



"ONE TOUCH OF NATURE MAKES THE WHOLE WORLD KIN."
- JOHN MUIR



VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION
VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN
A MASTER PLAN FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2016 VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN

A master plan for the Virginia Beach parks and recreation system

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



The City of Virginia Beach is embarking on a bold future to create a vibrant and sustainable community for a lifetime. The Department of Parks and Recreation plays a key role in creating that future by providing the foundation for building community cohesion and keeping citizens healthy, happy and connected to each other and to the place they live. Parks connect people to the natural and cultural heritage of Virginia Beach; they are communal places with no barriers where people of all ages and social strata can interact with each other. Park spaces and facilities have consistently ranked high in biennial citizen satisfaction surveys and are often named as a central reason that people want to move here and to stay here to live, work, play and learn.

The 2016 Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan serves as the master plan for the parks and recreation system and is a component of the Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan. The parks and recreation system in Virginia Beach is made up of over 7,000 acres of fields, forests, wetlands, lakes and river and beach shoreline. The system of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities is very diverse serving citizens with parks right in their own neighborhoods as well as providing community parks and natural open spaces with trails. We have seven recreation centers that provide year-round programming and recreational opportunities for all ages. We oversee many special use facilities such as boat launches, fishing piers, athletic field complexes, golf courses and skate parks.

The City of Virginia Beach has a long history of supporting parks and recreation initiatives. The 2016 Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan is the fourth update to the original Outdoors Plan adopted in 1994. In 2001, The City Council appropriated \$50 million to acquire new parks and open spaces through the Open Space Acquisition Program. The Open Space Advisory Committee was also established to provide citizens the opportunity to set goals for the open space program and to oversee site acquisition. Over 2,800 acres was added to the park system between 2001 and 2015. Places like Stumpy Lake Natural Area, Lake Lawson/Lake Smith Natural Area, Pleasure House Point and Williams Farm Recreation Center and Skate Park were made possible through the Open Space Acquisition Program. The Open Space Advisory Committee is proud of this legacy and is excited to continue to participate in shaping the future of our park system.

The 2016 Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan introduces new goals for park acquisition that are aligned with the Comprehensive Plan recently adopted in May 2016, recognizing that the focus of new growth is toward redevelopment in targeted areas served by existing infrastructure and away from expanding suburban development patterns. In addition, we have carried forward the goal established in the 2008 Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan to provide every resident with park space within a ten minute walk. This goal is shared by large park systems throughout the nation and is tracked annually as a benchmark measure by the Trust for Public Land, a U.S. nonprofit organization that facilitates and funds the creation of parks and protected lands for people. In 2016, the national median score for the percentage of residents that have park space within a ten minute walk is 67.7% while Virginia Beach's score is 58%. Our goal is to increase this percentage to 63% by 2040.

Several improvement projects for park buildings, recreation centers and park spaces are included in the 2016 Plan. Our most urgent system-wide need is for additional rectangular playing fields. Conversely, there is an excess of tennis courts within our park system. The 2016 Plan presents recommendations specifically related to these two park features, as well as providing recommendations for renovations and development of other new park assets, such as dog parks and outdoor skate facilities, that are increasing in popularity across the country. All of the projects listed in the 2016 Plan are deemed necessary to fully meet citizen needs through 2040. The listed projects represent an additional \$130 million in funding through the Capital Improvement Program. All of these future projects must be prioritized in context with the Department's overall need as well as City Council priorities and work plan. The 2016 Plan will be used to share our vision for the park system with the public; to plan for new park acquisitions in high need areas; to plan and program capital improvement projects for renovations and new improvements; and to efficiently maintain and manage our park spaces based on sustainable policies and procedures. The 2016 Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan is a blueprint to guide our actions, ensuring that our vital and vibrant parks and recreation system will endure for future generations.

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An online Outdoors Plan 2016 Technical Report to accompany this document can be found at VBgov.com/parks

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND
& VISION



1 || BACKGROUND & VISION

“ WE DELIGHT IN THE BEAUTY OF THE BUTTERFLY, BUT RARELY ADMIT THE CHANGES IT HAS GONE THROUGH TO ACHIEVE THAT BEAUTY. ”

- MAYA ANGELOU

BACKGROUND

The City of Virginia Beach adopted its first Outdoors Plan in 1994. This initiative provided a solid foundation on which to begin building our system of outdoor recreation resources. The plan defined our core values regarding the preservation of our natural resources and the planning, design, financing, construction, maintenance and management of our outdoor recreation system.

In 1998, the City Council took a bold step in park planning at the request of citizens in response to increasing development pressures. A citizen committee was created to assist in exploring the development of a program to expand the park system by acquiring new parks and open spaces. In 2001, the vision for an open space program was realized. The Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan was updated to quantify the need for new parkland and to develop guidelines for identifying and prioritizing lands for acquisition as new parks. The 2001 plan served as the basis for City Council appropriating over \$50 million in May 2001 to establish the City's Open Space Acquisition Program.

The Outdoors Plan was updated in 2008 and became an integral component of Parks & Recreation's first Strategic Plan as well as a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The 2008 update focused on incorporating citizen priorities for parkland use based on the community survey conducted for the Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. Level of service standards for the outdoor recreation system were established. Connectivity through bikeways and trails was emphasized and providing a park within a ten minute walk from home for every resident was established as a goal. GIS mapping and analysis was incorporated into the plan, providing a graphic representation of park coverage and gaps. The 2008 plan update also stressed the need to utilize Open Space Acquisition Program funding for development and maintenance of the properties acquired in addition to new strategic property acquisition.



1 || BACKGROUND & VISION

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The 2016 update of the Outdoors Plan will lay out a path for the future for a sustainable park and recreation system. The 2016 Outdoors Plan serves as the master plan for the parks and recreation system and for the first time, includes planning for renovation of recreation centers and other park buildings and support facilities. The goals emphasized in 2008 for improving connectivity through bikeways and trails and providing a park within a ten minute walk from home for every resident are again the main goals for the 2016 update. We have made excellent progress in both of these areas since 2008, but there is still much more to be done. The 2016 update is being coordinated with the Virginia Outdoors Plan, the City's Comprehensive Plan, the City's Sustainability Plan, the Envision 2040 Report, the Department of Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan, the City's Bikeways and Trails Plan and the City's Urban Forest Management Plan. The 2016 Outdoors Plan update will be developed in conformance with the 2014 National Accreditation Standards of the Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). CAPRA Accreditation Standards require that, at a minimum, the following elements be addressed in the plan:

- a) Agency mission
- b) Agency objectives
- c) Recreation and leisure trends analysis
- d) Needs assessment
- e) Community inventory
- f) Level of service standards



The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Charged with providing high quality services and experiences, park and recreation agencies across the United States turn to CAPRA Accreditation as a credible and efficient means of achieving these goals, while providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice.

Since the last update of the Outdoors Plan in 2008, the City has experienced reductions in federal and state revenues coupled with rising costs. The current financial forecast for the city shows that the average revenue growth for City and Schools is projected to be around 1.6% annually for the next five years. This slow growth is what economists are projecting as the "new normal" for our region. The 2016 plan update will describe and promote sustainable principles, policies and practices for the development, management and maintenance of our park system so that we can make decisions that reflect a commitment to good stewardship of our resources. The park system contributes immensely to the quality of life of all citizens and it is our goal to work with other city agencies and our community partners to provide a "stable, resilient, energetic and attractive place to live, work and play on an ongoing basis, well into the future." (Source: *A Community Plan for a Sustainable Future (2013)*, City of Virginia Beach, Page 1). The regular review and update of the Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan is essential to guide the process of adaptive change and decision-making based on sustainable principles and practices.

"The Virginia Outdoors Plan is the state's official conservation, outdoor recreation and open-space plan. It is a guide to meet the land conservation and outdoor recreation needs of Virginia."

- 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN, CHAPTER 1

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VISION

A balanced, sustainable and value-focused system of parks, recreation and public spaces that create a sense of community.

OUR MISSION IS TO

- Deliver parks, recreation programs and public spaces that reflect the priorities of our community
- Support tiered levels of service that recognize the diverse needs of our community
- Focus on sustainability of core programs, services and facilities through efficient and effective business practices

CHAPTER 2

COMMUNITY
SETTING

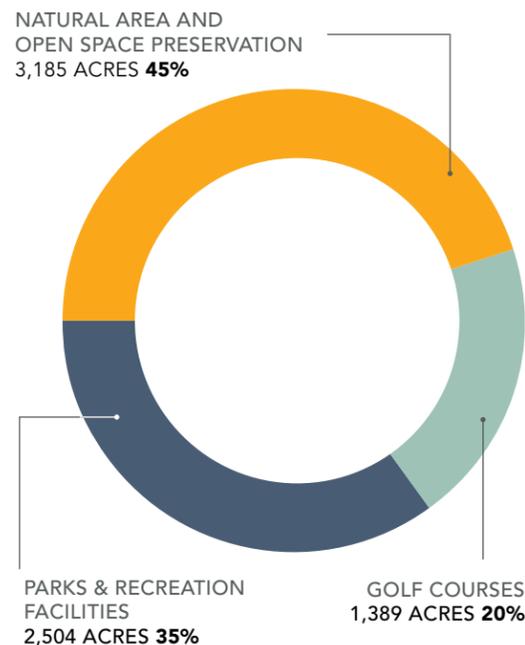


2 || COMMUNITY SETTING

PHYSICAL

The Virginia Beach park system is expansive, covering over 7,000 acres of parkland spread across 307 square miles boasting over 2.9 million park visitors in FY15. Our parks are very diverse, offering a wide range of outdoor recreational amenities to our citizens. The size and diversity of our system is its greatest strength. These same two factors make planning, management and maintenance of the system very complex. Different park spaces require different levels of management and maintenance. As our system ages, older parks will need to be renewed in order to be acceptable and attractive to citizens. This may mean a change in the use of the park or the types of amenities provided to keep up with current needs and trends. New infrastructure may be required or a new management strategy may be necessary.

Parks & Recreation considers providing a safe and equitably dispersed park system to be a core service. The park system is well managed and maintained, but this has become more of a challenge in recent years because of the growth in new park acreage coupled with the aging of some of our larger parks in the face of moderated financial resources. Successful public/private partnerships have helped address some of our park needs. In recent years, the Department has partnered with several entrepreneurial recreation providers to develop leases and/or management agreements on park properties for special use facilities that appeal to unique user groups such as golf courses, the Virginia Beach Field House, Sportsplex and Field Hockey Complex, Camp Grom, Princess Anne Little League, Hampton Roads Soccer Complex and the Aquarium Adventure Park. These partnerships have provided citizens with more choice in recreational activities and have reduced the public cost associated with operating and maintaining special use facilities. We must continue to be open to innovative partnerships and use creativity and flexibility when planning, developing and programming old and new park spaces.



PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

Our largest park, known as Stumpy Lake Golf Course and Natural Area, measures over 1,000 acres and provides a golf course, nature trail system, kayak launch and a boardwalk along the lake edge with parking lots to serve these uses. The site contains very rare forested wetland areas dominated by hardwood trees. Stumpy Lake is also a popular designated stop on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. In contrast, some of our smallest parks measure ½ acre or less and serve as neighborhood playgrounds. We have park spaces adjacent to recreation centers, fire stations, historic houses, museums and schools. Our park system is supplemented by many open space and recreation properties owned and managed by neighborhood homeowner associations.

GOLF COURSES AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES

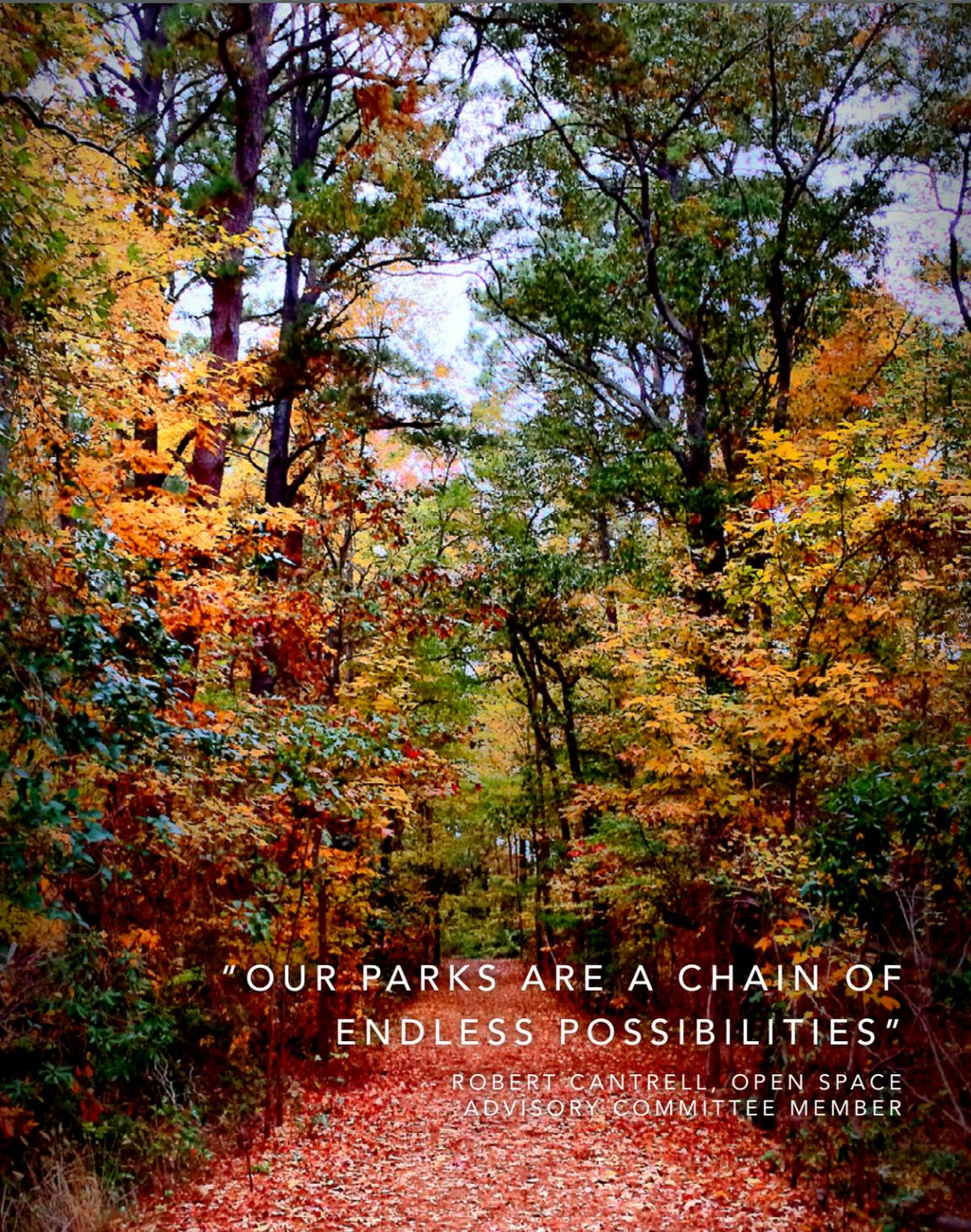
Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation has a strong focus on athletic programs in our parks. We provide administrative support and field management support to numerous athletic associations offering several different sports year-round and we operate many additional sports programs for youth and adults. We have over 200 sports fields that are programmed through our Sports Management Office. Many of our programmed sports fields are located at elementary schools. The Princess Anne Athletic Complex (PAAC) is a top-tier tournament facility operated by Parks & Recreation staff.

Over one third of our park acreage was acquired through the Open Space Acquisition Program between 2001 and 2015. Over the past decade, the Department has opened new facilities on many of these properties that have become some of the most popular in the system. Stumpy Lake Natural Area, Lake Lawson/Lake Smith Natural Area, Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Williams Farm Community Park and Recreation Center and Providence Park are some of the larger public spaces that were made possible through this program. In 2015, a sharp reduction in funding for the Open Space Acquisition Program was implemented. Even though many of the stated goals for acquiring future park spaces have been met, there is still a need to fund development of facilities on other parklands acquired through the Open Space Program. In addition, there is a need to fund acquisition of future park spaces in and around the Strategic Growth Areas outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. The 2016 Outdoors Plan will identify and address the changing but continuing need for funding to acquire and develop new parklands along with our need for funding to renovate and redevelop older parks.

The Department of Parks & Recreation owns five golf courses. Each golf course is leased long-term to a private operator. The City is compensated for the land lease with a portion of annual revenues and the private operator is responsible for operations, management and maintenance. The revenues received by the City are deposited into an account for future major capital improvements and renovations on the golf course properties. Similar lease agreements and/or management agreements are held by the Department on public parklands developed with athletic fields and other specialized recreation facilities that are operated and maintained by private entrepreneurs.

“Appropriate public access to natural area preserves provide unique opportunities for outdoor recreation and increases appreciation for Virginia’s rarest and most special landscapes.” - 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN, PAGE 9.11

2 || COMMUNITY SETTING



"OUR PARKS ARE A CHAIN OF
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES"

ROBERT CANTRELL, OPEN SPACE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

"Statewide trunkline trails could one day connect regional and local trails with public transit. Local comprehensive plans that recognize trunkline trails enable this vision for connectivity to be realized."

- 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN, PAGE 4.8

TRAILS

The Department of Parks & Recreation devotes staff and budget resources to the development and maintenance of numerous trail systems inside park properties as well as the city-wide system of trails and bikeways located within transportation corridors. Virginia Beach currently has 273 miles of bikeways, trails and wide sidewalks generally distributed throughout the city. Most of the off-road paths follow major roads, like Dam Neck Road and London Bridge Road. In November 2014, the City Council adopted a Complete Streets policy that requires planners and engineers to take all users into account during roadway planning, design, construction and maintenance, so most road projects (both new construction and reconstruction) now include new bike lanes, shared-use paths, and/or sidewalks. The Parks &

Recreation Department is actively working to improve pedestrian and bike connections to all of our park sites so that residents can have the option to use alternative modes of transportation other than a car to visit our parks.

There are many regional trails that have been established with connections to Virginia Beach parks. These include the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, that has stops at Munden Point Park, Stumpy Lake Natural Area and Pleasure House Point Natural Area; the Washington-Rochambeau Historic Trail that terminates at the Lynnhaven Inlet near Pleasure House Point Natural Area; the Southeast Coast Paddling Trail that includes North Landing River, West Neck Creek and the Lynnhaven River; and the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail that will follow the west to east Transit Corridor under development in the heart of the city.

GREENWAYS, BEACHES AND SCENIC WATERWAYS

The coastal environment in Virginia Beach means public water access is essential to the quality of life here. We have public beaches, both on the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean and miles of inland waterways. Little Island Park is located at Sandbridge Beach and is the only staffed beachfront on the Atlantic Ocean that is managed by the Parks & Recreation Department. In other beachfront areas, the Parks & Recreation Department works in coordination with other city agencies to manage and maintain plazas, playgrounds, landscaping and trails.

Three large river systems are present in our city: the Lynnhaven River, the Elizabeth River and the North Landing River. The Parks & Recreation Department provides public water access to all of these rivers. We operate numerous water access facilities throughout the city including motor boat launches, canoe/kayak launches, fishing piers, overlooks, miles of shoreline trails and a marina. We are developing trails known as greenway and blueway networks that link to natural resource areas, parks and waterways throughout the City. The value of a greenway network is apparent in the Thalia Creek Greenway Trail project that will provide a shoreline trail along the Thalia Creek corridor. This project will provide access to a once hidden natural area and offer a new recreation resource for thousands of residents living or working in Town Center and surrounding neighborhoods.

2 || COMMUNITY SETTING

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL AREAS

There are many park sites in Virginia Beach that are tied to historic and cultural resources. The Department works closely with the Department of Museums and the Cultural Affairs Office to coordinate projects and explore opportunities whenever possible. Some examples of past projects include: archeology surveys on key park properties, acquisition of parkland near historic structures, public art and monuments on key park properties, preservation of historic structures on parklands, and provision of program spaces for historic and cultural events. The parks listed below contribute greatly to the City's historic and cultural identity.

