



Richmond Indigenous Peoples' Day @ Powhatan Hill

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

Monday, October 13, 2025 – 1:00 to 7:00pm @ Powhatan Hill Park

5051 Northampton Street, Richmond VA 23231

Free Admission



A glimpse of the 2024 Richmond IPD celebration (10/14/24)

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***. In support of its ***Indigenous Peoples' Day Initiative***, The Pocahontas Project (TPP) presented 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 also intends to provide inspiration to other jurisdictions to follow Richmond's lead and reorient the holiday on the second Monday in October to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Each year Richmond IPD will celebrate Virginia's eleven (11) recognized Indian Tribes and direct specific attention to one tribe each year. In 2023 the event featured the Mattaponi Indian Tribe, in 2024 the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, and in 2025 TPP will feature the Monacan Indian Nation.

Richmond IPD Celebration Themes

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

- **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**

2025 Richmond IPD Event Description and Tentative Schedule

The 2025 Richmond IPD celebration will offer information and insight into the history and culture of Virginia's Recognized Indian Tribes, with special attention to the Monacan Indian Nation. Attendees can browse the offerings of Virginia Indian arts and crafts vendors and enjoy Fry Bread, Strawberry Tea and other treats for purchase. The overall event runs from 1-7pm, starting with a ***Powhatan Shinny League*** (PSL) explanation / exhibition from **1:30-3:30pm**. Shinny is a Native American sport – a precursor to field hockey and lacrosse – played long ago by tribes across the country. PSL is leading Shinny's resurgence in Virginia and will demonstrate how Shinny is played, and then offer an exhibition with event attendees invited to participate.



Headlining the day's activities will be a cultural experience similar to a Virginia Indian Pow-Wow. Kicking off at 4pm under the direction of Tribal Celebration Coordinator Connor Tupponce (Upper Mattaponi Tribe) the baseball infield at Powhatan Hill will be transformed into a dancing circle (actually a *dancing diamond*), offering all the elements of a Pow-Wow with a Master of Ceremonies, a Drum, Select Virginia Tribal Dancers and a Virginia Indian Honor Guard, with the following approximate schedule:

3:45 to 4:00pm

- Gathering of Chiefs, Tribal Dancers and Special Guests / Opening welcome by the MC describing the nature of the event and appropriate protocols

4:00 to 4:30pm

- Grand entry of the Eagle Staff and flags (US and Tribal) to include Tribal Leadership, Elected Officials, Community Dignitaries, and Tribal Dancers
- Flag Song honoring the Eagle Staff and Flags
- Veterans Honoring Ceremony
- Invocation, Opening Remarks by Monacan Chief Diane Shields + other Chiefs in attendance; additional remarks from state/local dignitaries and supporting organizations

4:30 to 4:50pm

- Virginia Indian / Pow-Wow cultural education session – Tanya Stewart (Chickahominy Tribe)

4:50 to 6:00pm

- 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

2025 Richmond IPD Event Logistics / Considerations

Powhatan Hill Park is located in the Fulton neighborhood of Richmond's East End (5051 Northampton Street, RVA, 23231) and has GRTC bus stops very close going east and west on Williamsburg Road (Rt. 60). Northampton Street is one way from Williamsburg Road to Goddin Street and will be configured for bus drop-off / pick-up for groups and car drop-off / pick-up for folks with limited mobility. Vans and activity buses with multiple attendees are encouraged and TPP will direct and facilitate parking - contact TPP for help and suggestions. Also, the park has lots of fencing for parking and securing a bicycle.

Car Parking > There's plenty of street parking in the neighborhood around Powhatan Hill Park, as well as at the bottom of Powhatan Hill – **either way expect to walk a couple of blocks**. Folks parking at the bottom of the hill will get to climb "***Powatah's Tower***" see why Powhatan Hill is Richmond's premiere sledding hill, and it's downhill on the way home! Below are parking suggestions to input into your GPS:

Powhatan Hill neighborhood parking – Top of the Hill

- 1100 -1500 Williamsburg Road, 23231 / 5100 Montebello Circle, 23231 / 5100 Northampton Street, 23231 / 1200 Garber Street, 23231

Powhatan Hill neighborhood parking – Bottom of the Hill

- 700 Goddin Street, 23231 / 4900 Fulton Street, 23231 / 4700 Louisiana Street, 23231
- 600 Goddin Street, 23231 (across Williamsburg Road) / 500 Ohio Street, 23231
- 5100 Hatcher Street, 23231 (near Triple Crossing Brewing) / 900 Potomac Street, 23231

Accessibility > Northampton Street will be open for drop-offs and pick-ups of folks with limited mobility. Powhatan Hill Community Center and parts of the park 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 – cardboard for seating in the grassy area will be available. Attendees may bring their own food and beverage refreshments – no alcohol allowed.

2025 Richmond IPD – Related Information Links

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

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For more information contact Rick Tatnall @ The Pocahontas Project
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