Welcome to Freedom Park

Freedom Park
James City County, Virginia

5537 Centerville Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188

757-259-4022

jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation

December 2017

James City County Parks Regulations
To assist patrons and staff in providing a safe, enjoyable and clean environment for all visitors, park rules and regulations are posted in each park. Of special note: Dogs must be on a leash, no longer than eight feet, at all times; owners are responsible for the proper cleanup and disposal of pet waste. Use of motorized vehicles is restricted to roadways and parking areas and is prohibited on nature trails, pedestrian paths or bikeways. Use of bike trails, when closed due to trail conditions, is prohibited. Metal Detectors are prohibited in all recreational facilities and parks. Patrons must be off all trails before sunset each day. Alcohol use must be authorized by the Director of Parks & Recreation.

A complete list of Park Rules and Regulations is available at the Park Office or online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Rental Information
Freedom Park offers a variety of meeting room, an outdoor patio and a large picnic shelter that can accommodate a variety of business, family and personal occasions!

Rental Hours:
Freedom Park Shelter (subject to change)
Monday-Sunday ............5–11 p.m.*
Saturday ......................9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday .........................9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Monday–Thursday ............9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday .........................9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday ......................9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday .......................9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday–Thursday ............9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
* Available to rent in conjunction with meeting room during after-hours events.

The maximum capacity of the shelter is 50 people. The shelter cannot be used on the outdoor patio.

The maximum capacity of the patio is 75 people. When not in use for events, the patio is available by reservation for social gatherings. The Freedom Park large picnic shelter features eight wooden benches, natural shade, an elegant gazebo, a 25’ x 25’ picnic table, and an accessible restroom.

A 25% discount is available for James City County or Williamsburg nonprofit organizations that meet criteria set by the department.

Rental Fees:
$60/hour for the first three hours
$30/hour for fourth and each subsequent hour
$100, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

A complete list of Park Rules and Regulations is available online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

For more about environmental education and adventure programs, visit the Destination Recreation brochure online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.
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History

Freedom Park has a rich historical background dating back to the 1650s. The park is the site of an 18th Century cemetery, the Revolutionary War Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary (1781) and a 17th Century domicile which is revealing much archaeological research of the early colonial period (1680-1730). Freedom Park is home to one of the nation’s earliest archaeological research sites. Free Black Settlements in America where three historically accurate recreated cabins (1803-1850) are located and furnished with items authentic to the period.

Trails

This 600-acre forested retreat also features approximately two miles of multi-use trails, including a one mile ADA accessible paved trail, and more than 20 miles of mountain bike trails winding through historical sites, forests and along creeks and open meadows. The bike trails are designed, built and maintained by the Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association. Trails are closed to bikes during inclement weather to prevent trail degradation. Riders are encouraged to call 757-259-4022 to check trails status.

Botanical Garden

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is also located at Freedom Park. Members of the Garden developed and maintain the area which features more than 800 species of native vegetation. The Garden also offers monthly educational programs and special events throughout the year.

GoApe

GoApe Freedom Park is home to the GoApe Treetop Adventure Course and Treetop Junior Course. The course allows participants to explore the park from an otherwise unobtainable vantage point while navigating through the treetops using zip lines, obstacles and tarp swings. For more information and fees, please visit goape.com or call 1-800-971-8271.

Living Forest Trail

Located directly behind the park playground, this newly constructed 0.25 mile Interpretive Trail is perfect for families. The natural surface trail winds through the forest and features interpretive signs for young forest explorers. The Living Forest Trail was built in cooperation with GoApe, the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and the Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Rental Information

Host your next event at Freedom Park! The Park features an indoor meeting room, an outdoor patio and a large picnic shelter that can accommodate a variety of business, family and personal occasions!

Meeting Room

The Freedom Park Interpretive Center features a meeting room with a wood-burning fireplace and an adjoining kitchen. Room capacity lecture style is 50; with chairs and tables the capacity is 36. Wi-Fi connectivity is available.

Rental Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- Saturday-Sunday: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Rental Fees:

- $60/hour for the first three hours
- $30/hour for each subsequent hour
- $15/hour for each staff member needed 5 – 11 p.m.

*Rental fees are subject to change without notice. Please call 757-259-4022 for availability and details.

Patio

The Freedom Park patio is a 30’ x 40’ raised brick patio located behind the Freedom Park Interpretive Center. The patio is included in the Meeting Room rental.

