

# The story of the Otter-ly Amazing Fredericksburg Project

In November 2021, Fredericksburg, VA Main Street began raising funds to install bronze river otters in locations around Downtown – the Otter-ly Amazing Fredericksburg Project! Now we invite residents and visitors to visit the locally made river otter sculptures that symbolically connect the Rappahannock River and Riverfront Park with our Downtown Business District.

## Why a river otter?

These furry river dwellers are a crucial indicator of an aquatic ecosystem's health. Their presence is a sign of good water quality. Thanks to the cleanup efforts from local environmental organizations like Friends of the Rappahannock, otters have started returning to our river! The otter now proudly serves as a symbol of the health and vitality of our city.

## Who does this benefit?

This project is all about involving and supporting the Fredericksburg community. The bronze otter sculptures, collateral artwork, website – even the hints on this sheet! – were all created by local artists and businesses. The money our otters raise swims downstream, right back to the business owners and artists here in Fredericksburg.

## What is the vision?

The bronze otter sculptures are a catalyst to create movement downtown and introduce people to Riverfront Park, Hurkamp Park, important historic sites, and our Main Street district. We hope you will park and linger, enjoy our shops and restaurants, take in our history, and just enjoy a day in our very special city. You will soon see what our residents already know – Fredericksburg is Otter-ly Amazing!

## To learn more...

- Stop by the **Central Rappahannock Regional Library** and check out one of their many books on otters. Here are just a few books to get you started:

*I Am Otter* by Sam Garton

*Otters Love to Play* by Jonathan London

*River Otters* by Jen Green

- Visit the **Otter-ly Amazing website**, where you can watch videos of the hints, meet the artists, and learn how you can get more involved! [www.fxbgotters.com](http://www.fxbgotters.com)



# Fredericksburg's Otter-ly Amazing Scavenger Hunt



## Instructions:



Follow the hints to visit all of the Otter-ly Amazing sculptures around town. Scan the QR code on the base of each sculpture to learn more about the otter and its special location.



When you find an otter, snap your picture with it and tag #fxbgotters.



Bring your completed scavenger hunt to the Visitor Center (706 Caroline Street) for a prize.

# Hints for the hunt

## Hint #1

Search for the otter,  
stay and play.  
Free parking is close:  
three hours a day!

Run, climb and romp,  
nature will deliver!  
Gaze now in wonder,  
at that beautiful river!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #3

What to do?  
Where to go?  
Ask the experts,  
they will know!

They have maps,  
they know the places,  
look for the otter,  
near their smiling faces!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #5

Seek the gothic tower,  
stately and tall.  
Majestic place of judgment,  
that was rocked by cannonball,

Go to the garden,  
such a soulful sight,  
and find the otter lounging  
in luscious morning light!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #7

Beautiful brick walls,  
fresh veggies too!  
The little otter loves  
this central venue.

What is your dream?  
Think of your mountain,  
then toss that wish,  
like a coin in the fountain!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #2

Built when we were British,  
by a general's little brother,  
For years it was place,  
to get ale and sheltering cover,

Visit this landmark  
of our colonial past,  
Go, seek the otter,  
and win this contest fast!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #4

The place you seek  
sparks curious reflection,  
as you live in the past  
of their endless collection!

Hunt for that otter  
as your big brain cheers,  
exposed to the treasures  
of thousands of years!  
*Where is this?*

## Hint #6

Revolutionary youth,  
for freedom did he strive.  
New nations need leaders,  
he was number five.

This local lawyer's doctrine  
changed the western hemisphere.  
You should search his shrine,  
the otter will be near!  
*Where is this?*

