The City of Chesapeake was founded in 1963 by merger of Norfolk County (1636) and the City of South Norfolk (1921). Chesapeake is one of the cities comprising the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News Metropolitan Area. This area lies in southeastern Virginia at the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay where the mouth of the Bay enters the Atlantic Ocean. Chesapeake is bordered on the west by Suffolk, east by Virginia Beach, south by the North Carolina border and north by the cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk.

With a land area of 353 square miles, Chesapeake is the tenth (10^{th}) largest city in land area in the United States and second largest in Virginia. Its central location, availability of land, and good transportation system will continue to contribute to Chesapeake's attractiveness as a well-balanced commercial center. The City's close port proximity and strong employee pool continue to encourage a strong international business presence. Major industries include building materials, plastics, plywood, fertilizer, refrigerators, steel and railroad equipment. Major agricultural crops include corn, wheat, soybeans, nursery products and timber. The Chesapeake Planning Department estimates the City's population reached 231,542 (updated September 2014) distributed over 79,380 households. The civilian labor force in the city was 117,969 in 2014.

The City is governed by a City Council / City Manager form of government with nine elected Council members serving four year terms. Chesapeake is an independent city with no overarching county government. This requires that the City provide many of the services to citizens which would normally be provided by a county.

The City's Comprehensive Plan (updated effective March 2005) based on Council-adopted basic policies, provides guidelines for maintaining orderly growth consistent with community goals. The Comprehensive Plan further addresses development potential in the City and recognizes established values of Chesapeake's citizens. The Plan, though general in nature, assesses the City's assets such as parks, waterways, historical areas, as well as areas which will require extensions or renewal, such as potable water and sanitary sewer services, transportation systems, urban renewal areas, etc.

Council's responsiveness to development demands, as well as its commitment to orderly growth, has enhanced those quality of life values Chesapeake's citizens have embraced. The future for Chesapeake remains full of promise and opportunity.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Median Age 36.7
- Racial Composition: White 62.6%, Black 29.9, all other 7.5%
- Median Household $70,244 (2014 Est.)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

TAXES (July 1, 2015)

- Real Estate - $1.04/$100 of assessment - $1.05/$100 with Mosquito Control
- Personal Property - $4.00/$100 at 100% of loan value - $4.08 with Mosquito Control
- State Non-Grocery Retail Sales - 5.0%
- Restaurant - 5.5% of meal

RETAIL SALES

- $3,977,784 *Source: U.S. Census Bureau*
- 2 Regional Malls

TRANSPORTATION

- Chesapeake Municipal Airport and Hampton Roads Airport are located in Chesapeake
- Norfolk International Airport is located 12 miles from central Chesapeake and offers more than 200 daily flights
- Bus - Greyhound & Hampton Roads Transit Authority

CULTURAL

The following serve the metro area:

- Virginia Opera Association
- Virginia Symphony
- Chrysler Museum
- The New Theatre of Chesapeake
- Virginia Marine Science Museum
- Virginia Sports Hall of Fame
- MacArthur Memorial
- Children's Museum
- The Chesapeake Planetarium
- Virginia Stage Company

CLIMATE

- Average summer high 76.5 degrees
- Average winter low 41.3 degrees
- Average annual rainfall 45 inches
- Average annual snowfall Trace

EDUCATION

CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 28 elementary schools
- 10 middle schools
- 7 senior high schools
- 2 centers for special programs
- 9 support buildings

Students: 38,685 Teachers: 2,975

COLLEGES

Tidewater Community College

These institutions are located in the Metro area:

- Old Dominion University
- Norfolk State University
- Regent University
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Virginia Wesleyan College

MEDICAL FACILITIES

- Chesapeake Regional Medical Center (310 beds)
- 9 other general hospitals serve the area

LIBRARY

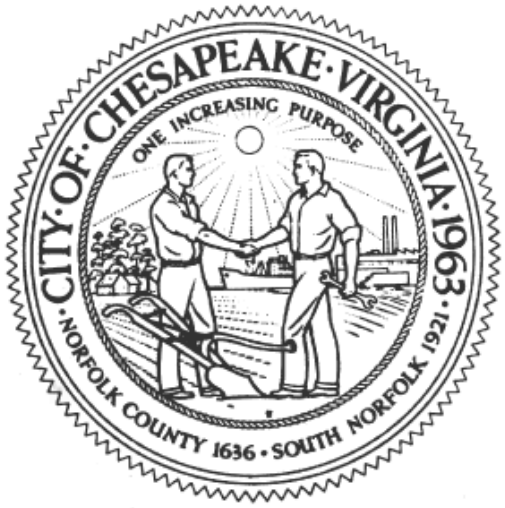
- 1 central library +6 branches and a bookmobile
- Over 576,000 volumes

RECREATION

- Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (54,133 acres)
- Northwest River Park (763 acres) with boating, hiking, riding, mini golf, fishing and campground
- 64 public tennis courts
- Organized sports: basketball, softball, football, soccer
- Canoeing on 30 miles of water trails
- Dismal Swamp Trail
- Boating on Intracoastal Waterways
- 8 Community recreation centers
- Greenbrier Civic Sports Complex
- 2 ceramic art centers
- Skate facility and a BMX bike trail
- 2 Dog parks

Major Parks: Great Bridge Lock Park, Deep Creek Lock Park, Centerville Park, Lakeside Park, Crestwood Park, Western Branch Park, Indian River Park, City Park

CIB	Capital Improvement Budget
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
GF	General Fund
HVAC	Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning
IE	Interest Earnings
LB	Lockbox
OSO	Open Space Ordinance
PR	Pro Rata Drainage Funds
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VPSA	Virginia Public School Authority (a state agency that issues bonds on behalf of public schools)



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