



Pedestrian tunnel mural at Battery Park, March 2021, photo by Tre Rockenbach

9 Battery Park 2803 DUPONT CIRCLE

Battery Park is located in the historically African-American neighborhood of the same name, part of the Barton Heights area that was developed at the turn of the 20th century as a Richmond streetcar suburb. The park, named for the Civil War gun battery that once occupied the site, is known for its tennis courts, which are dedicated to tennis champion, humanitarian and Richmond native Arthur Ashe. Battery Park's most unique feature is a colorful mural created in 2017 by five local artists to celebrate the life of Arthur Ashe.

► Take a selfie with one of the portraits of Arthur Ashe and tag us @thevalentineRVA on social media.

10 Scuffletown Park 418 STRAWBERRY STREET

By the 1790s, the area around this park was a small settlement known as Scuffletown, which included the Scuffletown Tavern, a roadside inn. Plans in the early 1800s for a new town named Sydney never developed due to a national economic downturn, but resulted in the fan-shaped street pattern that gives the neighborhood its modern name, The Fan. Located south of the former tavern site, Scuffletown Park was built by the City of Richmond in 1974 and, with the help of volunteers, redesigned in 2004 as a welcoming and restful green space.

► What is the name of the dog whose grave is located in this park?



Scuffletown Tavern, Exterior, circa 1905-1913, Cook 0654 Cook Photograph Collection, the Valentine

11 MOORE STREET AND ROSENEATH ROAD

With a name reflecting the two streets that form its boundary, Rosemoore Park is an excellent example of how green space can be inventively created, even in heavily commercial and industrialized areas. As the Scott's Addition neighborhood undergoes a modern rebirth, this small area was re-designed and established as a pocket park in July 2020. The park contains benches and picnic tables, and is located within easy walking distance of a number of neighborhood restaurants and craft breweries.

► What is the name of the restaurant located on Moore Street directly across from the park?

Scavenger Hunt Answers:

Carter Jones Park
Baseball, tennis, soccer, skateboarding, shuffleboard, hopscotch and four square

Ancarrow's Landing Park
Wildflowers

Great Shiplock Park
Trigg Shipyard

Patrick Henry Park
Dr. J. Fulmer Bright, 1924-1940

Jefferson Park
Mr. Smedley has a mouse on his head and is holding a cat

Oregon Hill Linear Park
Eight

Abner Clay Park
Richmond's first African-American police officers

Scuffletown Park
Maggie Mae

Rosemoore Park
The Dairy Bar

Richmond Parks Tour & Scavenger Hunt

In 1851, Richmond's Committee on Public Squares noted the region's rapid growth and recommended "securing breathing places in the midst of the city or convenient to it" for the health of city residents. Since then, the city has secured, engineered and maintained these "breathing places," creating some of Richmond's most beloved and unique parks. At the same time, the laws and customs of the Jim Crow era denied access to these shaded public spaces for some Richmond residents. Today the city, with help from non-profits and volunteer organizations, continues to grow new breathing places that are accessible to all.

This tour and scavenger hunt of Richmond green spaces introduces 11 hidden gems throughout the city, each offering a unique look at Richmond's past and present. The tour begins on Richmond's Southside, but you are welcome to jump in and start at any point. We hope you enjoy and discover something new!

► Each park includes a scavenger hunt question or challenge to search for as you explore. All answers can be found within the park and an answer key is included on the final page.



For a detailed map and more guided tours, use this QR code.



1 Carter Jones Park & Fonticello Playground
2813 BAINBRIDGE STREET

Carter Jones Park was once the site of Fonticello, a house that stood from 1760-1934 on land that contained a natural spring. In the late 1800s, the property owners began bottling and selling the spring water, touting its medicinal qualities. In 1928, encouraged by City Councilman Albert Carter Jones, the City of Richmond purchased this land to create a new public park. The city installed a fountain over the spring to allow free access to the water. The park offers a wide variety of recreational options, and is home to Richmond's first public skate park.

► **Name three sports/games you can play in this park.**

2 Ancarrow's Landing Park
1200 BRANDER STREET

Prior to the Civil War, Ancarrow's Landing was the site of the Manchester Docks, where enslaved people were unloaded from ships and marched over the Mayo Bridge to the slave markets in Shockoe Bottom. Today the park is named for Newton Hopper Ancarrow, who established a boat-building company on the land in 1961 and later became an environmental activist focused on cleaning up the pollution in the James River. At this park, you will find boat and fishing access to the James River and the beginning of the

Richmond Slave Trail, a self-guided walking trail of prominent historical sites relating to Virginia's slave trade.

► **Newton Hopper Ancarrow took almost 35,000 photographs of what subject?**

3 Great Shiplock Park
2803 DOCK STREET

In 1785, the newly founded James River Company began building a system of canals intended to link the James River with the Kanawha River in present-day West Virginia, as part of a larger plan enabling transport of people and goods from the Atlantic Ocean to the western half of the continent. At Great Shiplock Park, you can still see one of the canal locks, designed to allow ships to bypass the seven-mile James River fall line. On the other side of the lock is Chapel Island, which contains the remains of a Confederate navy yard that built and maintained ships during the Civil War. Great Shiplock Park is the start of two bike/walk trails: the 52-mile Virginia Capital Trail, which connects Richmond to Jamestown, and the Low Line, a landscaped path under an elevated railroad trestle that connects to the Richmond Canal Walk.