- **Red Wing Park:** home of the Cherry Blossom Festival each Spring
- **Kemps Landing Park:** home to several public monuments
- **West Neck Creek Park:** home of the historic Buffington House
- **Munden Point Park:** historic water access site
- **Princess Anne Gateway Park:** home of the Light Garden sculpture
- **Cape Henry Trail and Norfolk Avenue Trail:** conversion of historic rail corridor
- **Marshview Park:** An archeology survey was conducted in 2014 with participation by public and schools. Although no highly significant artifacts were found, the master plan for the park includes interpretation and preservation of the historic site within the park.
- **Open Space near Adam Thoroughgood House:** preservation of historical landscape and viewshed
- **Francis Land Park:** public walkway adjacent to Francis Land House
- **Little Island Park:** home to historic coast guard buildings
- **Grommet Island Park:** beach playground for persons with disabilities
- **Mount Trashmore Park:** home of numerous community events year-round

- **Neptune's Park and 24th Street Park:** home of numerous summer festivals and concerts

We are currently working with the Planning Department in several areas of the city that are being planned with special attention to historic and cultural contexts such as Historic Kempsville, Burton Station Strategic Growth Area and the Owl Creek watershed (home of the Virginia Aquarium and the historic Seatack Community).

SOCIAL

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation plays a key role in building a sense of community, providing value to citizens and businesses as well as visitors. Parks are the foundation for equitable, healthy communities. They are proven to be an important contributor to the health and wellness of all citizens. Parks connect the community to the natural world, where people can come to understand the roots of the place named Virginia Beach. Parks conserve the natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations. They are a communal place with no barriers where people of all ages and social strata can interact with each other. The parks and recreation system helps preserve the unique natural and social character of Virginia Beach and is a central reason that people want to move here and to stay here to live, work, play and learn.

The Department is highly engaged with citizens through groups such as the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee, the Virginia Beach Beautification Commission and Clean Community Commission. The Open Space Advisory Committee was instrumental in guiding the preparation of this update to the Outdoors Plan. Many other groups and individuals in military, business and non-profit organizations including the U.S. Navy, Stihl Inc., Lynnhaven River Now and Chesapeake Bay Foundation devote their time volunteering throughout the year to help maintain our park system.



2 || COMMUNITY SETTING

The Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists to support Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation by raising funds, accepting gifts and providing resources to enhance existing programs, services, facilities and technology. Monetary donations from the VBPRF have helped to provide better accommodations for patrons with disabilities and have helped to fund learn-to-swim programs. Another program established in 2012 by the VBPRF is known as ParksPlus. Through this unique program, a civic league, local business or organization can partner with VBPRF to provide financial support for improvements to a city-owned park. VBPRF is an important partner working to build citizen enthusiasm and stewardship for our parks.

Parks & Recreation also works closely with Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) by assisting in the design, construction and maintenance of recreational facilities at all new and renovated schools. We have many cost-share agreements and facility use agreements with VBCPS for outdoor basketball courts, indoor gymnasiums, outdoor tennis courts, school playgrounds, school grounds maintenance and ball fields. At many schools the outdoor facilities are open to the public when school is not in session.

The Department conducts a Community Needs Survey regularly in order to gauge community participation and interest in recreational activities as well as to measure how well we are meeting the community's needs. We accomplish our mission by understanding and adapting to the priorities developed through this survey process. Our latest survey was conducted in 2012 and resulted in establishing the priorities listed below:

»» Community Access

A system that supports community access physically, economically and socially.

- Physical connectivity
- Improved transportation
- Tiered levels of service
- Opportunities for citizens to participate as part of a larger community

»» The Environment & Outdoors

Facilities and programs that enable citizens and visitors to be outdoors and enjoy the environment.

FACILITY PRIORITIES

- Hiking, walking and biking trails
- Large community parks
- Natural areas, nature trails, nature center

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Nature-based programs
- Environmental education

»» Healthy Lifestyles

Facilities and programs that enable citizens and visitors to pursue healthy, active lifestyles

FACILITY PRIORITIES

- Recreation centers
- Indoor fitness and exercise facilities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

- Adult fitness and wellness programs
- Youth learn-to-swim
- Water fitness programs
- Youth sports programs

»» Stewardship

Citizens expect the City to maintain and improve existing indoor and outdoor facilities.

- Improve and maintain existing parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers

These community priorities were used to develop new outreach tools to gather additional citizen input for this current Outdoors Plan update in several different ways.

DATE	OUTREACH TOOL
October 2014	Electronic Survey
October - November 2014	Citizen Open House Sessions
March - April 2015	Stakeholder Workshops
May 2015	Planning Commission Workshop
September - October 2015	Presentations to Parks & Recreation Commission and Committees
January 2016	Public Input Sessions
June - August 2016	Public Hearings and Plan Adoption

The feedback received from the various outreach efforts conducted between 2014 and 2016 confirmed that the Department's community priorities reflect current citizen values. Most of our citizens are using the park system for both social and recreational purposes. Citizens identified athletic fields, playgrounds and picnic areas as highly desirable features. Some of the things that citizens would like to see more of include walking trails, nature centers and trails, cultural and historical preservation and kayak access. The top facility need identified by citizens is the desire to have better multi-modal connectivity between homes and parks all over the city. A summary of the survey results and feedback received from citizens is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

“Over the last 16 years in Virginia, three activities with the highest growth rates relate to physical activity: **walking, jogging and hiking.**”

- 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOOR PLAN, PAGE 4.5

MOST NEEDED OUTDOOR RECREATION

ACTIVITY	% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN STATE
Trails for hiking and walking	68
Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming, and beach use	60
Trails for bicycling	54
Natural areas	55
Historic areas	51
Public access to state waters for non-motorized boating such as canoeing or kayaking	46
Trails for wildlife watching and nature study	45
Playing fields for outdoor sports such as softball, baseball, football, and soccer	40
Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball	32
Public access to state waters for motorized boating	22
Public pools	38
Trails for horseback riding	22
Trails for motorized off road vehicles	17
Other	6

SOURCE: 2011 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS DEMAND SURVEY

2 || COMMUNITY SETTING

“ Forests provide forest products, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, recreation opportunities and aesthetic benefits needed to sustain Virginia’s ecological balance, as well as a healthy quality of life. ”

- 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOOR PLAN, PAGE 9.18



ECONOMIC

Cities are economic entities. They are made up of structures entwined with open space. In all successful cities, there is a balance between private homes and commercial establishments that provide places to produce and consume goods and public spaces such as libraries, hospitals, streets, parks and trails. Private and public spaces animate each other with the value of the whole greatly surpassing that of its parts. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) identifies seven attributes of parks that provide cities with measurable economic benefits.

- **Property Value (Hedonic):** Parks and open space have a positive impact on nearby residential property values
- **Tourism Value:** Parks and open space attract out-of-town visitors
- **Direct Use Value:** Parks are amenities that provide services to residents
- **Health Value:** Parks, playgrounds and walkable urban communities can help people increase their level of physical activity
- **Community Cohesion Value:** Like schools and churches, parks promote a sense of community
- **Air Pollution Removal Value:** Trees within parks have the ability to absorb air pollutants
- **Stormwater Management Value:** Parks reduce costs by capturing precipitation and/or slowing its runoff

Two recent reports published by national organizations dedicated to supporting local parks agencies document the economic benefits and impacts of local parks. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) published a report titled *The Economic Benefits of the Park and Recreation System of Virginia Beach, Virginia* in 2011. The report documents that in 2010, the park system in Virginia Beach provided the City with revenue of \$10.6 million, a collective increase in resident wealth of more than \$305 million, resident savings of \$375 million (e.g. avoidance of health care costs) and

municipal savings of just under \$10 million. In 2015, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published a report titled *The Economic Impact of Local Parks*. This report documents that based on the 2013 Census Bureau Survey, local and regional parks in Virginia provided over \$3 billion dollars in economic activity, over \$1 billion dollars in labor income and 30,737 jobs. Tourist and visitor data was not included in these estimates.

Tourism is a major industry in Virginia Beach and the Hampton Roads region. Two tourism growth areas are athletic tourism and ecological tourism. Our City has unique advantages to promote both types of tourism in addition to the traditional draw of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay beachfront. Athletic tourism and ecological tourism opportunities are discussed further in Chapter 4.

Tree Canopy Coverage in parks increases the economic value of all seven attributes noted above. In 2014, the Department of Parks & Recreation produced the City’s first Urban Forest Management Plan which used LIDAR data to measure the total tree canopy within the City. The 3.2 million trees existing in the city in 2015 contribute over \$263 million in annual savings and benefits for our citizens. The tree canopy measured within the City in 2015, exclusive of state and federal property, totals over 45,000 acres and represents 38% of the land area. The tree canopy within city parks and natural areas covers 5,123 acres.

Sea Level Rise can influence city growth patterns as more land area becomes subjected to recurrent flooding. The City’s Comprehensive Plan recommends planning for 1.5 feet of projected sea level rise within the planning horizon of 50 years. This projection is to be used when making long-term decisions on public infrastructure design and replacement. Over 1,700 acres of parkland sits at elevations below the 100-year floodplain. These park areas act as storage reservoirs for flood waters and assist with keeping flood waters away from major infrastructure, housing and commercial areas. This flood water storage function has intrinsic economic benefit to the City.

Summary: The Estimated Annual Value of the Virginia Beach Park and Recreation System

Revenue-Producing Factors for City Government

Tax receipts from increased property value	\$2,218,740
Tax receipts from increased tourism value	\$8,428,688
Total	\$10,647,428

Wealth-Increasing Factors for Citizens

Property value from park proximity	\$10,249,256
Net profit from tourism	\$295,004,064
Total	\$305,253,320

Cost-Saving Factors to Citizens

Direct use value	\$337,453,874
Health value	\$38,472,475
Total	\$375,926,349

Cost-Saving Factors to City Government

Stormwater management value	\$1,516,239
Air pollution mitigation value	\$4,516,704
Community cohesion value	\$3,954,359
Total	\$9,987,302

The Trust for Public Land is a national organization that helps communities raise funds, conduct research and plan, acquire and protect land and renovate parks, playgrounds, trails and gardens.

CHAPTER 3

OUTDOOR
RECREATION
SYSTEM
ASSESSMENT



3 || OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

PARK FACILITY ASSETS

Virginia Beach has been recognized as one of the top park systems in the nation for the number of playgrounds and other park amenities we provide to our residents, and we want to continue to maintain this level of excellence that the citizens consider essential to the high quality of life they enjoy in Virginia Beach. In order to more efficiently manage facility assets, Level of Service Per Capita Standards for key facilities in parks were established in the 2008 Outdoors Plan. These standards were based on facility level of service averages provided by national and regional benchmarking studies as well as Virginia Beach usage averages. The standards created for Virginia Beach meet or exceed the regional and national averages.

The chart above shows the level of service standard and the current inventory of our three most common facility assets. The chart also shows the number of facility assets needed to serve the current 2016 population of 450,980 as well as the projected 2040 population of 498,000 (Source: 2040 SocioEconomic Forecast, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, December 2013).

The existence of surplus assets as shown in the above chart is partly due to the geographic and land use characteristics of the city. The majority of our housing stock is made up of single family suburban neighborhoods that are separated from each other by rivers, creeks, streams and segmented roads. The prevalence of this neighborhood layout contributes to an organic lack of connectivity and the large number of like facilities necessary to serve all neighborhoods equitably.

Surplus assets should always be reviewed through the lens of actual use, equity and sustainability. Based on our user surveys, playgrounds and outdoor basketball courts are among the most popular and well-used recreational amenities. These facilities promote family fun, community cohesion and outdoor activity. The current inventory of 169 outdoor basketball courts and 271 playgrounds, although in excess of our established standards, is sustainable. We have a proven inspection and repair program

OUTDOOR ASSET TYPE	BASELINE LEVEL OF SERVICE PER CAPITA STANDARD	EXISTING ASSET INVENTORY (PARKS AND SCHOOLS)	# OF ASSETS TO MEET BASELINE LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR 2016 POPULATION 450,980	# OF ASSETS TO MEET BASELINE LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR 2040 POPULATION 498,000	2040 SURPLUS
Outdoor Tennis Courts	.20 per 1,000 (1 court per 5,000)	188 Courts	90 Courts	100 Courts	Yes
Outdoor Basketball Courts	.34 per 1,000 (1 court per 2,940)	169 Courts	153 Courts	169 Courts	No
Playgrounds	.50 per 1,000 (1 playground per 2,000)	271 Playgrounds	225 Playgrounds	249 Playgrounds	Yes

that helps to prolong the life of these assets. When repairs are required they are generally low cost. We have also made several changes to standardize materials and design that will increase the sustainability of these facilities in the future. A high priority is placed on the continued repair and replacement of these facilities based on their popularity and wide user base.

The surplus asset type in most need of review is tennis courts. There are several reasons for this:

- Based on the established level of service per capita standard, Parks & Recreation has an excess of tennis courts through 2040.
- Tennis court repair is costly and there are a high number of courts that will need repair or replacement within the next five to ten years.
- Recreation trends for outdoor tennis have been growing slowly for a number of years. (Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Page 4.4)

TENNIS COURT MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

LOCATION OF FACILITY	NUMBER OF COURTS	OPERATOR	MAINTENANCE
Neighborhood/Community Parks	51	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Recreation
Middle Schools	37	School	50/50 P&R/School Cost Share
High Schools	86	School	25/75 P&R/School Cost Share
Owl Creek Tennis Center	14	Private Lessee	Parks & Recreation

The strategy for implementing a cost-benefit analysis of tennis court facilities must be comprehensive and must include opportunities for public input into the evaluation and decision-making process. Listed below are recommended steps to build an effective and efficient process.

1. Beginning with Neighborhood and Community Parks, planning and operations staff should prepare a priority list of tennis courts that are candidates for review. Parameters should include, but not be limited to, the frequency of use and condition of court.
2. Park operations staff will make dedicated effort to monitor and document the frequency of use of identified courts.
3. Concurrently, park planning and operations staff will gather public input (could be survey, meeting or both) to determine how and why the tennis courts are or are not being utilized.

4. Park planning and operations staff review public input and documentation of use and propose options for repair, replacement or removal, including costs associated with each option.
5. Options are reviewed with the public and the Parks & Recreation Commission.
6. After a consensus is reached among stakeholders, the preferred option is implemented.

As part of an adaptive management strategy, this cost-benefit analysis and decision-making model can also be used to evaluate an individual playground, basketball court or other facility that has been identified by citizens and/or park staff for possible removal based on the condition of the asset and/or a change in the dynamics of the park it is located within.

3 || OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT



ATHLETIC FIELD ASSETS

There are 143 diamond fields and 91 multi-purpose fields in our inventory. Staff from the Parks & Recreation Sports Management Office and Parks and Natural Areas Division manage the use of all athletic fields on park properties as well as elementary schools throughout the City. In 2012, the Virginia Beach Field Allocation Study was completed by Ballard Kind and Associates, Ltd. As a result, a new more efficient field allocation process was established that considers the demand for use, the focus of programming and revenue options along with maintenance and management considerations. The Parks & Recreation Sports Management Office ensures that field spaces are in adequate condition for the current demand from recreational programs and community leagues and that each field has satisfactory supporting amenities. All of the existing field spaces are heavily utilized; there is very limited excess capacity available. There are three categories of field use:

1. **Allocated Fields:** these fields are allocated on an annual basis to community recreation leagues and independent organizations that meet established criteria set forth in the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Field Allocation Policies and Procedures (VBgov.com/sports). Allocated fields include elementary school fields and fields at smaller city parks. Walk-on use is allowed at most of these allocated fields when the field is not in use for team practices or games.
2. **Rented Fields:** these fields are rented to groups on an hourly, daily or seasonal basis for tournaments, instructional camps, practices and league games.
3. **Leased Fields:** these fields are leased exclusively to groups or organizations on an annual or long-term basis. Lease agreements specify infrastructure construction, operating conditions and maintenance responsibilities.

The Princess Anne Athletic Complex and City View Park are the two largest sports complexes managed by Parks & Recreation. There are several other large multi-field complexes located on property owned by the City of Virginia Beach that the Department of Parks & Recreation leases to individual sports organizations. The need for additional fields to service the population through 2040 is addressed in Chapter 4 of this Plan. A copy of the Virginia Beach Field Allocation Study and an inventory of all existing athletic fields is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

In 2008, we established a comprehensive park inventory typology to characterize all land within our park system. These eight existing parkland designations are shown below. With this 2016 Outdoors Plan update, we are recommending that three additional inventory types be added to the eight existing parkland inventory types. These three new park types provide a framework to develop new parks that will accompany mixed use urban development that is planned for the Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Eight SGA areas are identified by the Comprehensive Plan where future growth within the City will be directed over the next several decades which include Burton Station, Centerville, Hilltop, Lynnhaven, Newtown, Pembroke, Resort and Rosemont. A specific plan for each SGA has been developed to guide future growth and redevelopment. New parks and open spaces are recommended as essential infrastructure components in each of these plans.

An inventory of all existing parklands by type is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

2008 PARKLAND SITE DESIGNATION	EXISTING ACRES CITYWIDE	EXAMPLE
Signature Park (SP)	288 acres	Mount Trashmore
Metro Park (MP)	477 acres	Great Neck Park
Community Park (CP)	316 acres	Beach Garden
Neighborhood Park (NP)	729 acres	Level Green
Natural Resource Area (NA)	1,490 acres	Stumpy Lake
Open Space Preservation Area (OSPA)	1,695 acres	Mill Dam Site (along northeast side of First Colonial Road)
Special Use (SU)	2,050 acres	Athletic facility, golf course, recreation center site, resort area park, gateway park or water access
Linear Park (LP)/Linkage (LINK)	33 acres	Cape Henry Trail

NEW 2016 ADDITIONAL PARKLAND SITE DESIGNATION	EXAMPLES (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)
Eco-Garden (EG)	Kellam High School, ARE Garden @ 67 th Street, Brock Environmental Center, Central Park @ Town Center
Town Green (TG)	24 th Street Park & Neptune's Park in the Resort Area
Urban Plaza (UP)	Town Center Plaza, Sandler Center Plaza, Oceanfront Connector Parks

3 || OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT



“ Deep down, we know that the connection to nature is important. When asking people to think about their favorite places to vacation, the majority will describe some place outdoors; we use the term ‘recreation’ and forget that recreation is about recreating, restoring ourselves. So while empirical evidence is accumulating, we ought to go about restoring the human-nature connection in the built environment. ”

- 14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN REPORT BY TERRAPIN GROUP, 2014

ECO-GARDEN

The Eco-Garden concept combines stormwater storage and treatment with park space, marrying ordinary infrastructure with the social and health benefits of recreation. Designing stormwater storage and treatment areas to deliberately serve as park space promotes efficient use of urban land, thereby providing multiple benefits to the City. This type of park is uniquely suited to foster a sense of place within the new compact urban scale neighborhoods envisioned in the Strategic Growth Areas. This concept is not new to Virginia Beach. In the big picture, Mount Trashmore Park, one of the City’s oldest and largest parks, can be considered a 165-acre Eco-Garden because the large lake within the park serves as a stormwater storage and treatment facility for the surrounding neighborhoods. Translating this concept to the more compact urban scale is the challenge. Kellam High School at 2665 West Neck Road is an excellent example of how the land surrounding a building can be developed to manage stormwater to benefit the environment and the people living, working, playing or learning there. These spaces can enhance the pedestrian experience and provide a daily connection to nature that is essential for healthy urban living. When done well, these spaces can become the heart and soul of an urban neighborhood.

top photo: KELLAM HIGH SCHOOL BIORETENTION ECO-GARDEN
 below photo: QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN (FLUSHING, NY)

ECO-GARDEN (EG) The primary purpose of these park areas is to manage stormwater with infrastructure technology that mimics natural ecosystems and provides storage and quality treatment for adjacent development. Recreational use is a necessary, secondary objective and might include passive recreation activities such as walking paths, trail nodes, seating areas, picnic areas and environmental education or more active recreation such as skate areas, informal playing fields and event stages. Eco-Gardens can be located on public or private property.

