

Summer Activities in 2023 for All – Charlottesville & Albemarle

Walking, Hiking, Biking, Mountain Biking, Tennis, Pickle Ball, Golf, Disc Golf,
Skate Boarding, Swimming, Fishing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding

Albemarle County Parks

[Parks & Recreation | Albemarle County, VA](#) or (434) 296-5844

Check the Website for Summer Season Hours

- Enjoy Lake Beach Swimming at Chris Greene, Mint Springs, and Walnut Creek Par.
- [Canoe/Kayak Rentals](#) are available at Chris Greene Lake and Walnut Creek Lake.

Charlottesville Parks and Recreation

[Parks & Recreation | Charlottesville, VA](#) or (434) 970-3260

- [May 13](#) – Spray Grounds will open at Belmont Park, Forest Hills Park, Greenleaf Park, and Tanzler Park for the season.
- [May 27](#) – Washington Park Pool and Onesty Family Aquatic Center will open weekends only.
- [June 10](#) – Washington Park Pool and Onesty Family Aquatic Center will be open daily.

Area Parks, Nature Areas, and Trails

Albemarle County Parks and Trails

<https://www.albemarle.org/government/parks-recreation/parks>

Charlottesville City Parks and Trails

[Parks & Trails | Charlottesville, VA](#)

Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

[Botanical Garden of the Piedmont | Celebrating Virginia's Flora \(piedmontgarden.org\)](#)

- The Garden is open to you every day, even if the gate is closed. There is a kiosk filled with information about the Garden as well as areas to sit, relax and enjoy nature.
- Access from Melbourne Road near the intersection to the John Warner Parkway (across the street from the CHS football stadium). There is parking available on Melbourne Road.
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs are allowed.

Meadowcreek Trail in Greenbrier Park

<https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html>

- .5-mile+ **accessible**, 8-foot wide, crushed stone/boardwalk flat trail for walking/biking along the restored Meadowcreek stream bed. There are a few benches for resting.
- Access points with parking are off Greenbrier Drive and Brandywine Drive, but the easiest is at Jamestown Drive.
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs are allowed.

Ivy Creek Natural Area

<https://ivycreekfoundation.org/>

- .75-mile **accessible** paved flat trail for walking from the parking lot. (Restrooms)
- The Ivy Creek Natural Area is a 215-acre preserve bordering the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir with 6 miles of trails.
- **NOTE:** Dogs are not allowed at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

John Warner Parkway Trail

<https://www.trailink.com/trail/john-w-warner-parkway-trail/>

- 2-mile **accessible** paved trail for walking/biking from East Rio Road to Route 250 Downtown with steep switchback at trail head.
- Accessible from E. Rio Trailhead with parking at CATEC. Easier access points are parking at Melbourne Road or Route 250 Allied Shops area.
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs allowed.
- **NOTE:** Indoor/Outdoor seating is available (8:30 am – 3:30 pm) at **C'ville Coffee** located in McIntire Business Park.

McIntire Park Trails

<https://charlottesville.gov/659/Trails>

- Access the trails behind the picnic shelters, to the north of the baseball fields, or from the CHS bridge with easy parking
- **NOTE:** Dogs are allowed off-leash in designated parts of McIntire Trails on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
- **NOTE:** Indoor/Outdoor seating is available (8:00 am – Noon & 3:00-7:00 pm Monday-Friday) AND (8:00 am – Noon Saturdays) at the **Kindness Café** coffee shop inside the YMCA lobby.

Pen Park Fitness Trail

<https://charlottesville.gov/659/Trails> or (434) 296-6069

- .5-mile **accessible** paved loop for walking with 20 exercise stations and benches with slight changes in grade.
- Access behind the picnic shelters with parking. (Restrooms by playground)
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs allowed.
- **NOTE:** Outdoor seating is available (8:00 am – 7:00 pm; call if the weather is questionable) at **The Grill at Meadow Creek**.

