

Great City Walks



Williamsburg, VA



Dear Guide Users:

On behalf of the Williamsburg City Council, it is with great pleasure that I introduce Great City Walks, an urban walking guide of trails in the City of Williamsburg, Virginia. Adopted in 2006 as one of the city's many Jamestown 2007 Community Projects, the guide provides an opportunity for citizens and guests to explore our historic city by foot. The guide - created by the City Manager's Office, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the GIS staff - includes seven trails which highlight interesting and historic sites in the city. An electronic copy of the guide can be found on the city's website at www.williamsburgva.gov.

In addition to the city, the guide has several sponsors including the Williamsburg Farmers' Market, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, and the Williamsburg Regional Library. Their support of the project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your interest in our historic city and I encourage you to use the guide time and time again.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Zeidler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeanne" and the last name "Zeidler" clearly distinguishable.

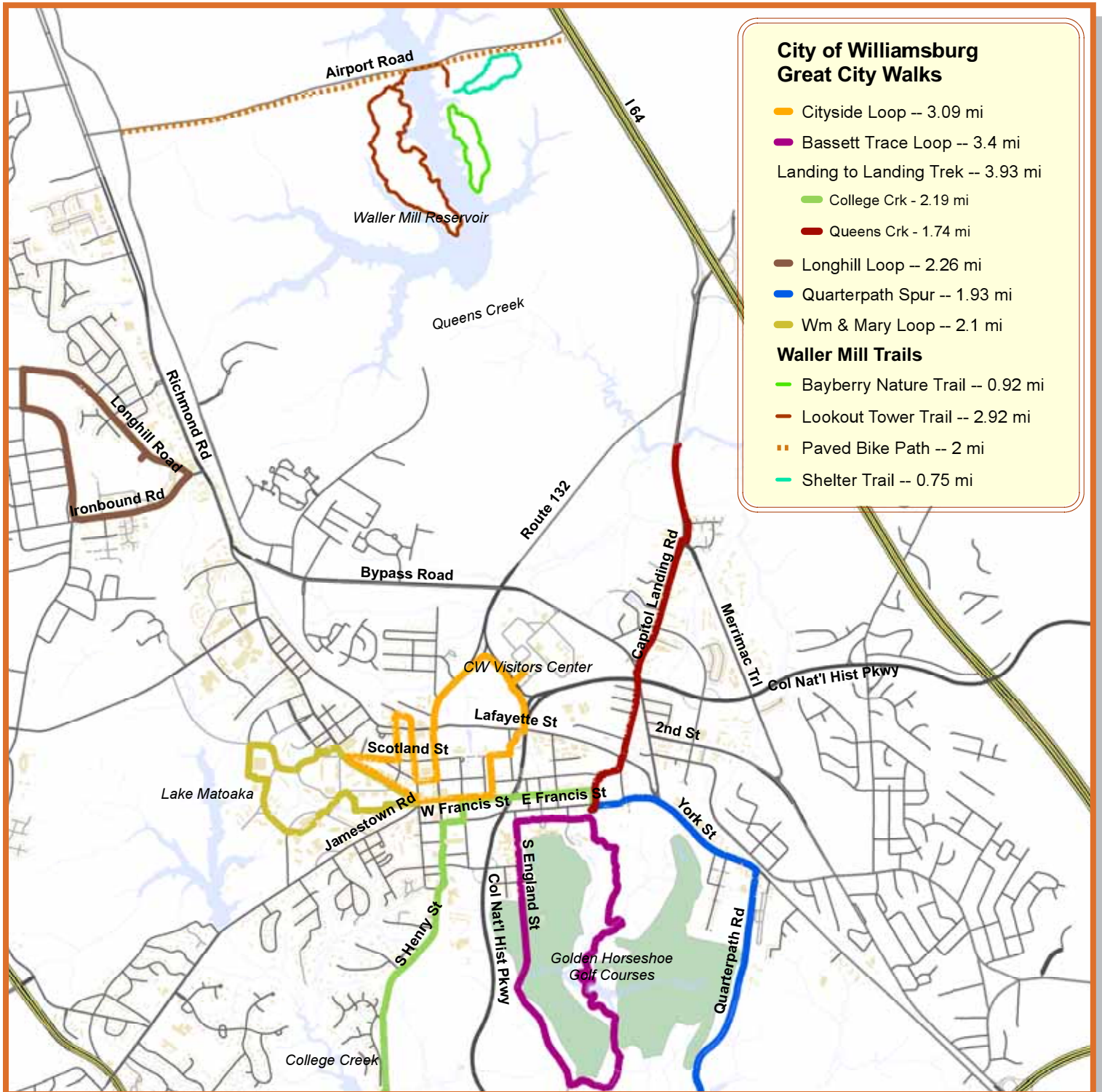
Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor

