

AMHERST COUNTY

PARKS & TRAILS GUIDE

Brought to you by the
Amherst County
Recreation & Parks Department
(434) 946-9371
www.countyofamherst.com



Amherst County offers an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, boating, fishing, picnicking, and more. Couple these things with such renowned scenic assets as the George Washington National Forest, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Appalachian Trail, and you'll discover why Amherst County is "Beauty in the Blue Ridge!"

1 MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Located in the George Washington National Forest, it offers solitude and serenity and is also very popular for hiking, and fishing.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 18 miles, turn R on Rt. 634 (Coffeytown Rd.); 1.6 miles, turn R on Rt. 755 (Wiggins Spring Rd.); follow signs.



2 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

"America's Favorite Drive" winds its way 469 miles through mountain meadows and past seemingly endless vistas. Access the Parkway on Rt. 60 and Rt.130/501.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 22 miles, Blue Ridge Parkway entrance is on the right.



3 PANTHER FALLS

Accessible with just a short bike from your vehicle.

Directions: From Amherst Traffic Circle, Rt. 60 West 18.6 miles; slight L at Reservoir Rd, 2.8 miles; turn R toward Panther Falls Rd, 1.2 miles; slight L at Panther Falls Rd; .6 mile; turn L to stay on Panther Falls Rd. .7 mile.



4 STATON CREEK FALLS

Breathtaking beauty and a half-mile thrill for the white water enthusiast. This is just one of several fine steep creeks in the Nelson/Amherst County region.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 15.3 miles, turn right at Rt. 605 (Pedlar River Road); 1.9 miles turn right at VA-633, 1 mile.



5 LONG MOUNTAIN WAYSIDE

Nestled in the George Washington National Forest where the Appalachian Trail crosses Rt. 60, this popular site provides a welcome rest and picnic area for both vehicle and pedestrian travelers.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 17 miles, Wayside is on the right. Appalachian Trail crosses Rt. 60 at this location.



6 THRASHERS LAKE PARK

This 36-acre watershed lake open for fishing only has a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), picnic and play area, and restrooms.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, turn R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 2.3 miles, turn L on Rt. 610 (Sandidges Rd.); 1.4 miles, turn R on Rt. 617 (Thrashers Creek Rd.); .5 mile, turn L on Rt. 829 (Thrashers Lake Rd.).



7 STONEHOUSE LAKE PARK

Resting on a 41-acre watershed lake for fishing only, the park offers a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), restrooms, a picnic pavilion, grills and a play area.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, turn R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 2.3 miles, turn L on Rt. 610 (Sandidges Rd.); .3 mile, turn R onto Rt. 623 (Giddsville Rd.); .2 mile, turn L onto Rt. 830 (Stonehouse Lake Rd.).



8 MILL CREEK LAKE PARK

Resting on a 190-acre watershed lake for fishing only, the park offers a boat ramp (no gas-powered boats allowed), restrooms, picnic tables, grills and a play area.

Directions: Rt. 60 West from Amherst Traffic Circle; 6 miles, R on Rt. 778 (Lowesville Rd.); 1.9 miles, R on Rt. 610 (Turkey Mtn Rd.); 1 mile, turn L on Rt. 645 (Mill Creek Lake Rd.); .2 mile into park.



9 VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE RAILWAY TRAIL

The trail follows the banks of the Piney and Tye Rivers along the path of the longest running, commercially successful short-line railway in America.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle, .7 mile turn L onto ramp for Rt. 29 North; 3 miles turn L onto Rt. 151; 8 miles into Piney River, trailhead is on right.



13 RIVEREDGE PARK

Located on the James River, this park offers boat and fishing access. Plans are underway for further construction of a biking trail and fishing pier.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle, .5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles travel Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights), 10.8 miles turn R onto Rt. 163 Lynchburg exit; 1 mile turn L onto Rt. 685 (just before reaching bridge); .1 mile make L onto Rocky Hill Rd, .1 mile turn R into park.



10 SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE TRAILS

Situated on Sweet Briar College's 3,250 acres are 20 miles of winding trails designed for the enjoyment of hikers and cyclists.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; .5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); .25 mile turn R into Sweet Briar College; .5 mile, turn R into Florence Elston Inn and request trail guide.



14 MONACAN PARK

Located on the James River, this park offers a boat ramp and small dock, a covered picnic pavilion, a play area for children, and restrooms.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; .5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); 8.3 miles turn R onto Rt. 130 West; 5.8 miles; turn L onto Monacan Park Rd.; 2.7 miles, Monacan Park on the left.



11 COOLWELL PARK

This recreational park has a picnic and play area, restrooms, all-purpose fields, basketball courts, radio-controlled raceway, a nature trail, and an outdoor amphitheater.

Directions: Travel Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle, .5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, Rt. 29 Business South (Madison Heights); 4.3 miles turn L onto N. Coolwell Road; 2.5 miles, Park is on the R.



15 ATV TRAILS

A looping network of approximately 19 miles of trails designed for the recreational all-terrain vehicle rider.

Directions: Travel Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle, .5 mile turn right onto ramp for Rt. 29 South. 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights); 8.3 miles turn right onto Rt. 130 West, 16.8 miles, turn right off of Rt. 130.



