



Richmond Indigenous Peoples' Day @ Powhatan Hill

A Celebration of Virginia's Indian Tribes on the 2nd Monday in October

Monday, October 14, 2024 – 1:00 to 7:00pm @ Powhatan Hill Park

5051 Northampton Street, Richmond VA 23231

Free Admission

Richmond IPD Background, Mission & Purpose

On October 10, 2022 the City of Richmond authored a joint resolution between the Mayor and City Council forever changing the holiday on the second Monday in October from Columbus Day to ***Richmond Indigenous Peoples' Day***. The City followed up by establishing it as a paid holiday for City employees. Last year, in support of its ***Indigenous Peoples' Day Initiative***, The Pocahontas Project (TPP) held the inaugural Richmond IPD celebration on October 9, 2023 in the park named after Paramount Chief Powhatan with the intention of making it an annual affair and a mission to use the event to honor Virginia's Indian Tribes, America's Indigenous communities, and the ancient wisdom of Native, Indigenous and First Nations peoples around the world.

The primary purpose of the annual Richmond IPD celebration is to expand educational opportunities and awareness for Richmonders and Virginians of all ages about the history, culture, and future of Virginia's Indian Tribes. The event celebrates the history and culture of Virginia's eleven recognized Indian Tribes and directs specific attention to one tribe each year. In 2023 TPP honored the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and this year TPP is honoring the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe.

Richmond IPD Celebration Themes

Established at the inaugural 2023 event, below are the four themes promoted by Richmond IPD:

- A celebration of Virginia's Indian Tribes and America's Indigenous communities in the name of remembrance, recognition, reconciliation and respect
- A positive look forward in the name of education, awareness, cooperation and collaboration
- An acknowledgement of the world's existential issues and why the ancient wisdom of the Native, Indigenous and First Nations peoples of the world is so critical to a sustainable future for all humankind
- An encouragement to Richmonders and Virginians to learn about the history and culture of Virginia's Indian Tribes and to support their community development efforts

2024 Richmond IPD Event Description and Tentative Schedule

The 2024 Richmond IPD celebration begins an annual tradition of presenting a cultural experience similar to a Virginia Indian Pow-Wow to RVA citizens and visitors from across the Commonwealth and beyond. Working under the direction of Tribal Celebration Coordinator Connor Tupponce (Upper Mattaponi Tribe) we are transforming the baseball field at Powhatan Hill Park into a dancing circle (actually a *dancing diamond*), offering all the elements of a traditional Virginia Indian Pow-Wow with:

- Master of Ceremonies = Rufus Elliott (Monacan Indian Nation)
- Drum = Lone Eagle (Charles City, VA)
- 10 select dancers from VA Tribal Community showcasing the various styles of Pow-Wow dancing
- Virginia Indian Color Guard

Event attendees can enjoy a cultural culinary collaboration between Richmond's Cobra Burger and the Upper Mattaponi's Three Sisters Cooking offering Fry Bread, Indian Tacos, Strawberry Tea and other treats for purchase. Inside the Powhatan Hill Community Center will be an information display about the history and culture of the Virginia Indian Tribes with special attention to the 2024 honored tribe - the Upper Mattaponi. Plans also include a couple of lectures or presentations (to be determined) during the afternoon in the community center discussing the present and future for the Virginia tribes. The overall event runs from 1-7pm, with a Powhatan Shiny League exhibition in the park from 2:30-3:30 and the Tribal Celebration kicking off at 4:15pm with the following tentative schedule:

- Opening welcome by the MC describing the nature of the event and appropriate protocols
- Grand entry of the Eagle Staff and flags (US and Tribal), Tribal leadership/dignitaries, and dancers
- Flag Song honoring the Eagle Staff and Flags
- Veterans Honoring
- Invocation by Rev. Jon Barton, Opening Remarks from Upper Mattaponi Chief Frank Adams and other Chiefs in attendance, and additional remarks from state/local dignitaries and supporting organizations
- Dance performances: Exhibition dancing (showcasing each category), inter-tribal dancing (all tribal dancers), and social dancing (including all in attendance)
- Retiring of the Eagle Staff and Flags followed by closing remarks

2024 Richmond IPD Event Logistics / Considerations

Parking > Powhatan Hill Park is located in the Fulton neighborhood and it is hoped lots of attendees will walk or ride their bikes – the park has LOTS of bike parking spots! For cars, there's plenty of street parking in the surrounding neighborhood, especially at the bottom of Powhatan Hill – but expect to walk a couple of blocks. Those parking in Fulton Bottom will get to walk up and see Richmond's premiere sledding hill and it's downhill on the way home! Northampton Street is one way from Williamsburg Road to Goddin Street and will be configured for car and bus drop-off and pick-up. TPP is promoting the use of Northampton for bus drop-off/pick-up as well as for folks with limited mobility. Contact TPP for help with parking suggestions for cars and buses.

Accessibility > Powhatan Hill Community Center and Playground are wheelchair accessible and the community center has accessible bathrooms.

Chairs or blankets > Attendees are encouraged to bring a chair and/or blanket for sitting in the grass to watch the activities in the park. Attendees may bring their own refreshments – no alcohol allowed.

2024 Richmond IPD – Related Information Links

- TPP Indigenous Peoples' Day Initiative > <https://www.pocahontasproject.org/ipd-initiative>
- Powhatan Shiny League > <https://www.facebook.com/people/Powhatan-Pickup-Shinny/61556840466142/>
- Library of VA *Indigenous Perspectives* > <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/indigenous-perspectives/>
 - For Educators > <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/indigenous-perspectives/for-educators/>
- VA Secretary of the Commonwealth – State Recognized Tribes > <https://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/virginia-indians/state-recognized-tribes/>

=====

**For more information contact Rick Tatnall @ The Pocahontas Project
804-325-3674 / rick@pocahontasproject.org**