City of Williamsburg Great City Walks

- Cityside Loop -- 3.09 mi
- Bassett Trace Loop -- 3.4 mi
- Landing to Landing Trek -- 3.93 mi
- College Crk - 2.19 mi
- Queens Crk - 1.74 mi
- Longhill Loop -- 2.26 mi
- Quarterpath Spur -- 1.93 mi
- Wm & Mary Loop -- 2.1 mi

Waller Mill Trails

- Bayberry Nature Trail -- 0.92 mi
- Lookout Tower Trail -- 2.92 mi
- - - Paved Bike Path -- 2 mi
- Shelter Trail -- 0.75 mi



GREAT CITY WALKS

The City of Williamsburg offers the urban hiker trails of historic and cultural distinction. Williamsburg is known worldwide for “Colonial Williamsburg,” the beautiful and expansive restoration of Virginia’s 18th century capital; and for the nation’s second oldest university, the “College of William and Mary.” These treasures exist not in isolation, but along side the modern day city with diverse points of interest of its own. The City Council invites you to explore and experience Williamsburg in the best way possible – on foot.

* Suggested parking sites may not always coincide with recommended walking starting points.

Trail Difficulty Ratings:

- Easy
- Moderately Easy
- Moderately Difficult
- Difficult

Great City Walks Guidelines

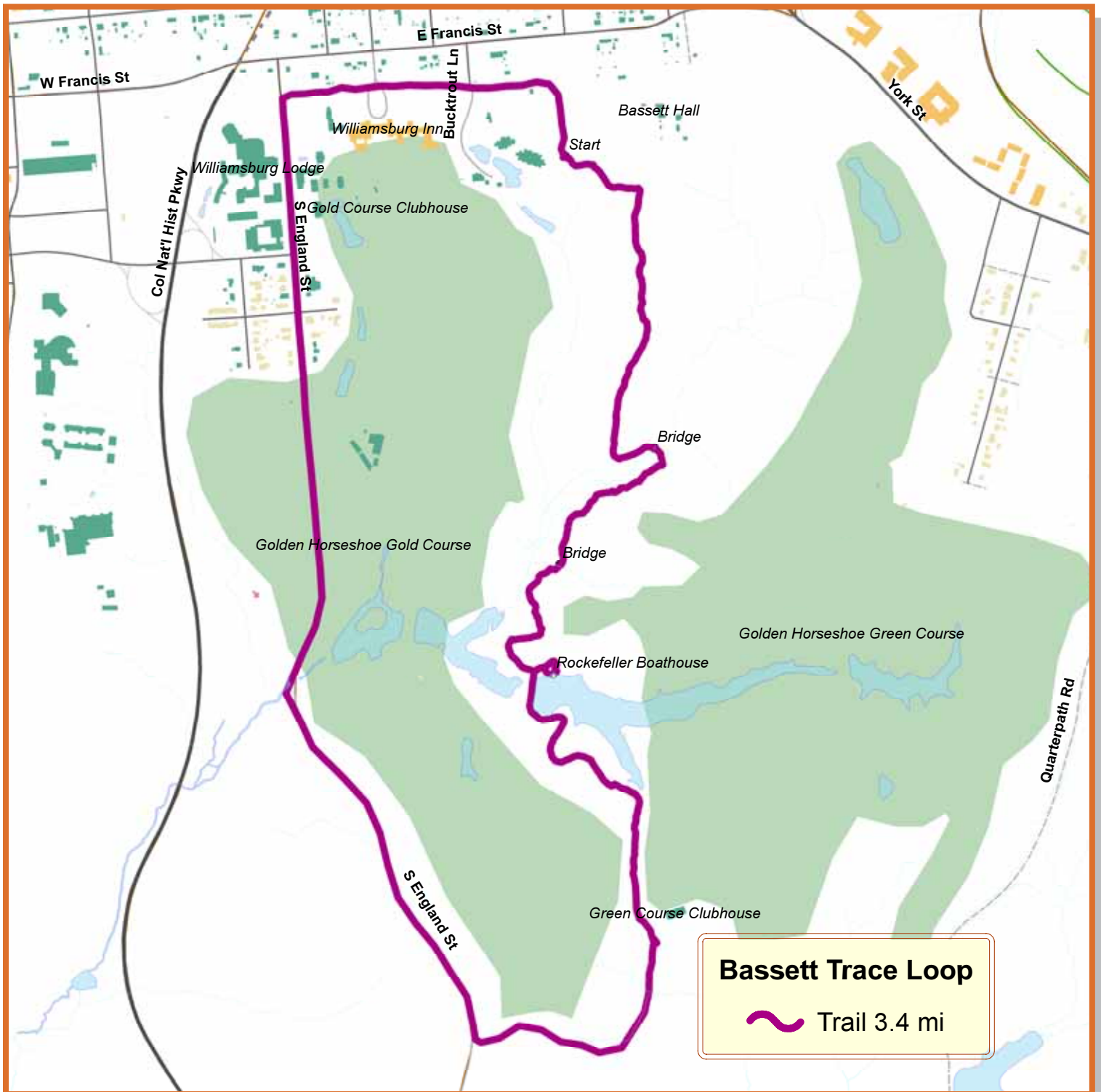
- Please do not enter private property adjacent to the trails without permission.
- Please keep pets on leash while on the trails.
- Please respect nature and dispose of trash in proper receptacles.
- Please park only in designated public parking areas.