Pen Park Nature Trail

<https://charlottesville.gov/659/Trails> or (434)296-6069

- 1.5-mile trail along the Rivanna River. This trail is a combination of a wider main path and side trails that offer closer views of the river. The main trail is very flat and wide, good for jogging or hiking.
- Access the trailhead behind the picnic shelters with parking, off the fitness trail. (Restrooms by playground)
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs allowed.
- **NOTE:** Outdoor seating is available (8:00 am – 7:00 pm; call if the weather is questionable) at **The Grill at Meadow Creek**.

Ragged Mountain

<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/ragged-mountain-outer-loop/>

- The Ragged Mountain Natural Area is a 980 acre preserve surrounding the Ragged Reservoir with 5 miles of trail.
- **NOTE:** Dogs are not allowed in Ragged Mountain Natural Area.

Riverview Park Trail at Rivanna Greenbelt

<https://www.visitcharlottesville.org/listing/riverview-park-%26-rivanna-greenbelt/266/>

- 2.3-mile **accessible** paved trail for walking/biking, which is flat. starting at Riverview Park along the scenic Rivanna River.
- Access and parking at Riverview Park. (Portable Restrooms)
- **NOTE:** Dogs are allowed off-leash on designated portions of the trail within Riverview Park on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only.

Rivanna Trails

<http://www.rivannatrails.org>

- The Rivanna Trails circumnavigate the City of Charlottesville by walking/biking.
- **NOTE:** Check for specific information on leashed dogs on the various trail sections.

Saunders Trail at Monticello

www.monticello.org/site/visit/saunders-monticello-trail

- 4-mile **accessible** paved/boardwalk trail for walking/biking on the south side of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway. (Rt. 53) with a maximum grade of 5%. (Restrooms at Visitors Center)
- Access and parking from Monticello Visitor Center lot at the head and Kemper Park with limited parking.
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs allowed.
- **NOTE:** Indoor/Outdoor seating is available at the **Farm Table Café (9:30 am – 4:30 pm) and open to the public and does not require a ticket to Monticello. Parking is free.**

Sentara Martha Jefferson Walking Trail

<https://www.mypacer.com/routes/114894/sentara-martha-jefferson-park-charlottesville-virginia-usa>

- 1-mile **accessible** paved trail (narrower than other trails) for walking around three picturesque ponds with lush grassy areas for sitting.
- Access and parking on lower parking lots near the large pond as the grade is steeper at upper access points near Sentara buildings.
- **NOTE:** Leashed dogs allowed.

Orchards and Farms

Carter Mountain Orchard

<https://chilesfamilyorchards.com/orchards/carter-mountain-orchard>

- Masks required in lines and inside buildings.
- Food is available at Country Store & Bakery and the Mountain Grill.
- No picnicking/Restrooms available.
- **NOTE:** No dogs allowed.

Chiles Orchard

<https://chilesfamilyorchards.com/>

- Masks required in lines and inside buildings.
- The Farm Market offers specialty treats including cider, donuts, ice cream and fudge.
- Picnicking is welcomed/Restrooms available.
- **NOTE:** No dogs allowed.

Central Virginia Orchards and Farms

<https://www.visitcharlottesville.org/things-to-do/orchards-farms/>

Other Outdoor Recreation Ideas

Charlottesville Community Bikes

www.charlottesvillecommunitybikes.org

917 #D Preston Avenue (Behind Sticks Kebab Shop & Mona Lisa Pasta)

Contact: info@cbikes.org or (434) 260-0893

Charlottesville Community Bikes (CCB) is a nonprofit bicycle shop that promotes environmentally sound transportation, recycles bicycles, and makes cycling accessible in Charlottesville, VA. Their programs include:

- Bike Referral Program: Free bikes for adults and teens in need.
- Kids Bike Program: Free bikes (24" wheels and smaller) for kids 12 and under. Families are asked to get only one bike per child per year and that both the child and the parent be present.
- Refurbished Bike Shop: CCB sells refurbished bikes to help the community access affordable bikes and to help fund the free bike programs.

