

Safety Tips

- Wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device.
- Paddle water appropriate to your skills.
- Inform friends and family of your float plan.
- Do not go into fast current unless you are sure you can safely paddle through it.
- Know and follow all state and federal laws.
- Understand water stages, including tidal changes.
- Be visible and carry a whistle and flash light.
- Wear proper clothing to avoid hypothermia.
- Stay alert to changing weather conditions.
- Don't paddle alone; paddle with others who know the waterway.



Map & Details

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Town of
West Point
&
King William
County



**PADDLER'S
GUIDE**

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Launch Sites

The Town of West Point and King William County offer multiple launch points along the tidal Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and York Rivers. Enjoy fresh and salt water paddling, wildlife viewing, and fishing.

1. Aylett Boat Ramp: Located in Aylett off of Route 600 in King William County, enter the Mattaponi River where it begins its transformation from a narrow tree-lined river to a marshy tidal waterway. With the highest average daily tide change of any river in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, be sure to check tide charts before you launch. Parking available.

2. Beach Park: Located on Main and 1st Streets in downtown West Point at the confluence of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers, glide directly into the York River from West Point's public beach. Winds are typically stronger in this area and an eddy on the Mattaponi edge makes for a good workout. Street parking available.

3. Glass Island: Located on Glass Island Road in West Point, Glass Island Landing provides fishing access, a boat ramp, picnic facilities, parking, and a separate launch for paddlers, allowing easy entry into the Mattaponi River.

4. West Point Creek: Located on 13th Street in downtown West Point, this site allows entry into the gentle West Point Creek. Travel up the tranquil creek and enjoy abundant wildlife and vegetation. Parking available.

5. White's Landing: Located on White's Landing Road in King William County, easily launch into the scenic Pamunkey and head up or down river exploring ghost forests in tidal marshes, a phenomenon that occurs when freshwater forests transition to brackish marshes. Fishing and parking available.



Wildlife

The blue crab is most often associated with West Point; yet, it is only one of many marine animals that make their home in the town's brackish waters. Paddling the waterways of West Point, you are sure to see fiddler crabs and muskrats along the marsh edges. In the sky and along the water's edge, you'll see herons, bald eagles, and osprey. 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 found in our rivers. On occasion, dolphins and sea otters can be spotted.

Along King William's pristine waterways, you'll discover an abundance of wildlife and vegetation in the tidal fresh water marshes, creeks, and rivers. Paddlers may see beavers, otters, tree frogs, a variety of songbirds, as well as herons, bald eagles, and osprey. From lily pads and wildflowers, to wild rice and other seed-bearing plants, visitors will spot multiple plant species. Anglers will enjoy fishing for catfish, perch, crappie, blue gills, shad, and largemouth bass.

6. Zoar State Forest: Located in King William County on Herring Creek at the Nature Trail in Zoar State Forest, launch into the Mattaponi River and paddle through hardwood forests, wetlands, and some of the Middle Peninsula's most pristine nooks. Parking available.

7. 5th Street Beach: Located at the end of 5th Street in downtown West Point, enjoy easy entry into the Mattaponi River from a quaint, sandy beach. Paddle up river toward West Point Creek to the north or down the York River to the south. Street parking available.