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Poetry on the Trail call for submissions  
*Enter Now through June 1 at <https://poetryonthetrail.org/>*

NORFOLK, Va. - (April 2024) - Elizabeth River Trail Foundation will open submissions to add a permanent Poetry on the Trail feature on the one-year anniversary of the successful Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT) Poetry on the Trail initiative in King George County, Virginia. Poems will rotate annually through a combination of curated selections and open submissions.

Jenna Veazey, founder of Poetry on the Trail, said “Poetry on the Trail was created to be a distinctive way to showcase Virginia poets as well as the nature found along local trails. Including the ERT to the Poetry on the Trail system is especially exciting as it highlights the importance of discovering nature really is wherever *you* are. The ERT being a paved, urban trail makes a brilliant counterpoint to the DRHT’s wooded, rural ecosystem. And I love that both the ERT and DRHT are defined by waterways that contribute to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”

For the last two years the ERT has provided a Poetry on the Trail program in partnership with Norfolk Public Libraries, displaying seasonal poetry along the trail on sandwich boards. Poems will now be accessible through QR codes along the trails.

“The trail is the perfect place to slow down and explore different types of public art including poetry in a new way,” said Kindra Greene, executive director of the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation. “This project focuses on how the written word brings us closer to caring for our natural world, ecotourism and mindfulness through the slow movement of outdoor engagement in a changing climate.”

Submissions open on April 23 and run through June 1. Details can be found on the Poetry on the Trail [site](#) which now features the poets of both the Elizabeth River Trail and Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail.

The Elizabeth River Trail Foundation’s mission is to create an inclusive and resilient urban riverfront trail that connects and inspires people and businesses in the Hampton Roads region. The Elizabeth River Trail runs 10.5 miles through businesses, historic attractions and 28 neighborhoods within a five-minute walk. The multi-use trail is designed for walking, running, and biking. It comprises 11 sections from Norfolk State University, through Downtown Norfolk and Old Dominion University to NIT Terminals along the Elizabeth River. The Foundation has completed multiple new unique and

award-winning amenities, including kayak launches, play sculpture, a double turbo challenge course in Plum Point Park, The Glowline and most recently, the installation of the first hydration station. Major sponsors include the City of Norfolk and Sentara. For more information, visit [elizabethrivertrail.org](http://elizabethrivertrail.org).

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