Wandering through campus and its surrounding area would often lead to the discovery of numerous sites enjoyed by students. Whether popular and crowded or overlooked and undiscovered, everyone had their own list of their favorite spots for studying, relaxing, or hanging out with friends on the grounds of the College.

On any given day, there were some areas on campus that were always busy. Due to its central location, the Sunken Gardens was a favorite location for many students. “Not only is it beautiful, but it can be used for so many things,” Sarah Kunkler said. “It’s great for running around with friends, studying, or simply enjoying the warm sun. Plus, seeing those crazy streakers never gets old!”

There were also many less crowded (and less well-known) sites on campus, ranging from the echo point in the Tyler Garden to the shores of Lake Matoaka. Students continued to uncover these hidden gems long after arriving on campus freshman year, and many appreciated them for their natural beauty and undiscovered charm. “Not a lot of students walk to [the DoG street side of the Wren building] during the day, and there are lots of pretty trees and benches there,” Lauren McDaneld said.

Venturing off-campus also opened up an array of places for students to spend their time. Colonial Williamsburg offered various tourist attractions and outdoor spaces to explore. There were also numerous restaurants and shops in New Town or down Richmond Road. “I’d have to say one of my favorite spots while living at William & Mary has been Bloom,” Andrew Holzhauer said. “You tend to bond with whoever you go with because of the walk, and I’ve already tricked three people into thinking that the map on the carts was Scratch ‘n Sniff.”

Some locations around campus were known for their beauty or some distinctive purpose, while others could be enjoyed for their historical importance or memories made there. However, regardless of the location, purpose, or character of a particular spot on campus, students all had their favorite places around campus.

Barbara Luckett

The bridge over the Crim Dell sits covered in snow. Most students passed by the Crim Dell multiple times a day between classes and enjoyed seeing its appearance change throughout the seasons. The Crim Dell was also a popular spot for visitors to the College to snap a photo or two. Even married graduates often took wedding photos on the bridge which held a romantic superstition in many students’ minds.

Tribe spills the beans on the BEST SPOTS around campus

A student walks past a bench outside of Tucker Hall on the Sunken Gardens. Old campus was a popular location for many people, as there were benches and grassy areas to study or visit with friends.