

Paradise Creek Nature Park - Fact Sheet



- Purpose:** **Inspire environmental stewardship with the first public access to Paradise Creek.** Meet Portsmouth's needs for more park space and outdoor recreational experiences not found elsewhere in the city. Demonstrate state-of-the-art green practices. Inspire wonder. *People take care of a river when they have learned to love it.*
- Lead Partners:** **The Elizabeth River Project**, a non-profit environmental organization working to restore Paradise Creek and the Elizabeth River, raised \$1.4 million to purchase the property and continues to fundraise to complete park amenities. **The City of Portsmouth** has agreed to own and operate Paradise Creek Nature Park as its third largest public park. **Virginia Port Authority** plans to restore 11 acres of wetlands at the site and helped with purchase costs.
- Site:** **The 40-acre site, 1141 Victory Blvd., fronts Paradise Creek** on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The site features more than 15 acres of mature forest along with open fields. The fields include former creek bottom filled with dredged material in the mid-1900s. This area will be excavated and returned to healthy wetlands with canoe and kayak trails. Two miles of foot trails are also planned along with interpretive exhibits and signage. Phase II will include pavilions, an interpretive center, interpretive outdoor sculptures and a playground.
- Timeline:** Master Plan: 2006. Site purchase: 2008. Fundraising for Phase I: 2009/10. Final design: 2010. **Complete Phase I: 2012.** Complete Phase II: 2014.
- Top Funders:** Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, Virginia Recreational Trails Grant, The Virginian-Pilot, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation - Small Watershed Grants, The Norfolk Foundation, W.F. Magann, US Environmental Protection Agency and many more generous supporters.
- More Info.:** Elizabeth River Project - Emma Ramsey, Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, 757-399-7487, www.paradisecreekpark.org, 475 Water St. C103A, Portsmouth, VA 23704, eramsey@elizabethriver.org.