Size ¼ acre to 10 acres

Staffing N/A

Utilities electric power optional

Typical Amenities rain gardens, water gardens, bio-retention planting beds, fountains, green roof gardens, permeable pavers, tree plantings, walking paths, kiosks, seating

Unique Amenities picnic tables, café tables, pedestrian scale lighting, outdoor art feature

3 || OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT



BOSTON, MA: View of the Boston Public Garden in Massachusetts on a summer day. This landmark is a sightseeing destination in Boston.

TOWN GREEN

The Town Green provides access to nature and outdoor spaces for people living in dense urban environments. It provides a place for creativity, learning and informal recreation. The Town Green can be a central gathering space for people where ideas are exchanged spontaneously and different cultures mingle in a relaxed and casual setting. The Town Green has considerable place-strengthening benefits for city dwellers because it provides common ground and a connection to nature that is important to all people. There is a need for awe and wonder in our lives and nature can amaze, stimulate and propel us to want to learn more and understand our world more fully. Romare Bearden Park in Charlotte, North Carolina is an excellent example of an urban Town Green that brings people together for creative expression and multiple activities.

TOWN GREEN (TG) A central park and gathering space within an urban development area. Town Greens are typically publicly owned rectangular spaces occupying an entire development block. Town Greens consist of open lawn and landscape area that accommodates informal active and passive recreation as well as large scale events. Parking is provided by surrounding on-street spaces or nearby public parking garages.

Size	1 - 5 acres
Staffing	Staffed only during events
Utilities	electric power, water and sewer
Typical Amenities	outdoor stage, open play areas, playgrounds, park trails and benches, restrooms, picnic shelters, tree plantings, walkways, pedestrian scale lighting
Unique Amenities	seat walls, vendor spaces, outdoor art feature



FORT LAUDERDALE, FL: Lots of people enjoying walking and biking on the brick walkway that travels along beautiful Riverwalk park in downtown on a sunny and warm winter day.

URBAN PLAZA

This is a multi-use space that can be designed in many forms and can be thought of as a smaller, more intimate version of the Town Green. The versatility of these open spaces contributes to the vitality of urban neighborhoods.

URBAN PLAZA (UP) A small urban open space that is surrounded by buildings with high density mixed uses. Urban Plazas are typically paved and provide opportunities for social interaction. Urban Plazas accommodate frequent small gatherings and events such as an art show or farmers market. Urban Plazas are located either on public property or on private property with an easement dedicated for public use.

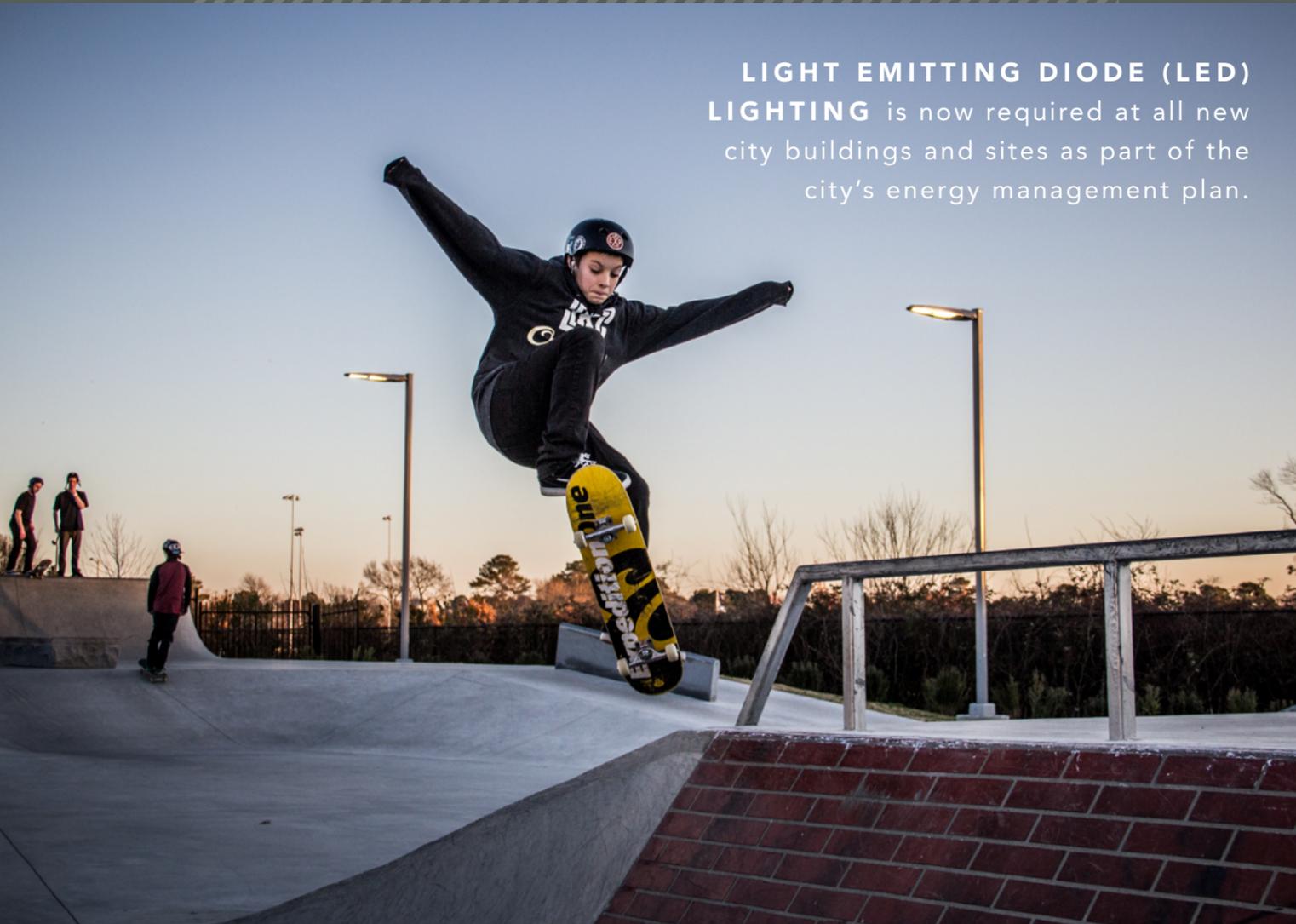
Size	1 acre or less
Staffing	Staffed only during events
Utilities	electric power
Typical Amenities	tree plantings, landscape beds, outdoor café seating, benches, transit stop, pedestrian scale lighting
Unique Amenities	fountains, seat walls, decorative pavers, outdoor art feature

CHAPTER 4

SHAPING THE FUTURE
OF THE OUTDOOR
RECREATION SYSTEM



4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM



LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) LIGHTING is now required at all new city buildings and sites as part of the city's energy management plan.

The City's 2016 Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint and policy document guiding sustainable physical growth and development over the next 25 years. Providing accessible parks, open space and recreation facilities, expanding green infrastructure and cultivating arts and culture are some of the guiding principles for the evolving Strategic Growth Areas that are included in the Comprehensive Plan. Environmental protection, open space, water access and trail systems are included as important elements for the Rural and Transition

areas of the city. The Comprehensive Plan also seeks to support existing neighborhoods and communities by providing adequate services. The park system performs the central role in meeting these Comprehensive Plan goals for environmental stewardship, open space and recreation. The recommendations and proposed projects contained in this Chapter are aligned with the current trends in Parks & Recreation and with the vision and land use directions provided by the Comprehensive Plan.

TRENDS

TECHNOLOGY IN PARKS

Technological advances in manufacturing, composite materials, power distribution and communications can provide numerous benefits to our park system. Advances in manufactured buildings, LED lighting and solar lighting provide new infrastructure options that take less time and money to plan, build and operate.

Technology has also improved communication and connection with our park users and citizens through the creation of several web/mobile Apps. The VB Works App is a way for citizens and park users to identify maintenance needs or request services, such as removing graffiti, at specific locations and to submit pictures of the problem. The Visit Virginia Beach App includes highlights of park properties and an event list that includes special events at parks. The Parkfinder App shows citizens the location of all city parks with the initial screen showing parks within a mile of their present location. The Parkfinder App also provides directions to the parks and lists the amenities that can be found at each. Parks & Recreation is also engaged in social media through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Many park users share beautiful and engaging photos of their activities, the wildlife and sunny views on Instagram. Parks & Recreation will continue to expand digital access to information as a primary means of communication.

Expanding wireless and broadband network access in parks can help to improve the process for maintenance inspections by having background information available on a laptop or phone when an inspector is on-site and can also broaden opportunities for new recreational programming and environmental education. Expanding network access can help transform operational tasks such as reservations and fee collections or access control of entry gates/storage areas/buildings so that cost savings can be realized. The feasibility of specific methods and cost-benefit analysis to increase the use of technology for operational tasks in parks is done through the program evaluation tools developed through the Department's ongoing strategic planning process.



4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

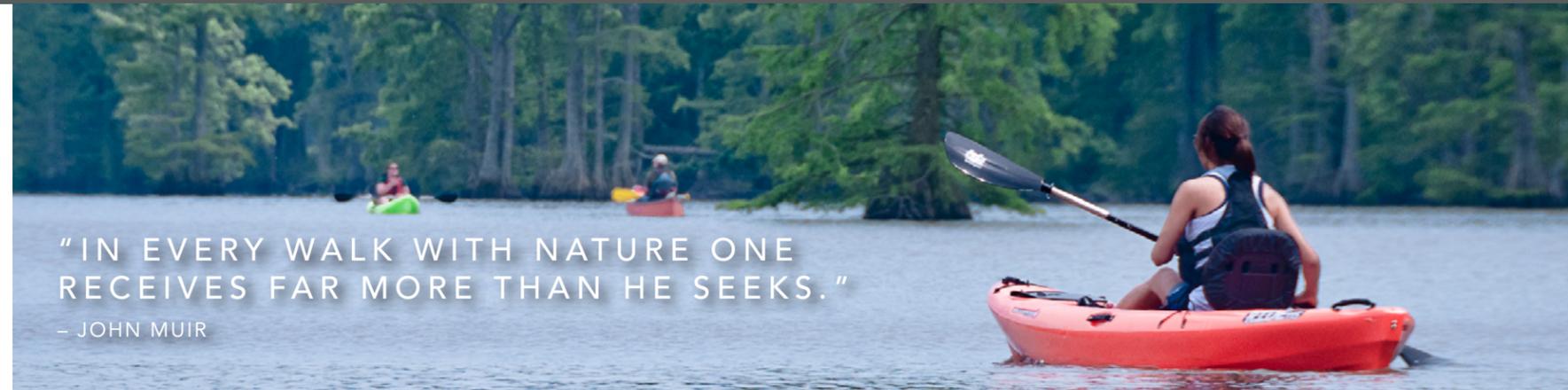
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green infrastructure mitigates the negative impacts of land development by providing flood protection, cleaner air, cleaner water, wildlife habitat and corridors, and cultural and recreational opportunities. Green infrastructure elements can be woven throughout a watershed, from smaller scale elements that can be integrated into development sites to larger scale elements that span entire neighborhoods. Parks and conservation lands are an important component of the overall green infrastructure network in both sensitive natural areas, in neighborhoods and within Strategic Growth Areas to mitigate the water quality and flooding impacts of urban storm water while providing cultural and recreational opportunities for residents.

ATHLETIC TOURISM

Tourism is a major industry in Virginia Beach and the Hampton Roads region. Our top tourist draw is the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay beachfront. In recent years, Virginia Beach has invested resources to expand the athletic tourism industry sector by actively marketing the city for large running events and sports tournaments. These events and tournaments can increase visitor stays outside the summer season, helping to transform Virginia Beach into a year-round resort destination. Parks & Recreation works with the Convention and Visitor Bureau Sports Marketing Office and private sector athletic venues and organizations to plan and execute several large events and athletic tournaments each year. Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village is the City's premier athletic event and tournament location. Most of the property within the Athletic Village is owned by the city and leased to private operators. The Department of Parks & Recreation is responsible for managing property leases and coordinating, operating and managing large events. There are more opportunities to develop new athletic facilities at Princess Anne Commons and to capitalize on the high demand in this tourism sector.

PRINCESS ANNE COMMONS SPORTS VENUE	OPERATOR
Virginia Beach Field House	Private
Virginia Beach Sportsplex	Private
Hampton Roads Soccer Complex	Private
Princess Anne Athletic Complex	City
US Field Hockey Complex	Private
YMCA/50 Meter Pool	Private



"IN EVERY WALK WITH NATURE ONE RECEIVES FAR MORE THAN HE SEEKS."

- JOHN MUIR

ECOLOGICAL TOURISM

There are vast opportunities to expand tourism experiences within our park system beyond athletics. Virginia Beach has a unique, natural environment and a mild climate that provides opportunity for year-round outdoor experiences. We are also fortunate to have two popular state parks and a pristine national wildlife refuge system within our city boundary. The Department of Parks & Recreation does partner with state and federal agencies to provide education and events related to nature tourism, but there is potential to do a lot more.

The City has committed significant resources to caring for and sustaining our environment. The farms, forests, waterways and the viewsheds they create are an important part of our culture and heritage. The Agricultural Reserve Program was established in 1995 to preserve and protect the agricultural industry and rich rural heritage of southern Virginia Beach. In 2001, the Open Space Program was established to acquire fee-simple property throughout the City for conservation and recreation. In addition, the City owns and operates the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in partnership with the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation. The mission of the Aquarium is to inspire conservation of the marine environment through education, research and sustainable practices. All of these efforts combined provide a solid foundation for sustaining our environmental assets well into the future.

The City of Virginia Beach is an ideal destination for nature tourism, better known as ecological tourism or eco-tourism. The variety of landscapes and natural habitats that are present throughout Virginia Beach are a great asset and provide an opportunity for authentic historical, cultural, recreational, environmental and economic activities. Partnering with the various land owners and land managers to attract eco-tourism entrepreneurs in and around conservation lands will enable the City to effectively develop economically viable compatible uses that have minimal physical impact on the environment. This would allow the preservation of land that continues to provide us with important ecosystem services, including clean water, climate resiliency, aesthetic value, cognitive effects, and recreational and tourism opportunities. Habitat biodiversity is essential to the areas providing the ecosystem services, and some of the most biodiverse areas in Virginia are located in Virginia Beach, primarily surrounding the North Landing River. This watershed is also home to a large concentration of rare species and rare and significant habitat communities. City Council recently adopted the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway Management Plan which identifies strategies to develop the North Landing River watershed into a regional eco-tourism destination.

4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING RECREATION BUILDINGS

PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Princess Anne Commons, Dam Neck/Landstown Road

A new 27,400 square foot building will be under construction in mid-2016. This building will accommodate 115 Parks & Recreation staff members now located in various offices around the city. The building is being designed with sustainable materials and methods under the criteria of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The project includes geo-thermal heating and cooling, rain gardens and bio-retention areas, outdoor spaces and bike parking. The new building will provide a central location to better serve our Parks & Recreation patrons. There will be meeting room spaces available for the Parks & Recreation Commission and other park planning committees, as well as space for public input meetings for a variety of topics.



PARKS & RECREATION CITY-WIDE OFFICE SITE

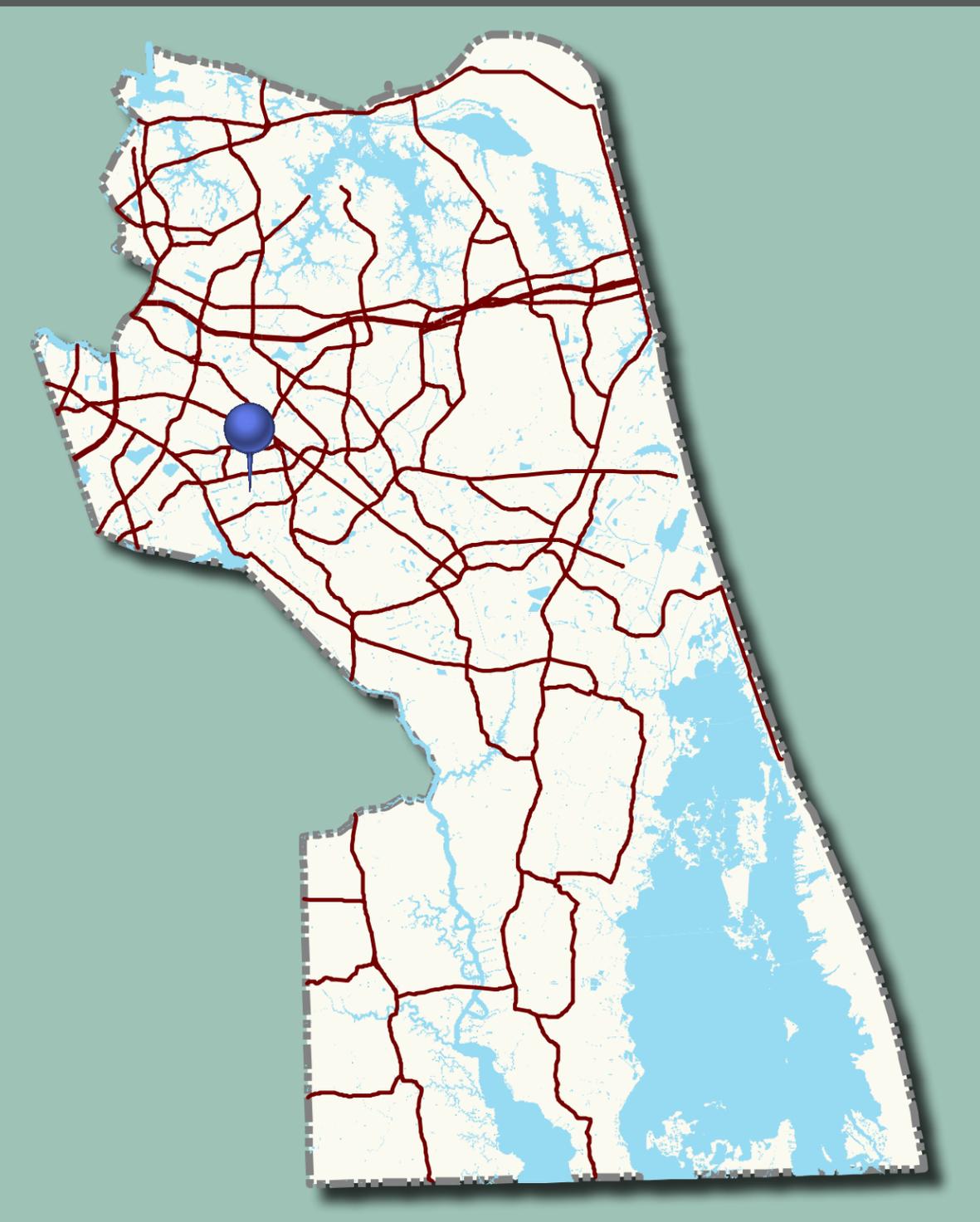
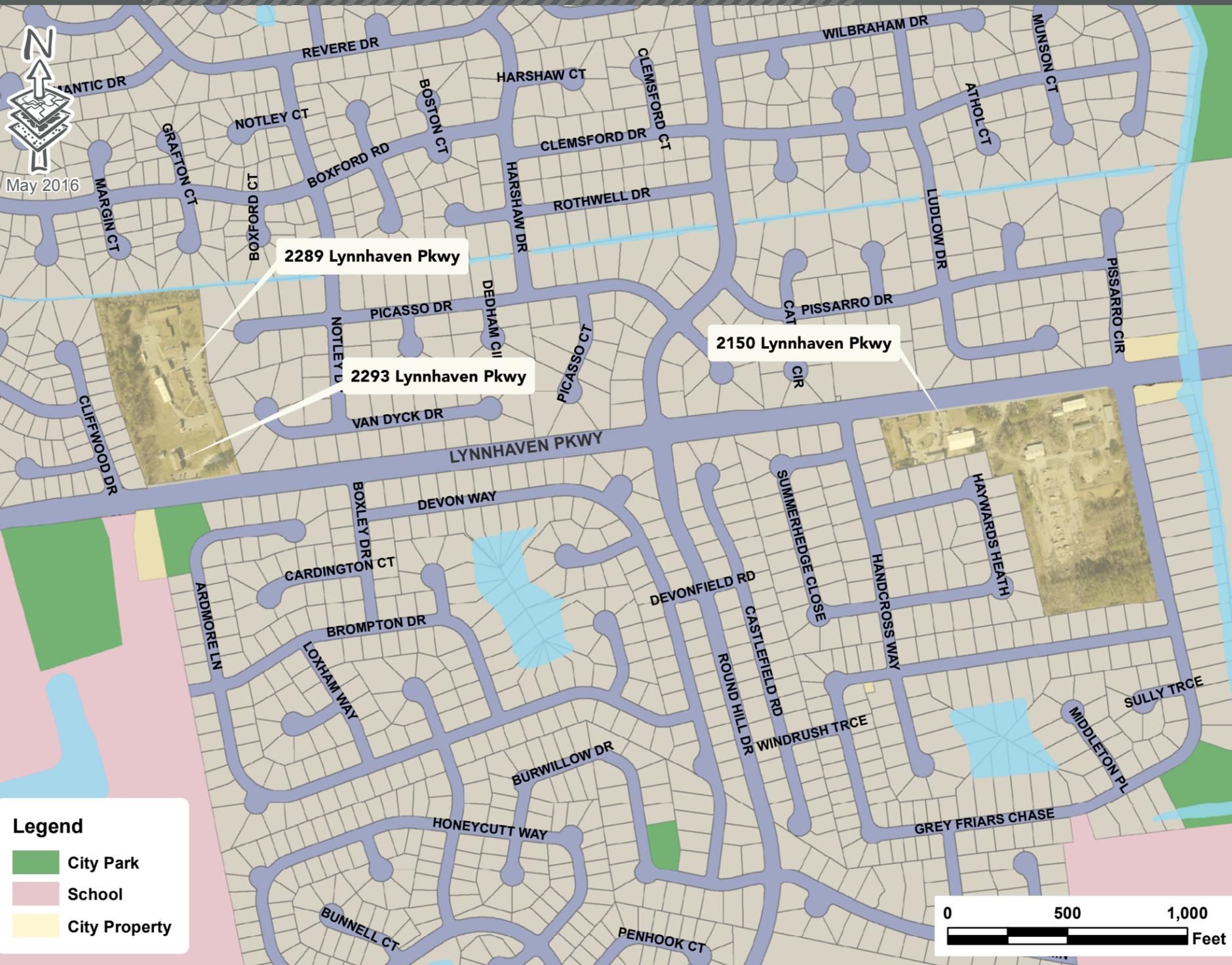
2289/2293 Lynnhaven Parkway

