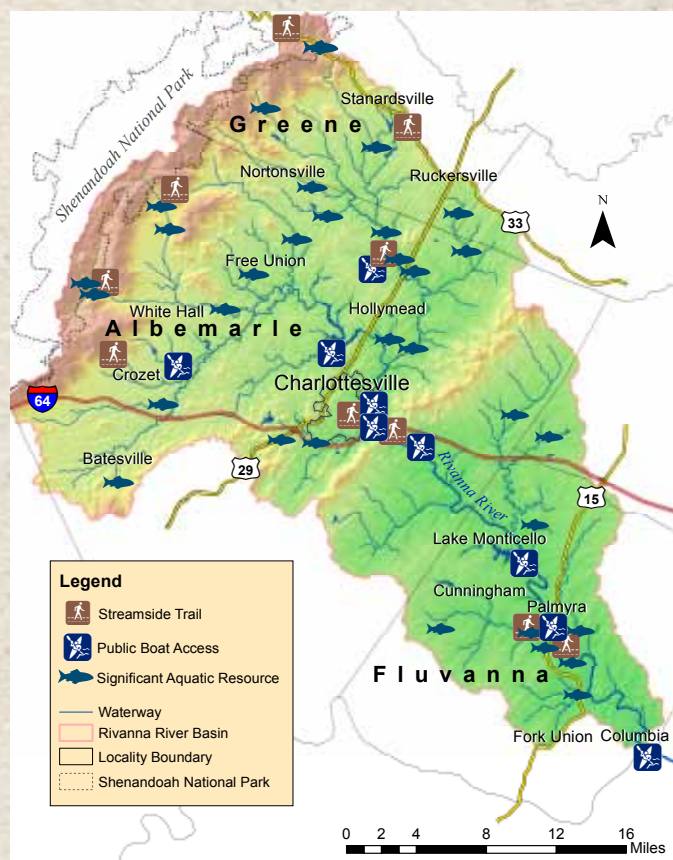


# Enjoying Our Watershed



**T**he Rivanna Watershed provides abundant opportunities for recreation and enjoying the outdoors.

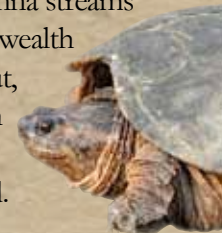
There are many opportunities for fishing, hiking, birdwatching, swimming, boating, and being in nature and close to water:

- Over 170 miles of trails in the Rivanna Watershed, including the Fluvanna Heritage Trail and Rail Trail in Palmyra; Old Mills Trail in Albemarle; the Rivanna Trail around Charlottesville; trails at Greene County Community Park; and headwater trails in Shenandoah National Park.
- 9 public boat launches, including 5 state landings located directly on the Rivanna River, plus numerous spots along tributaries for launching kayaks and canoes.
- The 38-mile Rivanna River Water Trail for paddling from Darden Towe Park in Charlottesville to the James River at Columbia, with 2 camping sites along the way.
- 12 miles of wild trout streams; 8 miles of stocked trout streams; and over 700 miles of perennially flowing streams.



*The removal of the Woolen Mills Dam in Charlottesville opened up fish passage for shad and other species, as well as new opportunities for recreation. Photo/Bill Emory*

There are fish species of ecological or economical importance (significant aquatic resources) in 65% of the Rivanna streams assessed by Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010. Brook trout, American eel, and smallmouth bass are among the 49 species of fish found in the watershed.



*Trails and fire roads in Shenandoah National Park provide options for walking, hiking, and running. Photo/RRBC*



*The lower Rivanna in Fluvanna County is broad and flat, with fishing holes, sandy beaches, and the remains of historic mill dams to explore. Photo/Mary Porter*



*No special equipment is needed to enjoy a neighborhood stream. Photo/City of Charlottesville*