



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Essex County, Virginia**

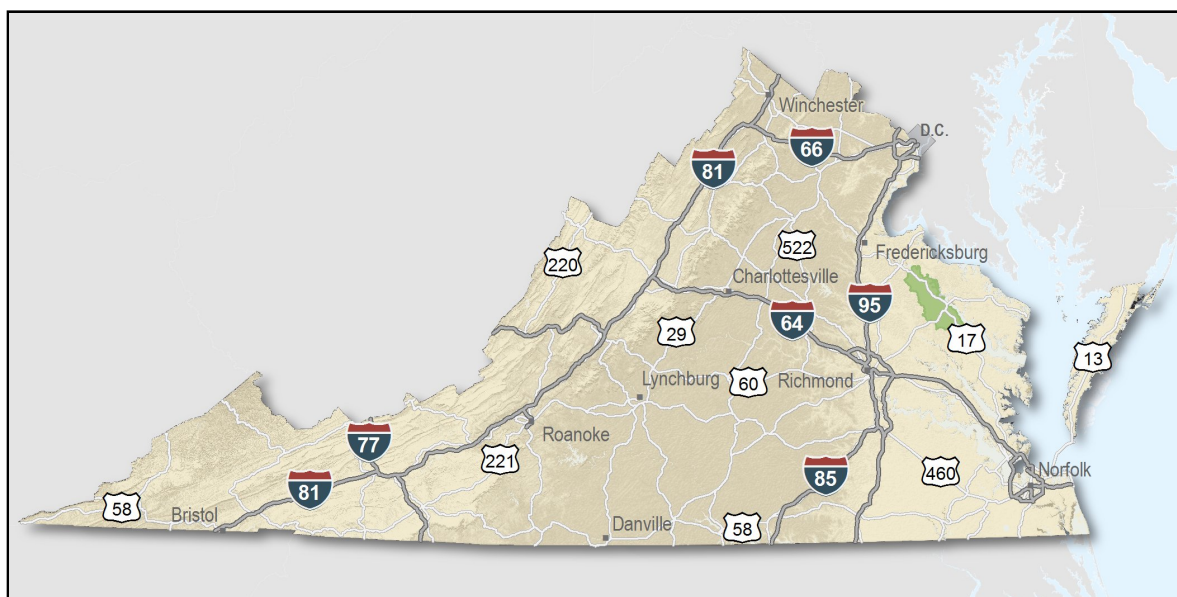


**VIRGINIA ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**  
[www.YesVirginia.org](http://www.YesVirginia.org)

Only a few locations can guarantee the right combination of resources that are crucial to your business's success. Virginia's premier location offers excellent domestic and international access. Centrally located on the U.S. East Coast, 40 percent of the U.S. population is within a day's drive, and our integrated transportation system of highways, railroads, airports and seaports ensures that you can reach every one of your markets efficiently. Close proximity to Washington, D.C. facilitates contact with policy makers and the federal government system.

Virginia continues to rank among America's leading states for business by CNBC and Forbes.com. Business-first values, easy access to markets, stable and competitive operating costs, and a talented workforce all drove Virginia to the top. This unique combination of assets has encouraged businesses to prosper here for more than 400 years. Like you, they searched the world over for that convergence of resources that would help ensure their prosperity. For them, their search ended here. Chances are yours will too.

- AAA bond rating- Virginia has maintained a AAA rating since 1938, longer than any other state.
- Right-to-work law allows individuals the right to work regardless of membership in a labor union or organization.
- Corporate income tax rate of 6% has not been increased since 1972.
- Headquarters to 37 Fortune 1000 firms.
- Headquarters to 52 firms each with annual revenue over \$1 billion.
- More than 17,300 high-tech establishments operate in Virginia.
- More than 700 internationally-owned businesses from 45 countries are located in Virginia.
- Ranks third among the 50 states as a recipient of federal R&D funds.
- Streamlined permitting process.
- Recruitment training programs to help new businesses become operational faster.
- Programs at little or no cost to help businesses increase international sales.