A large majority of Parks & Recreation administrative and program staff members are currently housed at the City-Wide Office located at 2289 Lynnhaven Parkway. A private group home also operates as a lessee on the property with an address of 2293 Lynnhaven Parkway. In late 2017, the Parks & Recreation Department will move into the new Parks & Recreation Administration Building at Princess Anne Commons. Once the City-Wide Office staff is relocated to the new building, the 7.5 acre property at 2289/2293 Lynnhaven Parkway will need to be re-purposed. The property at 2289/2293 Lynnhaven Parkway was acquired from the federal government in the 1960s. During the period of 1959-1965, while owned by the federal government, the property was used as a NIKE Hercules Missile storage facility. When the property was transferred to the City in 1966, a deed restriction was recorded with an encumbrance in favor of the National Park Service restricting use of this site to recreational purposes. In 2008, the City met with civic leaders in the surrounding communities to discuss the closure of the City-Wide Office and the ultimate disposition of the property. At that time, there was support from the neighborhood to sell the property to a developer to construct residential homes. In 2008, the City also began working with the federal government to transfer the National Park Service deed restriction to another park property so that the sale and re-use as residential property could occur. The transfer of the deed restriction has not been finalized. Additional dialogue with surrounding civic leaders is necessary today because almost a decade has passed since the original discussions were held. Opportunities for citizen involvement should be provided early in the process of final evaluation and disposition of the property. Options include sale of the property for residential infill with a small neighborhood park incorporated into the new development, converting the property in its entirety to park or athletic field use, or utilizing the property for a city purpose other than park. Funding for re-purposing this site is not included in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.



4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION
VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION
VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT MAINTENANCE YARDS

2150 Lynnhaven Parkway

This 12.5 acre property at 2150 Lynnhaven Parkway is currently occupied by the Life Cycle Management staff of the Landscape Management Division of the Parks & Recreation Department. This property was acquired from the federal government at the same time as the nearby property at 2289/2293 Lynnhaven Parkway and is covered with the same National Park Service deed restriction. There are concerns about traffic safety for vehicles entering/exiting this yard. The building conditions are poor and there is a lack of parking available. It has been determined that the Life Cycle Management staff should be relocated to the Landscape Management Office and Maintenance Facility at 4141 Dam Neck Road. In order to accomplish this relocation, an expansion to the current maintenance facility at 4141 Dam Neck Road is necessary. The project for the expansion to the Dam Neck maintenance facility is currently being evaluated for funding in FY21. Alternative uses for 2150 Lynnhaven Parkway were also discussed with civic leaders in 2008 and residential infill development was favored as an alternative use. On the present schedule of FY21 proposed funding, it will be over a decade since those original discussions were held. Additional dialogue with surrounding civic leaders is necessary and opportunities for citizen input should be provided early in the process of final evaluation and disposition for the property. Funding for re-purposing this site is not included in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

Resort Area and Euclid Yard

The Landscape Management Division operates from these two yards to maintain city and school properties. The Resort Area maintenance yard is located on 14th Street and is shared with Public Works. The Euclid yard is located at 100 Southgate Avenue and is shared with Public Works. Both of these sites are located within areas of the city that are transitioning from light industrial uses to commercial/residential. Relocating these two yards would help to facilitate economic development goals that have been established in the Comprehensive Plan for both the resort area and the area surrounding Southgate Avenue, which is within the Pembroke Strategic Growth Area. No funding is included in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22 for this project.

KEMPSVILLE RECREATION CENTER

800 Monmouth Lane

The replacement of the Kempsville Recreation Center building is under construction with a completion date of early 2017. The new 87,116 square foot facility will be the largest recreation center in our system, with expanded pool and fitness areas. Modest improvements to Lark Downs Park, adjacent to the center, will also be constructed as part of this project. Full funding for design and construction has been appropriated.

MODERNIZATION OF RECREATION CENTERS

The Bayside, Princess Anne and Great Neck Recreation Centers were all built in the early 1990s under the same prototype. These buildings are approaching 25 years of age, and major capital investment in the modernization of these centers is necessary to prolong their useful life. In addition, the buildings must evolve to serve the current needs of our customers. Seatack Recreation Center was constructed in 1997 and will also need improvements. Expanding and modernizing this recreation center on the current site will require a lot of study and creative solutions given the extent of restrictions on the property associated with wetlands, floodplains and limitations associated with nearby NAS Oceana air space. With these large capital outlays for our existing recreation centers on the horizon, our focus must be to fully assess the modernization needs of each of these centers, to develop a phased funding plan and then to secure adequate funding in order to program improvements for construction.



4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM



IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARK PROPERTIES

SIGNATURE PARKS

LITTLE ISLAND PARK City's premier beachfront park located at 3820 Sandpiper Road in the Sandbridge section of the City. The park houses a fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic areas, surfing area, tennis courts, restroom/shower facilities and parking along a pristine stretch of Atlantic Ocean beach. A separate soft canoe/kayak launch and trail area fronting on Back Bay is located across Sandpiper Road from the beachfront site. Special events are held at the park during the summer season. In calendar year 2015, the park served 410,268 visitors.

Year Established 1966

Acreage 123 Acres

Master Plan Yes

- Future Projects**
Not programmed for funding in the current FY17 - FY22 Capital Improvement Program
- Update Master Plan
 - Expand Parking
 - Add New Bath House
 - Renovate Existing Asphalt Parking Lot
 - Improve Kayak Access
 - Historic Lifeguard Station Site – Acquisition from State

Existing City Infrastructure Sand stockpile area for Public Works

MOUNT TRASHMORE PARK City's premier park centrally located at 310 Edwin Drive, south of I-264. The park houses the largest playground in the City, a skate park with multiple skill areas, vertical skate ramp, walking trail with exercise stations, large shelters for group gatherings and several other amenities. Special events are held at the park year-round. In calendar year 2015, the park served 769,586 visitors.

Year Established 1974

Acreage 165 Acres

Master Plan Yes

Future Projects
Funding for the Playground Expansion and I-264 Pedestrian Crossover is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22

WELCOME CENTER AND PERMANENT EVENT STAGE Funding for design and construction is programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY 17-FY22

PLAYGROUND EXPANSION to include additional parking and restrooms

I-264 PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER AND CONNECTION TO THALIA CREEK GREENWAY This project is important to developing the vision established for the Pembroke Strategic Growth Area. This pathway is strictly a pedestrian/bike improvement and should not be viewed as competing with more main-stream transportation projects, even though it crosses I-264 and inclusion in the Virginia Department of Transportation Regional Plan for Hampton Roads is imperative. Alternative sources to traditional road funding should be explored.

Existing City Infrastructure Lake Trashmore and Lake Windsor are regional stormwater BMPs

4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

PRINCESS ANNE COMMONS ATHLETIC VILLAGE This property is part of an area owned by the City known as Princess Anne Commons. Within Princess Anne Commons there are distinct villages for learning, commerce, bio-medical facilities and athletics. The Athletic Village area boundary is shown on the map on the following page. The Athletic Village is managed by Parks & Recreation and it includes several tournament quality athletic venues such as the Sportsplex Stadium, US Field Hockey Complex and Princess Anne Athletic Complex (PAAC). Several local, regional and national tournaments are held here each year. In addition, large running events have become popular. In FY15, the Princess Anne Athletic Complex hosted 5,738 games with a total attendance of 383,704. Sites are available within the Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village to continue to develop venues for national and regional sports competitions.

Year Established 1990

Acreage 853 acres

Master Plan Yes, the site is part of an active master plan. All development within Princess Anne Commons is coordinated through an inter-departmental task force managed by the Planning Department.

Future Projects **PAAC FIELD EXPANSION** A project to construct one new synthetic turf rectangular playing field, renovate three existing fields with new synthetic turf and provide new lighting and parking will begin construction in the summer of 2016. Design and construction is funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22

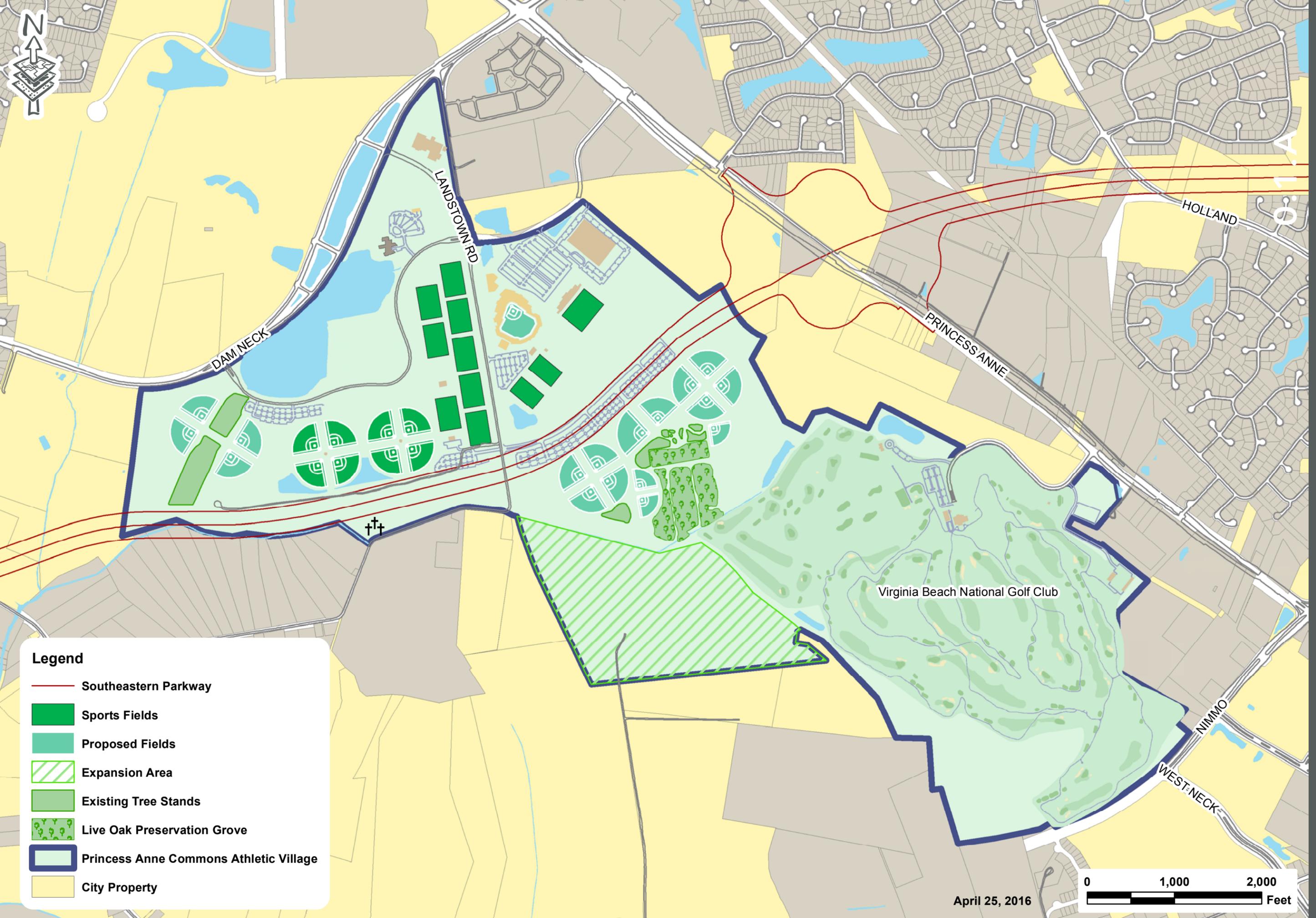
BASEBALL COMPLEX AND STADIUM In February 2014, City Council voted to lease 130 acres of property south of the US Field Hockey Complex to a private organization known as Virginia Beach Professional Baseball (VBPB). VBPB has proposed to build a diamond field complex, new parking and a stadium on the property. In addition to these new improvements, VBPB has agreed to construct an additional four fields at the west end of the PAAC complex. This project will increase the number of diamond fields at Princess Anne Commons from eight to 25. Funding for design, construction and operation of the fields and stadium is the responsibility of VBPB.

LIVE OAK GROVE PRESERVATION AREA Within the area designated for lease to VBPB, there is a 5-10 acre forest of mature live oak trees, planted as part of a large nursery that occupied the site prior to City purchase in the 1990s. This picturesque grove will be a wonderful complement to the proposed VBPB Baseball Complex or any other future use of the property surrounding it. The tree preservation area has been identified on the master plan for Princess Anne Commons so that any future development can take advantage of this irreplaceable scenic resource.

ATHLETIC VILLAGE EXPANSION AREA Additional land has been acquired by the City south of Princess Anne Commons. Eighty-seven acres of this property, known as the Brown Farm, is identified as a potential expansion area for the Athletic Village to provide space for future sports venues, such as a Collegiate Track and Field/Cross Country complex. This expansion area can support the goals established to increase athletic tourism as an economic driver. Design and construction funding for future facilities in this area is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

- Existing City Infrastructure**
- Open field areas within Princess Anne Commons can and have served as hurricane debris sites when necessary
 - The Virginia Beach Field House located at 2120 Landstown Centre Way is designated as a medical friendly shelter.





Legend

-  Southeastern Parkway
-  Sports Fields
-  Proposed Fields
-  Expansion Area
-  Existing Tree Stands
-  Live Oak Preservation Grove
-  Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village
-  City Property

Virginia Beach National Golf Club

DAM NECK

LANDSTOWN RD

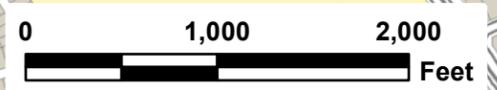
PRINCESS ANNE

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WEST NECK

April 25, 2016



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METRO, COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

CAROLANNE FARMS PARK This 22-acre park is located at 375 Gainsborough Drive. There is a lake on the site, frequently referred to as Turtle Lake, that serves as a stormwater management facility for a large portion of the surrounding neighborhood. Public Works and Parks & Recreation staff are collaborating on a project that will improve the lake water quality. As part of this project, a replacement of the canoe launch and dock area are planned. The canoe launch/dock will be made ADA accessible. The project's objective is to accomplish the required work on the lake and dock with minimal disturbance to the existing mature wooded forest on the site. Design and construction of this kayak launch is partially funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

KEMPSVILLE PARK This park is located at 832 Lobaugh Lane and is adjacent to the Kempsville Library and the Police 4th Precinct Station. The Police 4th Precinct Station is funded for replacement and a portion of the park site will be utilized for the new building. Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Public Works and Police to design a new smaller park space that will remain available for public use at the completion of the project.

LAKE EDWARD PARK This 4.8-acre park is located at 704 Hampshire Lane. The property is developed with basketball courts and picnic shelters and is heavily used for recreation by the surrounding high density neighborhoods. In 2015, City Council entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the African American Cultural Center Inc. (AACC), a non-profit organization, to convey the property to the AACC for the construction and development of an African American Cultural Center Building under certain conditions. The AACC will bear all costs associated with design, development, construction, operation and maintenance of the Cultural Center, which will consist of a 10,000 to 25,000 sq. ft. building, including a rotunda hall and multipurpose classrooms. The City will retain and maintain a public easement over the property, excluding any buildings and improvements owned by AACC, for the use and enjoyment of the general public. In accordance with the MOU, the AACC building must be under construction by 2019. The Department of Parks & Recreation will coordinate closely with the Planning Department as site plans and building plans are reviewed in order to ensure that the recreational use of the property is within the limits of the public use easement, and that the recreational use will be substantially the same and that it will complement the new community building. City funding required for this project will be minimal.

LAKE LAWSON/LAKE SMITH NATURAL AREA Phase 2 This 42.4 acre natural area is located at 5381 Shell Road. A master plan for the site was completed in 2010, recommending improvements to the park be constructed in two phases. Phase one of park improvements was completed in 2015. Funding for design and construction of phase two is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

LYNNHAVEN BOAT AND BEACH FACILITY This 16.2 acre facility is located at 3576 Piedmont Circle. The park hosts a motor boat launch area, a soft kayak launch, office/restrooms and boat trailer parking as well as a boardwalk path that connects to the beach under the west end of the Lesner Bridge and parking for beach-goers. The sandy shoreline area on this site is popular for fishing and crabbing. The Lesner Bridge replacement project is underway and the park is currently being utilized as the staging area for this project. The boat launch remains open during construction but the beach access and shoreline area are closed. In coordination with Public Works, the park will need to be assessed in terms of future renovations that may be necessary once the bridge project is complete in 2018.

