



Chessie Trail Tracks

Website: www.friendsofthechessietrail.org

Email: chessietrail@gmail.com

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CHESSIE TRAIL VOTED AS THE THIRD TOP RECREATIONAL TRAIL IN THE NATION

Each year, USA Today ranks a list of the top ten recreational trails in the country. A panel of recreation experts provides nominations, and readers vote for their favorites.



Best Recreational Trail (2023)

Enjoy the outdoors on the 10 best recreational trails in the US

Reconnect with nature on these dedicated paths

This year, the Chessie Nature Trail was one of the top ten nominees. Votes could be cast once a day during the month-long campaign.



Photo courtesy of Eric Sheffield

Other contenders included several trails over 70 miles long and others allowing skating and horseback riding. Despite this impressive and stiff competition, the Chessie Trail came in third place!

No. 3: Chessie Trail - Lexington, Virginia

Hike or run along the 7-mile one-way Chessie Trail, which parallels the Maury River in Lexington, Virginia. Old canal towpaths and a portion of the former Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad bed combine to create this rail-trail that offers an opportunity to enjoy fresh air and wildlife spotting.

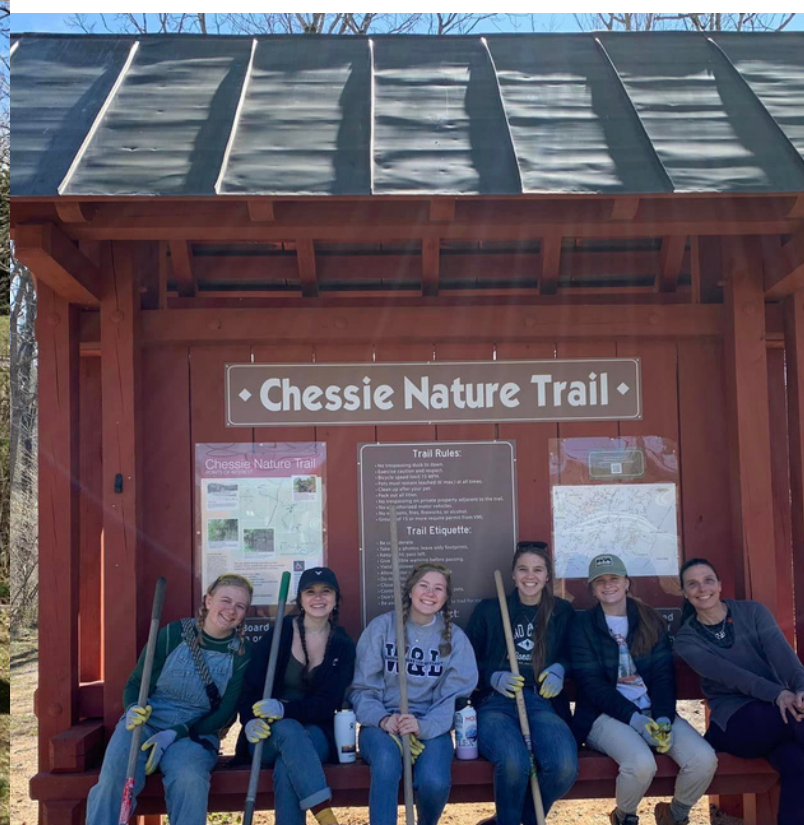
Now the rest of the world knows what a great place the Chessie is!



W&L Nabors Service Day Volunteers

Friends of the Chessie Trail and the W&L Nabors Service Day students partnered to get 8 tons (!!) of gravel spread on the Lexington end of the trail on March 18.

This team worked hard to make the trail a great place to walk, bike, run or stroll! Thank you for your hard work!





Photos courtesy of Deb Weddle

Wildflower Walk

Friends of the Chessie Trail and Virginia Native Plant Society participated in a joint Wildflower walk on March 18. There was a nice turnout of walkers, and the tiny wildflower buds were beginning to pop up. If you see orange flags, look closely for a native plant — you may have to look up! You can find the wildflower guide on our website.



Reid's Lock and Dam

Thanks to Friends of the Chessie volunteers, there is a new commemorative sign at Reid's lock, which is the last of a chain of locks and dams built to improve navigation on the Maury between James River and Lexington.

Mules provided the power for towing canal boats upstream, the towpath changing from one side of the river as the terrain required. Today, parts of the Chessie follow that old towpath.

We thank all the volunteers and board members who make these projects happen. We would love to have your help in whatever way you can. Join the Friends at our website and check out the ways you can help.

See you on the Trail!



Photos courtesy of Eric Sheffield



Thank you for your support of Friends of the Chessie Trail. To renew your annual membership, visit our website and see the Memberships tab.

Photo courtesy of Connie Dreusicke