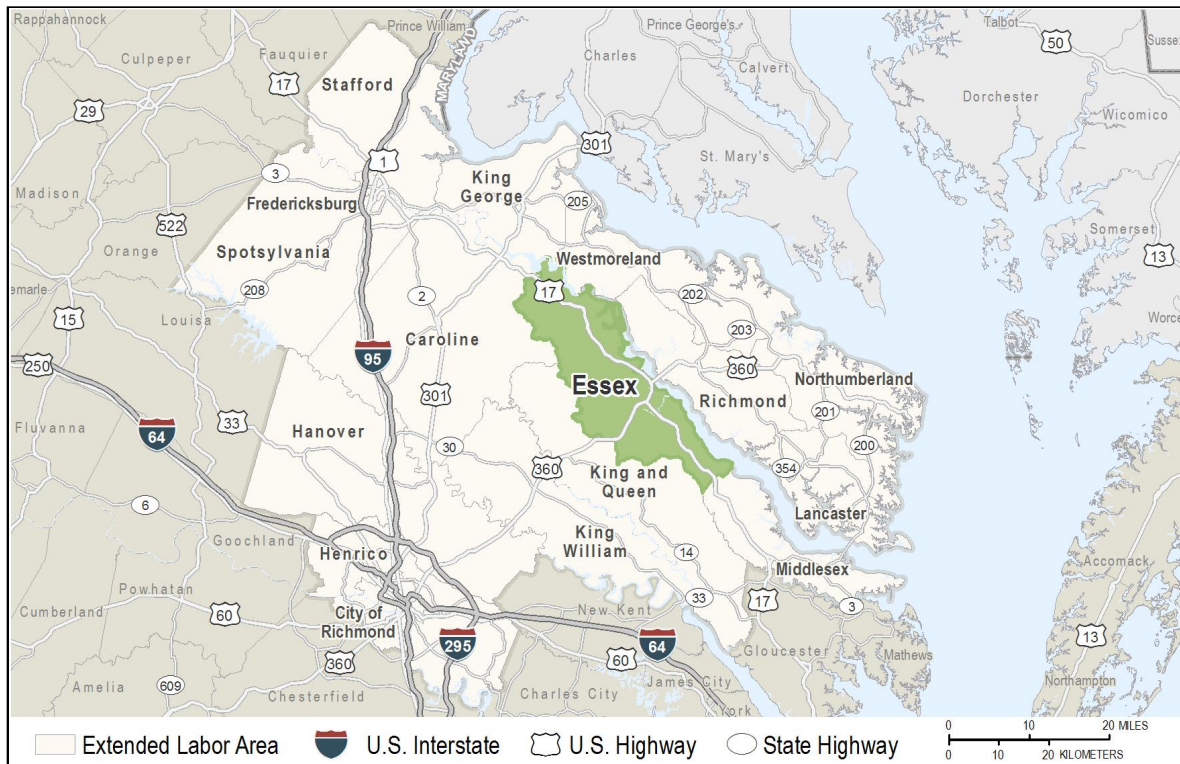


# Location

Essex County is situated on the Middle Peninsula of Virginia. This 261 square mile county is bounded on the northeast by the Rappahannock River. The county's location on this navigable river enables easy water access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the port complex at Hampton Roads. The incorporated town of Tappahannock is the county seat and serves as the employment and population center for the community.

The county's principal town, Tappahannock, dates back to a 17th century port settlement.

Essex County is located 45 miles northeast of Richmond, the state capital, and 100 miles south of Washington, D.C.



# Labor Market

## Population

Gender Distribution (2016)	Male	Female
Essex County	47.2%	52.8%

## Race/Ethnicity (2016)

Classification	Profile Area	Extended Labor Area
White	6,334	709,319
Black	4,249	307,179
Two or More	298	29,625
Asian	116	45,596
American Indian or Alaska Native	101	5,755
Pacific Islander	25	1,250
Hispanic (may be of any race)	382	5,730

<b>Median Age (2016)</b>	46 years	
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## Civilian Labor Force (2016)

Essex County	5,516
Extended Labor Market Area	563,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>568,696</b>

## Labor Force Participation (2011-2015)

Essex County	62.3%
Extended Labor Market Area	66.5%

## Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (September 2017)	
Essex County	4.4%
Extended Labor Market Area	3.7%
Statewide	3.6%

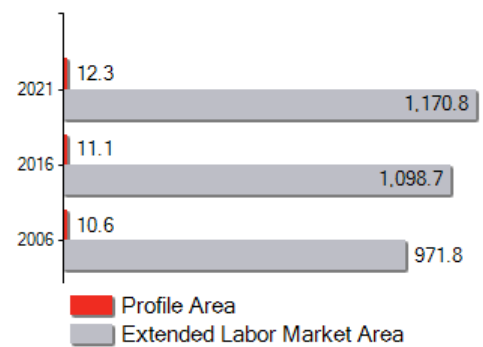
## Unemployed (2016)

