

Fun (and Inexpensive) Family Outings in Greater Richmond

Henrico County Parks <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/rec/park-information.html>

Hanover County Parks <http://www.co.hanover.va.us/parksrec/default.htm>



- Short Pump Pal events (Short Pump Mall Food Court) Need to register for freebies; but can show up just to participate. See <http://www.shortpumpmall.com/info/sppals> for full calendar. Kids 6 & under. Usually Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
- Henrico County Library story times. Great family story times. See website. All ages. <http://www.henricolibrary.org/kids/storytimes.html>
- Pamunkey Library story times. Great family story times. See website. All ages. http://www.pamunkeylibrary.org/storytime_schedule.htm
- Richmond SPCA (Hermitage Rd.) Check calendar for lots of free kid activities. Puppet shows, read to pets, Barnes & Noble readings, etc. Various times & days. <http://www.richmondspca.org/>
- Regency Mall Play area (Parham Rd.) Free mall play for kids <5. Outside of food court. Great place to go when it rains because you can park under cover by Macy's.
- VA Center Mall Play area (Brook Rd.) Great place for kids <5. Park and go through Sears for closest access. Can walk to food court.
- Short Pump Mall Play area (W. Broad St.) Great place for kids <5. Park outside of Funny Bone, Dicks, or Baker's Crust. Must take elevator by Guest Services to 2nd floor. Inside of food court.
- \$1 Summer Movies at Regal Cinemas (VA Center & Short Pump) Every summer there are \$1 family movies on Tuesday & Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Arrive early because many school groups will take up the whole theater. Strollers can be brought in to handicapped seats. Great way to try taking kids to movies without any expense. Can always leave early! See details at <http://www.richmondbargains.com/2012/05/1-kids-movies-at-regal-cinemas/>
- Chesterfield Berry Farm (360 West from Brandermill) – Pick your own strawberries and veggies. Seasonal. Check www.chesterfieldberryfarm.com for more info.
- Pouncey Tract Park (Pouncey Tract Rd.) – Play area with mulch (wear shoes & socks). Picnic shelter. Restrooms. Sand volleyball courts (bring sand toys and play). Springfield Park (Springfield Rd.) – New play area with pressed mulch floor. Picnic shelter. Restroom. (Great for quick stop before or after Costco run!)
- Three Lakes Park (Wilkinson Rd.) – Great new play area with pressed mulch floor. Very sunny. Picnic shelter. Restroom. Lake with large wood deck. Gravel walking trails. Nature Center (small, but impressive), odd hours, check website, usually 12-4 p.m., FREE!
- Duncroft/Castle Point Park (Francistown Rd.) – Great new play area with pressed mulch floor and surrounding fence. Shade. Picnic shelter. Restroom. Walking trail that can be stroller friendly, but is gravel. Soccer field.
- Hanover Wayside Park (Rt. 301) – Large field. Can walk around circle. Small play area with mulch. Walking trails. Picnic shelters. Port-o-johns. http://www.co.hanover.va.us/parksrec/parkinfor_wp.htm
- Pole Green Park (Pole Green Rd.) – Two play areas – one with pressed mulch, one with regular mulch. Very sunny. Sometimes buggy. Surrounding fence. Skateboard area. Soccer fields. Sand volleyball courts (bring sand toys). Gravel parking lot. Port-o-johns. http://www.co.hanover.va.us/parksrec/parkinfor_pgp.htm
- Ashland train tracks – watch the Ashland trains go by at the Ashland Library or Railside Park
- Pufferbelly Park (Randolph St., Ashland) – Beside police station. Playground and picnic tables. Street parking. Nice walk from Ashland Library.
- Home Depot Kids Workshop. First Saturday of each month from 9-12 (will not take 3 hours). Ages 5-12. Hands on activity. Something new each month. Parent participation. All locations. <http://www.homedepot.com/workshops>
- Va. Museum of Fine Arts (Boulevard) Free admission to permanent exhibits. Pay for parking deck. Free street parking. <http://vmfa.museum/default.aspx>
- Dogwood Dell amphitheater (Byrd Park) – 2400 seat amphitheater. Summer arts program with free concerts, ballet, plays, etc. Schedule: <http://www.richmondgov.com/parks/documents/BrochureDogwoodDell2012.pdf>

