in Map 8. Source: VOF Map Room, <https://vof.maps.arcgis.com/>

V. LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

Lands along the study corridor are managed by DGIF, VOF, local government, and private owners (see **Section M: Land Conservation**). The land is largely forested, with areas dedicated to homes, roads, farms, and other human uses (Map 10, Map 11).



Map 10. Landscape around the James River, from Warren (**green flag**) to New Canton (**checkered flag**). Note the variegated parcels of land throughout the corridor, suggesting lots of different landowners and land uses. Source: EnviroAtlas, <https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/>



Map 11. Land use along the evaluated section of the James River. Most of the section is surrounded by Forest & Woodland (**green**). Other land uses are Developed & Other Human Use (**pink**, e.g. the roads, and most of the Town of Scottsville), Recently Disturbed or Modified (**maroon**), and Agricultural & Developed Vegetation (**white**). Source: GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems 2011, <https://maps.usgs.gov/terrestrial-ecosystems-2011>

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) concludes that the James River from one mile upstream of Warren in Albemarle County through the Town of Scottsville and Fluvanna County to New Canton in Buckingham County, a distance of approximately 20 miles, is hereby eligible to be a component of the Virginia Scenic River System. Scenic River designation is warranted because of the aesthetic and recreational qualities of the river section, its environs, the unique flora and fauna, and the protected lands.

Flowing through forested land, this river segment has a number of interesting aesthetic features including outcrops, islands, cliffs, rapids, riffles, and in-stream rock formations. Its winding course provides for interesting foreground, middleground, and long-range views.

The James River segment is home to oaks, maple, deer, and geese. The 20-mile section of the James also has nine plant and animal species with state-level or national-level conservation status.

The studied segment of the James is rich with history. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) lists 17 historical/cultural features of significance within 1000 feet of each side of the James River section. Part of the 20 miles is parallel to VA-6, which is a state-designated Virginia Scenic Byway.

At present, three other segments of the James River are part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System: Historic Falls of the James (8.6 miles), approved in 1972 and extended in 1984; part of the Upper James River (59 miles), approved in 1985 and extended in 2017; and part of the Lower James Historic River (25 miles), approved in 1988.

Considering the aspects of this segment of the James River as described in this report, DCR recommends that:

1. The section that starts from one mile upstream of Warren in Albemarle County through the Town of Scottsville and Fluvanna County to New Canton in Buckingham County, a distance of approximately 20 miles, receive Virginia Scenic River designation, and
2. The Department of Conservation and Recreation be appointed the Administering Agency.

Proposed legislation for Scenic River designation is provided in **Appendix D**.

VII. CONSERVATION PLAN

The following recommended conservation plan would involve local and state governments, individual and riparian landowners, and local stewardship initiatives.

A. Virginia Scenic River Designation

Designation of the 20-mile section of the James would give riparian landowners, local citizens, and local governments a greater voice in the planning and implementation of federal and state projects that might affect the river. For other benefits of Scenic River designation, see **Section B: Benefits of Designation**.

The local government may create a local scenic river advisory committee to advise the local government on the protection or management of the scenic river segment within its jurisdiction. For more information about this process, see [*Code of Virginia § 10.1-401*](#) and [*§ 10.1-406.1*](#).

B. Land Use Plans

[Albemarle](#), [Buckingham](#), and [Fluvanna](#) Counties have references to protecting the James River in the comprehensive plans. These comprehensive land use plans reflect citizens' recognition, appreciation, and concern for the river, which recognizes the role it plays in the county's quality of life. Such plans help protect the river and its environs from insensitive development and insure that the development that does occur uses low impact strategies whenever possible.

C. Local and Riparian Landowners

Stewardship by local and riparian landowners has been good over the years. If not for this stewardship, the attributes necessary for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System might have been lost. Through continuation of these efforts, the natural and scenic character of the river can be protected.

D. Local Stewardship Initiatives

Several local initiatives support the conservation and recognition of the James River. The following describes a few of them.

The James River Association's mission is "to be a guardian of the James River," and to "provide a voice for the river and take action to promote conservation and responsible stewardship of its natural resources." Its vision is "a fully healthy James River ecosystem restored to a Grade A in the State of the James report" (www.thejamesriver.org).

