

York River Outdoor Recreation Survey: Understanding Visitor Experiences, Motivations, and Barriers



We are interested in learning about your outdoor experiences in and around the York River (see map on next page). This survey will ask about what motivates you to engage in outdoor recreation, any challenges you might have encountered, and details about your most recent trip to the York River and surrounding areas. Your responses will help local policy makers, including park managers and municipalities, improve outdoor recreation experiences in and around the York River.

By completing the survey, you are consenting to participate in this research. Although we hope that you will answer every question, you are free to skip any questions. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

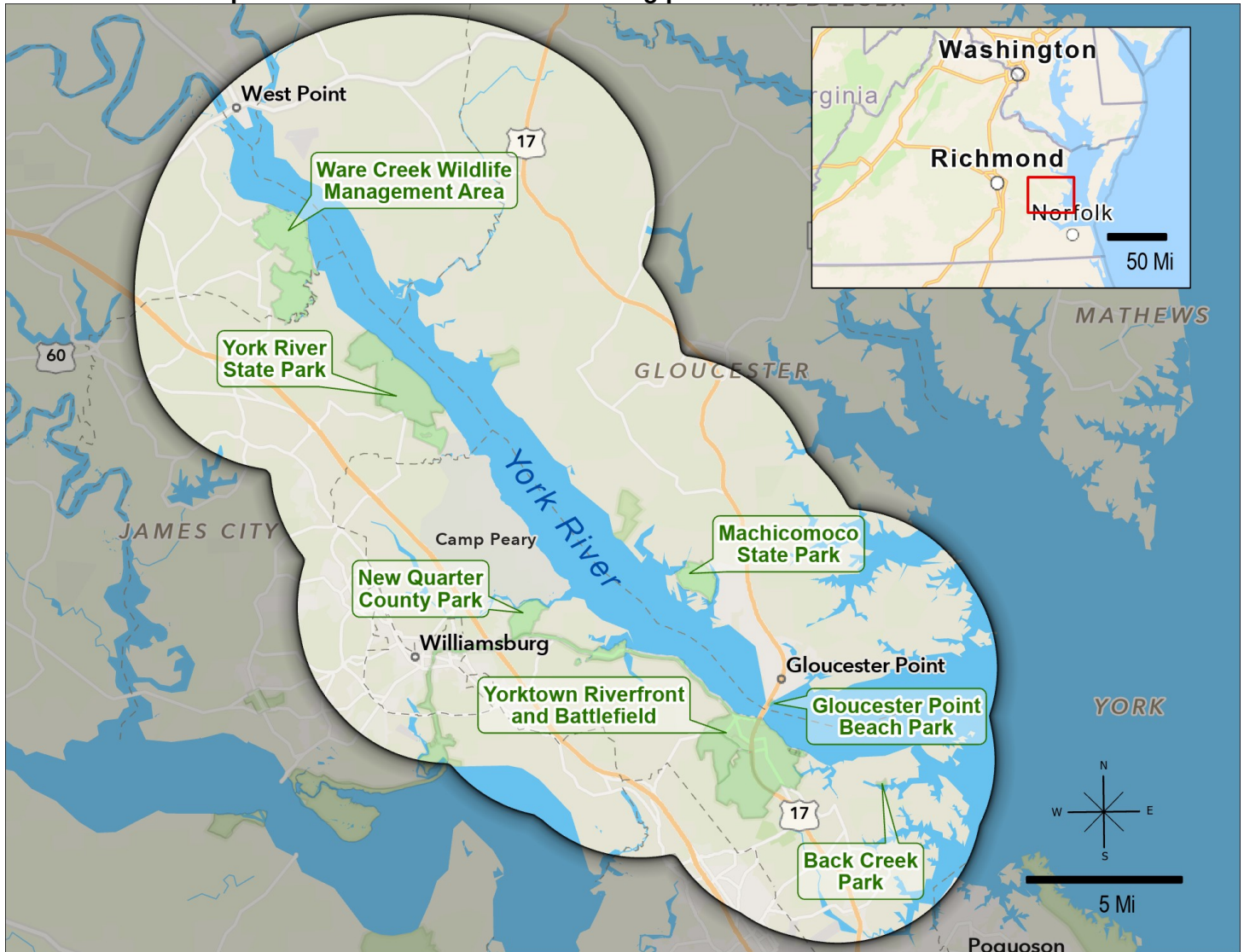
You will not be individually identified, and your responses will be used for statistical purposes only. Data collection will be managed by an external vendor who will not collect or store names. Mailing addresses will be used exclusively by the vendor for distributing survey materials and will not be linked to individual responses. Additionally, NOAA will not have access to or retain any mailing address information.