► **What was the name of the shipyard that was once located on Chapel Island?**



U.S. Weather Bureau Building Exterior, 1918, Cook0569, Cook Collection, the Valentine

4 Chimborazo Park
3215 E BROAD STREET

During the Civil War, Chimborazo Park was the site of the main medical facility for the Confederate Army, and with more than 150 buildings and 100 tents, it was the largest military hospital in the world. Today, no traces of the hospital remain, however the National Park Service uses the site as a Richmond National Battlefield Park medical museum and visitor's center, housed in a 1909 weather station building. The area's name is said to have been inspired by its resemblance to a volcano in Ecuador named Chimborazo. In 1951, the Boy Scouts of Richmond dedicated an 8'4" replica of the Statue of Liberty in the park, one of 206 statues erected across the country to promote post-WWII patriotism.

► **Take a selfie with the Chimborazo Statue of Liberty and tag us @thevalentineVA on social media.**

5 Patrick Henry Park
EAST BROAD AND NORTH 25TH STREETS

You may have heard of Richmond's famous Church Hill Tunnel disaster of 1925, but Patrick Henry Park owes its existence to an earlier cave-in that occurred during the original construction of the tunnel. The Church Hill Tunnel was a 3,927-foot-long train tunnel designed to move freight more easily from the James River Docks to the C&O railroad terminal. It ran directly under the city block that is now the park site, and on January 14, 1873, the land gave way and a number of buildings, including the St. John's Church rectory, collapsed. In the early 1960s, the site was turned into Patrick Henry Park, named for the revolutionary who in 1775 declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" at St. John's Church directly across Broad Street.

► **Whose generosity made this park possible, and when did he serve as the mayor of Richmond?**

6 Jefferson Park
NORTH 21ST AND EAST MARSHALL STREETS

Located on a bluff above Shockoe Bottom, Jefferson Park is often overlooked in favor of its better-known neighbor, Libby Hill Park, but it offers landscaping, a playground, benches, a fountain and an outstanding view



Jefferson Park, March 2021, photo by Tre Rockenbach



James River Overlook in 1953, Riverside Park House, End of Pine Street, Edith K. Shelton Photograph Collection, the Valentine

of the downtown Richmond skyline. One of Richmond's early green spaces, Jefferson Park was constructed in 1887 to serve the residents of the adjacent and historically working-class neighborhood of Union Hill. The park is also the home of Mr. Smedley, a whimsical sculpture who tips his hat with a smile to park visitors. Mr. Smedley's sculptor, Jack Witt, also created the statue of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson located in Jackson Ward.

► **What does Mr. Smedley have on his head, and what is he holding in his right hand?**

7 Oregon Hill Linear Park
614 HOLLY STREET

Oregon Hill Linear Park was created around 1990 to provide green space and a buffer between the neighborhood and an increasingly busy Belvidere

Street. The park runs in two disconnected sections: an area between Idlewood Avenue and Spring Street and an area between China Street and the James River Overlook. (Park visitors should walk on the Belvidere Street sidewalk between Spring and China streets to continue from one section to the other.) This unique park includes a winding path with benches, picnic tables

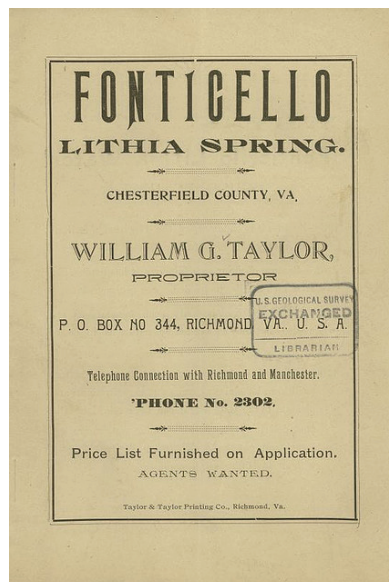
and two large, steel sculptures created by area historian and artist Charles Pool. The James River Overlook offers a spectacular view of the river, downtown skyline, Belle Isle and Hollywood Cemetery. The historic gazebo at the corner of South Pine Street and Oregon Hill Parkway dates to 1900 and was once used as the park keeper's office.

► **How many sides does the historic gazebo have?**

8 Abner Clay Park
BROOK ROAD AND WEST CLAY STREET

Named for a civic and community leader, Abner Clay Park is located directly across from the Black History Museum & Cultural Center on Leigh Street, in the heart of Jackson Ward. Prior to the Civil War, the area was primarily inhabited by members of Richmond's free Black and German immigrant communities. By the 1920s, Jackson Ward was the center of Richmond's Black community, with entertainment venues and businesses so highly regarded that the area was nicknamed the "Harlem of the South" and the "Black Wall Street." Abner Clay Park, the neighborhood's first designated green space, was created in the 1970s from the athletic fields associated with the former Armstrong High School.

► **Who is honored on the historical marker near the corner of Leigh Street and Brook Road?**



Fonticello Lithia Springs Co. advertisement, early 1900s, common domain



Kanawha Canal, Small Boat Harbor, Looking North, June 1954, V.79.120.1455.01, Edith K. Shelton Photograph Collection, the Valentine