- ❑ Short Pump Express kids train (Short Pump Towne Center) - \$2 for all passengers. Closes on Sun. at 5pm; all other days 7pm; check website for full calendar as it is seasonal. Rides through the mall with kids & adults. Play houses at end of line for train. www.shortpumpmall.com
- ❑ Bogeys Sport Park (way W Broad) – Good miniature golf, batting cages, golf driving range. <http://www.bogeysportspark.com/>
- ❑ Canal Walk boat tour - \$5 adults, \$4, <4 kids FREE. 40 minute narrated boat tour. <http://www.venturerichmond.com/experiences/canalcruises.html>
- ❑ Pocahontas State Park (Chesterfield County) – Large swimming facility with impressive equipment – under 3 FREE, \$5 kids, \$6 adults. Cabins, camping. Trails. Fishing. http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/poc.shtml
- ❑ Goochland Drive In Theater (off 64, Hadensville exit) – Friday & Saturday nights starting in April. Good up to date movies. Gates open at 6 pm. Show start at 8 pm. Double feature. Adults & teens \$7, kids \$3, <3 FREE. No outside food & beverages. Nothing at snack bar over \$3.50. Playground. <http://www.goochlanddriveintheater.com>
- ❑ Innsbrook After Hours concerts – Bring lawn chairs/blankets. No coolers. Some concerts more family friendly than others. Usually kids under 10 are FREE. Usually inflatables. Concessions. <http://www.innsbrookafterhours.com/>
- ❑ Metro Richmond Zoo (way west on 360, about 45 min) – Impressive zoo in the middle of nowhere. Open yr round, closed Sundays. Look for coupons. \$14.75 adults, \$9.75 2-11 yrs., <2 FREE. Can feed giraffes and take a sky ride over rhinos. Very sunny. <http://www.metrorichmondzoo.com/>
- ❑ Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (Lakeside & Hilliard) – Family memberships available for \$85. Or \$11 adults, \$7 3-12 yrs., <3 FREE. Beautiful walking gardens. Kids area with water shooting up, sand boxes, small play houses, huge tree house. Very stroller friendly. LOTS of walking. Large restrooms for changing bathing suits. www.lewisginter.org
- ❑ Cobblestone Water park (off Rt. 33, Overhill Lake) – Huge public pool with water slides, baby area, \$12 adult, \$10 kids, <2 FREE. Can buy food/drink or bring your own (no glass). Season passes available. Look for coupons. <http://cobblestonespark.com/>
- ❑ Barnes & Noble Story time (Brook Rd. & W. Broad St.) Free story time. Check store website for times. <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>
- ❑ Mommy & Me at Willow Lawn Mall (Broad St.) April-Oct., 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Free crafts, games, storytelling, dancing. http://www.willowlawn.com/mommy_me.php
- ❑ Children’s Museum of Richmond (Broad & Boulevard or Short Pump) \$8 a person, or get a family membership for \$135. Great place for indoor/outdoor pay; closed on some Mondays. Would not go on school holidays. <http://www.c-mor.org/>
- ❑ Chick-fil-A , McDonald’s, or Burger King play area (multiple locations)
- ❑ Kangaroo Jacs (Broad & Gaskins) Ages 10 & under. <http://www.kangaroojacs.com/>
- ❑ Pump It Up (Kings Charter) Look for Pop-In-Playtime for schedule (mainly a party place but does have some open gym time) Ages 2-10. <http://www.pumpitupparty.com>
- ❑ The Inflatable Palace (Atlee Rd. & 301) Closed Monday-Thursday. Parents and infants FREE. <http://theinflatablepalace.com/>
- ❑ AMF Bowling (Bell Creek Rd.) Kids as young as 2/3 can play with the ball ramps. Look for coupons. They offer FREE summer bowling for kids. <http://amf.com/home>
- ❑ Bowl America (Pouncey Tract) Kids as young as 2/3 can play with the ball ramps. Look for coupons. <http://www.bowl-america.com/>
- ❑ Skate Nation (Pouncey Tract) Ice skating and laser tag. Kids & adults. <http://www.skatenationplus.com/>
- ❑ Skateland of Ashland (Rt. 1) Roller skating. 1 adult may skate FREE with child. Thursday evenings are Christian music skate nights. <http://www.ashlandskateland.com/index.htm>
- ❑ Chuck E. Cheese (W. Broad St.) Tip: not crowded on early weekday mornings and late Monday evenings. Look online for coupons. <http://www.chuckecheese.com/>
- ❑ Romp N Roll (Rt. 360, Broad St. & Springfield, Midlothian) Check website for Open Gym time. Great place to run off some energy. For kids under 6 yrs. Everyone must wear socks. Adults free. <https://www.rompnroll.com/>
- ❑ Maymont Nature Bldg. (2201 Shields Lake Dr. in Byrd Park) \$3 adults, \$2 kids 4-12, kids <4 free. Shows animals of the James River. 13 giant linked aquariums. Playful otters. Tues.-Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. <http://www.maymont.org/Page.aspx?pid=217>