Public Burden Statement

The public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated at 10 minutes per response. This burden estimate includes time for reading the instructions, reviewing the questions, and completing the survey instrument. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: noaa.nccos.sstex@noaa.gov. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed.

To be completed by the adult (age 18 and over) in your household who has the next upcoming birthday.

This is a map of the York River and surrounding parks and natural areas.



- Q1. Looking at the map above, did you take any trips to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation within the last 12 months?**
A trip is defined as an intentional visit where at least 10 minutes are spent on-site. Same-day reentries are considered to be a single trip. Trips may include overnight stays.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No → SKIP to PAGE 7 (Q21)
 - ☐ Unsure → SKIP to PAGE 7 (Q21)
- Q2. Approximately, how many trips did you take to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation within the last 12 months?** ____ number of trips
- Q3. When was the last time you took a trip to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation?** __/__/____ (MM/YYYY)

Please only consider your **most recent trip** to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation when answering questions on this page.

Q4. What type of group were you traveling with on this trip? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Alone → SKIP to Q7
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Organized group

Q5. Including yourself, how many people were in your personal group on this trip? _____ number of people

Your personal group is defined as you and anyone with whom you visited the York River or any surrounding park or natural area on this trip, such as a spouse, family, and friends. This does not include the larger or organized group that you might have traveled with, such as a school, church, scout, or tour group.

Q6. Including yourself, how many people in your personal group were of each of the following age categories?

4 years old or younger	_____ number of people
5-17 years old	_____ number of people
18-64 years old	_____ number of people
65 years old or older	_____ number of people

Q7. Approximately, how much time did you spend specifically within the York River or any surrounding park or natural area during this trip?

_____ Number of hours if a day trip
_____ Number of days if longer than 1 day

Q8. Referring to the map on page 2, did you visit any of the following locations on this trip?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
York River State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New Quarter Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yorktown Riverfront/Battlefield	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Back Creek Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gloucester Point Beach Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Machicomoco State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please only consider your **most recent trip** to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation when answering questions on this page.

Q9. Did you participate in any of the following activities within the York River or any surrounding park or natural area during this trip?

	Yes	No
Walking, hiking, or running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Viewing wildlife, including birdwatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming or wading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorized boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paddle sports (for example, canoeing and kayaking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational/interpretive program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify		

Q10. When participating in water-based activities, such as swimming, kayaking, or boating, did you bring a mobile device, such as a smartphone, tablet, or smartwatch, with you?

- ☐ Yes, and I kept it on
- ☐ Yes, but I turned it off
- ☐ No
- ☐ I did not participate in water-based activities on this trip

Q11. When participating in land-based activities, did you bring a mobile device, such as a smartphone, tablet, or smartwatch, with you?

- ☐ Yes, and I kept it on
- ☐ Yes, but I turned it off
- ☐ No
- ☐ I did not participate in land-based activities on this trip

Q12. If you brought a mobile device and kept it on, did you use it for any of the following reasons?

	Yes	No
Safety/In case of emergency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Navigation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learn about the park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify		

- ☐ I didn't bring a mobile device and/or keep it on

Please only consider your **most recent trip** to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation when answering questions on this page.

Q13. Did you use any of the following forms of transportation to reach your primary destination on this trip?

