

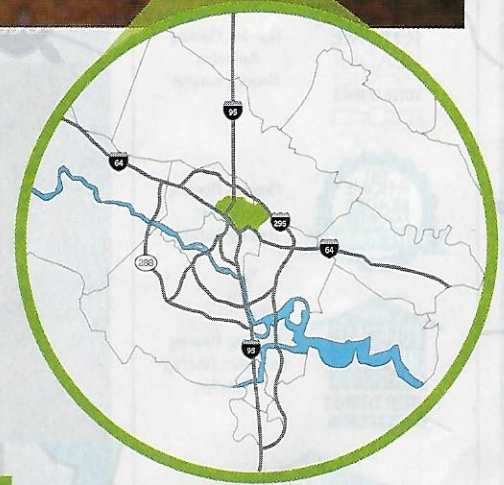


NORTH SIDE OF HENRICO

Neighborhoods vary widely, but all have big trees and large parks close to wherever you might live.

LOOKING FORWARD

This year is Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's 32nd anniversary. From May 27 through Sept. 18, Lewis Ginter will host Nature Connects, a show with nearly 500,000 LEGO pieces. The exhibition will feature more than 20 larger-than-life sculptures of flowers, insects and more built by New York artist Sean Kenney.



DID YOU KNOW?

A young-adult book by Richmond author Gigi Amateau, "Come August, Come Freedom," tells the tale of Gabriel Prosser, leader of a slave rebellion in 1800. Foiled by harsh weather, flooding and loose lips, Prosser was an enslaved blacksmith who lived on Brookfield Plantation in this area. The planned revolt — which involved more than 1,000 slaves and free blacks from as far afield as Petersburg and Norfolk, plus a few whites — was to begin near present-day Brook Road before heading to the Virginia Capitol.

ENTERTAINMENT

The race weekends transform lawns near Richmond International Raceway into paid parking lots and the area into a very big party. More than 100,000 race fans converge on the site for NASCAR. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers entertainment and education for everyone from serious gardeners to music lovers. A Million Blooms showcases the glory of the garden in

spring, and the winter GardenFest of Lights illuminates the 80-acre garden with 500,000 lights.

THE VIBE

The north side of Henrico is a mix of neat, wooded neighborhoods and surprising hamlets tucked away off of U.S. routes 1 and 301. Lakeside Avenue has a bit of a throwback, retro feel.

RECREATION

Three Lakes Park and Nature Center has water on the outside and inside. Fishing in two of the lakes, wildlife viewing from observation platforms and gazing at the residents of the 50,000-gallon aquarium allow visitors to while away the day pleasantly. Walking through the 50 acres of flora at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden should rejuvenate just about anyone, including kids who love the Children's Garden. In the warmer months, they can get all wet in the Water Play area.

SHOPPING

Lakeside Avenue literally features a retail hub in The Hub, one of the area's first shopping centers. Charming boutiques and antique shops abound. The Lakeside Farmers' Market pavilion fills with shoppers on Wednesdays and Saturdays.