



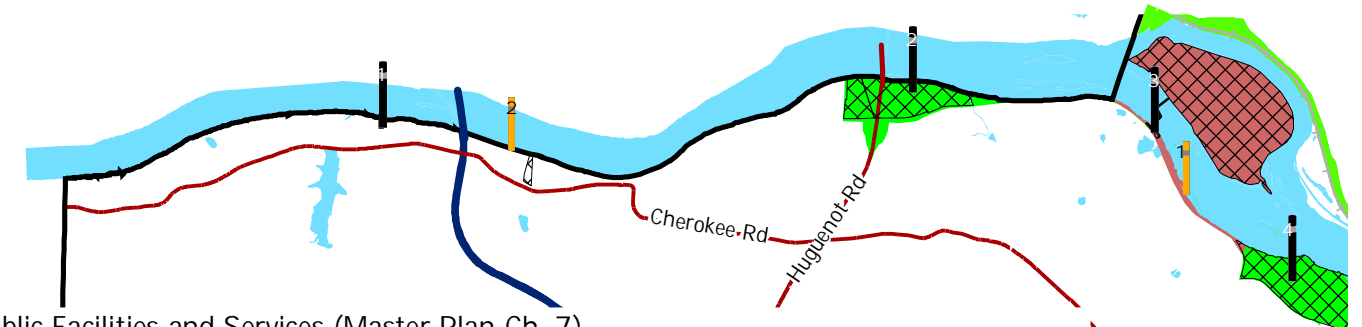
# City of Richmond

## James River Corridor Policy Summary

### Public Access, Stewardship and Opportunities

The James River corridor is widely recognized as a focal point within the City of Richmond's public and open space system. In order to preserve and enhance the river corridor, the City has adopted policies, which provide guidance for ongoing improvements to public recreational facilities and for the protection of natural resources.

This document summarizes those policies and recommendations related to the James River that are contained within the Richmond Master Plan 2000-2020 and the Richmond Downtown Plan. This document serves as a general reference. The chapters referenced in this summary are listed next to each section heading. For more detailed information, including land use recommendations along the corridor, please refer to the complete Richmond Master Plan 2000-2020 and Richmond Downtown Plan (both available online at [www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com)).



#### Public Facilities and Services (Master Plan-Ch. 7)

##### Issue:

There is a need for additional public access to the James River. The James River Park system, with over 450 acres of open and forested floodplain, provides excellent opportunities for residents and visitors to access the river at key locations, but in some sections of the City such access is not currently available.

##### Long-range strategy:

Increase public access to the James River where appropriate and feasible.

##### General actions:

- Develop a Master Plan that outlines capital improvements and activities programming for the James River Park System.
- Develop a plan of action to maintain and renovate neighborhood and Citywide parks.

#### Huguenot Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)

- A continuous walking path, adjacent to the James River, between Pony Pasture Park and Williams Dam and, if appropriate, to Huguenot Woods Park. This should have minimal implications for adjacent land uses, since the intent is to acquire only that land necessary for the right-of-way.
- The floodplain should be protected from any further development, particularly that portion north of Cherokee Road and Riverside Drive, unless the development is water-related (floodplain maps are available online at [www.richmondgov.com](http://www.richmondgov.com)).

