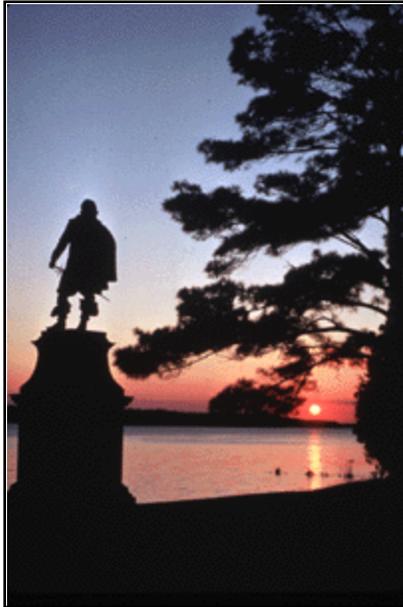


# JAMES RIVER VIRGINIA



*National Park Service*

**Project Name:** Make the John Smith Trail Visible and Visitor Ready

**Project Type:**

- Recreation (Access)
- Education (Interpretation)

**Project Description:** The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was the Nation's first water-based national trail. The Trail traces the routes followed by Captain John Smith in the early 17th century as he charted the lands and waterways of the Chesapeake Bay. At the time of his exploration, the James River was home to nearly 20,000 Algonquian-speaking people.

This project is designed to make the John Smith Trail more visible and visitor ready in Virginia. Partners will collaborate to increase Trail orientation and interpretive signage at key locations, open new sections of the Trail and connect to other trails, launch new visitor information initiatives, add public access sites, identify indigenous cultural landscapes along the Trail, and protect important Trail resources. Many of these projects are being completed with the assistance of young people.

**Lead Federal Agencies:**

- National Park Service

**Non-Federal Partners:**

- James River Association
- Commonwealth of Virginia
- Chesapeake Conservancy

**Outcomes for 2012:**

- Completed construction of river access
- Pilot the mapping of cultural resources
- Install orientation and interpretive panels
- Designate Upper James River Water Trail as a connecting component of the John Smith Historic Trail
- Launch National Park Service Chesapeake Application with John Smith Trail component
- Complete trail conservation strategy and identification of protection priorities
- Begin design of new public access sites