Helpful Walking Tips:

- Remember to drink plenty of water before, during, and after you exercise.
- If possible, walk with a partner and let someone know where you are going to be walking. It is also a good idea to carry a mobile phone.
- Before starting an exercise program, you should consult your physician.
- Remember to wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Remember to stretch before and after your walk.

Trails:

- Cityside Loop
- Landing to Landing Trek
- Quarterpath Spur
- Bassett Hall Trace Loop
- Longhill Loop
- Waller Mill Trails
- William and Mary Loop



BASSETT HALL TRACE LOOP

Length of Trail

3.4 miles

Type of Trail

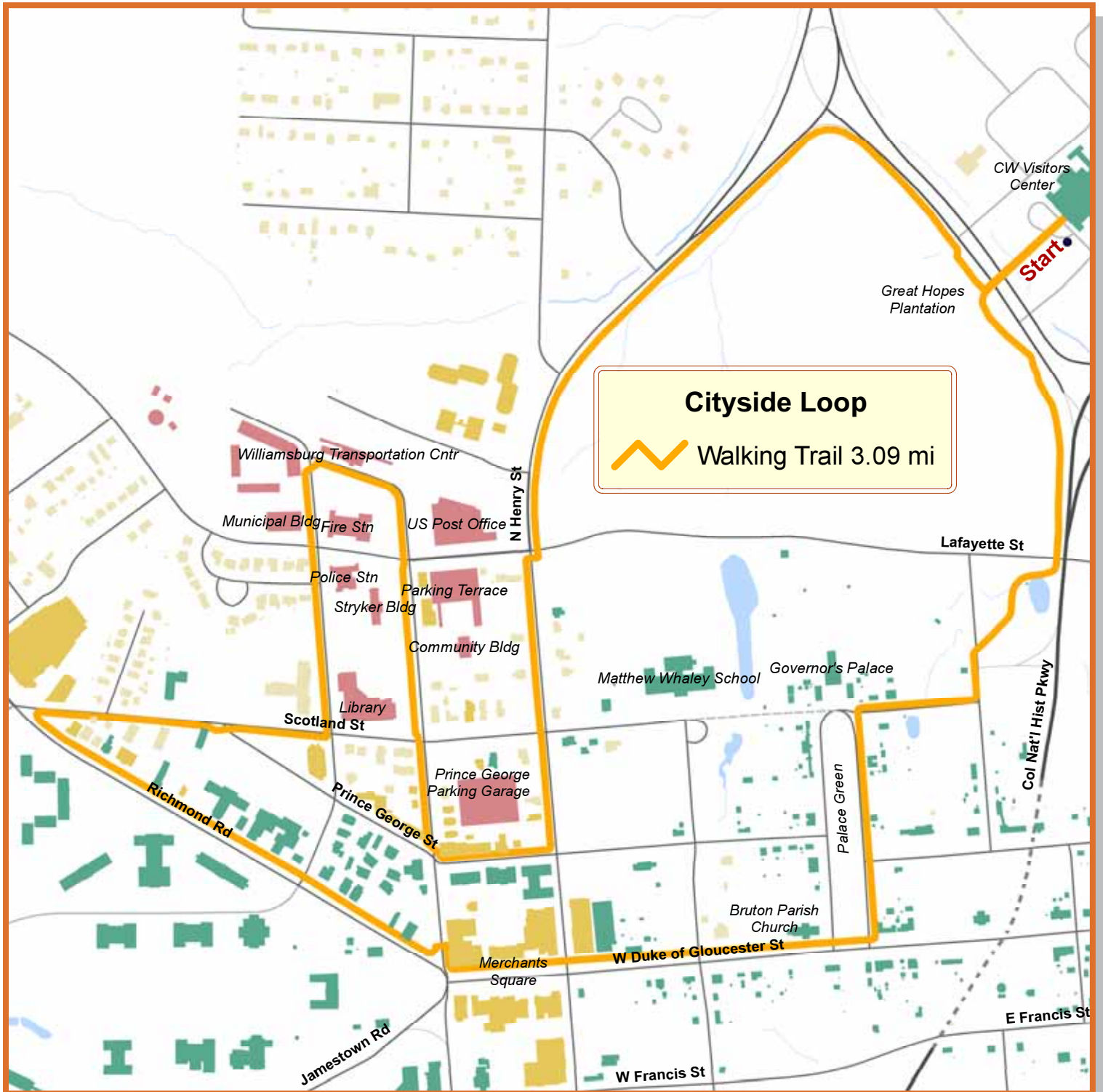
Moderately difficult trail meandering through the wooded areas between the two golf courses. The path is rough at times and there are stairs in two locations.