#### Natural Resources (Master Plan-Ch. 6)

##### Issues:

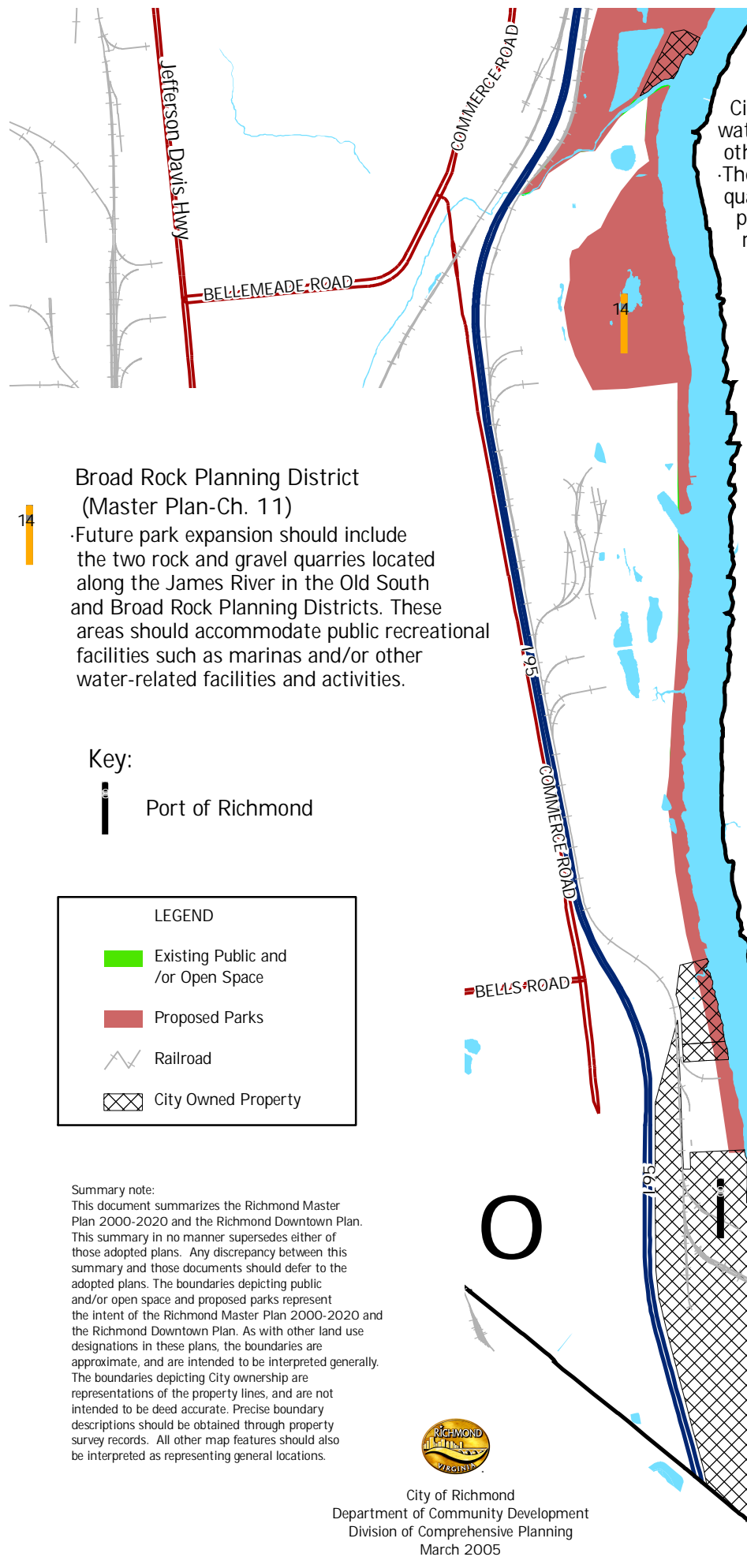
- The James River supplies drinking water for the City and most of the metropolitan area. Improving water quality should be carried out in cooperation with other localities within the regional watershed.
- The dual demands of maintaining rigorous water quality standards while at the same time satisfying public demand for greater recreational access will require creative solutions to specific monitoring and programming challenges.

##### Long-range strategies:

- Preserve the river's waterways and adjacent riparian lands.
- Preserve the James as a source of high quality water for multiple uses.
- Ensure continued public access to the river for both passive and active recreational uses in ways compatible with the first two strategies.