The James River Advisory Council "provides a forum for the diverse interests along the James River in Central Virginia and engages the public about issues and challenges facing the river." The Council's membership "includes representatives from local jurisdictions, businesses and industry, civic organizations and individuals" (www.jrac-va.org).

VOF maintains conservations easements around the James River. According to VOF (www.vof.org), "these voluntary legal agreements limit residential, commercial, and industrial development" and "easements are tailored to each property."

VIII. ANTICIPATED COST OF DESIGNATION

The only anticipated direct costs as a result of the designation would be those incurred by DCR as a result of its duties as administrator of the river. These costs are estimated to be within \$1,000 per year.

IX. AGENCY COMMENTS/ RESOLUTIONS

A draft report was circulated in 2019 among DCR Divisions, other state agencies, and Rockbridge County. See comments and resolutions of support in **Appendix C**.

X. APPENDIX

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Appendix A. Acronyms and Abbreviations

The Act	Scenic Rivers Act, Title 10.1, Chapter 4 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
SR	State Route
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VA	Commonwealth of Virginia
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VOF	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
WMA	Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area

Appendix B. Species Ranking Definitions of DCR Natural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS
Villosa perpurpurea	Purple Bean	G1	S1	LE	LE

Definitions of Abbreviations used on Natural Heritage Resource Lists

The following ranks are used by DCR to set protection priorities for natural heritage resources. Natural Heritage Resources, or "NHR's," are rare plant and animal species, rare and exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic features. The criterion for ranking NHR's is the number of populations or occurrences, i.e. the number of known distinct localities; the number of individuals in existence at each locality or, if a highly mobile organism (e.g., sea turtles, many birds, and butterflies), the total number of individuals; the quality of the occurrences, the number of protected occurrences; and threats.

- S1** Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 5 or fewer populations or occurrences; or very few remaining individuals (<1000).
- S2** Imperiled in the state because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 6 to 20 populations or occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000).
- S3** Vulnerable in the state either because rare and uncommon, or found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Typically 21 to 100 populations or occurrences (1,000 to 3,000).
- S4** Apparently secure; Uncommon but not rare, and usually widespread in the state. Possible cause of long-term concern. Usually >100 populations or occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
- S5** Secure; Common, widespread and abundant in the state. Essentially ineradicable under present conditions. Typically with considerably more than 100 populations or occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
- S#B** Breeding status of an animal within the state
- S#N** Non-breeding status of animal within the state. Usually applied to winter resident species.
- S#?** Inexact or uncertain numeric rank.
- SH** Possibly extirpated (Historical). Historically known from the state, but not verified for an extended period, usually > 15 years; this rank is used primarily when inventory has been attempted recently.
- S#S#** Range rank; A numeric range rank, (e.g. S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank.
- SU** Unrankable; Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
- SNR** Unranked; state rank not yet assessed.
- SX** Presumed extirpated from the state. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
- SNA** A conservation status rank is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation activities

Global Ranks are similar, but refer to a species' rarity throughout its total range. Global ranks are denoted with a "G" followed by a character. Note GX means the element is presumed extinct throughout its range, not relocated despite intensive searches of historical sites/appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered. A "Q" in a rank indicates that a taxonomic question concerning that species exists. Ranks for subspecies are denoted with a "T". The global and state ranks combined (e.g. G2/S1) give an instant grasp of a species' known rarity.

These ranks should not be interpreted as legal designations.

- G1** Extremely rare and critically imperiled with 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- G2** Very rare and imperiled with 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction.
- G3** Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range; or vulnerable to extinction because of other factors. Usually fewer than 100 occurrences are documented.
- G4** Common and apparently secure globally, although it may be rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- G5** Very common and demonstrably secure globally, although it may be rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- GH** Formerly part of the world's fauna with some expectation that it may be rediscovered; generally applies to species that have not been verified for an extended period (usually >15 years) and for which some inventory has been attempted recently.
- GX** Believed to be extinct throughout its range with virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.
- GU** Possibly rare, but status uncertain and more data needed.
- G?** Unranked, or, if following a numerical ranking, rank uncertain (e.g., G3?).
- G_G_** The rank is uncertain, but considered to be within the indicated range (e.g., G2G4) of ranks (also, T_T_).
- G_Q** Taxon has a questionable taxonomic assignment (e.g., G3Q) and may prove to be invalid upon further study.
- G_T_** Signifies the rank of a subspecies (e.g., G5T1 would apply to a subspecies if the species is demonstrably secure globally (G5) but the subspecies warrants a rank of T1, critically imperiled.)