Points of Interest

This trail begins near Bassett Hall, the Williamsburg home of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. As you walk through the woods, you will see Colonial Williamsburg's Golden Horseshoe Gold Course, given "Five Stars" for Places to Play by *Golf Digest* in 2004, and the Green Course, on either side of the trail. There are several ponds and small streams that are home to waterfowl and at one point you will see Mr. Rockefeller's boathouse. As the seasons change so do the sights of wildflowers, butterflies, deer, birds and colorful leaves. Hungry? Stop by the Green Course Grill for a bit to eat. Note: Most of this trail is on property owned by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Please stay on the trail and do not enter on the golf courses.

Starting Point

Best places to park to access the "loop" are either at the Green or Gold Course Clubhouses. To find the Bassett Hall trail starting point: From Francis Street turn onto Bucktrout Lane located near the Williamsburg Inn. Once on Bucktrout Lane; take your first left at the Williamsburg Inn tennis courts. Proceed down that road until it dead-ends at the parking lot located at the Providence Hall wing of the Williamsburg Inn. A sign labeled "Bassett Hall Woodland Trail" marks the starting point.



CITYSIDE LOOP

Length of Trail

3.09 miles

Type of Trail

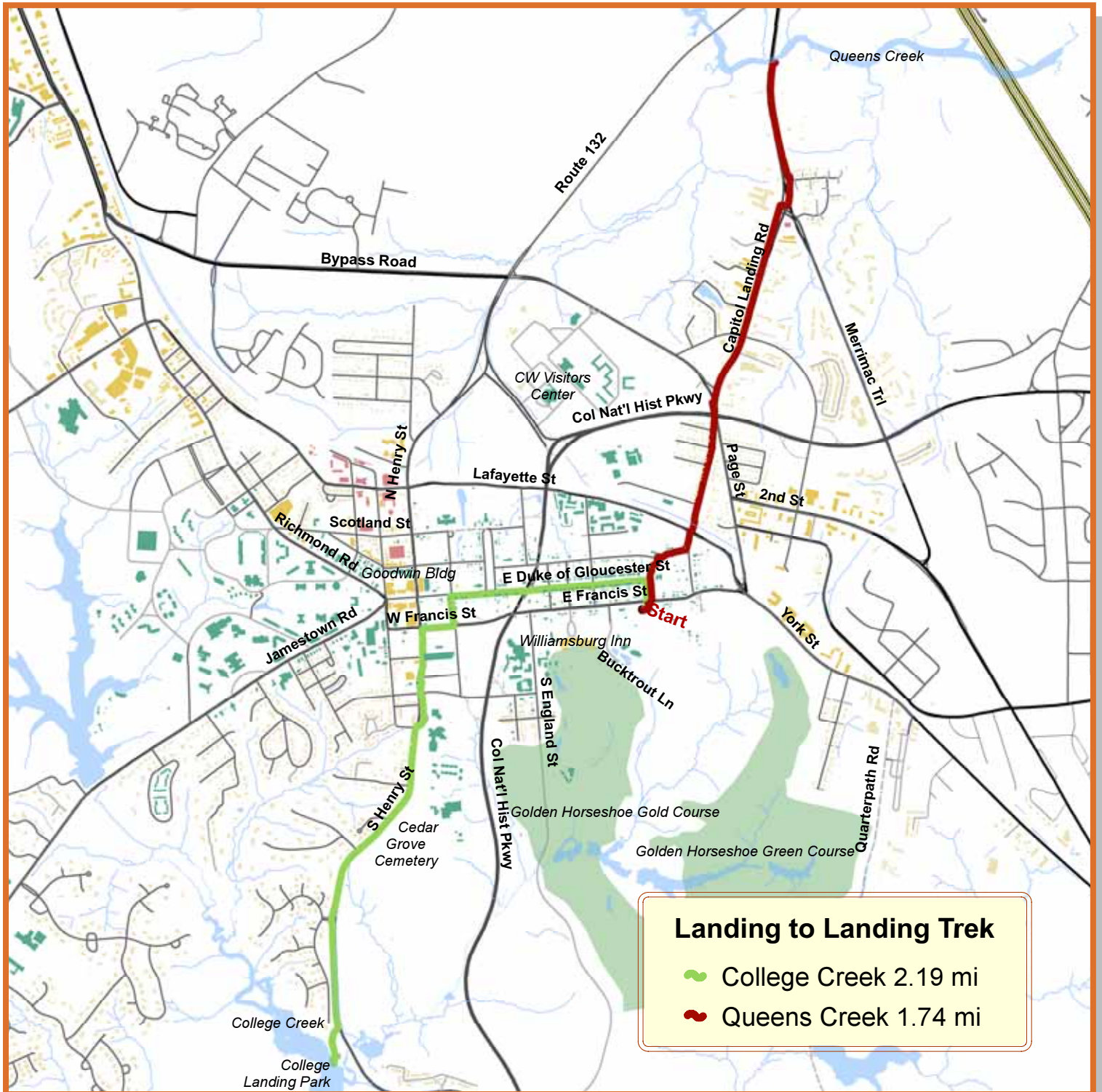
Easy walk on sidewalks, wheel chair accessible, through commercial district (Merchants Square), civic district (City Square), and Historic Area (Colonial Williamsburg).

Points of Interest

This trail winds through the heart of Williamsburg of today and yesterday, including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Visitor Center and Historic Area. Historic Area highlights include Great Hopes Plantation*, Governors Palace*, Palace Green, and Bruton Parish Church. At the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street is Merchants Square with over 40 shops and restaurants. On Richmond Road, the trail passes the campus of the College of William and Mary and several churches. At the intersection with Scotland Street is "Deli" corner. In the City's Municipal Center, clustered around "City Square" are located the Regional Library, Community Building, Police Station, Fire Station, Municipal Building, Post Office, Chamber of Commerce and Transportation Center. Nearby on the northside of Merchants Square is Prince George Street – a great place for a cup of coffee, sandwich or ice cream cone – and the Prince George Parking Garage. Around the corner is the historic Matthew Whaley Elementary School.

