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News Release

A joint release from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Tourism Corporation

Maps available for Capt. John Smith's Trail

James River trail follows explorer's footsteps

(RICHMOND, Va.) - The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) today unveiled travel maps for Capt. John Smith's Trail, a boat and auto tour along the James River. Developed to complement Jamestown 2007 - America's 400th Anniversary, the route includes 40 parks, historic sites and museums between Richmond and Newport News.

The trail is divided into three loops - dubbed Oxbow, Cypress and Oyster - each of which can be toured in a day by boaters and motorists alike. In addition to a compelling narrative that tells the story of John Smith and the Jamestown settlement, the maps provide travelers with information on the amenities available at each site and the location of boating ramps and piers.

"Capt. John Smith's Trail is a great way for boaters and motorists to discover the beauty of Virginia that inspired John Smith," said DCR Director Joseph Maroon. "Along the way they will see verdant marshes and towering forests, and they will learn about the native Algonquians who first canoed the James River. This is also the first segment of what we hope will become a national water trail."

(more)

John Smith Trail maps 2-2-2-2-2

Maps of the trail are available at sites along the route and from Virginia Welcome Centers and regional visitor centers. Individuals can also order maps from the trail's interactive website, www.JohnSmithTrail.org.

"Whether you explore the trail from a car or a kayak, you'll discover unspoiled river views, eagles, heron, osprey and a variety of other wildlife," said VTC President Alisa Bailey. You can also experience a diversity of interpretive experiences from the archaeology at Historic Jamestowne and the recreated ships at Jamestown Settlement, to 17th century plantations and a variety of related museums."

In addition to the map, the www.johnsmithtrail.org website provides links to attractions, restaurants, tours, lodging, and other visitor amenities along the trail to help you plan your visit.

"The trail is the perfect backdrop for a vacation getaway and each season offers a new perspective. You'll discover hidden treasures tucked away throughout the trail including state park lodging, unique Bed and Breakfasts, restaurants and small town mainstreets," Bailey said.