

## History

The town of West Point sits at the confluence of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers flowing into the York River. Once the site of the Indian village, Chiquoteck, the area became West Point after a land grant was made to Captain John West in 1691 and was incorporated in 1870. In the latter part of the 1800's a rail terminal made this a thriving commercial port and resort destination. The Terminal Hotel stood proud at the water's edge on 1st and Main Street, today Beach Park allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy the beauty of the water like those so many years ago. Historic Chelsea Plantation is considered one of the finest examples of early 18th Century Georgian architecture in the United States. The grounds of Chelsea encompass nearly five acres of lawn with extensive English Boxwood gardens, overlooking the Mattaponi River.



## Safety Tips

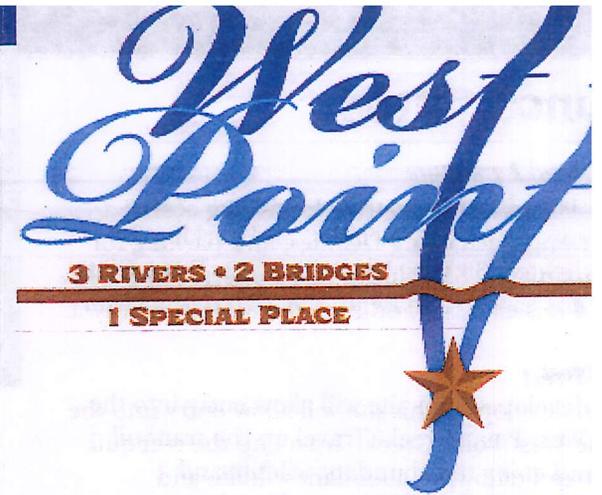
- Wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (PFD) a life jacket.
- Paddle water appropriate to your skills.
- File a float plan with friends or family.
- Do not go into fast current unless you are sure you can safely paddle through it.
- Know and follow all state and federal laws.
- Know the water stage including tidal changes.
- Be visible, carry a whistle and flash light.
- Wear proper clothing to avoid hypothermia; synthetic fabrics are best.
- Stay alert to changing weather conditions.
- Don't paddle alone; paddle with people who know the river.

This brochure was created as an Eagle Scout project by Troop 414

## Special Thanks to:



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# West Point Waterways

## A Paddler's Guide



## Launch Sites

### *Glass Island Landing*

Glass Island Landing provides fishing access, a boat ramp, picnicking facilities, and parking for approximately 35 vehicles and trailers. From Glass Island it is easy to paddle up the Mattaponi River.

### *13th Street*

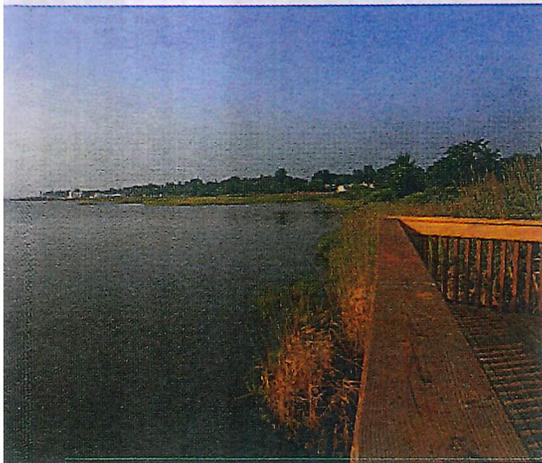
When developed, this site will allow entry into the gentle West Point Creek. Travel up the tranquil creek and enjoy the abundant wildlife and vegetation. Parking will be available when completed.

### *5th Street*

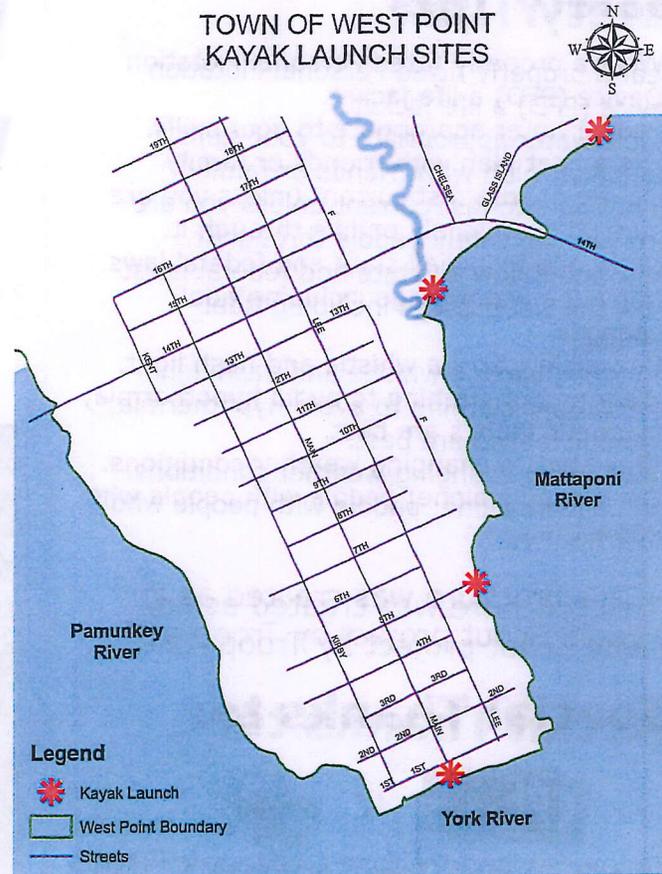
While there is a proposed park for this site, it is often used by locals to put in. From here you can access West Point Creek to the north or the York River to the south. Parking is limited to street parking.

### *Beach Park (1st & Main Street)*

From Beach Park you glide directly into the York River, the winds are normally stronger in this area and an eddy on the Mattaponi edge makes for a good workout. Parking is limited to Street parking



## West Point Map



**Multiple entry points allow you to paddle**

## Wildlife

The blue crab is most often associated with West Point; yet, it is only one of many marine animals to make their home in these brackish waters. Paddling the waterways of West Point you are sure to see fiddler crabs and muskrats scurry along the marsh edges. Look up toward the sky and marvel at the sight of the blue heron, green heron, bald eagle and osprey nesting along the waters edge. With over 30 different species of duck and geese visiting throughout the year, you are sure to see plenty of water fowl. Aquatic life changes with the seasons; catfish, croaker, spot, rockfish, and jellyfish are just some of the many species that can be found in the rivers. On rare occasions dolphins and sea otters have been spotted. Whatever the season you will enjoy the plentiful wildlife the waterways harbor.