Starting Points

Access the trail at many points. Parking is available in the Prince George Parking Garage, at the Transportation Center, or the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center. (* These sites require a Colonial Williamsburg ticket to enter.)



LANDING TO LANDING TREK

Length of Trail

7.8 miles (3.9 miles one way)

Type of Trail

Moderately difficult due to length, periodic inclines and lack of sidewalks on northern most segment of Capitol Landing Road.

Points of Interest

This trail links the sites of Williamsburg's two colonial era ports – one on College Creek with access to the James River, and one on Queens Creek with access to the York River. These ports served the new “City of Williamsburg” when it was created in 1699 on the site of “Middle Plantation.” The trail follows closely the original pathways from the ports up to the city located about 80 feet above sea level on the ridgeline of the Virginia Peninsula. From College Landing Park, where you can fish or launch a kayak, walk north passing through Cedar Grove Cemetery, originally purchased by the city government in 1859, and past William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law and the National Center for State Courts. Walk through Bicentennial Park, continue north on Nassau Street passing the DeWitt Wallace Museum of Decorative Arts* and enter the Historic Area. Head east on Duke of Gloucester Street proclaimed “the most historic avenue in America” by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Behind the Capitol Building*, head north on Waller Street crossing the bridge over the railroad track. Continue on Capitol Landing Road until it ends at Queens Creek. (Note: From the intersection of Capitol Landing Road and Merrimac Trail Route 143, there are no sidewalks nor off road parking areas.)

Starting Points

Park at College Landing Park off South Henry Street. Alternatively, park in the Merchant Square area at the Prince George Parking Garage and pick up the trail on Duke of Gloucester Street. (* These sites require a Colonial Williamsburg ticket to enter.)