LYNNHAVEN MUNICIPAL MARINA Constructed in 1966, this 2.48 acre site includes a 1,625 square foot marina office building, 50 boat slips and 85 parking spaces. Police, Fire and EMS Marine patrol units store boats at the site and have utilized the office space in the past. A recent failure of a portion of the bulkhead and the damage to the small office/restroom has highlighted the aging condition of the marina infrastructure on this site. Repairing the failed bulkhead and replacing the office structure will be costly but are necessary for this popular and well used marina to remain in service to support police and fire needs as well as recreational boaters. A 1981 agreement between the City and the United States of America (US Army Corps of Engineers) requires that this marina remain open for public use as part of the non-federal cooperation specified in the federal project authority for the dredging of the Lynnhaven Inlet, Bay and connecting waters. Funding for major repair or renovation of this site is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

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VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



MARSHVIEW PARK Acquired from the U.S. Navy in 2010, this 98-acre park is located on Marshview Drive near the Oceanfront. The property was and is subject to a deed restriction limiting the size and types of recreational uses on the site. During 2012-2013, Parks & Recreation staff members conducted an extensive neighborhood outreach campaign to develop a master plan for this park. The first phase of improvements to the park is under design, with construction anticipated later this year. Design and construction funding for future phases is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS There is a capital improvement project that receives annual funding for neighborhood parks city-wide. Our 179 Neighborhood Parks are on a 20-25 year renovation cycle, with 5-6 parks completely renovated each year. Continued funding for this program is crucial to be able to provide our citizens safe and fun parks close to home. Funding for design and construction of neighborhood parks is programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

NORTH LANDING PARK Located at 2865 Indian River Road, this 792-acre park property was acquired in 2011 through combined funding from the Open Space Program and the Inter-Facility Traffic Area Acquisition Program. The property is therefore subject to a restrictive easement in favor of the U.S. Navy. The restrictive easement does allow for a variety of recreational uses on the property. The property contains a mile of shoreline along the North Landing River, where there are large

swaths of tidal and non-tidal wetlands. There is a working farm on the property that is leased to a local farmer for cultivation and harvesting. The property also contains heavily forested areas. This site is considered an important component of the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway system. Future planning on the site should prioritize recreational uses that promote eco-tourism. Some of these uses could include adventure ropes course, cross country trails, horse trails, wildlife observation areas, event spaces, birding towers, kayak launch points, picnic areas, camping and fishing. Earlier planning concepts for the site included lighted ballfield complexes, which can also be compatible with eco-tourism if new ballfields are constructed in the area that is currently farmed. Developing a master plan for this site with input from a large group of diverse stakeholders is essential to harnessing the potential of this valuable parkland and creating the right mix of recreational uses for residents and visitors alike. Funding for master plan development, design and construction is not programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

OWL CREEK BOAT RAMP This very popular ramp is located off General Booth Boulevard next to the Virginia Aquarium. The area has three ramps plus parking for both trailers and cars. Overflow parking for the boat ramp is located on Camp Pendleton property on the east side of General Booth Boulevard. Over the past few years there have been an increasing number of kayakers and paddle boarders using this facility for group classes and individual outings. The mixing of motor boats with these smaller self-propelled crafts is not conducive to efficient

operation of the site. Frequent users of the facility, both motor boaters and kayakers, have asked the Department to study the site layout to determine if a separate kayak/paddleboard launching area, away from the motor boat ramps, could be developed. Users of the Owl Creek facility should be engaged to review any alternatives that are developed for a separate launching area and provide feedback. No funding for this project is programmed in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY 17-FY22.

OWL CREEK TENNIS CENTER This 12.4-acre park is located at 928 South Birdneck Road, just south of the Virginia Aquarium. In November 2011, a master plan for the Owl Creek watershed surrounding the aquarium was completed and adopted as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Owl Creek Tennis Center was part of the master plan study area. The Virginia Aquarium and Owl Creek Area Master Plan Report envisions redevelopment of the Owl Creek Tennis Center into a retail entertainment and education village that will attract tourists and complement the Aquarium.

The Owl Creek Tennis Center is currently leased to a third-party operator. Long-term, the Tennis Center will need to be demolished if the vision of the Aquarium master plan is to be realized. Alternatives for the Tennis Center, including potential re-location or elimination of the facility, must be studied in a comprehensive manner. A feasibility study of alternatives for the Owl Creek Tennis Center is not funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY 17-FY22.

PARK SITES LEASED TO ATHLETIC LEAGUES There are many park sites within our system that are leased to athletic leagues/associations. The majority of the improvements on these sites were funded and constructed by the individual leagues/associations in accordance with a formal lease agreement between the organization and Parks & Recreation. Some of these leases have been in place for over 20 years, and the improvements on many of these sites are nearing the end of their useful life. These facilities range from poor to good condition. The lease agreements outline that capital and operational maintenance responsibilities are placed with the athletic organization, but there are some outstanding safety concerns as well as concerns with accessibility for patrons with disabilities that can no longer be funded solely by the volunteer-run community athletic groups. Some of the sites have inadequate parking and/or utilities to support the number of existing fields. A renovation strategy over multiple park sites is necessary to support the established sports community as well as the general users of these park sites. Cost sharing with the athletic organizations for renovations will be part of the strategy, since these sites are principally dedicated to this single use. Additional funding will be necessary in the future to phase in these improvements over multiple park sites.

PLAZA PARK (NORTHGATE) Located at 3332 Northgate Drive, this 30-acre park is surrounded by a large residential area known as Princess Anne Plaza. The park was established in 1966. A large area of the park is devoted to a youth baseball complex that is leased to and maintained by the Plaza Little League organization. Parking and playground/picnic areas are also provided. The baseball complex covers 20 acres of the park. The remaining 10 acres is wooded and is not well utilized. It is recommended that a concerted comprehensive condition assessment and planning effort be conducted for this facility. The baseball complex should be renovated to current standards and the wooded area should be evaluated for the potential of establishing a more active use that would benefit the neighborhood. Some options may be to develop a more robust trail system, perhaps with a skate spot pathway or a 9-hole disc golf course. Another option may be to consolidate all parking on the southern end of the park, move the existing

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“ Most of the popular forms of outdoor recreation are either dependent on resource lands and waters or enhanced by their proximity to them. ”

- 2013 VIRGINIA OUTDOOR PLAN, PAGE 5.5



playground closer to the baseball complex and convert the area on the north side of the park that now houses parking and the playground to rectangular multi-use field space. Neighborhood residents should participate in the evaluation of options.

There is a perimeter ditch along the north edge of this park that is a major drainage way for the surrounding neighborhood. Public Works is planning future improvements to the perimeter ditch to alleviate area flooding. Any park improvements should be coordinated with this work.

Planning, design and construction for park improvements is not funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

PLEASURE HOUSE POINT NATURAL AREA Acquired in 2012 through a partnership with the City, neighborhood residents and civic groups, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Trust for Public Land, this 118-acre park is located at 3957 Marlin Bay Drive in the Bayfront area of the City. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has established the Brock Environmental Center on 10 acres adjoining this site and shares public parking and trail amenities with the park. This park site is well loved and well used by residents and visitors from all parts of the City. The park is managed as a natural area with the main feature being a network of natural surface trails throughout the site. A master plan to guide future park development on this site was developed with extensive citizen input. A habitat management plan was also developed to guide development and use on the site. A kayak launch on the property is currently in design as part of a project managed by Public Works that includes the establishment of a wetland mitigation bank on the property. Funding for the design and construction of the kayak launch is included in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

PUNGO FERRY LANDING PARK Located at 2272 Old Pungo Ferry Road, this 22-acre property has water frontage on the North Landing River Intra-Coastal Waterway Route. The property contains a beachfront, a marina, a boat ramp and parking lot that are in disrepair. A project to renovate the boat ramp and parking area is underway with anticipated opening for public use in the summer of 2016. The beachfront area will also be made accessible for wading, fishing and kayaking. The marina area will be closed to boaters for the foreseeable future. In the past, this site served as a major stop-over for boaters using the Intra-Coastal Waterway Route as well as local boaters and beachgoers. The potential to develop this site with a working marina and other accessory uses that promote eco-tourism is huge. This site is considered an important component of the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway system. There is no funding available for improvements beyond the boat ramp and parking area in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

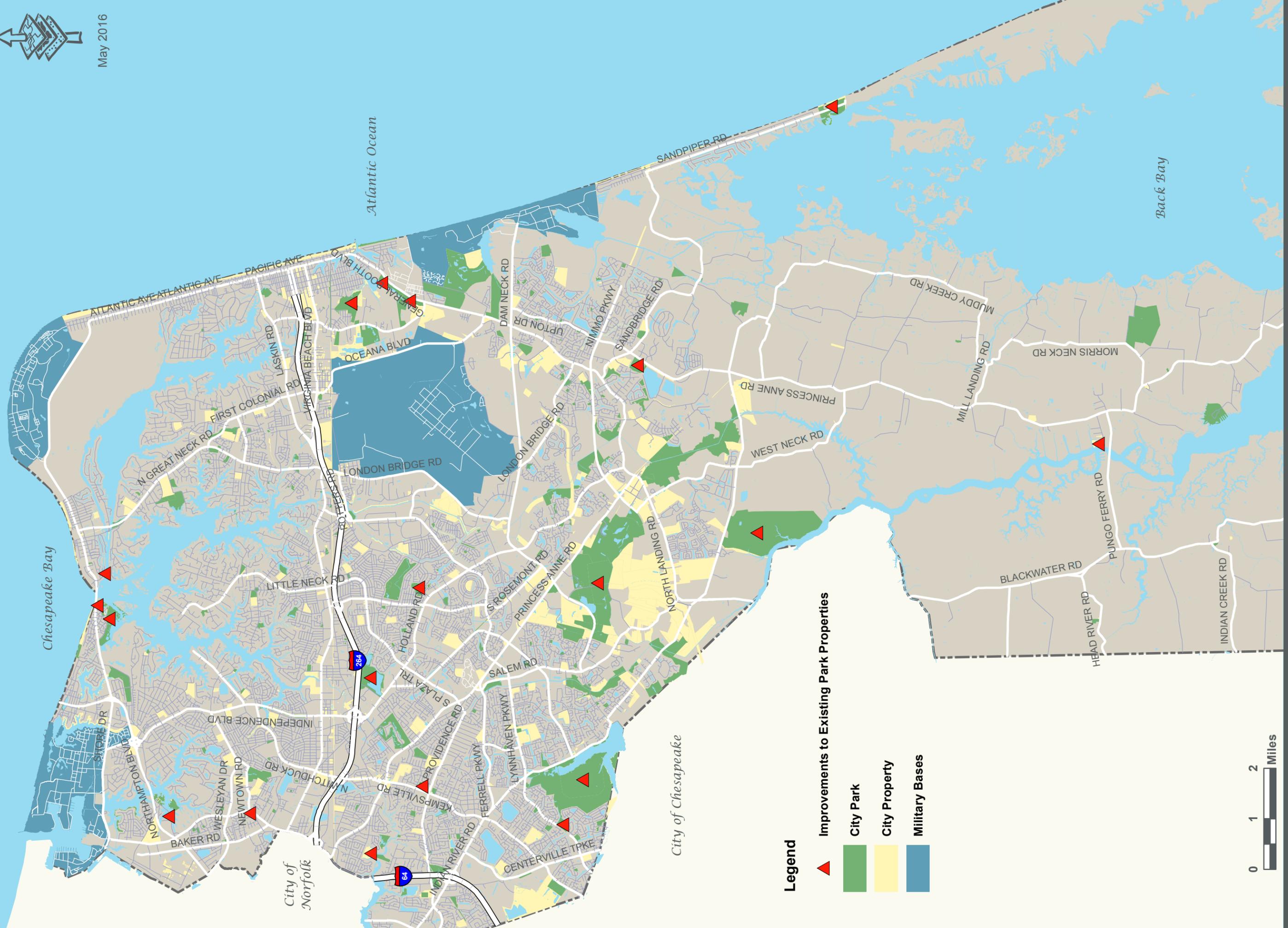
STUMPY LAKE NATURAL AREA A master plan for this 1,000+ acre natural area located off Indian River Road was completed in 2005 and is truly a jewel within our park system. Several incremental access improvements have been completed since then. Continuing to invest in additional access improvements, including trail connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and more boardwalk areas along the lake edge, will amplify the significance of this highly valuable environmental resource and will provide more opportunities for Virginia Beach residents and visitors to discover the natural heritage of our region. This site is considered an important component of the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway system. There is no funding programmed for additional improvements at Stumpy Lake in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

THREE OAKS PARK Acquired in 2003, this 36-acre park is located near the intersection of Princess Anne Road and Sandbridge Road. Early planning concepts for the site included a lighted baseball/softball complex with associated parking and concessions as well as a skate park. The area surrounding this site has seen dramatic change since 2003. Rectangular fields may also be an appropriate amenity. Additional study and neighborhood outreach should be conducted to determine the right mix of amenities that need to be planned and funded on this future park site. Planning, design and construction of this park is not funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.

WOODBIDGE PARK This 24-acre park is located off Lynnhaven Parkway near Beaufain Boulevard and is currently undeveloped open space. The area is heavily wooded and contains some wetlands. Design of the new park will begin in the latter half of 2016. The neighborhood residents are eager to be part of the design process and should be consulted as stakeholders as soon as design begins. The design for this site will include preservation of important forested areas on the site. There is a lot of interest in building facilities that cater to teens, as well as support for developing a trail system in the vicinity of the Dominion Power easement that traverses the rear of the site. This trail system can potentially connect to Stumpy Lake Natural Area. Design and construction of this park is partially funded in the current Capital Improvement Program for FY17-FY22.



May 2016



Legend

-  Improvements to Existing Park Properties
-  City Park
-  City Property
-  Military Bases



VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN
CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT SITES

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FUTURE PARK AMENITY NEEDS

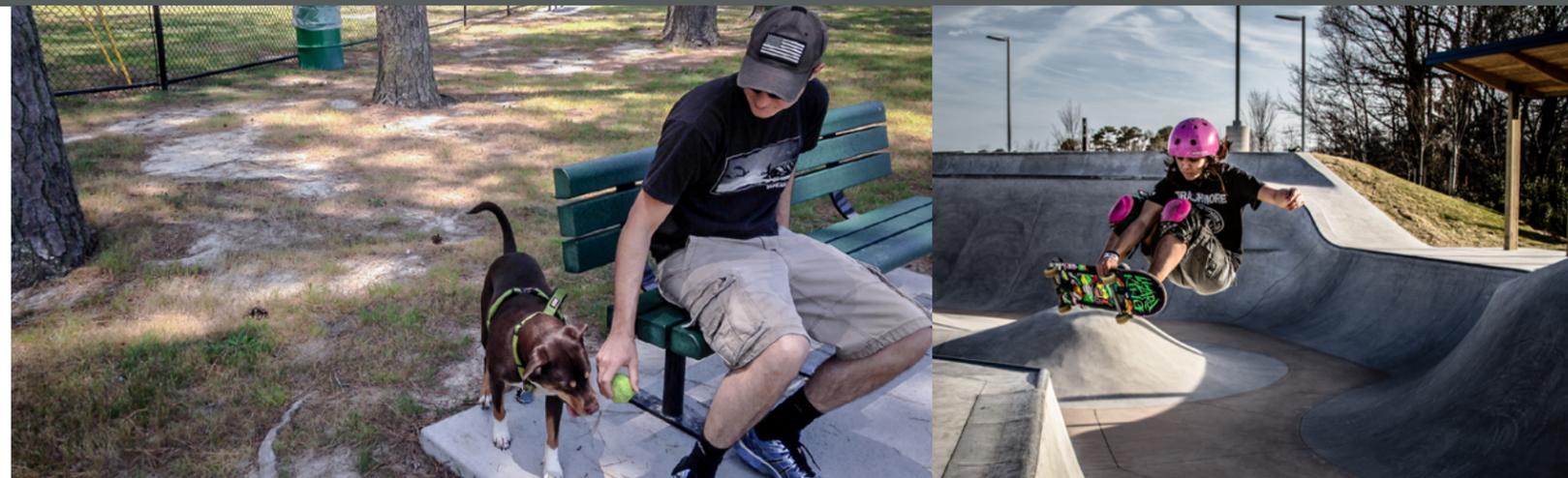
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN

In 2014, new CAPRA accreditation standards were adopted by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Each community seeking accreditation is required to develop and adopt a phased plan for removal of barriers at existing recreation facilities, parks and amenities owned or operated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Our Department keeps informed of current federal regulations and has been implementing ADA improvements at park sites and buildings on a per project basis for a number of years without a formal written plan. The development of a plan to meet this new CAPRA standard is underway as of May 2016. A project manager with the Planning, Design and Development Division will be the lead for the ADA Transition Plan. The Parks & Recreation Commission, in consultation with the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, will be the approving authority for the ADA Transition Plan. When completed, the ADA Transition Plan will be added to the on-line Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village has land available for the development of future athletic facilities and venues at a scale capable of accommodating state and regional competitive events. This scale of development is most often accomplished through a public/private partnership. The City has been successful with partnership agreements to build and operate the Virginia Beach Field House and to operate the Sportsplex and US Field Hockey Complex. There are additional areas reserved in the Athletic Village for construction of new rectangular fields as well as the diamond field complex and stadium proposed by Virginia Beach Professional Baseball. The City has demonstrated the willingness to work with the private sector to establish these regional facilities within Princess Anne Commons and will continue to keep the community engaged when new opportunities arise in this area.

Outside of the Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village, additional rectangular multi-purpose fields for local community use are the primary need. This is based on the Department's direct sports programming need and the needs of our existing community athletic associations and leagues. Creating new multi-purpose fields with associated parking should be included as an option to be studied when master planning or renovating any existing large park property. Synthetic turf should be considered for new or renovated fields to extend playability. Lighting more existing diamond and rectangular fields can also help extend the hours of availability for practice during the spring and fall sports seasons. Factors such as proximity to homes, existing available parking and other primary uses of the park space must all be evaluated when an investment in new or renovated fields, synthetic turf or new lighting is considered. Proposals for opportunities to develop new multi-field complexes for new start-up leagues through public/private partnerships are considered as separate initiatives, secondary to building new fields that will address the needs of our existing community athletic associations and leagues.



DOG PARKS

A Dog Park is generally defined as a fenced, off-leash area for dogs with natural ground cover. Dog Parks are becoming increasingly popular across the country. So much so that in 2015, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) added Dog Parks as a level of service measure to their annual benchmarking report card known as PARKSCORE. In the 2008 Outdoors Plan, we recognized this trend and set a level of service goal for one Dog Park per 50,000 residents. During the public outreach phase of the 2016 Outdoors Plan update, citizen feedback indicated that the desire for this type of park is still strong. With the City's current population at 450,980 residents, we should strive to provide at least nine Dog Parks throughout the City to meet the need. We currently operate three Dog Parks at Red Wing Park, Bayville Park and Woodstock Park with a fourth in design at Marshview Park. Planning for additional Dog Parks in the future should be done in a comprehensive manner so that the locations are optimized for residents. There should be one or more additional Dog Parks planned within walking distance of higher density residential areas such as the Pembroke and Newtown Strategic Growth Areas and the Resort Area. As the number of these facilities grows, operational policies and procedures regarding Dog Parks should be reviewed and new technologies applied to increase efficiency and decrease overhead costs related to operating and managing these special facilities.

PATHWAYS FOR PLAY

Walking for pleasure is one of the highest ranked outdoor activities based on the 2011 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey conducted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Infusing play elements into pathway networks encourages active lifestyles for children, families, and communities. Integrating small play nodes along a shared use path network provides opportunities for learning and adventure along the way. Play nodes can follow an artistic or educational theme or they can simply be a reflection of the natural environment along a trail. Outdoor exercise equipment can also be included as a trail amenity. Future planning for trails within parks should take these concepts into consideration.

