



Bayfront Planning Area

Current Reality

The Bayfront Planning Area is known for its expansive views of the Chesapeake Bay from its beaches and unique vistas of the Lynnhaven River from the Lesner Bridge. Due to the demand for living near waterfront, the residential density along the Shore Drive corridor is higher than many other parts of the city. Consequently, area residents struggle with the shifting dichotomy of the Bayfront landscape from dense development to its wealth of waterways and large green spaces associated with First Landing State Park, Bayville Metro Park and the visual relief provided by Bayville Golf Course. There are a few opportunities to: preserve pockets of live oak tree groves; provide additional public access to the Chesapeake Bay beaches and Lynnhaven River; and enhance the bikeways and trails system for Bayfront that will be discussed in this section.

The table below provides the 2000 census population as well as the theoretical build-out population for the Bayfront, estimated in the City's 2003 Comprehensive Plan.

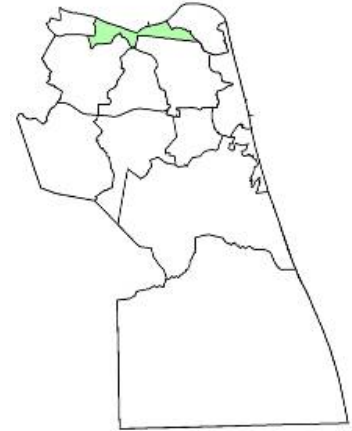
Year	Population	Percent Change
Census Year - 2000	22,378	
Theoretical Build-Out Year - 2026	24,900	11%

While the proportion of growth projection figures cited above are generally correct, sole reliance on those figures should not be used for determinations of specific facility demand.

As mentioned above, the significant features that are uniquely located in Bayfront and affect the City's planning for outdoor recreation in the planning area include:

- First Landing State Park – Natural area, trail network, public water access, public beach access on 2,888 acres in close proximity to residents of Bayfront, Great Neck and Oceanfront Planning Areas
- Access to public and private Chesapeake Bay beaches
- Access to Lynnhaven River and its tributaries

The results of community involvement, statistical analysis, and equity mapping completed for the planning area explained on the forthcoming pages, applied to the unique circumstances of Bayfront, served as the primary drivers for the overall open space and outdoor planning recommendations that are provided at the end of this section.



Bayfront is geographically defined by the boundary of the Chesapeake Bay to the north; First Court Road and the Lynnhaven and Broad Bays to the south, First Landing State Park to the east; and Independence Boulevard and Little Creek Amphibious Base to the west.



Lynnhaven Boat Ramp and Beach Use Facility



Bayville Metro Park

Open Space/Parkland Statistical Analysis

The table below applies the City's new park designation service standards to the planning area's 2000 census population as well as the projected theoretical build-out for the year 2026. The analysis includes park designations that can be located within relatively small geographic areas, such as planning areas. For example, three park designation standards are not applied to planning area analysis because they are larger in size and/or have a unique site characteristic that provides more of a city-wide recreational opportunity. For example, Signature Parks, Natural Areas and Linkages (i.e. trails that transcend planning area boundaries) are not applied to the planning area analysis but are applied to the city-wide statistical analysis provided in the Capital Improvement Program Impact section of this plan. Consequently, the planning area statistical standard for parkland/open space is 11 acres/1,000 residents while the city-wide statistical standard for parkland/open space is 16 acres/1,000 residents. Note: The statistical analysis is only one tool in determining service area gaps.