From Richmond: Take I-64 East towards Williamsburg. Take the VA-199 exit, Exit 234, towards VA-64/GoApe Lightfoot merge onto VA-199 East. Take US-60 exit towards Lightfoot. Turn left onto Richmond Road/US-60 West. Take the first left onto VA-614/Centerville Road. Go approx 3.1 miles then turn right into Freedom Park/Hotwater Trail. Freedom Park is at the intersection of Centerville Road and Longhill Road.

From Norfolk: Take I-64 West towards Williamsburg. Take the VA-199 exit, Exit 234, towards VA-64/GoApe Lightfoot merge onto VA-199 East. Take US-60 exit towards Lightfoot. Turn left onto Richmond Road/US-60 West. Take the first left onto VA-614/Centerville Road. Go approx 3.1 miles then turn right into Freedom Park/Hotwater Trail. Freedom Park is at the intersection of Centerville Road and Longhill Road.
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History

Freedom Park has a rich historical background dating back to the 1650s. The park is the site of an 18th Century cemetery, the Revolutionary War Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary (1781) and a 17th Century domicile which is revealing much archaeological research of the early colonial period (1680-1730). Freedom Park is home to one of the nation’s earliest to the 1650s. The park is the site of an 18th Century cemetery, furnished with items authentic to the period.

Interpretive Center

Located directly behind the park playground, this newly constructed 0.25 mile Interpretive Trail is perfect for families. The natural surface trail winds through the forest and features interpretive signs for young forest explorers. The Living Forest Trail was built in cooperation with GoApe, the Historic Rivers Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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Rental Hours:

• Monday-Friday ... 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.*
• Saturday-Sunday ... 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.*

Rental Fees:

• $60/hour for the first three hours
• $30/hour for fourth and each subsequent hour
• $15/hour for each staff member needed 5-11 p.m.*

*Staffing requirements and fees are determined by the Facility Administrator, depending on the size of the event.

A 25% discount is available for James City County or Williamsburg nonprofit organizations that meet criteria set forth in the James City County Parks & Recreation Indoor Facility Use Policy.

Interpretive Center Lobby

The Freedom Park Interpretive Center lobby can be used after hours for extra space during large meeting room reservations. The lobby area adds an additional 50 people to the room capacity.

Rental Hours:

• Monday-Sunday ... 5-11 p.m.*

*Available to rent in conjunction with meeting room during after-hours events.

Rental Fees:

• $30/hour

Patio

The Freedom Park patio is a 30’ x 40’ raised brick patio located behind the Freedom Park Interpretive Center. The patio is included in the Meeting Room rental.

(continued)
Welcome to Freedom Park

History

Freedom Park has a rich historical background dating back to the 1600s. The park is the site of an 18th Century cemetery, the Revolutionary War Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary (1781) and a 17th Century domicile which is revealing much archaeological research of the early colonial period (1680-1730). Freedom Park is home to one of the nation’s earliest Free Black Settlements in America where three historically and a 17th Century domicile which is revealing much historical artifacts and artifacts are protected. The lobby area is perfect for families. The 600-acre forested retreat also features approximately two miles of multiuse trails, including a one-mile ADA accessible paved trail, and more than 20 miles of mountain bike trails winding through historical sites, forests and along creeks and open meadows. The bike trails are designed, built and maintained by the Friends of the Williamsburg Bicycle Association. Trails are closed to bikes during inclement weather to prevent trail degradation. Riders are encouraged to call 757-259-4022 to check trail status.

GoApe

GoApe is home to the GoApe Treetop Adventure Course and Treetop Junior Course. The course allows participants to explore the park from an otherwise unobtainable vantage point while navigating through the treetops using zip lines, obstacles and taran swings. For more information and fees, please visit goape.com or call 1-800-971-8271.

Living Forest Trail

Located directly behind the park playground, this newly constructed 0.25 mile interpretive trail is perfect for families. The natural surface trail winds through the forest and features interpretive signs for young forest explorers. The Living Forest Trail was built in cooperation with GoApe, the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and the Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and the Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists.

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Meeting Room

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Rental Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.*
- Saturday-Sunday: 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.*

Rental Fees:

- $60/hour for the first three hours
- $30/hour for fourth and each subsequent hour
- $15/hour for each staff member needed 5–11 p.m.*

*Staffing requirements and fees are determined by the Facility Administrator, depending on the size of the event.

A 25% discount is available for James City County or Williamsburg nonprofit organizations that meet criteria set forth in the James City County Parks & Recreation Indoor Facility Use Policy.

Interpretive Center Lobby

The Freedom Park Interpretive Center lobby can be used after hours for extra space during large meeting room reservations. The lobby area adds an additional 50 people to the room capacity.