SKATE PARKS AND SKATE SPOTS

A Skate Park is a purpose-built recreational environment made for skateboarding, BMX, and aggressive inline skating. Currently, we operate three large outdoor Skate Parks at Mount Trashmore, Woodstock Park and Williams Farm Park. The goal set in 2008 was one Skate Park per 50,000 residents, which translates to nine Skate Parks based on our current population. Similar to Dog Parks, citizen feedback in 2014 and 2015 revealed strong interest in expanding this use to more parks. Skate Parks are one of our most popular and well-used amenities but they

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are also one of the highest cost amenities to construct, operate and maintain within a park. In recent years, smaller Skate Spots have been popping up all over the country. Skate Spots are smaller in scope and are usually unmanned. A Skate Spot can contain a single ramp or edge bar or can be a combination of two or three different elements. The Skate Spot is designed for a maximum of two to three users at a time. Skate Spots are often placed along park paths. Integrating Skate Spots into neighborhood and community parks is a viable alternative to building traditional Skate Parks and is more cost effective and sustainable.

TREE PLANTINGS AND MEADOW MANAGEMENT

In 2014, the Department of Parks & Recreation published the first Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Virginia Beach. Our current tree canopy cover sits at 38% of total land area. The 3.2 million trees existing in the city in 2015 contribute over \$263 million in annual savings and benefits for our citizens. The Urban Forest Management Plan established a goal to increase canopy coverage city-wide to 45% by 2035. Identifying park properties that can be reforested or planted with shade trees is an important part of the strategy to reach this goal. Meadow management along shorelines, which limits mowing to semi-annual cycles, has been successful in combination with tree planting in many of our parks over the past few years. Converting more site acreage to tree plantings and meadow management will help improve water quality and reduce maintenance costs over time.



"Healthy, vegetated stream buffers reduce total suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrogen and heavy metal transfer between urban areas and streams by 55%."

- CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN, PAGE 8



"Open space, parklands and waterways are beneficial to neighborhoods as they greatly enhance quality of life and are the keys to the city's character and unique identity within the region." - VIRGINIA BEACH SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, PAGE 134

FUTURE PARKLAND ACQUISITION

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) works with communities to ensure that everyone has parks, gardens, playgrounds, trails and other natural places within a ten-minute walk from home. The Department of Parks & Recreation staff uses the guidance developed by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to ensure that we are providing equitable access to parkland and programming for all of our citizens. In May 2016, TPL published the 2016 PARKSCORE report, comparing the park systems of the most populous 100 cities in the United States. Virginia Beach has participated in this benchmark study for a number of years. The three areas all park systems are evaluated on are Park Acreage, Park Access and Investment and Amenities. In comparing Virginia Beach scores with the national median scores reported in each category, our largest deficit is in the category of Access, which measures the percent of residents within ½ mile of a park. The national median Access score is 67.7% while Virginia Beach Access score is 58%.

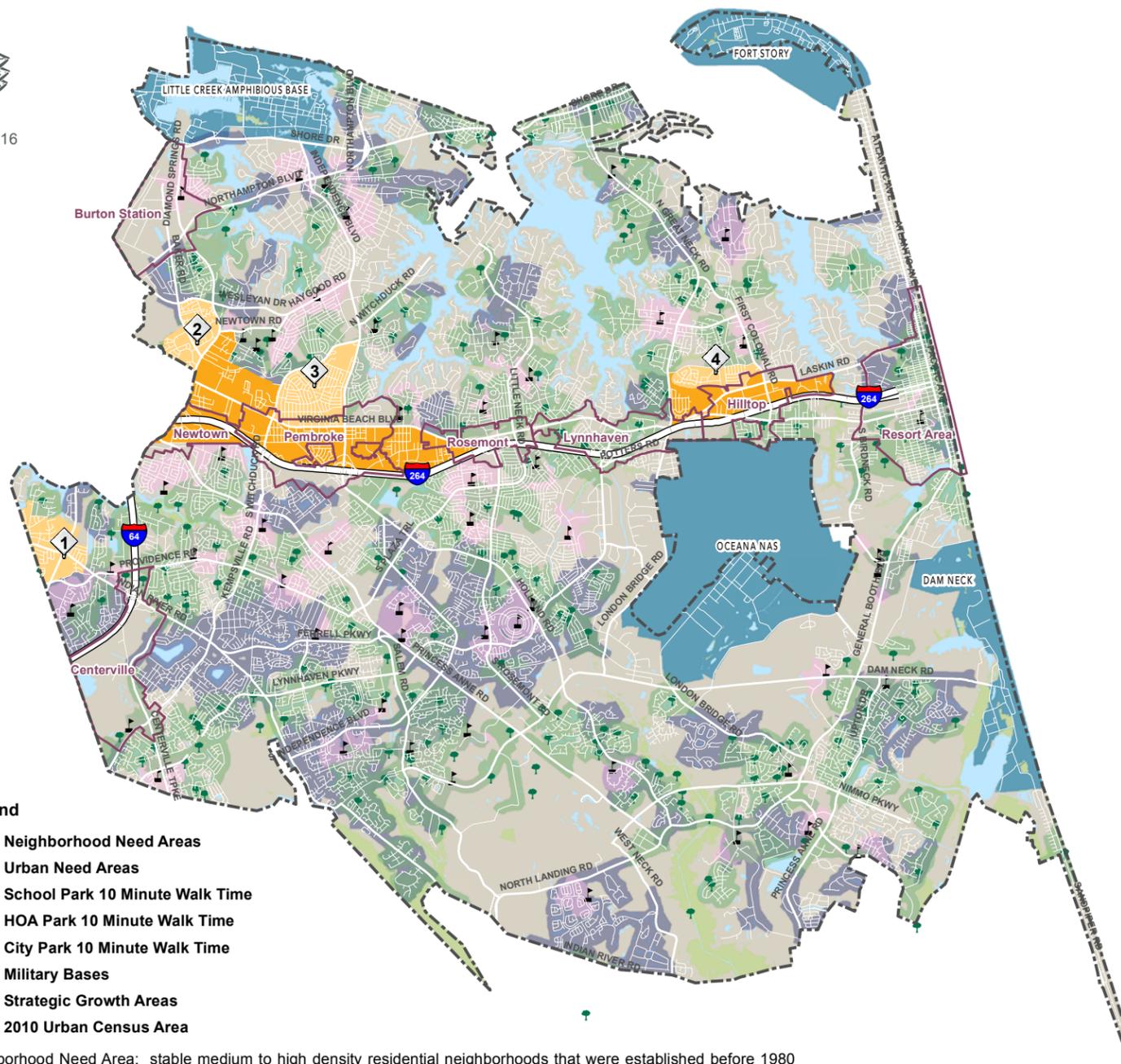
Park spaces within a half-mile of home are considered to be within a ten minute walk time. All existing city parkland has been mapped and analyzed to determine need areas based on population density and distance to park from residence. Our goal is to increase the number of parks within a ten minute walk time in areas of the City that house the most residents. By 2040, we are striving to increase the percentage of residents that have access to parks within a half-mile of home from the current 58% to 63%. In order to meet this goal, there are four focus areas for future parkland acquisition: Strategic Growth Areas, Water Access, Athletic Fields and Neighborhood Parks. These four focus areas are discussed in detail below. Progress toward this goal will be included in the Parks & Recreation Department Annual Report. The 2016 PARKSCORE report is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

The map on the following page shows the major need areas that emerge based on our current distribution of city park spaces correlated with the population density distribution. Many of the neighborhoods in these need areas were originally developed without established park spaces. The need areas identified through our analysis are described as either an Urban Need Area or a Neighborhood Need Area.

URBAN NEED AREA Areas of the city that contain a mix of uses and housing types where the average ratio of parks to people is only 1/2 acre (21,780 sf) per 1,000 residents. There are approximately 28,000 residents currently living in the identified Urban Need Areas. These areas also correlate with the Strategic Growth Areas of Newtown, Pembroke, Rosemont and Hilltop where future residential growth is being directed.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEED AREA Stable medium to high density residential neighborhoods that were established before 1980 without park spaces. These neighborhoods are in need of small parks that are within a walkable distance from homes that can provide a fun, safe outdoor recreational experience that will nourish and sustain the community's spirit and that can help to attract new residents.

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Neighborhood Need Area: stable medium to high density residential neighborhoods that were established before 1980 without park spaces. These neighborhoods are in need of small parks that are within a walkable distance from homes.

Urban Need Area: areas of the city that contain a mix of uses and housing types where the average ratio of parks to people is only .5 acres (21,780 sq. ft.) per 1,000 residents. There are approximately 28,000 residents currently living in the identified Urban Need Areas.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS

There are eight (8) Strategic Growth Areas (SGA) identified by the Comprehensive Plan as areas where half of all future population growth within the City will be directed over the next several decades. A specific area plan for each SGA has been adopted by City Council to guide future growth and redevelopment. New parks and open spaces are recommended as essential infrastructure components in each of these plans.

Acquisition and development of new public parkland within SGAs must be deliberate. This will require new collaborative strategies between City departments and schools as well as new partnerships with the private sector. Developing an interdisciplinary strategy to acquire new park land early on in the SGA implementation process will help ensure cost-effective opportunities are not lost before they are fully considered. Outside of the Resort SGA, the Burton Station, Newtown and Pembroke SGAs are the most likely to see redevelopment within the next 10 years.

The **Burton Station SGA Plan** was originally adopted in 2009. Recent land use changes on property owned by the City of Norfolk adjacent to this area require that the original SGA plan be revised. In addition, this SGA is not located in an Urban Need Area for parkland. Therefore, no specific recommendations regarding park opportunity areas have been developed for the Burton Station SGA. In general, the future SGA Plan revision for Burton Station should take into account the valuable urban forest resources located within the area. This area is currently made up of large lots, many of which are undeveloped. Small pockets of healthy, mature urban forest dot the area, and preservation of these forest lands should be part of any new open space vision for the Burton Station SGA.

The **Newtown and Pembroke SGA Plans** envision the City developing a transit system following the former Norfolk/Southern rail corridor (also referred to as the Transit Corridor) that will link Town Center in Pembroke west to the Newtown Light Rail Station in Norfolk. The new transit system will help to spur more urban style development and increase residential density in both the Newtown and Pembroke SGAs. Future parks and open spaces developed in and around the Newtown and Pembroke SGAs can help to address the park need for existing residents in the established neighborhoods within these SGAs and will also serve the future residents. The Parks & Recreation Department and the Planning Department have identified 13 specific opportunities to create new parks within the Newtown and Pembroke SGAs that are listed below and shown on the map on page 37. All of these opportunities conform to the overall master plans that have been approved by City Council for both the Newtown and Pembroke SGAs.

PARK OPPORTUNITY A: NEWTOWN/PRINCESS ANNE The Newtown SGA Plan recommends a Gateway Park on this 2-3 acre site to provide a landmark for the transforming area. Currently, there are existing commercial retail businesses on these properties. To establish a park here, the City will need to put funding in place to acquire the site in fee-simple and establish a capital project for park improvements.

PARK OPPORTUNITY B: ARROWHEAD DRIVE The Newtown SGA Plan recommends conversion to mixed use development on the properties surrounding Arrowhead Drive. Currently, there are numerous individually owned light industrial uses located along this roadway. If consolidation and redevelopment as residential is contemplated on any lots within this area, public park space should be considered. An Eco-Garden that could include a playground would help to serve the adjacent residential neighborhood known as Arrowhead as well as new residents.

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PARK OPPORTUNITY C: ARROWHEAD SHOPPING CENTER The Newtown SGA Plan recommends conversion to a mixed use development on this 9.2 acre site. A Town Green or Eco-Garden park site of ½ to 1 acre in size should be incorporated into future development. In addition, the land that contains a few single family homes situated between the transit corridor and Parliament Drive is desirable for future conversion to public park space because this area contains several healthy, mature trees.

PARK OPPORTUNITY D: GREENWICH ROAD LAKE The Newtown SGA Plan recommends a portion of the area around this lake be allocated for new park space. This lake property is currently owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Parks & Recreation should investigate with the State the potential to establish a public waterfront Town Green on the 2.8 acre property on the west side of the lake.

PARK OPPORTUNITY E: GREENWICH/WITCHDUCK The Newtown SGA Plan recommends the 3.0 acre area located on the north shore of Kemps Lake, south of Greenwich Road for future park space. Currently, there is an office condominium building plus parking on this site. In order to create the park envisioned, the City will need to put funding in place to acquire the site in fee-simple and establish a capital project for park improvements. If, instead, the property is redeveloped in the future, it is recommended that the eastern side be designed to incorporate a small waterfront park or plaza with public access.

PARK OPPORTUNITY F: WITCHDUCK ROAD STORMWATER FACILITY A new stormwater facility planned with Witchduck Road Phase II (under construction in 2016) spans 4.2 acres on the west side of Witchduck Road, south of the transit corridor. A multi-use path on the south side of the transit corridor is currently being studied, and this lake site could be developed as a resting spot along that path. Parks & Recreation should investigate with Public Works the potential for this site to serve as a public open space area once the multi-use path adjacent to the transit corridor is in place.

PARK OPPORTUNITY G: NEWSOME FARM NEIGHBORHOOD This area is outside of the Newtown SGA, north of Baker Road and on the east side of Newtown Road. It is an established residential neighborhood with fairly large lots, several of which are undeveloped. Most of the surrounding area has very little tree canopy, but this neighborhood contains a large amount of healthy, mature tree canopy that should be preserved to the maximum extent practical. In recent years, there have been numerous rezoning requests to increase density for new developments surrounding this neighborhood. It is recommended that if redevelopment to higher density is contemplated within this neighborhood, public Neighborhood Park spaces incorporating existing tree canopy should be included in all plans.

“ In a concrete urban environment one has to think outside the box to incorporate open space in downtown areas and more compact residential environments. - PEMBROKE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA PLAN (2009) ”

PARK OPPORTUNITY H: CENTRAL VILLAGE DISTRICT Located in the center of the Pembroke SGA, the Central Village District is envisioned to include several urban plazas and linear parks. Strategically located plazas and parks in this district can provide amenities to attract residents and workers, complement transit oriented development and support pedestrian access and connections to the light rail stations and shared use path. It is recommended that the City work with property owners as redevelopment occurs in the Central Village District to establish a system of linear parks and urban plazas. Additionally, the City should include park and plaza development in all capital improvement projects to improve the streetscape and related infrastructure upgrades in this area, such as the Cleveland Street corridor improvement project (CIP 9-505).

PARK OPPORTUNITY I: BONNEY ROAD PROPERTY (GPIN 1477524516) The planned Thalia Creek Greenway trail (TCG) traverses portions of this 11.7 acre site known as Bonney Road Property. The site is currently owned by the City and is being marketed for office/mixed use development. The Pembroke SGA Plan recognizes the importance of connecting developments to the Thalia Creek Greenway corridor. Any development that is contemplated on this site should be oriented to take advantage of the proximity to the TCG. An access easement through the property for the TCG must be established. A small public park or plaza space adjacent to the TCG trail should be incorporated into the design of any future project on this site. Incorporating a small amount of public parking for trail users into any future project would also be an important benefit the TCG.

PARK OPPORTUNITY J: THALIA CREEK GREENWAY The Pembroke SGA Plan recognizes the Thalia Creek Greenway (TCG) project as a major component of open space in this area. The TCG project was initiated in 2009. Some portions of the TCG have been completed and several phases of the project are under design and/or construction. Grant funding from federal and state agencies has been awarded to the project, a testament to the significance of this new recreational trail for the surrounding area. The City should continue to provide funding for the design and construction of the TCG until the project is complete. One phase of the TCG project includes a pedestrian crossing of I-264 from TCG trail on the north side to Mount Trashmore Park on the south side of I-264. This connection would provide a safe walk/bike transportation alternative for residents of Town Center who want to access the most popular park in Virginia Beach for all types of recreational activities and events. Residents who live near Mount Trashmore Park can also use the connection to walk or bike to Town Center to visit shops and restaurants, attend events, and to access transit.



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PARK OPPORTUNITY K: THALIA CREEK NORTH The protection and enhancement of Thalia Creek provides an important structuring element and an active, natural amenity for the Pembroke SGA. The Pembroke SGA Plan contemplates a new development footprint for the area adjacent to the creek shoreline that will create a stronger connection to the creek and that could include a marina and walkway along the creek. The Plan further recommends to keep shoreline disturbances to a minimum and to provide a natural buffer to protect Thalia Creek. Princess Anne High School is located in this area and is programmed to be reconstructed on its existing site, along with upgraded high school athletic facilities and educational components for curriculum integration with the natural and built environments. Lynnhaven River ecosystem restoration efforts already underway on the creek near Princess Anne High School will provide both ecological and educational opportunities. Collaboration between Parks & Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) and the private sector is vital to fulfill the vision for this important area.

PARK OPPORTUNITY L: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT The Pembroke SGA Plan recommends a new central park space to serve the community. The intersection of Independence Boulevard and Virginia Beach Boulevard has long been a landmark. As redevelopment occurs on properties to the north of Virginia Beach Boulevard around this intersection, a Town Green of 1-3 acres should be pursued by the City in partnership with property owners. This valuable green space could connect north to the well-established linear park system that exists on both sides of Independence Boulevard north of Virginia Beach Boulevard, linking those northern neighborhoods to the Pembroke SGA core area.

PARK OPPORTUNITY M: VBCPS BAYSIDE 6TH GRADE CAMPUS This property is located at 4722 Jericho Road. The property contains two separate parcels, a 12.9 acre site that contains the school building and grounds and a 5.6 acre site behind it that is vacant. This 5.6 acre site is adjacent to a waterway known as Thurston Branch, a tributary of the Lynnhaven River. The school building was originally constructed in 1957. This building has also been home to the Adult Learning Center and Kemp's Landing Magnet. The long term disposition of this site is not currently known, but the expectation is that there may be an opportunity to partner with VBCPS and the community on a master plan to redevelop this site that could include a public park.

Parks & Recreation wants to build on the collaborative processes that are now forming to create new parks for the Newtown and Pembroke areas to address new parkland in the remaining SGAs, such as Hilltop and Lynnhaven, as development shifts to those areas in the future. A summary of future park opportunities that were identified in the master plans for the Hilltop, Lynnhaven, Rosemont and Centerville SGAs is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.



"RIVERS ARE MORE THAN BLUE LINES ON A MAP. THEY ARE CRUCIAL VEINS AND ARTERIES OF OUR TOTAL ENVIRONMENT. THEY ARE WARM BLUE LINES THAT BIND OUR PAST AND PRESENT WITH OUR FUTURE."

- LILLIE GILBERT, OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

PARKLAND ACQUISITION FOR WATER ACCESS

Water access is highly desirable for Virginia Beach residents and is also ranked as one of the top recreational needs across the state of Virginia (Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Page 1.4). Virginia Beach is fortunate to have accessible beachfront for all citizen and visitors. We also have several public waterfront parks and numerous access points for both motor boats and canoes/kayaks. Property along the water's edge demands a high price and park space is rarely contemplated as the highest and best use in economic terms. However, when factoring in community quality of life, water quality benefits, flood control and higher property values for uses surrounding waterfront park property, the initial acquisition cost can be validated in most cases. Waterfront parks can play an important role in flood control and can be designed to mitigate sea level rise impacts. Future acquisition opportunities should be analyzed for the benefit the property may have to assist with mitigating sea level rise impacts on the surrounding area in addition to the benefit of increased water access for citizens.

Waterfront open spaces are identified in several of the Strategic Growth Area Plans and acquiring property or public use easements for these new spaces is central to implementing the vision but will also require substantial funding. Waterfront parks have proven to be valuable to establishing a sense of place for communities, serving as a catalyst for many communities to realize maximum private investment in redevelopment projects.

In addition to waterfront parks in SGAs, the Department of Parks & Recreation will continue to research and bring forward opportunities to acquire waterfront property for public access along all three major river systems of the Elizabeth River, Lynnhaven River and North Landing River. The map on page 38 shows existing water access locations as well as the sites where water access improvements are in progress and some potential future locations for water access along the Elizabeth River and the Lynnhaven River. Water access along the North Landing River will be addressed under the planning effort underway for the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway, which is discussed in more detail in the Greenways and Blueways section at the end of this chapter.