Site Type and Virginia Beach Standard	Park Standard Applied to 2000 Population and Existing Park Inventory	Park Acreage Results for 2000 Population	Park Standard Applied to 2026 Population and Existing Park Inventory	Park Acreage Results for 2026 Population
Neighborhood Parks .25-15 Acres 2.0 Acres/1,000	8.25 Acres Existing 44.75 Acres Standard	Need 36.50 Acres	8.25 Acres Existing 49.8 Acres Standard	Need 41.55 Acres
Community Parks 15-50 Acres 3.0 Acres/1,000	0 Acres Existing 67.13 Acres Standard	Need 67.13 Acres	0 Acres Existing 74.7 Acres Standard	Need 74.7 Acres
Metro Parks 50-100 Acres 3.0 Acres/1,000	67.5 Acres Existing 67.13 Acres Standard	Surplus 0.37 Acres	67.5 Acres Existing 74.7 Acres Standard	Need 7.2 Acres
General Open Space 1.0 Acre/1,000	10.16 Acres Existing 22.38 Acres Standard	Need 12.22 Acres	10.16 Acres Existing 24.9 Acres Standard	Need 14.74 Acres
Special Use Facility 1.0 Acre/1,000	37.79 Acres Existing 22.38 Acres Standard	Surplus 15.41 Acres	37.79 Acres Existing 24.9 Acres Standard	Surplus 12.89 Acres
School Parks 1.0 Acre/1,000	9.24 Acres Existing 22.38 Acres Standard	Need 13.14 Acres	9.24 Acres Existing 24.9 Acres Standard	Need 15.66 Acres
Linkage* 1.0 Acre/1,000	7.5 Acres Existing	+7.5 Acres	7.5 Acres Existing	+7.5 Acres
Total Park Acres 11.0 Acres/1,000	132.94 Acres Existing 246.17 Acres Standard	Need 105.71 Acres	132.94 Acres Existing 273.9 Acres Standard	Need 133.46 Acres
Public Beach**	25.44 Acres Existing	+ 25.44 Acres	25.44 Acres Existing	+ 25.44 Acres
2000 Total Park Analysis for Planning Area		Need 80.27 Acres	2026 Total Park Analysis for Planning Area	Need 108.02 Acres
Homeowners *** Association Property	0.34 Acres Existing	+ 0.34 Acres	0.34 Acres Existing	+ 0.34 Acres

* Site type applied only to city wide needs analysis, not individual planning areas.

** Public beach access is unique to the City of Virginia Beach. Consequently, there is not a public beach standard that most other municipalities provide for addressing that need for their residents. However, public beach is included in the overall open space available to Virginia Beach residents.

***Homeowners Association (HOA) Properties are not counted toward meeting the public park and open space need because they are not accessible to all Virginia Beach residents. However, HOA should be considered as recreational assets for the residents of the planning area that have legal access to them.

Outdoor Recreational Asset Statistical Analysis

Outdoor Recreational Amenity Statistical Analysis - Similar to the Open Space/Parkland Statistical Analysis, the table below applies the City's outdoor recreational site type service standards that are unique to Virginia Beach to the planning area's 2000 census population as well as the projected theoretical build-out for the year 2026.

Note: The statistical analysis is only one tool in determining service area gaps.

Asset Type and Virginia Beach Standard	Asset Standard Applied to 2000 Population and Existing Park Inventory	Asset Results for 2000 Population	Asset Standard Applied to 2026 Population and Existing Park Inventory	Asset Results for 2026 Population
Tennis Courts 1 Court/5,000	6 Courts Existing 5 Courts Standard	Surplus 1 Court	6 Courts Existing 5 Courts Standard	Surplus 1 Court
Outdoor Basketballs 1 Court/2,500	7 Courts Existing 9 Courts Standard	Need 2 Courts	7 Courts Existing 10 Courts Standard	Need 3 Courts
Playgrounds 1 Site/2,000	7 Sites Existing 11 Sites Standard	Need 4 Sites	7 Sites Existing 12 Sites Standard	Need 5 Sites
Picnic Pavilions 1 Site/2,500	6 Sites Existing 9 Sites Standard	Need 3 Sites	6 Sites Existing 10 Sites Standard	Need 4 Sites
Baseball 200' Outfield 1 Field/3,125	1 Field Existing 7 Fields Standard	Need 6 Fields	1 Field Existing 8 Fields Standard	Need 7 Fields
Baseball 300' Outfield 1 Field/18,000	0 Fields Existing 1 Field Standard	Need 1 Field	0 Fields Existing 1 Field Standard	Need 1 Field
Softball Fields (Youth Competitive) 1 Field/5,000	1 Field Existing 4 Fields Standard	Need 3 Fields	1 Field Existing 5 Fields Standard	Need 4 Fields
Softball Fields (Adult Competitive) 1 Field/18,000	2 Field Existing 1 Field Standard	Surplus 1 Field	2 Fields Existing 1 Fields Standard	Surplus 1 Field
Soccer Fields (Youth/Competitive/Practice) 1 Field/4,000	1 Field Existing 6 Fields Standard	Need 5 Fields	1 Field Existing 6 Fields Standard	Need 5 Fields
Soccer Fields (Regulation/Competitive/) 1 Field/6,000	1 Field Existing 4 Fields Standard	Need 3 Fields	1 Field Existing 4 Fields Standard	Need 3 Fields
Football Fields (Competitive/Practice) 1 Field/6,000	1 Field Existing 4 Fields Standard	Need 3 Fields	1 Field Existing 4 Fields Standard	Need 3 Fields
Lacrosse/Field Hockey Fields 1 Field/50,000	0 Fields Existing 0 Fields Standard	Need 0 Sites	0 Sites Existing 0 Sites Standard	Need 0 Sites
Dog Parks 1 Site/50,000	0 Sites Existing 0 Sites Standard	Need 0 Sites	0 Sites Existing 0 Sites Standard	Need 0 Sites
Skate Parks (Inline, Skateboard, BMX) 1 Site/50,000	0 Sites Existing 0 Sites Standard	Need 0 Sites	0 Sites Existing 0 Sites Standard	Need 0 Sites