FEDERAL STATUS

The Division of Natural Heritage uses the standard abbreviations for Federal endangerment developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation.

- LE** Listed Endangered
- LT** Listed Threatened
- PE** Proposed Endangered
- PT** Proposed Threatened
- C** Candidate (formerly C1 - Candidate category 1)
- E(S/A)** Treat as endangered because of similarity of appearance
- T(S/A)** Treat as threatened because of similarity of appearance
- SOC** Species of Concern species that merit special concern (not a regulatory category)

STATE LEGAL STATUS

The Division of Natural Heritage uses similar abbreviations for State endangerment:

LE	Listed Endangered
PE	Proposed Endangered
SC	Special Concern - animals that merit special concern according to VDGIF (not a regulatory category)
LT	Listed Threatened
PT	Proposed Threatened
C	Candidate

For information on the laws pertaining to threatened or endangered species, please contact:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for all **FEDERALLY** listed species;
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plant Protection Bureau for **STATE** listed plants and insects; and
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for all other **STATE** listed animals

CONSERVATION SITES RANKING

Rank is a rating of the significance of the conservation site based on presence and number of natural heritage resources; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant. Sites are also coded to reflect the presence/absence of federally/state listed species:

Conservation Site Ranks

B1	Outstanding significance
B2	Very High significance
B3	High significance
B4	Moderate significance
B5	Of general Biodiversity significance

Legal Status of Sites

FL	Federally listed species present
SL	State listed species present
NL	No listed species present

Appendix C. Letters, Comments, and Other Support

1. Letters Requesting Designation

Albemarle County – August 8, 2019



COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
Office of County Executive
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-4596

August 8, 2019

Ms. Danette M. Poole
Division Director, Planning and Recreation Resources
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 E. Main Street, 24th floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Poole,

On behalf of Albemarle County, I would like to request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation conduct a study of the James River to see if it qualifies for designation as a State Scenic River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970. The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors approved this request at their meeting on August 7, 2019.

We are aware that the Town of Scottsville, Fluvanna County, and Buckingham County have made this request of your department. We understand the section of the James River to be studied begins at its confluence with the Rockfish River and ends at its confluence with the Rivanna River. We support the James River Association and the Town of Scottsville in initiating and leading this effort. We want to join our adjacent localities in requesting that a study be conducted.

Thank you for considering our request. Please let me know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey B. Richardson".

Jeffrey B. Richardson
County Executive

jbr19-011

Buckingham County – July 9, 2019



Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator

E.M. Wright, Jr.
County Attorney

Buckingham County
Board of Supervisors
Office of the County Administrator
13380 W. James Anderson Highway
Post Office Box 252
Buckingham, Virginia 23921-0252
Telephone 434-969-4242
Fax 434-969-1638
www.buckinghamcountyva.org

Donald E. Bryan
District 2 Supervisor
Chairman

Harry W. Bryant
District 5 Supervisor
Vice-Chairman

Robert C. "Bobby" Jones
District 1 Supervisor

Dan Matthews
District 3 Supervisor

E. Morgan Dunnivant
District 4 Supervisor

Joe N. Chambers, Jr.
District 6 Supervisor

Danny R. Allen
District 7 Supervisor

July 9, 2019

Lynn Crump, PLA, Scenic Resources Coordinator
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 E. Main St., 24th floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Crump:

At the July 8, 2019 regular business meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors, Matt Lawless and Justin Doyle gave a very informative presentation regarding James River and the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. The Board voted to officially request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation study the segment of the James River around Buckingham County to determine if this section might meet the requirements to be designated a State Scenic River. The Board approved my submitting this letter and requesting this designation of the James River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970.

Thank you for all your efforts in conservation and recreation on Virginia's waterways.

