



CITY OF RICHMOND

**PARKS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
JAMES RIVER PARK SYSTEM**

The Community of Richmond was founded by William Byrd II in 1737 and was named Richmond due to the remarkable resemblance of the view of the James River from Libby Hill to the view from Richmond Hill of the River Thames in England. This bond has continued through the centuries to modern times as both Richmond upon Thames and Richmond, Virginia have sought to not only protect its riverine environs but, also to develop a cohesive community driven vision for how it is to be developed in the future. The Thames Landscape Strategy lead by Jason Dabney offers the City Of Richmond unique perspectives as we continue to push forward with local and Regional efforts to protect our most important resource the James River. Jason's long term relationship with the City Of Richmond and in particular, the James River Park System has proven to be an invaluable asset as both sides continue to exchange ideas on success and failures of developing and managing our dynamic Riverfronts.

This cultural exchange continues today as a delegation of James River Park System Management staff, students from Richmond Public Schools' Franklin Military Academy and Virginia Native American Tribes have been invited to take part in the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Pocahontas in Gravesend, England. The event and surrounding opportunities offer Franklin Military Academy students and teachers a chance to interact with students and faculty at Grey Court School, one of the oldest schools in Richmond upon Thames. It also offers James River Park System staff unique insight to River management, planning and design. Finally it offers Virginia tribes the chance to tell and make whole our collective history. As a result of the exchange The James River Park System and Richmond Public Schools are excited to bring lessons learned back to RVA and begin initiating service learning projects along our Riverfront to encourage and engage our urban youth in conservations efforts throughout our Region.

None of this can happen without your help! We ask for your financial, intellectual, and time support of this delegation and the legacy projects that will result from this experience. If you have questions or specific interest in this effort please contact us at the James River Park System at Nathan.Burrell@Richmondgov.com .

Sincerely,

Nathan Burrell

Park Superintendent

James River Park System

Richmond, VA

Michael Burton

Trails Manager

James River Park System

Richmond, VA