Longhill Loop

Trail 2.26 mi

Parks

James City/Williamsburg
Community Center

Skipwith Farms

Longhill Woods

Richmond Rd

Longhill Road

Longhill Connector Rd

Kiwanis Park

Start/Finish

James Blair Middle School

Eastern State Hospital

Plumeri Park

Ironbound Rd

"High Street"
Community Under
Construction

LONGHILL LOOP

Length of Trail

2.26 miles

Type of Trail

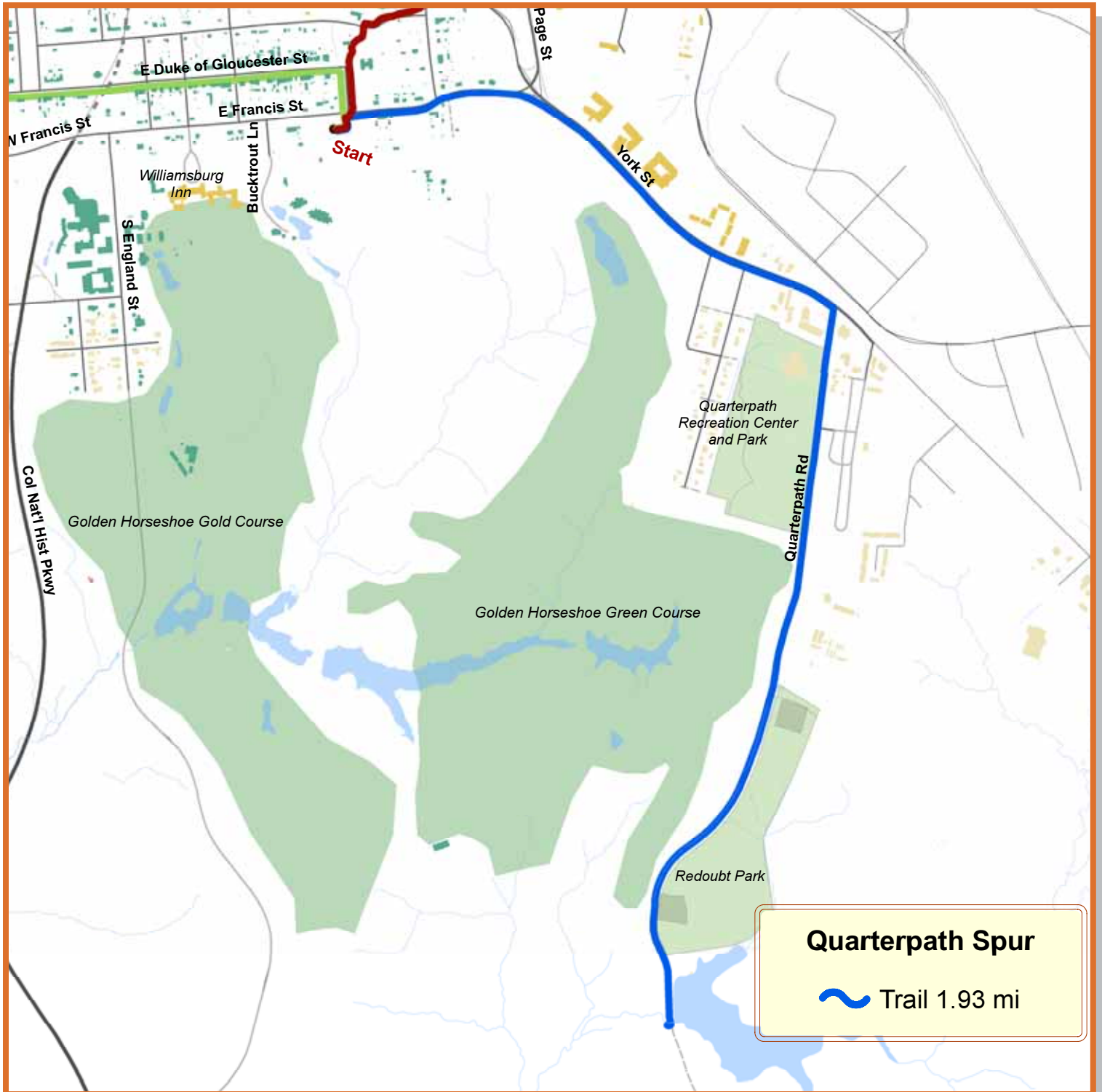
Moderately easy walk predominantly with sidewalks or paved walkways that run parallel to the road. There are a few inclines as you walk through the wooded area between the James City County/Williamsburg Community Center and the College of William and Mary's Plumeri Park.