Respectfully,

Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator

cc: Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville Administrator
Justin Doyle, Community Conservation Manager, James River Association

The Geographic Heart of Virginia

Fluvanna County – July 16, 2019



COUNTY OF FLUVANNA

"Responsive & Responsible Government"

132 Main Street
P.O. Box 540
Palmyra, VA 22963
(434) 591-1910
Fax (434) 591-1911
www.fluvannacounty.org

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Donald W. Weaver
Cunningham District

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Eric M. Dahl
County Administrator

Caitlin Solis
Clerk to the Board

July 16, 2019

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 E. Main St., 24th floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Attention: Lynn Crump, PLA, Scenic Resources Coordinator

Dear Ms. Crump:

At the June 19, 2019 Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors meeting, I was directed to officially request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation study the segment of the James River along the southern Fluvanna County border to determine if this section might meet the requirements to be designated as a State Scenic River. The Board of Supervisors approved my submitting this letter and requesting this designation of the James River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970.

Fluvanna County will coordinate this effort with the James River Association, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, the Counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Cumberland and the Town of Scottsville. The segment of the river along Fluvanna County from Scottsville to Columbia, is approximately 23.25 miles, where the Rivanna River is already designated as a State Scenic River. Our state and regional partnership will determine the best qualifying river segment.

Please let me know how I can further support this effort. Thank you for all your efforts in conservation and recreation on Virginia's waterways.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Dahl
County Administrator

CC: Jeff Richardson, Albemarle County; Rebecca Carter, Buckingham County; Vivian Seay Giles, Cumberland County; Matt Lawless, Town of Scottsville; Chip Boyles, TJPDC; Justin Doyle, James River Association

AUG 19 2019



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GRACE E. MAWYER
Administrative Assistant/
Deputy Clerk

CANDICE W. MCGARRY
Director of Finance and
Human Resources

14 August, 2019

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Attention: Lynn Crump, PLA, Scenic Resources Coordinator

Dear Ms. Crump:

At the August 13, 2019 regular business meeting of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, I was directed to officially request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation study the segment of the James River in Nelson County to determine if this section might meet the requirements to be designated a State Scenic River. The Board of Supervisors approved my submitting this letter and requesting this designation of the James River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970.

The County of Nelson will coordinate this effort with the James River Association, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, and the Counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna and the Town of Scottsville. The Nelson County river segment is a total of 30 miles. From Allens Creek to Norwood (12 miles), Norwood to Wingina (5 miles) and Wingina to Howardsville (13 miles). All sites have ecological, geological and historical significance.

Please let me know how I can further support this effort. Thank you for all of your efforts in conservation and recreation on the Commonwealth's waterways.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Carter".

Stephen A. Carter
County Administrator

CC: Chip Boyles, PDC; Rebecca Carter, Buckingham County; Eric Dahl, Fluvanna County; Justin Doyle, James River Association; David Hannah, Albemarle County; Matthew Lawless, Town of Scottsville; Nelson County Parks and Recreation, Claire Richardson; Nelson County Tourism, Maureen Kelley

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West District

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Central District



STEPHEN A. CALIFORN
County Administrator

GRACE MAWYER
Administrative Assistant/
Deputy Clerk

CANDICE W. MCGARRY
Director of Finance and
Human Resources

**RESOLUTION R2019-34
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION – JAMES RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1970 for the purpose of identification, protection, and preservation of certain rivers, or sections of rivers, which possess high quality natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has been charged with administering the Scenic Rivers Program and developing an objective evaluation process to judge the suitability of river segments; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nelson will coordinate an effort to evaluate a segment of the James River in Nelson County to determine its eligibility as a Scenic River designation along with the James River Association, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, and the Counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna and the Town of Scottsville.

