

# The South River Current



*Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship*



*Coyner Springs Park*

## Connections: Go on a Park Adventure

Opportunities to enjoy nature abound in the South River Watershed. There are over 15 county and city parks and preserves open to the public—eight in Waynesboro alone. If you chose to visit one per week throughout the summer, you would still leave a few undiscovered. Can you name them all? If not, you will find a complete list [here](#). Below is a list of some lesser-known parks still worthy of a visit:

- Coyner Springs Park – 2091 Lyndhurst Road, Waynesboro  
Coyner Springs Park includes 145 acres of land with nature trails, a picnic area, a leash-free dog park, and a 9-hole disc golf course. It is a great place to spy on some wildlife, fly a kite, go for a jog, or just sit and reflect. The park is open from sunrise to sunset every day. <https://www.waynesboro.va.us/218/Coyner-Springs-Park>
- Rife Park – 801 Lyndhurst Road, Waynesboro  
Rife Park offers an intimate pocket of natural beauty on the banks of the South River. There are some picnic tables for eating outdoors and a boat ramp if you are looking to get out on the water and explore the Water Trail. It is a good place to cast a reel or just listen and observe the natural world all around. The park is open from sunrise to sunset every day. <https://www.waynesboro.va.us/960/Rife-Park>

- John E. Painter Park – 1100 20th Street, Grottoes  
John E. Painter Park offers shelters for picnicking, horseshoe pits, tennis and volleyball courts, a driving range, and a playground. A boat ramp offers access to the river and there are trails for hiking, and biking too. In 2022, the park was renamed in honor of retired Police Chief John E. Painter after he lost his life in a shooting at Bridgewater College. The park is open from sunrise to sunset every day. <https://www.townofgrottoes.com/parks>
- Schneider Park – 81 Wayne Avenue, Stuarts Draft  
There is little found online about Schneider Park, but it features lighted, gated baseball diamonds, picnic areas, and lots of open green space. Grab a baseball cap, a glove, and some snacks, and share a few photos of your adventure to our [SRWC Facebook page](#) to spread the word!



## Watershed Revitalization: The Sun is Rising on Sunset Park

The newest recreational area in the Watershed, Sunset Park, is nearly complete. The custom features and breath-taking views will, no doubt, make it a favorite destination for residents and visitors alike. Natural stone overlooks highlight the expansive westward views that include distant peaks like Big House Mountain near Lexington, over 40 miles away. The pavilion with post-and-beam trusses intended to mimic an old railway station design, includes nine ADA-accessible picnic tables that can comfortably seat 72 people—perfect for a casual reception, party, or reunion. (Rental reservations will be available through Waynesboro Parks and recreation once the park is open.) Sunset Park will also be the first park in Waynesboro with lights for evening enjoyment. Illuminated pathways have been installed to guide visitors from the overlooks and pavilion to the parking lot and bathrooms that were also designed with a nod to the past. The eaves of the roof are decorated with ornamental verge boards designed to match those on the 1889 Basic/Waynesboro Union Train Station that sat just below over a century ago. Sunset Park

will be open from 6am – 10pm, so be sure to head over sometime after dark to savor the sounds and sights of nature at night. The natural view transforms into a sea of lights after dark. The first scheduled event at Sunset Park, Wings Over Waynesboro, will be held on Saturday, June 15 from 3:30pm to 9:30pm. This will provide a great opportunity for visitors to experience the park before and after sunset, so mark your calendars! For up-to-date details on this and other Waynesboro projects and events, visit the [Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Facebook Page](#).



### Did You Know?

- Keep your eye out for these new signs popping up all over the Watershed. They label each given location on the South River Watershed map to help create awareness. Also, [let us know](#) if you spot a good spot for another one!
- On April 29, 2022, Augusta County celebrated the grand opening of their first South River access point at Dooms Crossing and on November 2, 2023, they celebrated the second at Crimora Park. Both were fully funded by grants!
- The South River Watershed Coalition website has experienced a remodel! Click [here](#) to explore!



## Take a Walk Back: 15-Minute Drive Back to 1890

Indeed, you can step back to the turn of the 20th century with just a 15-minute drive south of Waynesboro to Humpback Rocks Outdoor Farm Museum. Just a quarter-mile walk from the Humpback Rocks Visitors Center, the historic farm offers a glimpse back in time to life on a mountain farm over a century ago. The farm museum consists of a single-room log cabin, chicken house, root cellar, barn, hog pen, spring house, and rail fencing; and during the summer, costumed interpreters provide demonstrations, including weaving, basket making and gardening. In the 1890s, farms like this one were the family's sole source of shelter, sustenance, and, if there was surplus, income. Together they learned how to survive. They had no electricity, indoor plumbing, motorized vehicles, interstate highway systems, cell phones, or the internet. You may find the tranquility refreshing, but rest assured, it was a challenging life. The farm is open daily in the summer from 10am to 5pm and is surrounded by 3,000 acres of predominantly forested lands to explore as well. It may be of interest to note that the buildings are original but not in their original locations. During construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway, landscape architects collected historic buildings from the surrounding area and placed them at Humpback Rocks for convenient viewing. For hours of operation and nearby trails click [here](#) or find a sketched map of the area [here](#).

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*Leave No Trace Homepage*

## What Can I Do? Leave No Trace at Virginia State Parks

How long does it take to return your home to order after a party--a couple hours, a whole day? Wouldn't it be nice if all your guests helped clean up and return things to their proper place before they leave? Life runs more smoothly when dishes, decorations, and furniture are restored to their normal places. So it is in the great outdoors. When venturing out into nature, it is important to remember that we are just visitors. It is so important that organizations like **Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics** exist to encourage and "equip recreationalists with information that helps minimize their impacts to the natural world." The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) supports their mission and their 7 guiding principles and practices. These principles are based on the latest insights from biologists, land managers, and other leaders in outdoor education. A summary is below but click [here](#) to read the full explanation of each principle.

- Plan ahead and prepare.  
Knowing local regulations and directions and preparing based on weather predictions help make the trip more enjoyable and less damaging.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.  
The goal of travel outdoors is to move through natural areas while avoiding damage to the land, foliage, or waterways. Keeping campsites small and using existing sites and trails prevents unnecessary alterations to the environment.
- Dispose of waste properly.  
Think about the waste you will produce on your trip and how to properly dispose of it.
- Leave what you find.  
The items you find in nature have a role to play. Observing without disturbing is best.
- Minimize campfire impacts.

Campfires are fun but cause lasting impact. Using established fire rings, pans, or mounds will help preserve the surrounding tranquility.

- Respect wildlife.  
You are visiting their home. Avoiding feeding them and interacting with them to reduce the negative impact on human-wildlife interactions.
- Be considerate of other visitors.  
Respecting others and embracing the peace and quiet of nature will elevate your experience and that of others too.



## Now Available

You can reserve the South River Watershed Coalition office for your community group meeting. The space is outfitted with projection capability and Wi-Fi plus tables and chairs for 15-20 people. The office is located at 510D West Broad Street in Waynesboro. Reservations are free; donations are appreciated. Email [info@southernriverwatershed.org](mailto:info@southernriverwatershed.org)

For upcoming events, check the [South River Watershed Coalition Events Page](#).  
Like us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

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