##### General actions:

- Continue to implement recommendations regarding stormwater management, and ground and drinking water protection as described in the Environmental Element of the Master Plan.
- Reduce the impacts of streambank erosion along the James River and all of its tributaries.
- Implement periodic reviews of all existing water quality compliance programs.
- Consolidate all City-related stormwater efforts into one comprehensive program.
- Manage water resources in a manner that meets the needs of users while preserving the river's aquatic life.
- Develop a River Corridor Plan for the James River and its environs.
- Develop the James River waterfront as a destination for residents and tourists while protecting water quality, scenic beauty, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Continue to enforce water quality requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and all other state and federally mandated programs.
- Acquire underutilized industrial, institutional or commercial property to provide additional public access to the river. Any lands acquired should be carefully selected to minimize conflicts between adjacent land uses and new public usage. Do not promote the taking of private property to achieve greater public river access, particularly within single family residential neighborhoods.
- Develop a James River Conservation and Management Plan with the cooperation of the Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee.
- Protect all existing James River viewsheds from inappropriate development.
- Where appropriate and feasible, support all Port of Richmond Master Plan recommendations that call for higher compliance standards relative to the Chesapeake Bay Protection Act and EPA Stormwater Drainage Regulations.



#### Broad Rock Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)

Future park expansion should include the two rock and gravel quarries located along the James River in the Old South and Broad Rock Planning Districts. These areas should accommodate public recreational facilities such as marinas and/or other water-related facilities and activities.

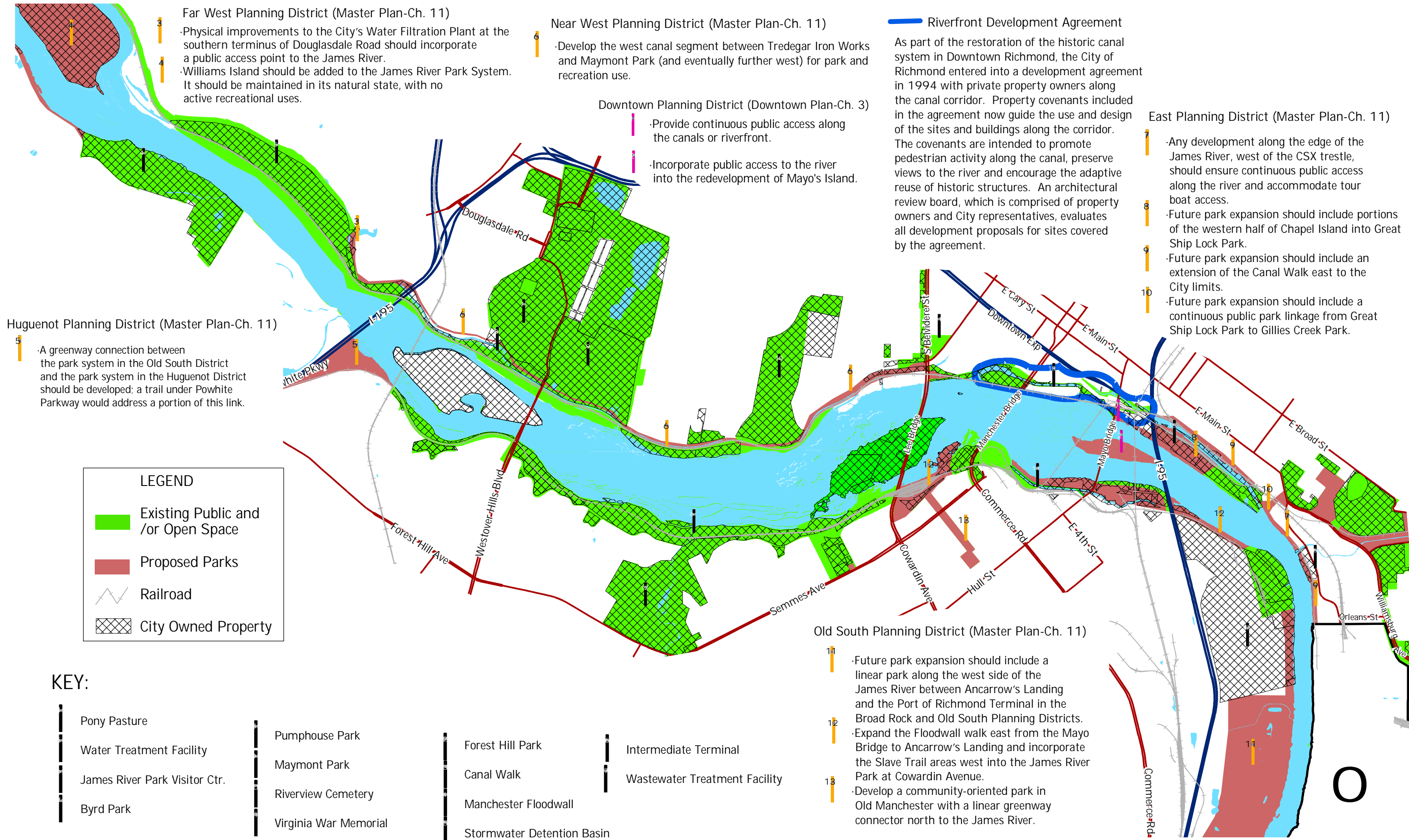
##### Key:

