

Holiday Events



Santa Calling **FREE!**

Tuesday, December 6, 6-8pm

Register by November 30! JCC Parks and Recreation is providing a "direct line" to the North Pole! Santa wants to talk to all children living in James City County and Williamsburg aged 9 years and younger. Is your number on his list?! Forms are available in English and Spanish and can be picked up at the Community Centers, Satellite Services in Toano or downloaded from www.jccEgov.com/recreation.



Saturday, December 10, 9-11am
JC/Williamsburg Community Center
\$10/person; ages 2 years and younger FREE!

The whole family is invited to this annual pancake breakfast buffet and morning of "holly-day" cheer—be sure to tell Santa about the goodies on your list! Photo opportunities available. Register by December 2; maximum occupancy is 100. Please register everyone who is attending to ensure a seat! For more information, visit www.jccEgov.com/recreation.

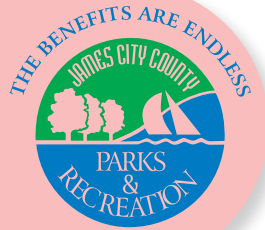
Winter flyer available!

Look for the Winter 2011/2012 flyer in your mailbox! Check out all that Parks and Recreation has to offer. Also look inside for money saving coupons and holiday gift ideas!



a newsletter from James City County Parks and Recreation

P&R Times



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www.jccEgov.com/recreation

Freedom Park Interpretive Center Opens

The Freedom Park Interpretive Center opened on November 16, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony to thank its many partners for their initiatives and support in bringing history alive.



Pictured, l-r: Lafayette Jones, JCC Historical Commission; Ed Truslow, Sons of the American Revolution, Williamsburg Chapter; Alain Outlaw, Archeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc.; Kirk Moore, Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association; Robert Middaugh, JCC Administrator; Susan Powell, Virginia Master

Naturalist; Jim Icenhour, JCC Board of Supervisors; Angela Cingale, Williamsburg Botanical Garden; and Craig Metcalfe, JCC Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

The Interpretive Center features an artifacts exhibit, an interactive kiosk, indoor meeting space with adjoining kitchen and outdoor patio, an outdoor bike wash station, more accessible parking and a variety of green features (*see back*).

The planning and design of Freedom Park was a community effort. A volunteer Historical Advisory Team comprised of representatives from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation, the College of William and Mary, local authors, residents and actual descendants provided the guidance for the interpretive plan.



Visitors view the exhibit of artifacts recovered during the construction of the park, dating prehistoric through the 20th century.



A new interactive kiosk offers park visitors a visual tour of park amenities.

Many groups assisted in the development of Freedom Park. Hiking enthusiasts and volunteers from Colonial Roadrunners cleared almost two miles of soft surface multiuse trails. Local members of the Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association constructed more than 20 miles of mountain bike trails. Members of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden used their volunteer energy and resources to create, plant and maintain a garden.

continued

Freedom Park going GREEN!

The park boasts a variety of green features that were incorporated into the design of the park:

- an underground cistern collects water runoff which is then used for the bike wash, plants and irrigation
- permeable pavers in the parking lot allow water to be absorbed and routed to an infiltration system reducing surface runoff and pollutants
- a geothermal heating and cooling system will lower energy costs and increase life of the equipment and systems

Freedom Park in the spotlight!



In 2010, Freedom Park served as the backdrop for two Electronic Field Trip programs, a television series produced by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The series, which is broadcast over the local PBS station, is designed to bring American history alive to school age children across the country. Freedom Bound and Westward! were produced in part at Freedom Park. *Photo courtesy the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*

Freedom Park

5535 Centerville Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 259-4022
Open daily 7am-sunset

Development of Freedom Park

Freedom Park, originally 478-acres, was purchased in 1995 after James City County voters approved its funding in a 1994 bond referendum. In 1996, adjacent parcels then known as the Hot Water/Cole tract were added. In 1997, a Master Plan for the site was prepared. In September 2002, the park opened. In a 2005 bond referendum vote, County citizens approved \$4.3 million in park improvement projects.

Phase I – 2002

- Paved entry road, entrance gates and parking. The entrance road, Hotwater Trail, was specially designed to wind and curve, bypassing the numerous sites buried beneath. All are protected from future development.
- Multiuse trails.
- Mountain bike trails. The trails are steadily gaining momentum as one of the state's premier trail systems. Designed with avoidable features for bikers of all abilities, the trail system boasts over 30 technical trail features to challenge even the most experienced riders.
- Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The "Ellipse Garden" features more than 800 species of native Virginia vegetation as well as a Therapeutic Garden to ensure accessibility for visitors with physical disabilities.
- Archeology of a 17th century homestead and 18th century cemetery. A large domestic complex, evolving between c. 1680 and c. 1745 shows how a society based on slave labor developed between the late 17th and mid-18th century rise of Williamsburg. More than 160 graves have been located next to the home site. A tombstone with an inscription marks the graves and serves as a memorial to those buried at Freedom Park.
- Revolutionary War Battle of Spencer's Ordinary. On June 26, 1781, British and Colonial troops clashed here in an engagement since called the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary.



Mountain Bike Trails

Phase II – 2008

Completion of the third of three recreated cabins, furnished with items authentic to the 1803-1850 period. Together, the site is nationally recognized as one of the earliest free black communities in America, offering a rare glimpse into the life of slaves, African Americans and Black Americans between 1803-1860.



Recreated Black Settlement

Phase III – 2011

- Interpretive Center

Future Planning

Freedom Park continues to provide excellent opportunities to interpret significant periods in early colonial history. The future Phase IV will include a playground and picnic shelters as well as visual interpretation at the site of the Engagement of Spencer's Ordinary and the visual representation of the 17th century homestead.



Interpretive Center

Interpretive Center

Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday, 9am-6pm; Sunday, 1-6pm

For more information including room rental fees, please visit www.jccegov.com/recreation/parks/index.html.