Fishing in Charlottesville/Albemarle Area

[Fishing spots, fishing reports and regulations in Rivanna River \(fishbrain.com\)](#)

No activity can be as rewarding as relaxing near waterway with fishing pole in hand and line in the water. Check out our parks that provide/allow fishing.

- [Beaver Creek Park](#)
- [Chris Greene Lake](#)
- [Darden Towe Park](#)
- [Mint Springs Valley Park](#)
- [Totier Park](#)
- [Walnut Creek Park](#)

NOTE: There are wheelchair accessible fishing peers at Chris Greene, Mint Springs, and Beaver Creek. No fishing license is required for those under 16.

Meadowcreek Golf Course at Pen Park

<http://www.meadowcreekgolf.org>

- Driving Range – Bring your driver and a basket of 40 balls is \$7.
- Putting Green – Bring your putter and practice on the green at no charge.
- Grill at Meadowcreek – <https://www.meadowcreekgolf.org/menu.html>
 - To Go/outdoor seating for anyone (year-round).
 - Connect with a walk on an area trail.

Putt Putt Charlottesville

<https://puttputt.com/charlottesville/>

- Individual Game - \$6 (18 holes)/\$10 (36 holes)
- Check the website for hours. Open year-round, weather permitting.

Roseland Polo - King Family Vineyards

<https://kingfamilyvineyards.com/Polo>

- Matches begin at 12:00 pm, and gates open at 10:00 am, every Sunday from Memorial Day weekend through mid-October, field and weather conditions permitting. Bring your chairs and blankets and picnic.
- **NOTE:** Admission and parking are FREE.

Thursday Night “Groovin” at Greencroft

<https://greencroftclub.com>

The Greencroft Club – 575 Rodes Drive (Off of 250 West)

- Thursday evening concerts are scheduled May through October (Check the website for specific dates each month!)
- **NOTE:** Admission and parking are FREE!
- Doors open at 5:30 pm with music starting 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Bring your chairs and blankets and listen to the tunes of local musicians. Food items at the grill and beverages will be available for purchase No outside food/drink may be brought in.
- **NOTE:** Weather cancellations will be made on the day of the concert by 2:00 pm.
- **NOTE:** Dogs (leashed) are permitted, but not encouraged on the property.

Thursday Evening Sunset Series

[2023 Thursday Evening Sunset Series | Carter Mountain Orchard \(chilesfamilyorchards.com\)](#)

Contact: hello@CarterMountainOrchard.com

- Thursday evenings (5:00 – 9:00 pm) from April 20 – September 28, 2023.
- Reserved Tickets are required for these events and must be purchased online in advance at \$10 for age 12 and older.
- Event admission begins at 5:00 pm with music starting at 6:00 pm. Bring lawn chairs and blankets or come early for a picnic table on our terrace or decks. Food trucks and wine, cider etc. available for purchase; No outside food or drink may be brought in.

Tom Socks Team

[Tom Sox Baseball](#)

- Full schedule of collegiate summer baseball team from June 1 – July 23 at Charlottesville High School baseball field.
- Games and parking are FREE.
- Accessible to all.

Wild Rock Nature Play and Discovery Center

[Wildrock | Nature Play and Discovery Center](#) or (434) 825-8631

Play Adventures on the Wildrock Nature Playscape and Discovery Loop Trail

- Enjoy exploring, creating, and playing in Wildrock’s three-acre play area with over a dozen play zones! Reservations include access to the trail, barn, gardens, and labyrinth.
- Reservations are available on select holidays and regularly on Tuesdays, Fridays (mornings) and Saturdays. 9:30 am - noon and 12:30 - 3:00 pm.
- Fee is \$20.00 (Use the FREEVISIT coupon code if unable to pay.) Your reservation is for one parking spot and entry for up to 6 passengers.
- **Please make separate reservations for additional cars.** If you are planning a gathering of 12 plus, please reserve a party space.