	Yes	No
Walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal vehicle, including watercraft	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle, including electric	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transportation (for example, bus, rail, or ferry)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rental car	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxi or rideshare (for example, Uber or Lyft)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q14. Did you purchase a Virginia State Park annual pass in the last 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → SKIP to Q16

Q15. How much did you spend on your Virginia State Park annual pass in the last 12 months? \$_____

Q16. Did you purchase a Virginia hunting or fishing license in the last 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → SKIP to Q18

Q17. How much did you spend on your Virginia hunting or fishing license(s) in the last 12 months?
\$_____

Q18. Please estimate the amount you spent on each of the following items during this trip, and indicate how many people, including yourself, shared those expenses.

If you didn't spend any money on an item, please mark it as \$0 for the estimated amount. If you paid for yourself only, please mark it as 1 for the number of people.

	Estimated Amount	Number of People
Gas	\$_____	
Tolls	\$_____	
Public transportation, taxi, or rideshare fare	\$_____	
Entrance fees (excluding annual passes)	\$_____	
Parking fees (excluding annual passes)	\$_____	
Bait and tackle	\$_____	
Equipment rental fees	\$_____	
Tour or guide fees	\$_____	
Lodging (for example, hotel or campground) fees	\$_____	

Please only consider your **most recent trip** to the York River or any surrounding park or natural area for outdoor recreation when answering questions on this page.

Q19. How important to you were the following features when deciding to take this trip?

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Designated walking/hiking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated blueways/kayak trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet or cell service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational/interpretive program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Directional signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal/personal group safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equipment/gear rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q20. Looking at this same list of features, how satisfied were you with the quality of each of the following features on this trip?

	Not at all satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Extremely satisfied	Not applicable
Designated walking/hiking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated blueways/kayak trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet or cell service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational/interpretive program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Directional signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal/personal group safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equipment/gear rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21. Do you intend to visit the York River or any surrounding parks or natural areas for outdoor recreation in the future?

- ☐ Yes, within the next 12 months
- ☐ Yes, but not within the next 12 months
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q22. Regardless of how you answered the question above, which of the following are reasons why you may not visit the York River or surrounding areas for outdoor recreation in the next 12 months?

	Not a reason	Minor reason	Major reason
Trails poorly maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no blueways/kayak trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no water access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no parking areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no internet or cell service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no educational/interpretive programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no information on available facilities, amenities, or activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signs are not in my preferred language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park staff does not speak in my preferred language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concerns about safety or security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discrimination/do not feel welcome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no access for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no equipment/gear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not enough time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too expensive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too far to travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited/no public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No one to go with	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not interested in outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

This is the final section of the survey. The following questions ensure that all groups are fairly represented.
All answers are confidential.

Q23. Are you...?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Transgender, non-binary, or another gender
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Q24. What is your race and/or ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Q25. In what year were you born? _____ YYYY

Q26. When visiting an area for outdoor recreation, what language do you prefer information to be in?
Please select all that apply.

- ☐ English
- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Q27. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? Please check only one.

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ Some high school, no diploma
- ☐ High school graduate/GED
- ☐ Vocational/trade school certificate
- ☐ Some college, no diploma
- ☐ Two-year college degree
- ☐ Four-year college degree
- ☐ Graduate or professional degree
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Q28. Do you own or rent this residence (where this survey was mailed to)?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Other

Q29. Is this your primary residence?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q30. How long have you been a resident of your current town? _____ number of years

Q31. How long have you been a Virginia resident? _____ number of years

Q32. How many people, including yourself, live in your household? _____ number of people

Q33. How many of these people are at least 18 years old? _____ number of people at least 18

Q34. Which best describes your current employment status? Please check only one.

- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Employed part-time
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Q35. What was your annual household income in 202X, before taxes? Please check only one.

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 to \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 or more
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete our survey. If you have any additional comments, please feel free to include them in the space provided below.

*Thank you! That's our last question. Please place this completed questionnaire in the **postage-paid** envelope provided and drop it off in the mail.*