

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:

Aaron Reidmiller, Director,
Hopewell Recreation and Parks
PH: (804) 541-2353
areidmiller@hopewellva.gov

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HOPEWELL RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Hopewell, VA. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation recently announced recipients of the 2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. The Hopewell Riverwalk was recognized as a gold medal winner, the program's highest honor, along with five other gold medalists from across the state. The award program recognizes innovative projects that improve Virginia's environment in the categories of sustainability program, environmental project, land conservation, or implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. In addition to the six gold medal winners, two silver medal winners and four bronze medal winners were also recognized.

Governor Ralph Northam provided opening remarks and shared that "These projects and initiatives go hand-in-hand with our administration's priorities and they really showcase effective partnerships and innovative ideas. For example, the City of Hopewell's Hopewell Riverwalk is a valuable tool for promoting healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship, and economic growth. Creating more access to recreation and conserving land is an important part of the equation."

The Hopewell Riverwalk opened for public use in the spring of 2019 and has quickly become one of the region's most popular recreational assets. The 1,736-foot wooden boardwalk project was made possible with the participation of many community stakeholders like the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River and the John Randolph Medical Center.

The project was organized and administered by City Staff, specifically the departments of Recreation and Parks and Public Works (Engineering) in addition to support from the City Manager's office. The Riverwalk was constructed by John K. George and Co. in just under five months. Plans have been approved for the second phase of Hopewell's Riverwalk, which will extend the walkway an additional 1,400 feet to the Hopewell City Marina. Construction of Phase II is slated to begin in the spring of 2021.

The Hopewell Riverwalk can be accessed from City Park, which is located at 205 Appomattox Street. In addition to the Riverwalk, the park also features a nature-inspired playground, natural beach area, fishing pier, picnic pavilion, and interpretive signage. To learn more about the Riverwalk, please visit www.hopewellrecandparks.com/riverwalk.

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