

50-Mile On-Road Loop

In order to meet the needs of Type A riders and provide a safe route for various sponsored events that will build on the City's reputation as a recreational destination, a safe, 50-mile, on-road loop has been designated.

The route chosen (see Figure 4) lies primarily in the Princess Anne/Transition area and rural portion of the City. The outer loop provides a 50-mile route, although various other trip lengths are possible from 15 to 30 miles through the use of smaller loops. Specific roads were chosen for their scenic quality, planned future road improvements, and/or their ability to be retrofitted to accommodate on-road bicycle travel. The route also adjoins various points of interest that could serve as origin, destination or rest stops along the route. One particular point of interest is the Pungo Ferry Bridge. It currently has paved shoulders and provides excellent views of the North Landing River. It also serves as a climbing challenge in an otherwise level terrain.

Roads along the route would be accommodated with various on-road facility types. The higher speed and higher traffic volume roads would require either bike lanes or paved shoulders. While along the lower traffic and lower speed roads, such as Muddy Creek Rd, the addition of 'Share The Road' signs and bike route signage would be adequate.

There is substantial interest and desire from local bicycling associations to sponsor national bicycling events. The Tom Coghill Celebration of Life Ride, sponsored by the Tidewater Bicycling Association, has been held annually in June for the past three years. Each year has seen an increase in participants with approximately 750 bicyclists attending this year's event. The designation and development of this on-road route could prompt numerous other bicycling events to be held in the City expanding Virginia Beach's reputation as a tourist destination point.



Pungo Ferry Bridge



Muddy Creek Rd
Scenic Byway

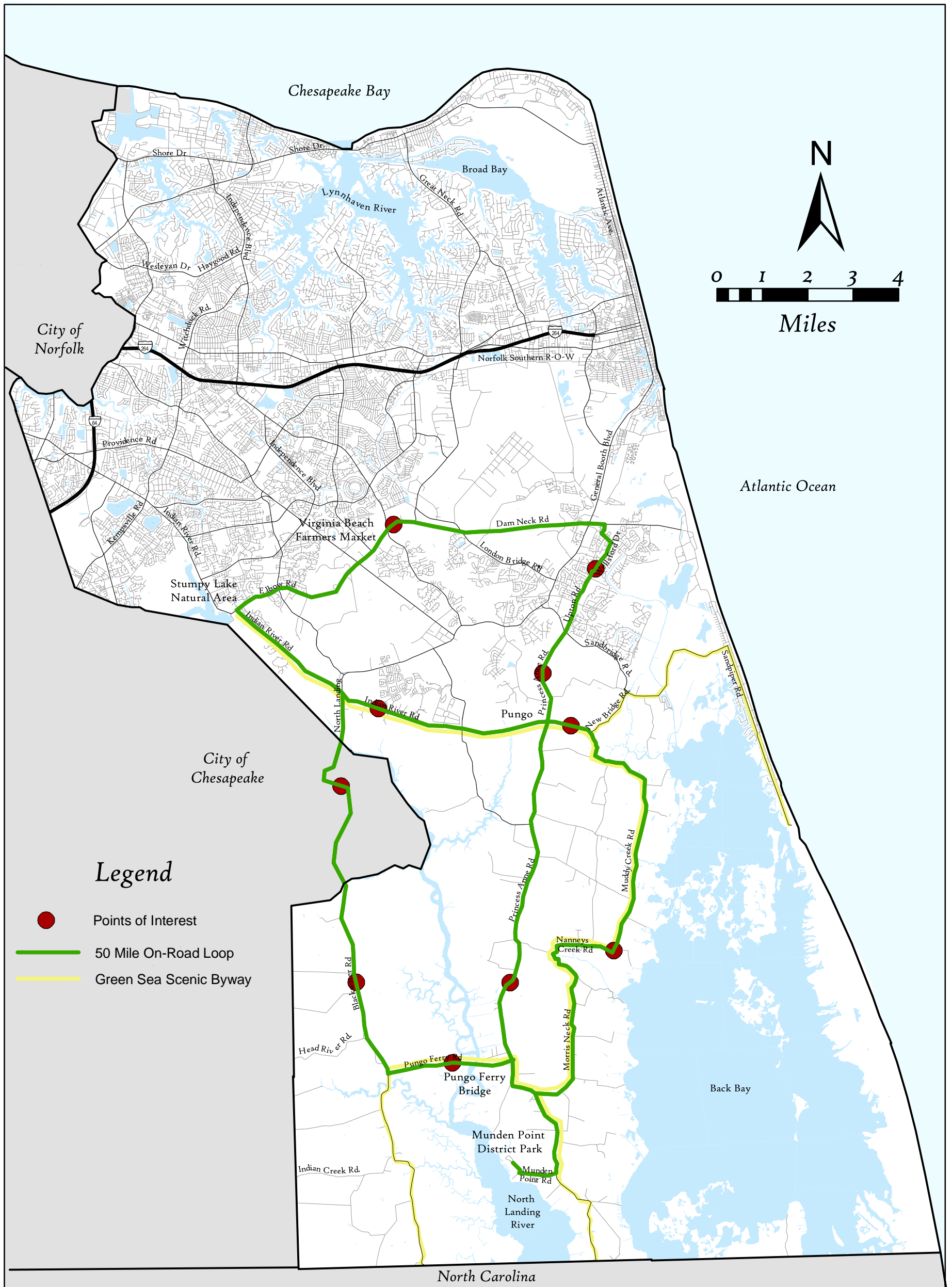


2003 Celebration of Life Ride

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Figure 4 50 Mile On-Road Loop Bicycle & Trails Planning

City of Virginia Beach
Department of Parks & Recreation
Design & Development Division



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