Rental Hours:

- Monday-Sunday: 5-11 p.m.*

* Available to rent in conjunction with meeting room during after-hours events.

Rental Fees:

- $30/hour

Patio

The Freedom Park patio is a 30’ x 40’ raised brick patio located behind the Freedom Park Interpretive Center. The patio is included in the Meeting Room rental.

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James City County, Virginia

Host your next event at Freedom Park! The Park features an indoor meeting room, an outdoor patio and a large picnic shelter. The Freedom Park Interpretive Center features a meeting room for smaller events. The large patio is available for a maximum capacity of 75 people. When not reserved, the patio is available on a first come, first served basis. Set-up of tents, tables, chairs or any other equipment is not included in the patio rental and will require a Parks Use Permit.

Rental Information

To Reserve a Space

To reserve the meeting room or patio, please complete a Facility Request Form. To reserve the picnic shelter, please fill out the Shelter Reservation Form. Forms are available online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Rental Hours:

- Interpretive Center Lobby ............Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Interpretive Center ............Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Park ..................................Open daily, 7 a.m. – sunset
- Freedom Park Interpretive Center Open daily, 7 a.m. – sunset

Rental Fees:

- $75/hour for each hour
- $30/hour for fourth and each subsequent hour
- $15/hour for each staff member needed
- $50/hour for each staff member needed for after-hours events
- $100/hour for each hour

A 25% discount is available for James City County or Williamsburg residents.

James City County Parks Regulations

To assist patrons and staff in providing a safe, enjoyable and clean environment for all visitors, park rules and regulations are posted in each park. For more information and fees, please visit jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Trails

Trails are closed to bikes during inclement weather to prevent trail degradation. Riders are encouraged to call 757-259-4022 to check trails status.

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is also located at 5537 Centerville Road and includes a grilling area, picnic tables, an outdoor wood-burning fireplace and access to the outdoor restrooms. The maximum capacity of the shelter is 50 people. When not reserved, the patio is available on a first come, first served basis. Set-up of tents, tables, chairs or any other equipment is not included in the patio rental and will require a Parks Use Permit. Indoor furniture from the Interpretive Center cannot be used on the outdoor patio.

Picnic Shelter

The Freedom Park large picnic shelter features eight picnic tables, a grill and is located next to the playground. The maximum capacity of the shelter is 50 people. It is available for rent from March 1 to Oct. 31 (see reservation times below). Reservations are accepted online, by mail and in-person. Set-up of tents, tables, chairs or any other equipment is not included in the shelter rental agreement and will require a Parks Use Permit.

Rental Fees for James City County/Williamsburg residents:

- $75, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- $75, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Nonresidents:

- $75, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- $75, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- $100, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- $100, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

To Reserve a Space

To reserve the meeting room or patio, please complete a Facility Request Form. To reserve the picnic shelter, please fill out the Shelter Reservation Form.

For more information on events and programs, see James City County’s Destination Recreation brochure online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.
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Free Black Settlements in America where three historically significant settlements have been recorded. Freedom Park has a rich historical background dating back to the 1650s. The park is the site of an 18th Century cemetery, furnished with items authentic to the period.

The Freedom Park large picnic shelter features eight picnic tables, a grill and is located next to the playground. The maximum capacity of the shelter is 50 people. The shelter is available for rent from March 1 to Oct. 31 (see reservation pages). Reservations are accepted online, by mail and walk-in. Set-up of tents, tables, chairs or any other equipment is not included in the shelter rental agreement and will require a Parks Use Permit. Indoor furniture from the Interpretive Center is available for rent from March 1 to Oct. 31 (see reservation pages).

Rental Fees for James City County/Williamsburg residents:
• $60/hour for the first three hours
• $30/hour for fourth and each subsequent hour
• $15/hour for each staff member needed 5–11 p.m.*
• $100 per day or 6 hour minimum (subject to change)

Rental Fees for non-residents:
• $75 per day or 6 hour minimum (subject to change)
• $100, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Rentals must be arranged with the Interpretive Center. Two days notice is required. Charges must be paid in full on day of rental.

To Reserve a Space
To reserve the meeting room or patio, please complete a Facility Reservation Form. To reserve the picnic shelter, please fill out the Shelter Reservation Form. Forms are available online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation, under "Rent & Space" and can also be picked up and dropped off at Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 5537 Centerville Road; James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road; Abram Frink Jr. Community Center, 8801 Pocahontas Trail; or the JCC Satellite Services Office, 3127 Forge Road in Toano.

Hours (subject to change)
• Park: Open daily, 7 a.m. – sunset
• Interpretive Center: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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