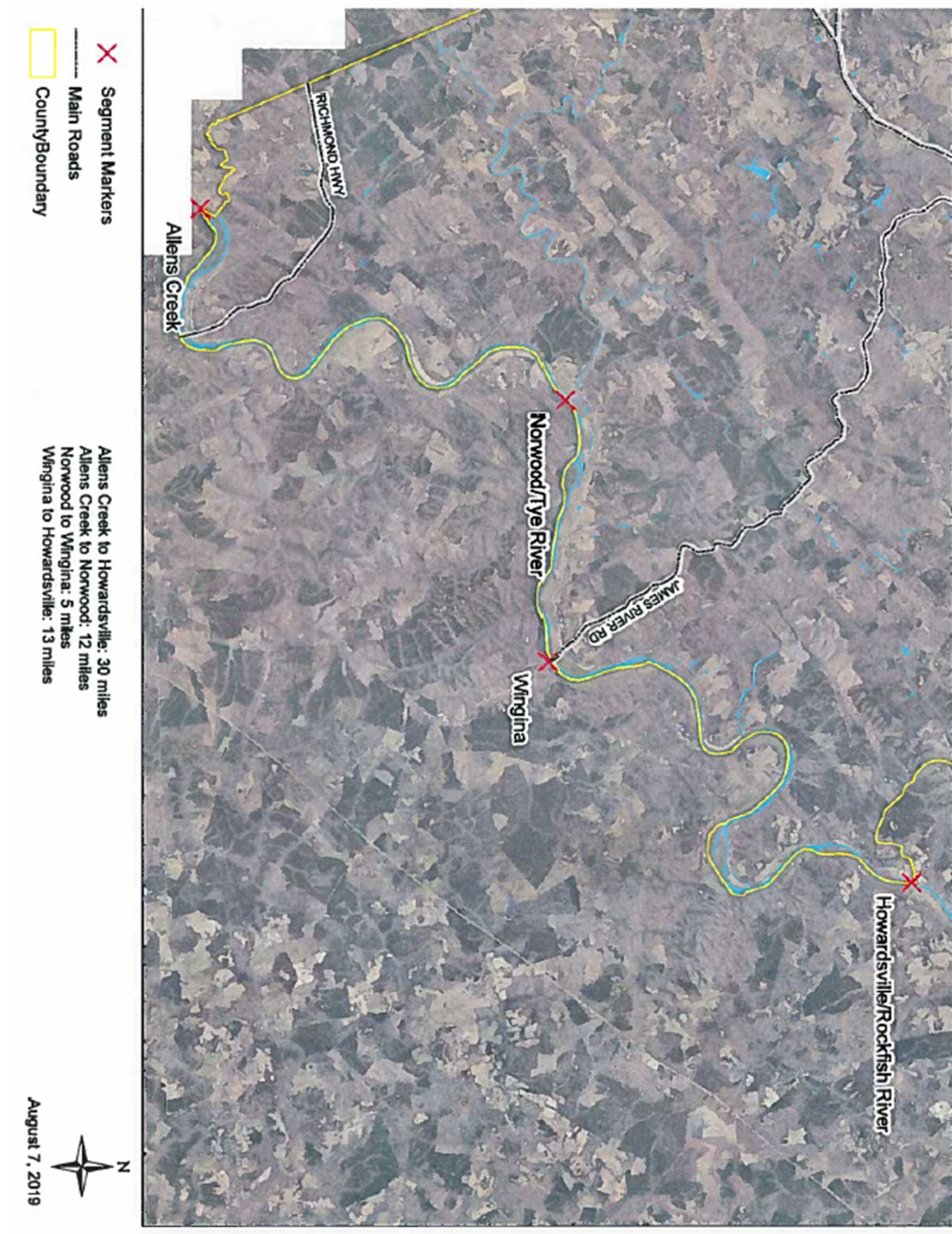
WHEREAS, the maximal river segment would be a total of 30 miles. Allens Creek to Howardsville. This includes Allens Creek to Norwood: 12 miles, Norwood to Wingina: 5 miles, Wingina to Howardsville: 13 miles. To include the access point Buffalo Station. All sites have ecological, geological and historical significance. Our state and regional partnership will determine the best qualifying river segment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors does hereby support the evaluation of the James River within Nelson County by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to determine its eligibility as a Scenic River Designation, much like the Tye River, with a distance of approximately 12.7 miles to the confluence of the James as well as the Rockfish River, a distance of 9.7 miles to the confluence of the James.

Approved: August 13, 2019

Attest: Stephan A. Californ, Clerk
Nelson County Board of Supervisors

Nelson County (3/3) – August 14, 2019



Town of Scottsville – April 17, 2019



Town Administrator
MATTHEW LAWLESS

Town Clerk
THOMAS UNSWORTH

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

VICTORY HALL
401 VALLEY STREET
SCOTTSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24590

TELEPHONE: (434) 286-9267 FACSIMILE: (434) 286-4237
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Mayor
NANCY GILL

Town Council
ZACHARY BULLOCK
R. DANIEL GRITSKO
LAURA MELLUSI
STUART MUNSON
EDWARD PAYNE
JOSHUA PECK
Town Attorney
JAMES BOWLING IV

April 17, 2019

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 E. Main St., 24th floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Attention: Lynn Crump, PLA, Scenic Resources Coordinator

Dear Ms. Crump:

At the April 15, 2019 regular business meeting of the Scottsville Town Council, I was directed to officially request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation study the segment of the James River around Scottsville to determine if this section might meet the requirements to be designated a State Scenic River. The Council approved my submitting this letter and requesting this designation of the James River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970.