Points of Interest

Begin walking the trail at Kiwanis Park on Longhill Road near James Blair Middle School. Kiwanis Park was the first park developed by the City of Williamsburg in 1970, and was partially funded by the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club. Other points of interest include the James City County/Williamsburg Community Center, Eastern State Hospital (across the street) and William and Mary's baseball stadium "Plumeri Park." The "Longhill Loop" will soon be extended into the "High Street" development south of Ironbound Road.

Starting Point

From Ironbound Road at James Blair Middle School turn onto Longhill Road. Turn left into the Kiwanis Park parking lot. Park here and start your walk on the sidewalk in either direction.



Quarterpath Spur

Trail 1.93 mi

QUARTERPATH SPUR

Length of Trail

3.8 miles (1.9 miles one way)

Type of Trail

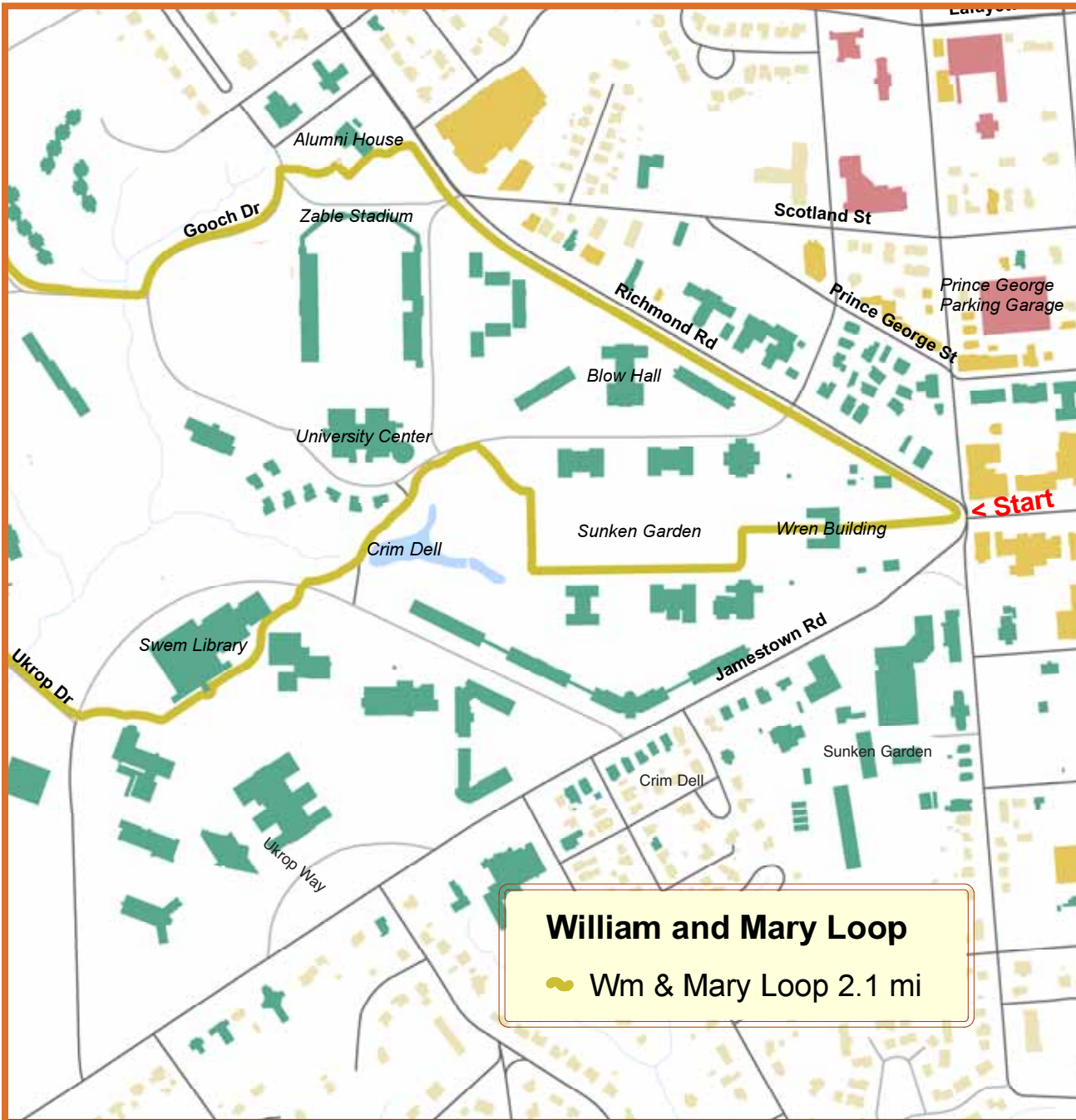
Moderately easy walk on sidewalks, gravel paths and side streets.

