5: Granite Map

The map is made out of Virginia Mist Granite. Along the side is the tribes of Powhatan Confederacy, and the metal emblems on the top correspond to the symbols on the signs in the Yehakin.

6: Demonstration Circle

The line of posts is used as an interpretive burning site and is done to show how controlled burns can be useful. The posts, representing trees, don't fully burn away but the grasses around them do burn. Over time you can see how new life regrows from the ashes.

7: Interpretive Boardwalk

Along the boardwalk there are
Algonquian words and their English
translation. Going out to the water is the
English as they came from across the
water, coming back to the land is
Algonquian as they have been here since
time and memorial.

8: Picnic Shelters

The cement in the shelter is pitted to mimic marsh mud, especially when wet.

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

Machicomoco State Park

Oyster Trail Guide



www.virginiastateparks.gov

1: Oyster Midden

The oyster midden is a smaller replica of the two oyster middens found in the park. An oyster midden is made from years worth of oysters being dumped in the same spot and cementing together due to the amount of calcium.

2: Timeline

The timeline rail is made out of a recycled train track but holds no greater meaning. All of the information for the timeline is decided by a group of tribal members for what they felt was important to include. The last stone on the timeline is actually incorrect, the park opened in 2021, not 2020.

3: Plants along Timeline

The trees lining the timeline are thornless honey locust and match up to the posts on the yehakin. Locust trees would be used to build them, with two trees tied at the tops. There are two grasses along the timeline that historically would have been used to make mats. The remaining plants all had some medicinal use for the Powhatan peoples.

4: Yehakin

This structure is a modern-day representation of a yehakin. The steel beams are incased by black locust, which was the material historically used to build them. The gap in the roof represents the hatch to let out smoke. All the information on the signs in the yehakin was decided on by a group of tribal members.

