



Chesterfield is proud of its high-quality park system that offers many programs and facilities to engage the mind and body. It currently is working to make improvements that will benefit residents and businesses. This is outlined in [The Parks and Recreation Master Plan update](#), which is part of the county's Comprehensive Plan and will include a variety of cultural, recreational, educational, historical, nature and sports tourism programs designed to improve quality of life in the county.

Chesterfield is a great place to play! In May 2017, Chesterfield, along with other regional localities, was honored with a [2017 Playful City USA designation](#) by KaBOOM! Some of the county's initiatives included increasing pedestrian and bicycling access to playgrounds, offering free Learn-to-Swim programs at SwimRVA, emphasizing play in historical sites, including Henricus Historical Park, and offering new specialized athletic facilities. Chesterfield also is a great place to take a hike. The [Appomattox River Trail](#) fronts one mile of the lower Appomattox River, which is designated in the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. The trail was dedicated in October 2016 at the Ettrick/VSU Trailhead. The trail and the surrounding property include the riverfront portion of the 416-acre VSU Randolph Farm property, an agricultural research/education center.

Exercise and enrichment of the mind is also important, and programs and services offered by the Chesterfield County Public Library and Virginia Cooperative Extension help engage the brain as well as the body. During the height of the recent economic downturn, it became necessary to cut Thursday library hours in order to reduce costs, but in September 2016, the library was able to restore Thursday library hours, providing patrons additional access to its facilities. The FY2017 budget also included funds to continue a multiyear effort to enhance the library materials collection. Extension hosted the Bumblebee Jamboree, a family event celebrating pollinators, and helped residents improve and maintain their landscapes. It also is partnering with other states on strategies and educational efforts to alert homeowners to a fungus, called [boxwood blight](#), that is affecting these popular evergreens.