Back Bay is another major water resource but it is not a priority acquisition area for water access. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expanded Back Bay Refuge lands greatly over the past 15 years. In 2015, Parks & Recreation participated with the Refuge in a grant-funded study to research opportunities to provide more public access to the Refuge lands and will partner with the Refuge to implement the study recommendations over the next decade.



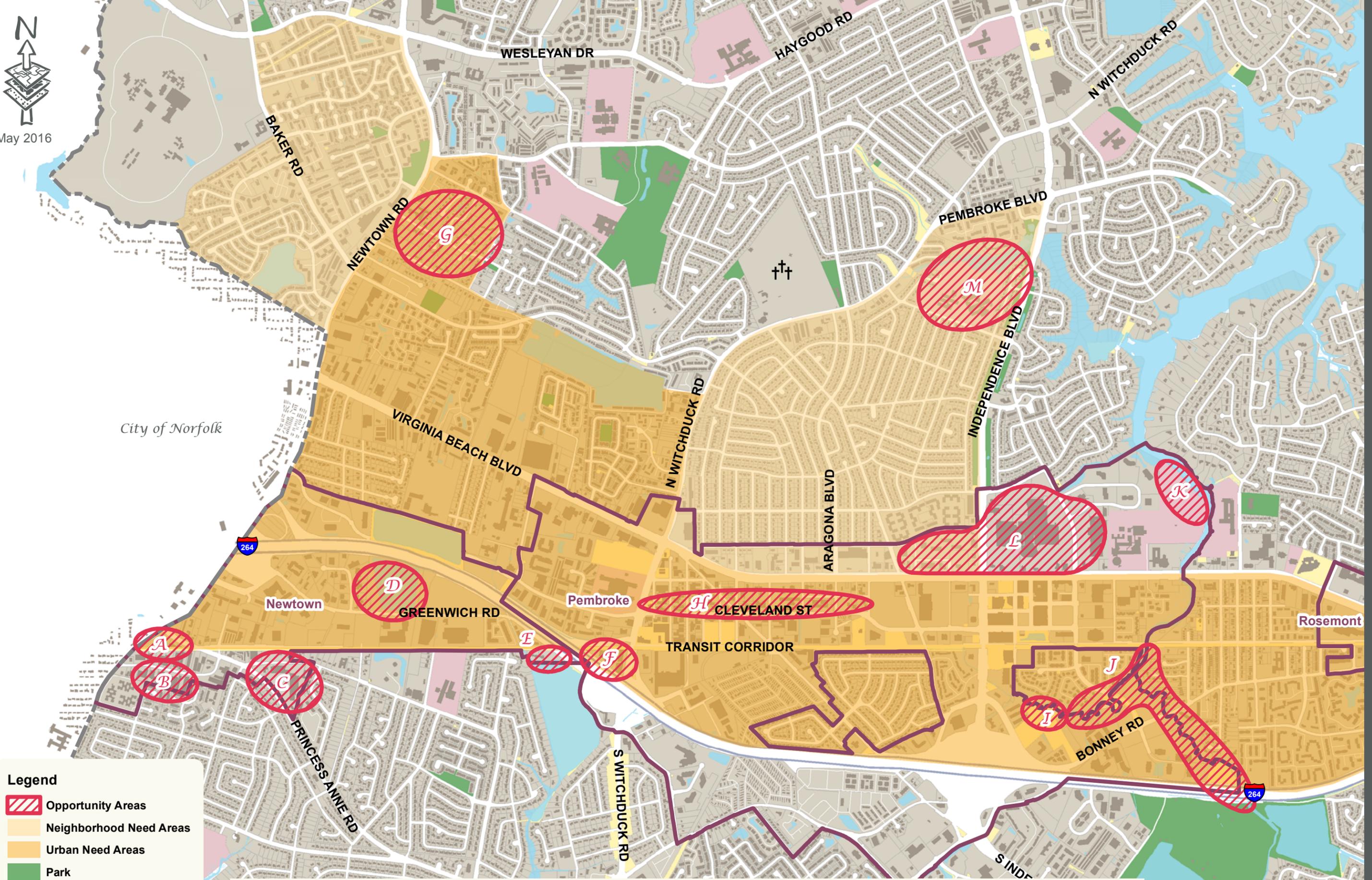
May 2016

Legend

-  Opportunity Areas
-  Neighborhood Need Areas
-  Urban Need Areas
-  Park
-  School
-  City Property
-  Strategic Growth Areas

Neighborhood Need Area: stable medium to high density residential neighborhoods that were established before 1980 without park spaces. These neighborhoods are in need of small parks that are within a walkable distance from homes.

Urban Need Area: areas of the city that contain a mix of uses and housing types where the average ratio of parks to people is only .5 acres (21,780 sq. ft.) per 1,000 residents. There are approximately 28,000 residents currently living in the identified Urban Need Areas.





May 2016

- Legend**
- In-Progress Water Access
 - Existing Water Access
 - Possible Water Access
 - Focus Rivers
 - City Park
 - City Property
 - Military Bases

Possible Access Sites:
 Woodstock Cove Park
 Hunt's Point Park
 Fairfield Forest Park
 Kempes Landing



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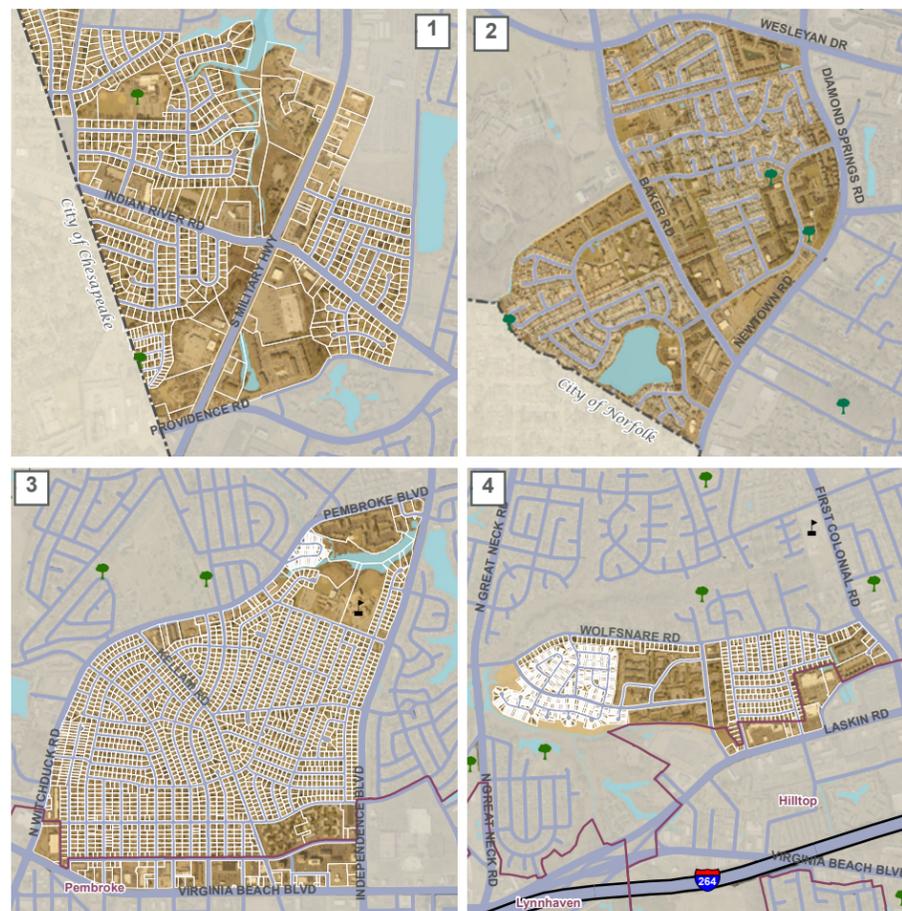
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PARKLAND ACQUISITION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Parks & Recreation manages and maintains playgrounds in over 150 different neighborhoods. The establishment of a recreational requirement as part of the subdivision ordinance in the 1970s has contributed to this high level of service. However, there are some neighborhoods that were built prior to the 1970s that were not established with parks. It is important to identify those neighborhoods and continue to work toward finding opportunities to acquire park space that is accessible within a ten-minute walk from home. Neighborhood park space should be at least half-acre size, equivalent to 2-3 home lots in most of these neighborhoods. Opportunities to acquire property for parks within these stable residential areas can be scarce, and an annual funding source for park acquisition would greatly assist the Department in being able to take advantage of opportunities quickly. The following neighborhoods have been identified as Neighborhood Need Areas:

- **AREA 1** - Indian River Road/Military Hwy
- **AREA 2** - Newtown Road/Baker Road
- **AREA 3** - Aragona/Pembroke
- **AREA 4** - Great Neck Road/Wolfsnare Road



PARKLAND ACQUISITION FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD NEEDS The development of additional multi-purpose rectangular fields for community use is identified as the top priority for new athletic facilities. Soccer, Flag Football, Field Hockey, Rugby and Lacrosse can all be accommodated on rectangular fields. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in demand for multi-purpose fields, in part due to the growing popularity of Lacrosse. Multi-purpose fields are also being used more for fun, recreational competitions (dodge ball, etc.) in addition to organized team sports. In the 2008 Outdoors Plan, a need for 26 additional multi-purpose fields was identified to meet the community use demand through 2026. This projected need was verified in the 2012 Virginia Beach Field Allocation Study and remains accurate through 2040 based on present-day usage and demand.

There is space for six new multi-purpose fields to be constructed behind the Sportsplex at Princess Anne Commons, but the highest need for new field space is for community use in the northern half of the City where there is not a lot of large vacant land parcels available. Therefore, the Department of Parks & Recreation will need to focus on looking for ways to incorporate additional rectangular fields within existing park properties. Lighting and adequate parking to serve the new field space should be included with new field construction. Parks & Recreation Planning, Design and Development Division will also monitor properties listed on the market for sale to identify large properties in the northern half of the City that are suitable for athletic fields for potential acquisition.

DIAMOND FIELD NEEDS In the 2008 Outdoors Plan, a need for four additional diamond fields was identified to meet the demand through 2026. This projected need was verified in the 2012 Virginia Beach Field Allocation Study and remains accurate through 2040 based on present-day usage and demand. There is space for four additional diamond fields to be constructed within the Princess Anne Athletic Complex. Therefore, no need exists to acquire additional property solely for diamond field development. One exception to this is a situation involving the Little Creek American League. The Little Creek American League has utilized fields at the Joint Expeditionary Base at Little Creek for over 40 years. The League was notified that they must relocate off of the base in the near future. A new location for the Little Creek American League is not readily available within our park system. Much more study on this issue is needed to determine the extent of future accommodations that the City would be able to provide to this League.

4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

OTHER PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities listed below are not necessarily located in park need areas, but rather they are unique properties or initiatives that have intrinsic open space and/or recreational value. Most of these opportunities will require a collaborative approach between multiple city departments and/or private partners to make the most of the potential they offer.

WOLFSNARE PROPERTY (GPIN 2407346916) This 65-acre property on Potters Road, adjacent to the Upper Wolfsnare Historic House, is owned by the City and is currently in use by Public Works as a dredge spoil storage site. Long-term, once the dredge storage ceases, this property has potential to be converted to a park with space for new rectangular fields. Any future recreational use of this site must be coordinated with NAS Oceana.

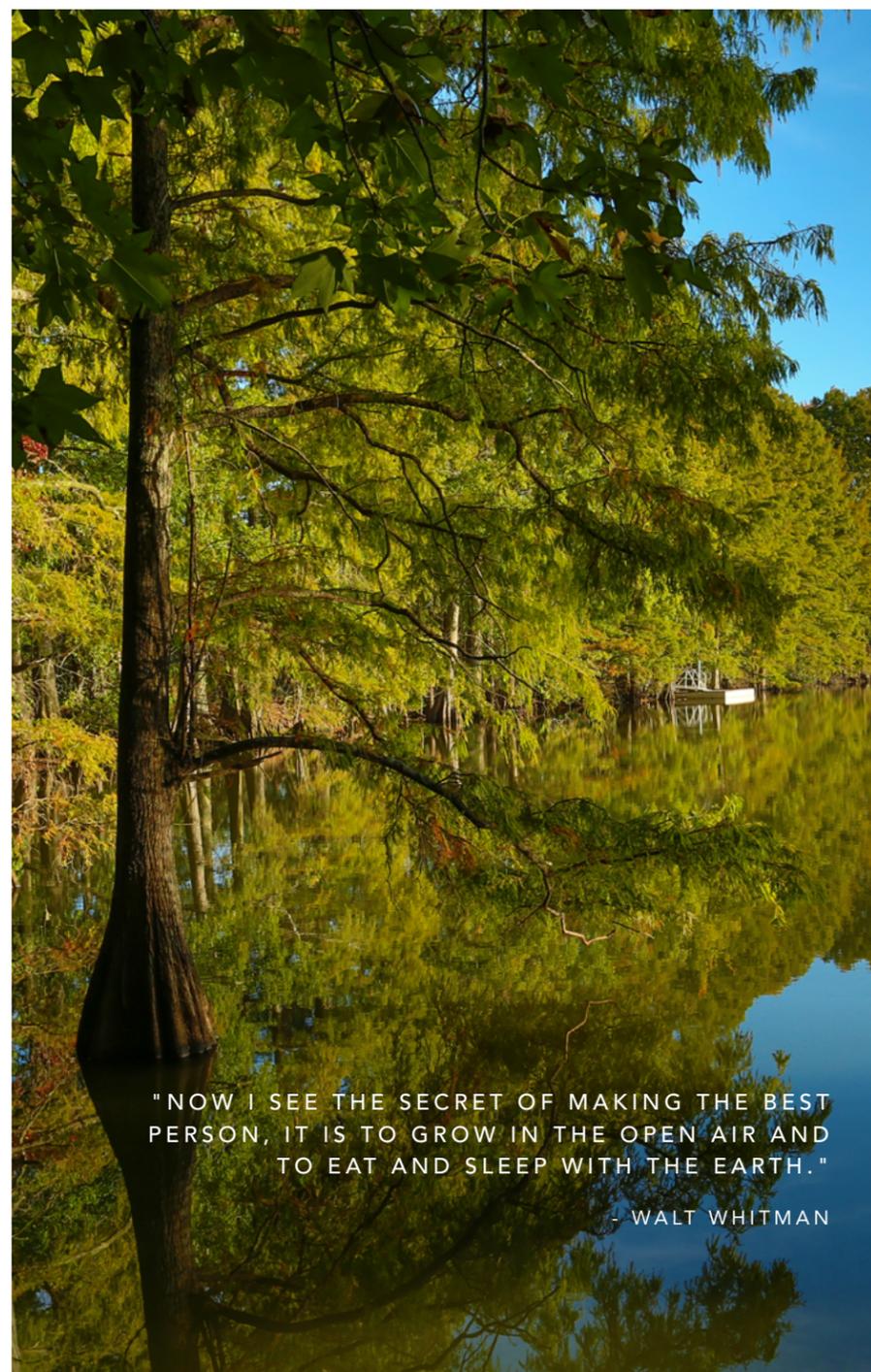
CITY VIEW PARK EXPANSION/LANDFILL #2 END USE This 400-acre property is currently owned and operated by the City of Virginia Beach as a landfill. The concept of developing some or all of the property as a park once the landfill is closed has been part of the Outdoors Plan for decades. The citizens recently confirmed their strong support for conversion of this landfill to future park space during the development of the Centerville Strategic Growth Area Plan in 2013.

CAMP PENDLETON MILITARY BASE This 342-acre property is an active military base south of Croatan Beach and east of General Booth Boulevard near the Aquarium. There are currently shared agreements to utilize parking on Camp Pendleton property at General Booth Boulevard as overflow for the Aquarium and the adjacent public Owl Creek Boat Ramp. There is also a City-operated beachfront parking lot and public beach access on Camp Pendleton property at the south end of Croatan Beach. The potential for expanding public access to more beachfront on this property in the future should be explored through a collaborative process.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL AREAS Parks & Recreation is involved in several initiatives to develop plans and projects that highlight the historic and cultural context of places such as Historic Kempsville, Burton Station Strategic Growth Area, the Owl Creek watershed and the new VIBE creative district in the resort area.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS The City of Virginia Beach is authorized to hold conservation easements over private and public properties. The City has accepted a handful of these easements for environmental or historical preservation reasons. Conservation Easements can be dedicated to or purchased by the City and are an alternative to ensure preservation of land resources without having fee-simple ownership.

EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES IN AICUZ/ITA/SE EXPRESSWAY The City has acquired numerous properties in relation to the AICUZ/ITA Project and the Southeastern Expressway Road Project that contain rich natural resources and/or recreational potential. Parks & Recreation should continue to collaborate with other city departments on planning for and executing the appropriate future use for each of these properties which can include preservation, trail development or other recreational use.



"NOW I SEE THE SECRET OF MAKING THE BEST PERSON, IT IS TO GROW IN THE OPEN AIR AND TO EAT AND SLEEP WITH THE EARTH."
- WALT WHITMAN

FUTURE GREENWAY AND BLUEWAY SYSTEMS

A greenway can be described simply as a corridor of open space that is maintained for conservation, recreation and multi-use trail systems as well as equestrian trail areas. A blueway can be described as a waterway designated for its recreational and environmental assets. It is utilized as a water trail or path and developed with launch points, camping locations and points of interest for canoeists, paddle boarders and kayakers. In Virginia Beach, the rivers and buffer lands adjacent to the river banks make up the major components of a tremendous system of greenways and blueways which we have only begun to define in terms of the opportunities and value these systems create. The Pembroke and Lynnhaven Strategic Growth Area Plans both include robust greenway concepts as a recreational and open space amenity that will complement the new urban fabric envisioned.

There are two major greenway projects underway in the Department of Parks & Recreation. Both of these projects are being closely coordinated with the Planning Department. The Thalia Creek Greenway is a one-mile urban greenway path along the edge of Thalia Creek that is intended to provide a pleasant two-hour recreational experience or that can be used as a pedestrian/bike transportation link. In contrast, the greenway and blueway system within the North Landing River watershed, known as the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway, is much larger in scope and complexity.

