

ADVANCING TO ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL 2013 | ★★

Achievement Level River Stars document significant results in both pollution prevention and wildlife habitat.

Culpepper Landing



Next to the Dismal Swamp, Culpepper Landing has conserved 150 acres of wetlands and forest and recently planted 3 more acres of wildlife habitat.

THIS CONSERVATION-MINDED housing development on the edge of the Dismal Swamp previously placed 150 acres in permanent conservation. More recently, Culpepper added almost 3 more acres of protected wildlife habitat, as a “buffer” along an edge of the development, planting the buffer with native pines, maples, wax myrtles and magnolias. In addition, among pollution prevention measures, a section of the development features ENERGYSTAR® certified homes, 30 percent more energy efficient than standard residents. An “Earth Craft” house, exemplifying conservation, won the “People’s Choice” award at Homearama.

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation



The new park at Great Bridge Battlefield includes “permeable paving” in part of the parking lot, to keep runoff out of the Elizabeth River.

THE BRITISH WERE CHASED out of Virginia during an historic battle of the Revolution, occurring on the Elizabeth River at Great Bridge. The foundation is commemorating the battle with a park – now open – and a coming visitor’s center, all with the health of the river in mind. Almost 5,000 native trees and shrubs have been added to the park along with 900 square feet of “permeable” paving that lets the rain soak in at the parking lot, rather than causing runoff. Curbing is made of reclaimed cobblestones from the 1700s. Benches and picnic tables are made of recycled plastic. An exemplary stormwater pond includes an “aquatic bench” with plants to absorb nutrients.

Norfolk Stormwater Management Program



“Stormy,” the mascot for Norfolk’s Stormwater Management Program, delights children at Lafayette RIVERFest.

THE CITY OF NORFOLK’S PROGRAM is playing an essential role in bringing back the health of the Lafayette River through wide-ranging efforts in stormwater management. Achievement Level River Star is awarded for innovative projects including a “living shoreline” to control erosion along Haven Creek with 0.16 acres of new wetlands, restored oysters and elevated walkway. With Elizabeth River Project, Norfolk Stormwater Management installed six “tree box filters” along busy streets near the Lafayette to absorb runoff pollution. The department is a leading partner in Lafayette RIVERFest, donating in-kind services for a free education festival attended by 2,000 last year.

Ocean Marine Yacht Center



Jennifer Hale helps Ocean Marine Yacht Center grow oysters for restoration. The Portsmouth center promotes “green” yacht repair on an international level.

WHEN MEGA-YACHTS COME TO PORTSMOUTH for repairs at Ocean Marine Yacht Center on the Elizabeth, they experience a super-green approach to boat repair. The yacht center is promoting environmental stewardship at the local and international level.

Built with pollution prevention in mind, Ocean Marine collects all wash water for treatment, one example of practices the company described in “Moving Towards a Greener Yacht” at an international conference.

Recently the company took the lead to ensure Portsmouth’s participation in OpSail met Virginia Green Event standards, and added pet waste stations, more oyster growing, a cigarette-butt litter campaign and cleanups at Paradise Creek Nature Park.

Portsmouth Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services



The City of Portsmouth opened its third largest park on Dec. 28 – a “super-green,” 40-acre nature park with features like this pervious-paving parking lot.

ON DEC. 28, PORTSMOUTH OPENED its third largest public park: Paradise Creek Nature Park, a partnership with Elizabeth River Project and the Virginia Port Authority. The park includes 40 acres of revitalized forest and restored wetlands, an oasis of nature in the heart of the working harbor. The park will serve as a regional showcase for urban river restoration.

The Portsmouth Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services worked with Elizabeth River Project for years to guide effective development of site improvements, which now include two miles of hiking trails, a “pervious” parking lot to absorb pollution, an “Earthworks Mound” that reuses material excavated to create the wetland and a pedestrian bridge. Phase II will include outdoor classrooms and more. Pre-K through university students already use the park for lessons.