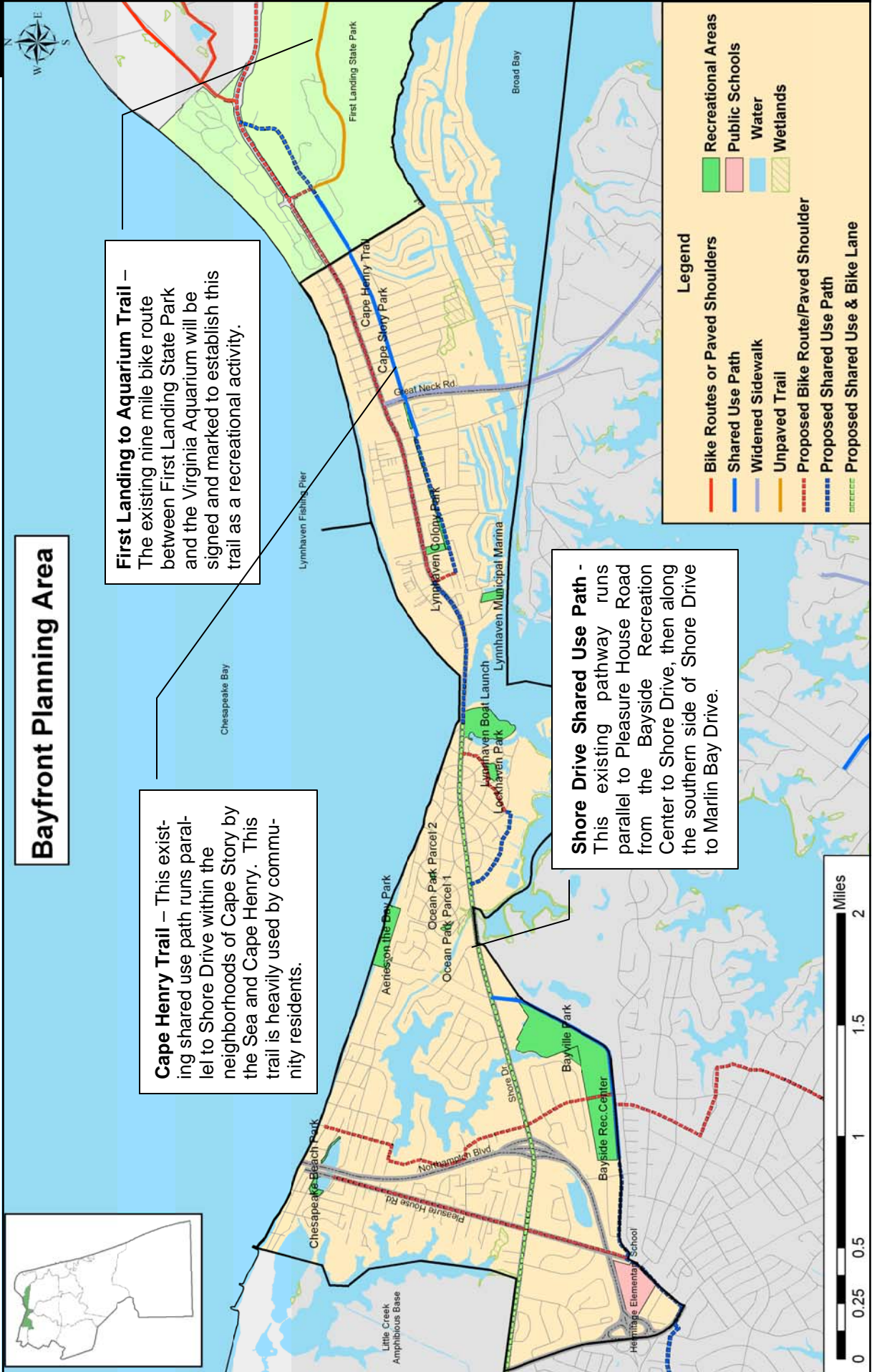
Ten-Minute Walk Zone Analysis

The following map depicts walkable service areas based upon a ten-minute walk, based on a three mile-per-hour walking pace, to parks in the Bayfront Planning Area. Areas highlighted in green are within a ten minute walk of a park utilizing the City's existing rights-of-way, showing areas that are currently served by City parks and areas that require additional focus of resources. The walk-zone analysis is much more practical of a service area analysis as opposed to the typical distance circle-radius service area buffers because they account for physical barriers such as Virginia Beach's many waterways and areas without roadways which cannot be crossed or otherwise accessed.



Cape Henry Trail - A unique trail that exists throughout the center of the entire west side of Bayfront, providing major east-west connectivity and public access to two City parks as well as First Landing State Park.

Bikeways and Trails System - According to the City's adopted Bikeways and Trails Plan, the following bikeways and trails system initiatives either existing or are recommended for implementation:



First Landing to Aquarium Trail –
The existing nine mile bike route between First Landing State Park and the Virginia Aquarium will be signed and marked to establish this trail as a recreational activity.

Cape Henry Trail – This existing shared use path runs parallel to Shore Drive within the neighborhoods of Cape Story by the Sea and Cape Henry. This trail is heavily used by community residents.

Shore Drive Shared Use Path -
This existing pathway runs parallel to Pleasure House Road from the Bayside Recreation Center to Shore Drive, then along the southern side of Shore Drive to Marlin Bay Drive.

Bayfront Recommendations