Essex County	266
Extended Labor Market Area	22,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,206</b>

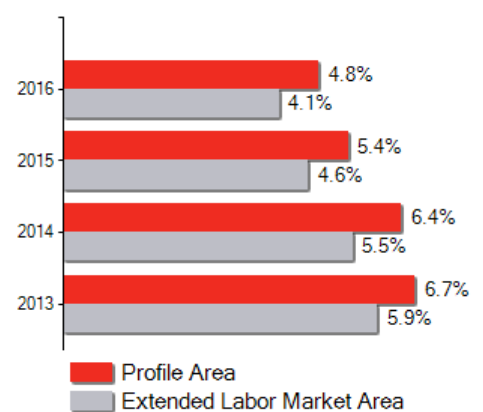
## Underemployed (3rd Quarter 2017)

Essex County	658
Extended Labor Market Area	69,144
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,802</b>

## Population in Thousands



## Unemployment Rates



# Labor Market

Commute Time (2011-2015)		
Worked from home	189	3.7%
Under 15 minutes	1,400	28.5%
15-24 minutes	1,223	24.9%
25-34 minutes	511	10.4%
35-44 minutes	231	4.7%
45-59 minutes	501	10.2%
Over 60 minutes	1,041	21.2%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		33

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2015-2016)	28
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2016)	659
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2016)	4,067
Total	4,754

The economy is varied, from agriculture to manufacturing to services. Principal types of industrial establishments are garment, automotive parts and plastic injection molding, metal stamping, and assembly manufacturers.

# Labor Market

## Career Readiness Certificate (01/01/2016-08/31/2017)

Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) assists employers by certifying that a recipient possesses core skills in applied math, reading for information, and locating information. The CRC certification is based on established Workeys® assessment tests. Virginia uses a three-tiered approach (bronze, silver, gold) to credentialing certificate holders that is based on the recipient's level of development skills.

Essex County	12
Extended Labor Market Area	1,004
Total	1,016

Virginia is the northernmost Right to Work state on the East Coast.

## Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2016)	86.9%
Percentage of Essex County population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2011-2015)	82.3%
Percentage of Essex County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2011-2015)	15.2%

# Labor Market

Employment by Sector* (1st Qtr. 2017)		
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	81	2.1%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0
Utilities	0	0
Construction	77	2.0%
Manufacturing	410	10.6%
Wholesale Trade	155	4.0%
Retail Trade	801	20.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	28	0.7%
Information	36	0.9%
Finance and Insurance	110	2.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	37	1.0%
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	85	2.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	62	1.6%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	140	3.6%
Educational Services	38	1.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	627	16.3%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	N.D.	N.D.
Accommodation and Food Services	421	10.9%
Other Services	162	4.2%
Total Government	556	14.4%
Federal Government	17	0.4%
State Government	76	2.0%
Local Government	463	12.0%
Unclassified	N.D.	N.D.
Total	3,852	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

\*By Business Establishment

Major commercial establishments are service-related with food, lodging and retail sales predominating. Agriculture, forestry and fishing industries play a large role in the local economy, with many establishments serving these industries.

# Labor Market

## Major Employers

### Manufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
Essex Concrete Corp.	Ready-mixed concrete/concrete products
FDP Virginia, Inc.	Brake linings & disc pads
O'Malley Lumber Products	Industrial Wood Pallets and Packaging

### NonManufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
Lowery's Seafood Restaurant	Restaurant
Riverside Tappahannock Hospital	Health care
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Discount store

Essex County and the Town of Tappahannock serve as a regional trade center due to its strategic location at the intersection of Routes 17 and 360.



# Labor Market

## Union Activity (10/1/2015 - 10/1/2017)

Petitions filed for decertification	0
Petitions filed for representation	0
Petitions filed for raid	0
Elections won by union	0
Elections won by company	0