Port of Richmond

##### LEGEND

- Existing Public and /or Open Space
- Proposed Parks
- Railroad
- City Owned Property

Summary note: This document summarizes the Richmond Master Plan 2000-2020 and the Richmond Downtown Plan. This summary in no manner supersedes either of those adopted plans. Any discrepancy between this summary and those documents should defer to the adopted plans. The boundaries depicting public and/or open space and proposed parks represent the intent of the Richmond Master Plan 2000-2020 and the Richmond Downtown Plan. As with other land use designations in these plans, the boundaries are approximate, and are intended to be interpreted generally. The boundaries depicting City ownership are representations of the property lines, and are not intended to be deed accurate. Precise boundary descriptions should be obtained through property survey records. All other map features should also be interpreted as representing general locations.



**Far West Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)**

- Physical improvements to the City's Water Filtration Plant at the southern terminus of Douglasdale Road should incorporate a public access point to the James River.
- Williams Island should be added to the James River Park System. It should be maintained in its natural state, with no active recreational uses.

**Near West Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)**

- Develop the west canal segment between Tredegar Iron Works and Maymont Park (and eventually further west) for park and recreation use.

**Downtown Planning District (Downtown Plan-Ch. 3)**

- Provide continuous public access along the canals or riverfront.
- Incorporate public access to the river into the redevelopment of Mayo's Island.

**Riverfront Development Agreement**

As part of the restoration of the historic canal system in Downtown Richmond, the City of Richmond entered into a development agreement in 1994 with private property owners along the canal corridor. Property covenants included in the agreement now guide the use and design of the sites and buildings along the corridor. The covenants are intended to promote pedestrian activity along the canal, preserve views to the river and encourage the adaptive reuse of historic structures. An architectural review board, which is comprised of property owners and City representatives, evaluates all development proposals for sites covered by the agreement.

**East Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)**

- Any development along the edge of the James River, west of the CSX trestle, should ensure continuous public access along the river and accommodate tour boat access.
- Future park expansion should include portions of the western half of Chapel Island into Great Ship Lock Park.
- Future park expansion should include an extension of the Canal Walk east to the City limits.
- Future park expansion should include a continuous public park linkage from Great Ship Lock Park to Gillies Creek Park.

**Huguenot Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)**

- A greenway connection between the park system in the Old South District and the park system in the Huguenot District should be developed; a trail under Powhite Parkway would address a portion of this link.

**LEGEND**

- Existing Public and /or Open Space
- Proposed Parks
- Railroad
- City Owned Property

**KEY:**

- |                               |                       |                            |                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pony Pasture                  | Pumphouse Park        | Forest Hill Park           | Intermediate Terminal         |
| Water Treatment Facility      | Maymont Park          | Canal Walk                 | Wastewater Treatment Facility |
| James River Park Visitor Ctr. | Riverview Cemetery    | Manchester Floodwall       |                               |
| Byrd Park                     | Virginia War Memorial | Stormwater Detention Basin |                               |

**Old South Planning District (Master Plan-Ch. 11)**

- Future park expansion should include a linear park along the west side of the James River between Ancarrow's Landing and the Port of Richmond Terminal in the Broad Rock and Old South Planning Districts.
- Expand the Floodwall walk east from the Mayo Bridge to Ancarrow's Landing and incorporate the Slave Trail areas west into the James River Park at Cowardin Avenue.
- Develop a community-oriented park in Old Manchester with a linear greenway connector north to the James River.