- ❑ Krispy Kreme (Broad St. & Staples Mill) Yummy! Take the kids to view the making of donuts on the conveyor belt. You might want to sample one or two.
- ❑ Virginia Aviation Museum (Airport) \$6 adults, \$5 kids. 37 aircraft, Kids Ready Room (hands on, movies, stories, puzzles, full size airplane with movable controls). Wind tunnel. <http://www.vam.smv.org/Index.html>
- ❑ Cartwheels and Coffee (2820 W. Cary St.) Play area for kids 6 & under, with adult coffee cafe. Check calendar as they close for private events. <http://www.cartwheelsandcoffee.com>
- ❑ Va. Museum of Fine Arts Preschool Programs. Kids & family. Ongoing classes. Must register & pay ahead, but can pick and choose classes; no commitment. \$5-\$8 per child. (Adults free) Story time, hands on art activity, then tour part of the museum. Parent must accompany. Wed. & Thursday times. <http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/Learn/>
- ❑ Science Museum of Virginia (Broad & Boulevard) Geared to kids 6 and up. Kids 3 and under free. Imax theater for additional cost. <http://www.smv.org/>
- ❑ Virginia Aquarium (Va. Beach)\$17 adults, \$12 kids, <3 FREE. Open daily 9 a.m.-5p.m. Imax theater. <http://www.virginiaaquarium.com>
- ❑ Dave & Busters (W. Broad St.) An adult Check E Cheese where kids can play too. <http://www.daveandbusters.com>
- ❑ Theatre IV plays (various locations) This is theater geared toward children. See www.theatreivrichmond.org for complete play listing, dates, location and costs.
- ❑ Short Pump Mall Concerts on the Lawn - See www.shortpumpmall.com for dates & bands; bring a lawnchair/blanket/dinner; very family friendly; weather permitting; runs June-August; 6-8 p.m. FREE
- ❑ Construction sites – Kids LOVE to watch big mover push dirt or break up concrete.
- ❑ Watch airplanes take off at Richmond International Airport
- ❑ Canal Walk stroll – Walk along the canal walk and read the historical markers. Not 100% stroller friendly, but there are some long stretches from Canal St. east.
- ❑ Stony Point Mall Fountains – Great free place to go on hot summer mornings. Water squirts up sporadically from the floor and the kids go wild! Inside the (outdoor) mall, park by Panera. Bring towels. Nice family restroom facilities to change clothes. Warning – no food court, but there is a Chilpotle, Panera & Subway.
- ❑ Belle Island (Richmond) Park on Tredegar St. under the Lee Bridge. Walk across the stroller friendly, suspended walkway bridge over the James River. (Bring leaves or stones to let the kids throw them down!) Walk over to Belle Island and enjoy a nice stroll or picnic. Lots of bikes! Old relic buildings (civil war prison, nail factory, etc.) <http://www.jamesriverpark.org/>
- ❑ Maymont – Children’s Farm, Barns – Spottswood Entrance (Shirley Lane) – Donation suggested. Kids pet & feed many animals. If questionable, take a stroller, but be prepared for a long uphill return. Tip: the trail does NOT go around, you return on the same path! Peacocks, pigs, turkey, horses, goats, sheep, bears, eagles! www.maymont.org
- ❑ Meadow Farm (Mountain Rd.) – Visit the animals. Need stroller for little ones. See the animals in a 19th century farm setting. Not a lot of shade. Restrooms. Walking trails (not stroller friendly). Small museum.
- ❑ Crump Park (at Meadow Farm, Mountain Rd.) – Restrooms. Shady play area with large equipment. Picnic shelter. Mulch – wear shoes & socks. Good kite flying field.
- ❑ Deep Run Park (Ridgefield Parkway) – Large lake to walk around stroller friendly. Picnic shelters. Soccer fields. Restrooms. Basketball courts. One small play area at lake. Second large play area at soccer fields. Both well-shaded. Paved walking trails. Mulch – wear shoes & socks.
- ❑ Dorey Park (I295 & I895) – South Eat. Soccer fields. Picnic shelters. Restrooms. Play area. Trails. Fishing. Tennis courts. Disc Golf. Rec Center. Great kite flying field.
- ❑ Echo Lake Park (Springfield Rd.) – Lake with gravel walking trail. Partially paved over wood bridge and shaded play area. Mulch – wear shoes & socks. Picnic shelter. Restroom.
- ❑ Squirrel baseball at the Diamond (Boulevard) – April-September <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t3410>