**Estimated Earnings (May 2016)**

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Median Wage</i>	<i>Mean Wage</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Mean Salary</i>
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$10.50	\$11.24	\$21,831.58	\$23,375.77
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$14.40	\$15.34	\$29,957.64	\$31,917.83
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$16.01	\$17.15	\$33,288.68	\$35,666.87
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$16.37	\$16.35	\$34,056.80	\$34,014.12
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$27.22	\$33.40	\$56,610.77	\$69,460.75
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$16.72	\$17.15	\$34,779.92	\$35,685.84
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$21.91	\$20.47	\$45,567.41	\$42,576.19
Office Clerks, General	\$13.01	\$13.96	\$27,053.88	\$29,039.91
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$14.75	\$15.65	\$30,683.87	\$32,555.53
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$13.05	\$14.68	\$27,151.90	\$30,539.89
Customer Service Representatives	\$13.75	\$14.59	\$28,613.09	\$30,349.97
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$17.01	\$17.66	\$35,389.07	\$36,734.87
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$22.39	\$22.73	\$46,568.00	\$47,269.49
Industrial Engineers	\$44.62	\$44.16	\$92,807.28	\$91,858.44
Computer User Support Specialists	\$17.82	\$22.77	\$37,078.76	\$47,361.09
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$31.03	\$33.27	\$64,536.45	\$69,188.51
Accountants and Auditors	\$29.37	\$31.90	\$61,076.47	\$66,337.78
Management Analysts	\$30.52	\$36.34	\$63,483.65	\$75,581.80
Human Resources Specialists	\$32.03	\$31.61	\$66,626.56	\$65,764.30
Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, and Farm Products	\$30.57	\$36.10	\$63,589.77	\$75,089.96

**Per Capita Personal Income (2015)**

\$38,644

**Median Family Income (2011-2015)**

\$53,403

# Education

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2016)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	1	543
Middle	1	440
High School	1	423

Essex County's public education system includes one elementary school, one middle school and one high school.

Student Teacher Ratio (FY 2016)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	11:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2016)
\$11,623.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2016)
86.9%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2015-2016)
78.3%

Advanced Programs (2016-2017)
<b>Governor's Schools</b>
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine & Environmental Science

Governor's STEM Academies and Health Academies
Northern Neck Technical Center Governor's STEM Academy for Agriculture and Maritime Studies

Governor's School Enrollment	26
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	55
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	55
Students taking 1 or more Dual Enrollment Courses	34

# Education

Workforce Development Facilities	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Eastern Shore Workforce Center	Satellite Center
Fredericksburg Workforce Center	Comprehensive Center
Job Assistance Center	Satellite Center
Warsaw Workforce Center	Satellite Center

Essex County is served by Rappahannock Community College's two campuses in Warsaw (7 miles) and Glens (28 miles). Each offers programs in college preparatory, vocational, business, technical and trades.

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2016	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Rappahannock Community College - Warsaw Campus	2,066
Rappahannock Community College - Glens Campus	2,001

# Transportation

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-95	18.1 miles (29.1 km.)
I-64	19.5 miles (31.4 km.)
I-295	24.4 miles (39.3 km.)
I-195	30.3 miles (48.8 km.)
I-495	43.6 miles (70.1 km.)
I-395	43.7 miles (70.3 km.)
I-85	46.0 miles (74.0 km.)
I-695	49.5 miles (79.7 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways	
Highway 17	Highway 360

Commercial Air Service		
<i>Richmond International Airport, Sandston -- 55.5 miles (89.3 km.)</i>		
American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	Southwest Airlines
United Airlines	JetBlue Airways	Allegiant Air
OneJet		

*Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport, Newport News -- 74.8 miles (120.4 km.)*

American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	
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Note: Within a 75-mile drive of the center of the locality.

Richmond International Airport (40 miles southwest) and Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport (70 miles south) provide daily passenger and air freight services by major commercial airlines.

# Transportation

## General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Tappahannock-Essex County Airport, Tappahannock	4,300 ft (1,311 m)

The Rappahannock River is navigable along Essex County and provides access to the port complex at Hampton Roads.

## Freight Rail Service

CSX Transportation

## Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia (Richmond Marine Terminal)	68.0 miles (109.4 km)
Port of Virginia (Newport News Marine Terminals)	92.0 miles (148.1 km)
Port of Virginia (Virginia International Gateway)	99.0 miles (159.3 km)
Port of Virginia	104.0 miles (167.4 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Virginia and any other seaports within 100 miles.

## Other Ports of Entry

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Richmond-Petersburg	55.5 miles (89.3 km)
Newport News	74.8 miles (120.4 km)
Norfolk	99.5 miles (160.2 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	114.1 miles (183.6 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Washington - Dulles and any other port of entry within 100 miles.

# Utilities



Utilities	
Electric	Dominion Energy
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Water	Town of Tappahannock
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Tappahannock
Solid Waste Disposal	Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority

Dominion Virginia Power is one of the nation's 10 largest investor-owned electric utilities delivering power to more than 2 million homes and businesses in Virginia and North Carolina.

# Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2016 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Union Bank & Trust Co.	\$8,402.5
EVB	\$1,397.9
Essex Bank	\$1,249.6

There are three banks in Essex County: EVB (Eastern Virginia Bankshares), Northern Neck State Bank, and Bank of Essex. With assets ranging from \$43.8 million to \$700 million, they pride themselves on having big city reliability with small town, friendly service.



# Government and Taxes

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## Government

Essex County has a County Administrator and a four-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Tappahannock is the county seat and the county's only incorporated town.

## Taxes

Localities in Virginia collect a 1% sales tax. They do not tax other items taxed at the State level.

Counties and cities in Virginia are separate taxing entities. Therefore, a company pays taxes to either a county or to a city.

If a company is located in a town, it pays town and county taxes except for utility taxes which are paid only to the town and the license tax which is paid only to the town unless town law permits the additional collection of a county tax.

Manufacturers pay real estate, machinery and tools, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes.

Nonmanufacturers pay real estate, tangible personal property, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes. They also may pay either a merchants' capital or a license tax.

*Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Essex) [pdf](#)*

*Non-Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Essex) [pdf](#)*

Essex County offers excellent schools, recreation, medical services and friendly citizens who welcome new businesses and industries.

# Community Facilities

With 100 beds, Riverside Tappahannock Hospital offers extensive medical services that include nuclear medicine, physical therapy, diagnostic capabilities, respiratory therapy, family medicine, emergency care, cardiology, and orthopedic surgery. Riverside Middle Peninsula Hospital, located in Gloucester County, is also conveniently located for use by Essex residents. This 71-bed medical facility offers general medical and surgical care; intensive and cardiac care; physical therapy; various diagnostic services; and 24-hour emergency services. Essex County residents are also easily accessible to the numerous hospitals and clinics dispersed throughout the Richmond metropolitan area. The Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond is a world renown teaching and research center that offers the latest technology, facilities, and services.

The county's public health department in Tappahannock provides diagnostic and immunization services, family planning, obstetrics, child health care and Medicaid services to residents.

Tappahannock Manor, a 128-bed facility, provides long-term care to the elderly.

More than 30 physicians and dentists maintain practices in Essex County.

The Essex Public Library, located in Tappahannock, circulates over 17,000 volumes. Residents can also utilize the Rappahannock Community College library systems. The two campuses, both within a half-hour drive of the county, have a total collection of 35,788 volumes.

In less than three square miles, Tappahannock exhibits many positive features including a waterfront, historic downtown, residential subdivisions and homes and neighborhoods along the beautiful river, a business corridor development and an expanding industrial district located near the town's airport, and extensive wetland areas.

# Community Facilities

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**(continued)**

Over 60 churches representing the predominant Protestant and Catholic faiths are located in Essex County. Jewish synagogues can be found in Richmond and Fredericksburg.

Due to its strategic location at the junction of Routes 17 and 360, the town of Tappahannock serves as a regional trade center for over 90,000 people. More than 150 retail and service related establishments are located in the town. Three shopping centers are also conveniently located in the county to provide for the needs of the residents.

Essex County's close proximity to both Fredericksburg and the Richmond metropolitan area gives residents extensive shopping opportunities at the numerous shopping malls, centers, and downtown areas.

The annual average temperature is 56.6 degrees. The annual average rainfall is 40 inches while the average snowfall is 10 inches.

# Lifestyle

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Essex County offers vast opportunities for recreational pursuits. A variety of water activities that include swimming, boating and fishing can be found along the Rappahannock River. Boat landings, ramps and marinas are located throughout the county's shoreline. Boats and guides are available for salt water fishing parties at several locations. Parades, craft shows, and civic benefits are held throughout the year. Essex County is also an excellent hunting area. Deer, quail, turkey, geese and ducks are plentiful in season.

Picnic facilities are available at Marsh Street Park in Tappahannock.

Public recreational facilities in the county include three ball fields, a swimming pool, a tennis court and two golf courses. Additional private tennis and swimming facilities are also available for public use. Riverside Wellness and Fitness Center offers two outdoor tennis courts, two racquetball courts, basketball and volleyball courts, strength training circuits, treadmills, stair steppers, indoor cushioned track, indoor 25 meter heated pool, massage therapy, sauna, and Jacuzzi.

Essex County's close proximity to Richmond enables residents to enjoy the numerous cultural, entertainment and sporting events that take place throughout the year in the Capital City.

[Virginia's River Country Profile](#)

Essex County is governed by a four member Board of Supervisors. A County Administrator oversees the daily operation of the County.