12 JAMES RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL

Coming out of Lynchburg (off of Percival's Island) into Amherst County, this blacktop trail extends another 1.5 miles along the James River for hikers and bikers.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; to Rt. 29 South (Lynchburg); to Rt. 210 West; turn L onto Rt. 334; enter Central Virginia Training Center; cross onto Rt. 1013; turn L onto Fertilizer Rd.; arrive at Riverwalk (Amherst) entrance and parking lot.



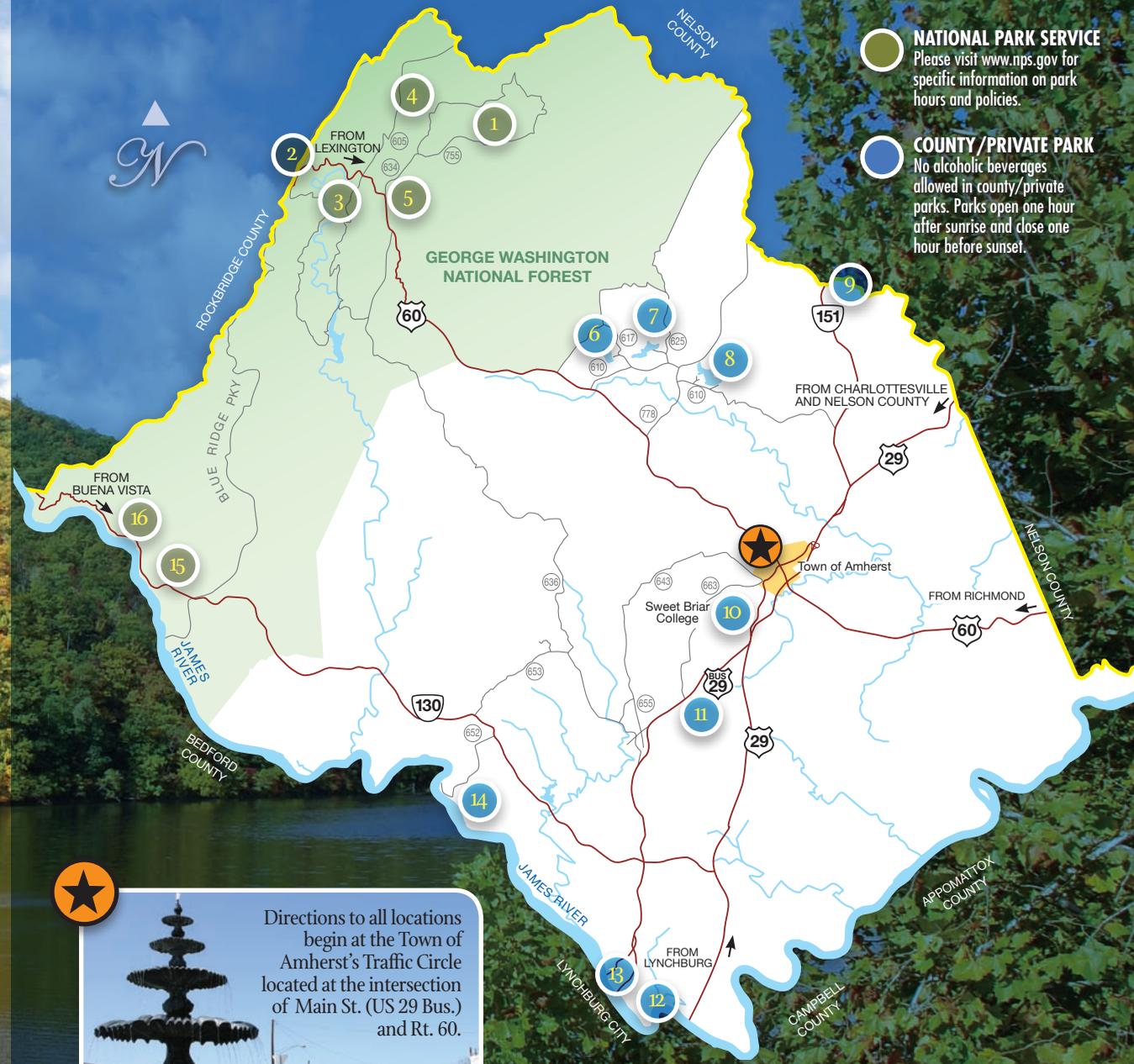
16 JAMES RIVER FOOT BRIDGE/APPALACHIAN TRAIL

This abandoned railroad bridge/turned impressive pedestrian causeway spans the James River, serving hikers, as well as bird and wildlife watchers.

Directions: Rt. 60 East from Amherst Traffic Circle; .5 mile turn R onto ramp for Rt. 29 South; 3 miles, take Rt. 29 Bus. South (Madison Heights); 8.3 miles turn R onto Rt. 130 West; 20 miles, parking lot is on left.



HOW TO GET THERE...



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Please visit www.nps.gov for specific information on park hours and policies.

COUNTY/PRIVATE PARK
No alcoholic beverages allowed in county/private parks. Parks open one hour after sunrise and close one hour before sunset.



Directions to all locations begin at the Town of Amherst's Traffic Circle located at the intersection of Main St. (US 29 Bus.) and Rt. 60.

AMHERST COUNTY
VIRGINIA