Indoor Activities in Charlottesville & Albemarle County Albemarle County Parks and Recreation Centers

- View information on Albemarle County Classes at [Classes | Albemarle County, VA](#)
- View information on Albemarle County Recreation Centers at [Community Centers | Albemarle County, VA](#)

Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Centers

- **Carver Recreation Center | Charlottesville, VA**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/584/Carver-Recreation-Center>
➤ View information about the Carver Recreation Center amenities, activities, and admission options.
- **Crow Recreation Center | Charlottesville, VA**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/600/Crow-Recreation-Center>
➤ View information about Crow Recreation Center amenities, activities, and admission options.
- **Key Recreation Center | Charlottesville, VA**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/601/Key-Recreation-Center>
➤ View information about the Key Recreation Center amenities, activities, and admission options.
- **Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center | Charlottesville, VA**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/605/Smith-Aquatic-Fitness-Center>
➤ View information about Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center amenities, activities, and admission options.
- **Tonsler Recreation Center | Charlottesville, VA**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/611/Tonsler-Recreation-Center>
➤ View information about Tonsler Recreation Center amenities.

Adaptive Recreation – Charlottesville Parks and Recreation

Contact: adaptive@charlottesville.gov or 434-970-3269

Website: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/368/Adaptive>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/charlottesvilleparksandrecreation/groups/>

Virtual Programs:

Email CC Dew at dewc@charlottesville.gov to request links for virtual programs.

Virtual programs are **FREE and Drop In** - just need a Zoom account.

In Person Programs:

On-going programs, special events, day trips and overnight trips have resumed **and can be viewed at:**

<https://webtrac.charlottesville.gov/webtrac.wsc/search.html/module=AR&type=ADAPTIVE>

Registration is required and a liability form must be completed at:

https://cvilleparksandrec.formstack.com/forms/adaptive_release_form

Best way to stay in touch/find out information – Sign up for our monthly newsletter!

Email to adaptive@charlottesville.gov to be added.

Jefferson Madison Regional Library Branches

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Central Library – Saturday, June 10, 10:00 – 12:00 Noon – All Ages

NOTE: Check with your local branch for details on Summer Programs:

- **Central Library (434) 979-7151**
www.jmrl.org/br-central.htm
- **Crozet Library (434) 823-4050**
www.jmrl.org/br-crozet.htm
- **Gordon Avenue Library (434) 296-5544**
www.jmrl.org/br-gordon.htm
- **Greene County Library (434) 985-5227**
<https://www.jmrl.org/br-greene.htm>
- **Louisa County Library**
<https://www.jmrl.org/br-louisa.htm>
- **Northside Library (434) 973-7893**
www.jmrl.org/br-northside.htm
- **Scottsville Library (434) 286-3541**
www.jmrl.org/br-scottsville.htm

Museums

African American Heritage Center at the Jefferson School

<http://www.jeffschoolheritagecenter.org>

- Self-Guided tours of permanent collection and changing exhibits.

Kluge Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection

<https://kluge-ruhe.org/make-a-reservation/>

- Visit the only museum dedicated to Indigenous Australian art and culture.
- We highly recommend you make a FREE reservation, so we are prepared for your visit.
- Free, 20–30-minute tours led by volunteer guides are available daily at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm

McGuffey Arts Center

<https://www.mcguffeyartcenter.com/>

- **NOTE:** McGuffey Arts Center is currently operating with COVID-19 protocols for masking and social distancing.

Monticello Visitor Center

<https://www.monticello.org/exhibits-events/exhibits-at-the-visitor-center/>

- **Movie** (15 minutes) on Jefferson's World and **Exhibitions** in four indoor pavilions.
- **Farm Table Café** with patio seating is open to the public and does not require a ticket to Monticello from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Parking is available.
- Connect a visit to a walk on the Saunders Trail and/or Kemper Park.