Points of Interest

As you leave the Historic Area on York Street, the original road leading from Williamsburg down the Virginia Peninsula to Yorktown, Newport News and Hampton, you pass a Colonial Williamsburg horse pasture on your right. Turn right on Quarterpath Road, the colonial era road connecting Williamsburg to Kingsmill Wharf on the James River. Find the City of Williamsburg's Quarterpath Recreation Center and Park – “drop in” activities include pool tables and table tennis. Restrooms are also available. Outside find a picnic area, swimming pool, and playground facilities. Continue south on Quarterpath Road along what was the right end of the Confederate line of the May 5, 1862 Battle of Williamsburg. Look for Civil War markers. Confederate earthworks known as redoubts #1 and #2 to the left of Quarterpath Road is the site of the new 22-acre “Redoubt Park.” The trail ends at the bridge crossing the dam of Tutters Neck Pond.

Starting Points

While this trail originates in the Historic Area, Quarterpath Park is the best place to park a car at the mid-point of the trail.



WILLIAM AND MARY LOOP

Length of Trail

2.1 miles

Type of Trail

Moderately easy walk predominantly on sidewalks and paved streets.

Points of Interest

The walk begins at the heart and soul of the College, the Sir Christopher Wren Building (1695). The Wren Building is the oldest building on a U.S. college campus still in academic use. Walk through the building if it is open. Continue on the brick pathway to the left of the Sunken Garden through Old Campus with six academic buildings surrounding the Sunken Garden. Follow the walk Northward to the University Center, where walkers can join students during the school term for a quick bite to eat.

The Crim Dell is next. The Crim Dell Bridge was voted the second most romantic spot on a college campus. Next you will see the Earl Gregg Swem Library, located in New Campus. Follow Ukrop Way to William and Mary Hall, the College's multipurpose arena. Continue down Goch Drive to the William and Mary Alumni House, and to Zable Stadium at Cary Field where Division I-AA Tribe Football is played. Of course, after this long walk enjoy a cold beverage and something to eat at one of the "Deli" restaurants, across from Zable Stadium. Return to starting point on Richmond Road.

Starting Points

The best place to start is in the historic Wren Courtyard, across from Merchants Square. Parking is available in downtown (short term) and the Prince George Parking Garage. *Please note that during the academic school year campus parking regulations are enforced in College parking lots.



WALLER MILL TRAILS

Length of Trails

Shelter Trail- 0.75 miles

Bayberry Trail- 0.9 miles

Lookout Tower- 2.9 miles

Paved Bike/Walking Trail – 2.0 miles

Shelter Trail

Easy trail for all ages. The trail, which wraps around the wooded area surrounding Shelter 3, is perfect for walkers and runners alike. This trail accommodates jogging strollers.

Bayberry Trail

Moderately difficult trail that wraps through the woods and by the shoreline of Waller Mill Reservoir. At approximately .2 miles a bench marked “Michael’s Meditation Point” looks out toward the water for a relaxing and peaceful view.

Lookout Tower

Difficult trail involving many steep inclines and declines. Access to the trail is off the paved path and begins at the Lookout Tower that provides an overhead view of the reservoir, dock, and Operations Building. The walk, which follows the edge of the reservoir, is one of great beauty.

Paved Bike/Walking Trail

Easy trail designed for both bikers and walkers. The trail lies in the old railroad bed and connects from Rochambeau Drive to Mooretown Road. The walk is mostly shaded under the canopy of the aligning trees. Lookout Tower is located directly off the path and is a perfect spot to stop and take in the view or even to pause for lunch at the picnic tables located nearby.

Starting Points

From I-64 take exit 238 (Camp Peary) and turn right at the stoplight onto Rochambeau Drive. Take a left onto Airport Road (Route 645). The Park entrance is the next left.

From Route 60 West take a left onto Airport Road and go straight for four miles. Park entrance is on the right.



Williamsburg City Square



City of Williamsburg
Parks and Recreation Department
202 Quarterpath Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
(757) 259-3760



GREAT CITY WALK SPONSORS



Williamsburg Regional Library

Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance

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the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va.

The College of William & Mary photos courtesy of
The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va.