



Photo courtesy of Downtown Norfolk Council

EXPLORING VIRGINIA'S WATERWAYS 2025

Join us on the Wandering Virginia's Waterways bus tour, a two-day peer-to-peer learning exchange for local officials focused on how we can effectively balance economic growth with environmental sustainability to ensure thriving communities and a resilient future for Virginia.

FREE lodging, meals, & transportation

Tour travels from Hampton Roads to Tri-Cities & points in between

April 10 - 11, 2025

- ✓ Learn about innovative water treatment practices at The Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Research Center
- ✓ Discover the opportunities and complexities of utility scale solar farms
- ✓ Investigate Green Infrastructure and enjoy lunch at Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- ✓ Lodging at beautiful Smithfield Station



Smithfield
STATION

To RSVP, please fill out **THIS FORM**

? rmitter@allianceforthebay.org





February 12, 2025

Dear Local Elected Official,

On behalf of the Virginia delegation of the [Local Government Advisory Committee](#) to the Chesapeake Executive Council (LGAC), we cordially invite you, a local elected official, to join us on the Exploring Virginia’s Waterways bus tour, a two-day peer-to-peer learning exchange focused on *how can we effectively balance economic growth with environmental sustainability to ensure thriving communities and a resilient future for Virginia.*

When: Thursday, April 10 - Friday, April 11, 2025

Where: The first pickup location will be at *the* Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), [723 Woodlake Dr, Chesapeake, VA 23320](#). We will then travel to Hopewell for a second pickup. The exact location in Hopewell is TBD. Cars may be left in both locations overnight. The first tour stops will be in Hopewell before traveling to a Utility Scale Solar operation, ending the day at [Smithfield Station](#). On Friday, we will tour the [SWIFT Research Center](#), an innovative water treatment facility, in the morning and end the tour back at HRPDC for lunch. After lunch, we will return the Tri-Cities officials to their vehicles in Hopewell. See the attached draft itinerary for additional details.

Who: Local elected officials who are passionate about helping their communities.

Why: This bus tour is an opportunity for you to share your local priorities with other elected officials and learn about the priorities of your peers.

Cost: There is no cost to you. The comfortable bus, all meals, and an overnight stay at [Smithfield Station](#) will be provided for **free**. We simply ask for two days of your time. Funding for this opportunity was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Chesapeake Bay Program.

This will be a small group of no more than 30 local elected officials. We will discuss the challenges **YOUR** community faces in addressing *Clean and Green Growth in Virginia* and share examples of successes and obstacles the other participating officials face. By elevating local issues and concerns to state leaders, including Governor Youngkin, LGAC is a strong and trusted voice for local governments within the Chesapeake Bay Program.

To RSVP, please complete this [form](#) or contact Rick Mittler, Local Government Projects Coordinator at rmittler@allianceforthebay.org.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Andria McClellan
City of Norfolk

The Honorable Jasmine Gore
City of Hopewell

The Honorable Sheila Noll
York County, VA



Thursday April 10, 2024:

- 9:00am Pick-up #1: Chesapeake, VA (723 Woodlake Dr, Chesapeake, VA 23320)
- 10:45am Pick-up #2: Hopewell, VA (Location TBD)
- 11:00am Stop #1: Hopewell Revitalization Sites
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Stop #2: Data Centers and Land Use
- 2:30pm Stop #3: Utility Scale Solar Farm
- 5:00pm Arrive at Smithfield Station
- 7:00pm Dinner at Smithfield Station with Invited Guests

Friday April 11, 2024:

- 7:30am Breakfast
- 8:45am Departure
- 9:30am Stop #4: Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Research Center
- 11:30am Stop #5: Green Infrastructure at Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)
- 12:00pm Lunch with technical assistance providers at HRPDC
- 1:30pm Tour ends | Bus departs for Hopewell, VA
- 3:30pm Drop-off: Hopewell, VA