The recommendations provided below reflect a thorough consideration of the community priorities obtained through the public involvement process, Open Space/Parkland and Outdoor Recreational Amenity Statistical Analysis, and equity mapping analysis. The recommendations, starting with the Trails priorities provided on the preceding Bikeways and Trails System Map, are organized by outdoor recreational system components as denoted by the icons on the right side of the page below. The Capital Improvement Program Impact of these recommendations are summarized along with all of the other recommendations at the end of the Plan.



Pleasure House Point — Acquire a portion of the site for preservation and enhanced visual as well as physical public access to Lynnhaven River shoreline beach and Chesapeake Bay.



Pleasure House Creek — is an example of possible open space preservation area along Shore Drive. Preservation of open space is essential for ensuring the longevity of green areas for the Bayfront residents as visual relief from the built environment.



Preservation of Remaining Natural Areas in Shore Drive Corridor – Pursue opportunities to preserve natural areas along Shore Drive; including preservation of existing City land and acquisition of undeveloped land

Osprey Point Park – Expand improvements of Lynnhaven Boat Ramp and Beach Use Facility and expand public access improvements for passive recreation

Pleasure House Lake – Provide neighborhood park-scale improvements and enhanced public beach access parking at Chesapeake Beach Neighborhood Park

Residual City Property/Right-of-way – Identify unique City property to preserve unique existing open spaces and, where appropriate, provide neighborhood park-level improvements

Athletic Field Need – Address the existing and projected athletic field service gap in Bayfront by providing new, or enhancements to existing, athletic fields in the nearby Bayside Planning Area and City-wide

Public Access to Lynnhaven River – Provide additional public access opportunities to Lynnhaven River and water activity improvements (i.e. rowing). Opportunities may include partnerships at First Landing State Park and Pleasure House Point site



Aeries on the Bay – Provide formal access to Chesapeake Bay beaches at the Aeries on the Bay Neighborhood Park property