Piedmont Family YMCA

YMCA – FREE Summer Teen Membership for Ages 13-18 – Enroll Now at the Y with a Parent/Guardian!

[Free Summer Teen Membership for ages 13-18 at the Brooks Family YMCA in Charlottesville! \(piedmontymca.org\)](https://www.piedmontymca.org/free-summer-teen-membership-for-ages-13-18-at-the-brooks-family-ymca-in-charlottesville/)

Contact: Ashley Wright, Teen & Youth Director at awright@piedmontymca.org or call (434) 974-9622.

- YMCA members age 13+ can have full facility access without a parent present to basketball court(s), where you can shoot hoops, play volleyball, and more.
- Wellness floor features weights, cardio machines, and other workout equipment.
- Unlimited, fun group exercise classes, including Hip Hop Step, Zumba, and more.
- Access to indoor pool with diving board.

Membership at the YMCA

Contact: Y front desk (434) 974-9622) or Email membership@piedmontymca.org

- Wellness floor features – weights, cardio machines, and other workout equipment.
- Unlimited, fun group exercise classes, including Hip Hop Step, Zumba, and more.
- Access to indoor pool with diving board, aquatics programs including swimming lessons 6 months - adults

Financial Assistance Program

- Because of our nonprofit mission, at the Y, no one is turned away for their inability to pay. Through our Financial Assistance program, membership is available on a sliding scale based on income and membership type.
- **To apply for a YMCA individual or family scholarship:**
 - Download & fill out the [YMCA Financial Aid form \[PDF\]](#)
 - Attached required document(s) (tax form 1040)
 - Email the application to membership@piedmontymca.org

Other Indoor Recreation Ideas

AMF Summer Bowling at Bolero (Formerly Keglers)

<https://www.bolero.com/summer-games> or (434) 978-3999

- **NOTE:** There will be No 2023 Summer Adult and Children Bowling Passes!

Decades Arcade

418 E. Main Street (on Downtown Mall)

<https://www.decadesarcade.com/>

[Decades Arcade](#) | [Charlottesville VA](#) | [Facebook](#)

Contact: (434)962-7986 or info@decadesarcade.com

- 30+ pinball machines highlighting the '50s to today, 40+ of the most popular arcade games from the '80s and '90s, and the hottest home gaming consoles from the '70s to today.
- **Hours:** Friday, 1:30 – 10:00 pm; Saturday, 1:30 – 10:00 pm and Sunday, 1:00 – 7:00 pm.
NOTE: More hours will be added for Summer 2023. Extra hours are added for holidays and school breaks!
- **Admission** Age 4 – Adult is \$12-2-Hour Pass or \$17- All Day Pass and you can come and go on the day.
Age 3 and under Free.

Summer Family Movie Specials

NOTE: Check the websites to get 2023 Dates!

Free Family Film Series at Violet Crown

[Virginia Discovery Museum](#) | [Charlottesville, VA \(vadm.org\)](#)

- Violet Crown Cinema presents the return of its Free Family Film Series featuring perennial favorites alongside modern classics.
- Free to Attend on First-Come, First Served Basis.
- Presented in partnership with Virginia Discovery Museum (VDM.) Movie ticket holders receive 50% off same-day admission to Virginia Discovery Museum.

Kids Camp at Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas

[Kids Camp](#) | [Signature Series](#) | [Alamo Drafthouse Cinema](#)

- Kids Camp screenings during summer and winter breaks, providing families in our communities with a fun and affordable way to experience their favorite movies on the big screen.
- All tickets are \$5 for everyone each week.

Regal Summer Movie Express

[Summer Movie Express](#) | [Regal \(regmovies.com\)](#)

- Tickets are just \$2 on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings for summer movies for the whole family.
- Availability varies by location.

C. Ribando/Information is believed to be current and correct as of May 1, 2023 for this resource.