The Town will coordinate this effort with the James River Association, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, and the Counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, and Fluvanna. The maximal river segment could be 34 miles from Howardsville to Columbia, where the Rivanna River is already designated a State Scenic River. A minimal river segment could be 6.5 miles from Hatton Ferry around the Horseshoe Bend, both being sites of ecological, geological, and historical distinction. Our state and regional partnership will determine the best qualifying river segment.

Please let me know how I can further support this effort. Thank you for all your efforts in conservation and recreation on Virginia's waterways.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Lawless".

Matthew Lawless
Scottsville Town administrator

CC: Chip Boyles, TJPDC; Rebecca Carter, Buckingham County; Eric Dahl, Fluvanna County;
Justin Doyle, James River Association; David Hannah, Albemarle County

2. DCR Designation Support Letters

DRAFT

3. Agency Comments

DRAFT

4. Resolutions of Support

Buckingham County – December 9, 2019



Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator

E.M. Wright, Jr.
County Attorney

Buckingham County

Board of Supervisors

Office of the County Administrator
13380 W. James Anderson Highway

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Buckingham, Virginia 23921-0252

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Donald E. Bryan
District 2 Supervisor
Chairman

Harry W. Bryant
District 5 Supervisor
Vice-Chairman

Robert C. "Bobby" Jones
District 1 Supervisor

Don Matthews
District 3 Supervisor

E. Morgan Dunnivant
District 4 Supervisor

Joe N. Chambers, Jr.
District 6 Supervisor

Danny R. Allen
District 7 Supervisor

A RESOLUTION TO THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY PETITIONING FOR THE SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION OF A SEGMENT OF THE JAMES RIVER

WHEREAS, the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors enjoy a favorable relationship with their representatives in the General Assembly and thank them for their interest and support; and

WHEREAS, Buckingham County's history and culture have as their foundation the James River,, which from Monacan roots to today's fishing and tourism is the pride of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act of 1970 establishes Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations; and

WHEREAS, a 2019 survey effort by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with the James River Association and initiated at the County's request, found a 20-mile segment of the river, from one mile upstream of the Warren boat ramp down to New Canton, to qualify for Virginia Scenic River designation;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the General Assembly to pass legislation amending the Code of Virginia §10.1, Chapter 4, the Scenic Rivers Act, to include as a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System that portion of the James River in Buckingham, Albemarle, and Fluvanna Counties including the Town of Scottsville, from one mile above Warren boat ramp and running approximately 20 miles southeastward to the New Canton Bridge.

This resolution shall become effective immediately. The County Administrator shall mail or deliver a copy of this resolution to the County's representatives in the General Assembly, other selected members of the General Assembly, area local governments and to other interested persons, as appropriate.

I, Rebecca Carter, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true, correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors by a 5-1-1 vote at a duly called meeting held on December 9, 2019.


Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator
Buckingham County

The Geographic Heart of Virginia

Appendix D. Proposed Legislation for the *Code of Virginia*

§ 10.1-413. James State Scenic River.

That portion of the James River in Botetourt and Rockbridge Counties, including the Towns of Buchanan and Glasgow, from its origination at the confluence of the Jackson and Cowpasture Rivers running approximately 59 miles southeastward to the Rockbridge-Amherst-Bedford County line and River from one mile upstream of Warren in Albemarle County through the town of Scottsville and Fluvanna County to New Canton in Buckingham County, a distance of approximately 20 miles is hereby designated as the James State Scenic River, a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. Note: This section may be extended within the next month to include the upstream section from the confluence of Allen's Creek at the Nelson/ Amherst Counties to Warren and downstream from New Canton to Columbia including Cumberland County, a grand total of approximately 54 miles.