The North Landing River has been designated as a Virginia State Scenic River. The North Landing River is a part of the Intra-Coastal Waterway System (ICW) and covers 22 miles from the North Carolina line to the locks at Great Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia. The river south of North Landing Road is 300 feet to one mile wide. The water depth of the headwaters and tributaries is two to five feet and it is as deep as twelve feet in the ICW channel. The North Landing River watershed is the City's largest watershed. It has the highest resource value of any watershed in the City for water quality and habitat. The

4 || SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



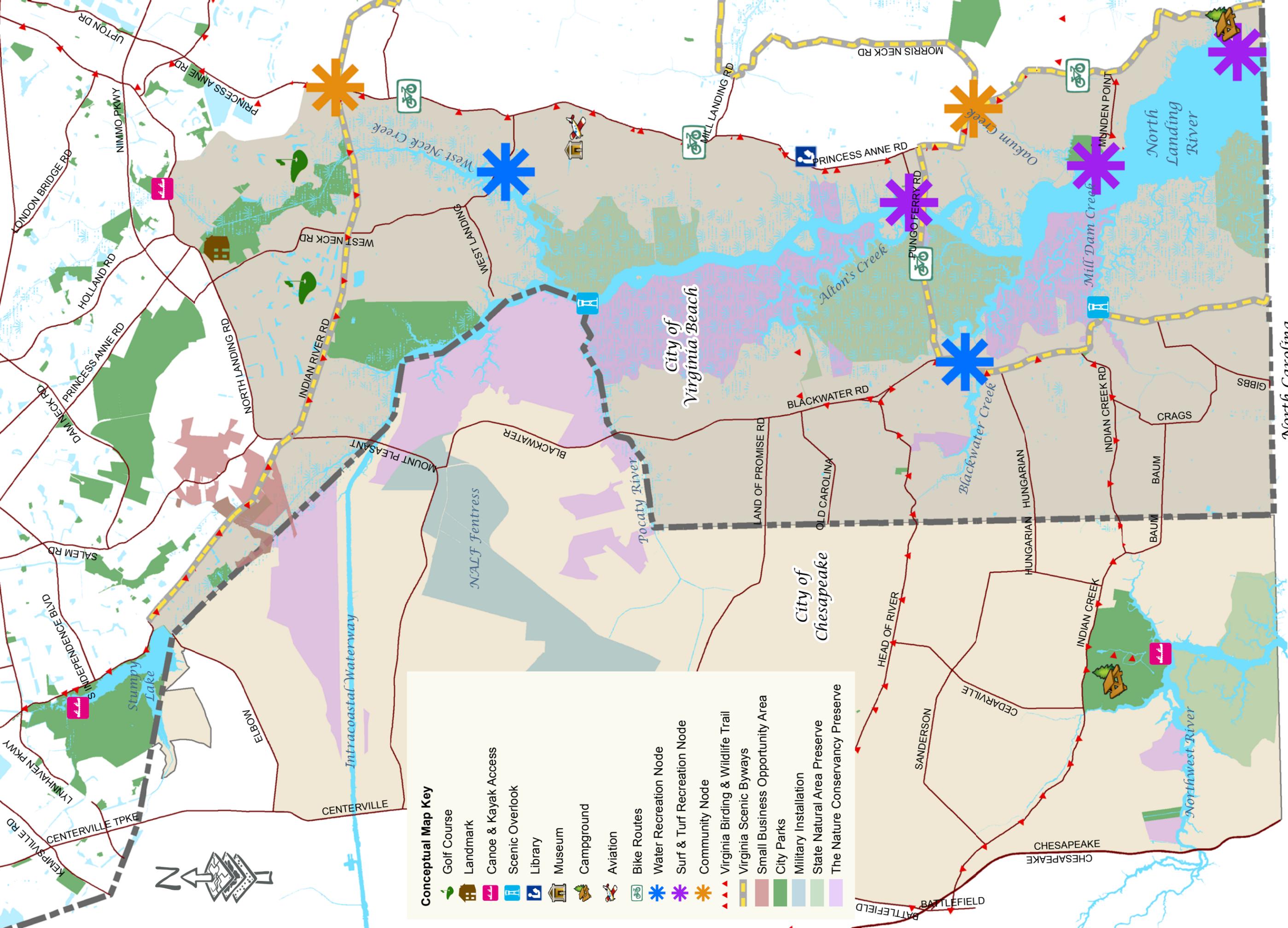
“Local waterways should be protected with natural and or restored buffer areas, large and small park spaces, park lands and low impact development that work together to form continuous corridors known as greenways.”

- 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

environmental resources within this area have been extensively documented by the State of Virginia through past Natural Heritage surveys. The area has been classified by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as an imperative conservation priority since 2010. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) has also recognized the critical environmental resources in this area in the Green Infrastructure Plan for the Hampton Roads Region published by HRPDC in 2010. The North Landing River watershed natural resource area is still largely intact thanks to past and present policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan that encourage protection of farmland and low density development.

In 2015, the City Council approved the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway Management Plan. The Green Sea area extends beyond the borders of Virginia Beach, west to Chesapeake and south to Currituck County in North Carolina. The area is comprised of the watersheds of three river segments: The Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, the North Landing River and Currituck Sound/Tulls Bay. This Plan envisions a connected conservation corridor managed as one system with expanded recreational opportunities available in each community. The Plan encourages public and private landholders to work together toward establishing a common management strategy. This corridor is highlighted as a regional opportunity in the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan; the VOP states that the area "should be evaluated for extended recreational opportunities on land as well as in the water." (Source: 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Page 10.260).

The seeds for this idea were planted in 2003 with the first line drawn on a map that designated the Stumpy Lake to Back Bay Greenway as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Our knowledge and expertise in planning trail corridors has increased greatly since 2003, and the evolution of the original idea is expanding to include a regional eco-tourism focus. The concept is one that provides opportunities to conserve the existing awe-inspiring environmental assets while allowing compatible development that will increase access, economic opportunities and recreational activities along the North Landing River for locals and visitors. The bold vision that is coalescing is to develop diverse recreation areas and sustainable small-scale business opportunities that will one day create a popular, thriving tourist destination that showcases and protects the environment and natural character of the area that exists today. The Department of Parks & Recreation is participating with the Planning Department and the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Division on a Local Government Staff Team that also includes members from the City of Chesapeake and Currituck County, North Carolina. This team is exploring ways to collaborate with each other and with private partners to establish a shared long-term vision for the area identified as the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway and to implement projects consistent with that vision. The map on the following page is a conceptual graphic showing the potential and opportunity that can define the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway area within Virginia Beach, providing a broad expression of the link between the natural resource elements and recreational tourism.



Conceptual Map Key

	Golf Course
	Landmark
	Canoe & Kayak Access
	Scenic Overlook
	Library
	Museum
	Campground
	Aviation
	Bike Routes
	Water Recreation Node
	Surf & Turf Recreation Node
	Community Node
	Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail
	Virginia Scenic Byways
	Small Business Opportunity Area
	City Parks
	Military Installation
	State Natural Area Preserve
	The Nature Conservancy Preserve



CHAPTER 5

CORE FUNCTIONS
OF A SUSTAINABLE
OUTDOOR RECREATION
SYSTEM



5 || CORE FUNCTIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM



PARK OPERATIONS

The Parks and Natural Areas Office is managed through the Programming and Operations Division of Parks & Recreation and is tasked with daily operation of the park system, risk management, customer service and special events. Typical park operations tasks include collecting fees, providing public information and assistance to park visitors, maintaining clean restrooms, trash pickup, addressing safety concerns, event scheduling, set up and break down, monitoring activities, contracting for vendor services and enforcing park rules. A natural extension of these tasks should include a more robust outdoor programming effort in the future.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT

STANDARDS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

In 2007, the Department published the first edition of the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Design Standards Manual. The Design Standards Manual identifies parkland classification categories, standard elements, materials, product information, specifications and implementation practices. Through its use, a pattern of common elements and an identifiable quality is being established within the park system. The manual specifies consistent, safe and cost effective infrastructure elements that are easily maintained and managed. Standards for ADA accessibility are incorporated throughout the document. All new construction of park infrastructure and all replacement/renovation of assets must be in conformance with the Design Standards Manual. The Design Standards Manual is managed and updated periodically by the Planning, Design and Development Division. The Planning, Design and Development Division staff are responsible project managers for the implementation of the design standards on all new construction and renovation projects on park properties, including those properties leased to a third party. A copy of the current edition of the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Design

Standards Manual is included in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY AND MAINTENANCE

Parks & Recreation Landscape Management Division maintains the official inventory of all park infrastructure and performs operational maintenance. The infrastructure inventory includes the location and type of asset installed, date of installation, warranty expiration, and replacement cost. A routine inspection schedule has been set up for each asset type and inspections are performed in accordance with the schedule to determine operational maintenance requirements.

CAPITAL ASSET RENOVATION AND REPLACEMENT

When the cost to repair an asset reaches the level of cost associated with replacing the asset, a decision must be made to expend capital funds to renovate or replace the infrastructure. The Planning, Design and Development Division is responsible for managing the budgeting and expenditure of all Capital Improvement Program funding. Requests to use capital funding to renovate or replace an asset must be reviewed and approved by a project manager within the Planning, Design and Development Division.

PARK PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

ACQUISITION, LEASE OR SALE OF PARK PROPERTIES

The acquisition, lease or sale of park properties is managed by the Planning, Design and Development Division under the guidance of the Open Space Advisory Committee appointed by City Council. Decisions concerning the acquisition of new parkland or sale of parkland are guided by the goals and objectives outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Outdoors Plan. Collaborating with other agencies on ways that parkland can serve multiple uses is important. This involves

coordination with City Attorney, City Real Estate Office, City Assessor, City of Virginia Beach Schools as well as other departments such as Public Works, Public Utilities, Planning and Economic Development. All property disposition actions are reviewed and approved by City Council.

DEDICATION OF PARK PROPERTIES

The majority of park properties that are dedicated to the City are made to fulfill the open space requirement for new subdivisions that is stated in the Virginia Beach City Code, Appendix B, Subdivision Regulations, Section 4.5. Park properties can also be dedicated as part of a conditional rezoning or as a gift. All properties proposed for dedication as parks or open space are reviewed by staff in the Planning, Design and Development Division for location, accessibility, suitability and natural resource elements and are rejected or accepted based on those criteria. All property dedications are coordinated with the Planning Department, Public Works/Real Estate and the City Attorney's Office in accordance with established policies and procedures.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

Current subdivision regulations allow a developer to offer cash in lieu of a required park space dedication by mutual agreement with the City. Cash payments can also be provided as part of a rezoning proffer agreement. These cash payments are allocated to the Capital Improvement Program and can be designated for future acquisition of park property and/or improvements to an existing park property in accordance with Virginia state law governing proffers to localities. The City has established a policy outlining the procedure for cash in lieu of property dedication. A copy of the current policy is provided in the Technical Report that accompanies the 2016 Outdoors Plan.

Cash contributions are also accepted by the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) to be used for capital costs to improve Virginia Beach parks through the program known as Parks Plus. VBPRF also accepts cash donations for operational funding for specific program needs, such as the Learn-To-Swim program.

The six core functions that must work together to sustain a quality outdoor recreation system are:

PARK OPERATIONS

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT

PARK PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

INTEGRATED DESIGN OF THE PUBLIC REALM

COORDINATION WITH CITY PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

5 || CORE FUNCTIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

“As developable land in this area built out over time in a sprawling suburban development pattern, the City Council recognized the need to accommodate future growth and preserve the established, stable residential neighborhoods in our Suburban Area. The solution was to identify areas that could be redeveloped into more urban-style areas- our Strategic Growth Areas.”

- 2016 VIRGINIA BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 1.2-URBAN AREAS



INTEGRATED DESIGN OF THE PUBLIC REALM

The City of Virginia Beach is shifting the focus of new growth toward redevelopment in targeted areas served by existing infrastructure and away from expanding suburban development patterns. New parks and open spaces are a necessary element of infrastructure that must be incorporated into redevelopment plans. The master plans that have been developed for the eight Strategic Growth Areas all speak to the need to integrate parks with other infrastructure components such as streets, public buildings and stormwater management areas to improve the value and quality of the public realm. In light of the changing nature of development within the City, policies and ordinances related to open space in new developments must be aligned with desired outcomes. The Comprehensive Plan outlines the need to amend development ordinances, such as the subdivision, site plan and zoning ordinance to address urban relationships among uses, parking, infrastructure needs and building forms. New park infrastructure must be incorporated into these ordinance revisions. Listed below are some ideas for incorporating park acquisition and management strategies into new urban policy documents and ordinances. Parks & Recreation staff within the Planning, Design and Development Division will be collaborating with the Planning Department and the Public Works Department over the next few years to transform these ideas into sound policies and practices that focus on creating future urban park infrastructure that achieves the high standard already established within our existing park system.

- List the provision of public park space and/or park improvements as a desired characteristic for eligibility in the Strategic Growth Area (SGA) and Special Economic Growth Areas (SEGA) Investment Partnership Incentives Policy dated January 14, 2015 and amended again on December 8, 2015.
- Create guidelines and/or requirements for the provision of public park space and park improvements as part of redevelopment plans within the context of broader revisions to development ordinances such as the site plan, subdivision and zoning ordinances that will address redevelopment within Strategic Growth Areas.
- Parks & Recreation Planning, Design and Development staff should fully participate in all efforts to refine or revise Strategic Growth Area Plans to lend expertise in park planning and development.
- Work with land developers and the Department of Public Works to identify opportunities to integrate stormwater management and park space in redevelopment projects by using the Eco-Garden model introduced in Chapter 3 of this Outdoors Plan. The Eco-Garden model provides multiple benefits for citizens and is an efficient use of urban land.
- Parks & Recreation should strengthen relationships with business organizations such as the Central Business District Association in Town Center to foster understanding of parks as necessary urban infrastructure, to promote the role and function of the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation and to develop stronger park stewardship.
- Parks & Recreation should continue to develop and strengthen relationships with non-profit organizations focused on youth development, health and the environment as partners for both projects and programs that benefit our citizens.

5 || CORE FUNCTIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



COORDINATION WITH CITY PROJECTS

There are many opportunities to share parkland with other public uses such as roads, pump stations, stormwater management facilities, maintenance and storage areas, dredge facilities, fire stations, schools, etc. Listed below are some new and ongoing initiatives that the Parks & Recreation Department must participate in fully to optimize the potential of parklands for the benefit of our citizens. We must continue to collaborate with city and school agencies to find ways to share land within the public realm for multiple uses. City of Virginia Beach Capital Improvement Projects that require collaboration with park initiatives are listed as follows:

PLANNING/9-008 HISTORIC KEMPSVILLE Parks & Recreation is coordinating with the Planning Department to design and install pedestrian improvements and landscaping under this project. There is potential for new water access improvement to be included in the future.

POLICE/3-344 POLICE FOURTH PRECINCT REPLACEMENT – This project provides for a replacement of the 4th Precinct headquarters. The project will require additional land area that is currently dedicated to park use. Kempsville Park is located at 832 Lobaugh Drive. Parks & Recreation will be coordinating with Police and Public Works to ensure that a viable, smaller park space remains for the community.

PUBLIC WORKS/8-011 EASTERN BRANCH LYNNHAVEN RIVER MAINTENANCE DREDGING The project involves construction of a new dredge pier at the public water access site for canoes and kayaks located at 309 Hutton Circle. The existing kayak launch will be replaced with a new kayak launch as part of this project.

PUBLIC WORKS/8-048 PLEASURE HOUSE POINT MITIGATION This project involves development of a wetlands mitigation facility on property managed as the Pleasure House Point Natural Area. A new public water access site for canoes/kayaks will be designed and constructed as part of this project. In addition, there is potential for additional trail system improvements to be made at the completion of this project.

PUBLIC WORKS/3-504 BEACH MAINTENANCE FACILITY REPLACEMENT The Landscape Management Division of Parks & Recreation shares this facility with Public Works.

PUBLIC WORKS/3-069 EUCLID YARD FACILITY REPLACEMENT The Landscape Management Division of Parks & Recreation shares this facility with Public Works.

PUBLIC WORKS /PARKS & RECREATION CONSTRUCTION YARD RELOCATION This project will relocate the Landscape Management/LifeCycle Management Yard currently located at 2150 Lynnhaven Parkway to the Landscape Management Administration site located on Dam Neck Road.

PUBLIC WORKS/2-168 LESNER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT This project is under construction with estimated completion in 2018. The Lynnhaven Boat and Beach Facility is being used as a construction staging area for this project. The bridge plans include improvements to the beach access under the bridge that is operated as part of the Lynnhaven Boat and Beach Facility.

PUBLIC WORKS/3-514 LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY REPLACEMENT This facility is adjacent to Seatack North Park. Opportunities to improve access or amenities at this park should be explored and coordinated with this project.

PUBLIC WORKS/7-028 WINDSOR WOODS DRAINAGE The Bow Creek Recreation Center and Golf Course and Plaza Northgate Park are located within this drainage area and many of the drainage ditches will be improved/modified on these properties as part of the project.

PUBLIC WORKS/7-406 ELIZABETH RIVER TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Public Works on a project at Turtle Lake on the property known as Carolanne Farms Park. A new ADA accessible kayak launch area is included in this project.

PUBLIC WORKS/7-151 EASTERN SHORE DRIVE DRAINAGE Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Public Works to minimize impacts to the Cape Henry Trail and Lynnhaven Colony Neighborhood Park associated with this work.

PUBLIC WORKS/2-108 LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR SHARED USE PATH Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Public Works on the design of this pathway that parallels the Light Rail Corridor from Newtown Road to Town Center.

STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA OFFICE/9-081 STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA PROJECTS Parks & Recreation is coordinating with the SGA Office to identify opportunities to establish open space in accordance with SGA plans where projects are proposed.

STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA OFFICE/9-505 CLEVELAND STREET IMPROVEMENTS Collaboration on the design of this roadway is essential to identify opportunities to establish open space along this corridor in accordance with Pembroke SGA Plan.

5 || CORE FUNCTIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Parks & Recreation is managed by the Planning, Design & Development Division (PDD). The strategy used in programming, planning and implementing projects is to accomplish phased renovations or replacements of older existing facilities and associated infrastructure while balancing the development of new high priority facilities that are recommended in the Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan and the Virginia Beach Bikeways & Trails Plan. 89% of the FY 17-22 CIP budget is devoted to projects to renovate or replace existing park infrastructure renovation with only 11% devoted to new park infrastructure.

In Chapter 4, there are several recommendations to renovate existing parks as well as new park acquisitions and new park development through the year 2040. The majority of the future projects identified cannot be funded within recent target funding levels. Estimated unmet funding needs based on both the park acquisition projects and the park development projects discussed in Chapter 4 of this Outdoors Plan are illustrated in the following table. The cost estimates contained in the table are planning level estimates and are based on like projects developed by Parks & Recreation in the past. The cost estimates represent both hard and soft costs to a project. Examples of hard costs include labor, materials and equipment. Examples of soft costs include master planning, design, legal document preparation and permitting. For property acquisition, a general figure of \$6 per square foot was used for the estimate.

PROJECT NAME	ESTIMATED COST
Modernization of Rec Centers	\$ 50,000,000
Signature Park Renovations	\$ 10,000,000
Metro Park Renovations	\$ 6,000,000
Community Park Renovations	\$ 6,000,000
Water Access Site Renovations	\$ 6,000,000
Total Renovations (67%)	\$ 78,000,000
Mount Trashmore New Improvements	\$ 5,000,000
New Athletic Fields	\$ 13,000,000
New Park Improvements	\$ 15,000,000
Water Access Improvements	\$ 3,000,000
Greenway and Blueway Improvements	\$ 3,000,000
Total New Improvements (33%)	\$ 39,000,000
SGA Park Acquisition (Pembroke and Newtown only) +/- 20 acres	\$ 6,500,000
Neighborhood Park Acquisition +/- 10 acres	\$ 2,500,000
Athletic Field Park Acquisition +/- 15acres	\$ 4,000,000
Total New Park Acquisition	\$ 13,000,000
TOTAL UNMET NEED THROUGH 2040	\$ 130,000,000

This table is not intended to be a complete comprehensive estimate of all future park renovation, development and acquisition needs and these cost estimates do not address operational impacts associated with future projects. The intent of the table is to highlight the scope of the need for increased funding in the future for Parks & Recreation capital improvements, for both renovation of existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure as well as new park acquisition. The \$130 million represents an annualized amount of \$5 million above the FY17 target funding allotted over the plan horizon to 2040.

This table along with the initiatives and projects outlined in the 2016 Outdoors Plan are intended to be used as a platform from which to plan future Parks & Recreation CIP and operating budgets for FY18 and beyond. The Department will also use the 2016 Outdoors Plan to leverage funding by collaborating with other city and school agencies to develop CIP projects that span across agencies to accomplish multiple outcomes. Moreover, the 2016 Outdoors Plan can be used to develop grant proposals.

In this table, the ratio of renovation work (67%) to new improvements (33%) is more balanced than the current FY17-FY22 CIP ratio of renovation work (89%) to new improvements (11%). The balance between renovation and new park development will be variable in each future budget cycle because it is affected by multiple project timelines and the pace of land development within the city. All of the projects and initiatives included in Chapter 4 of this plan must be prioritized in context with the Department's overall need as well as City Council priorities and work plan. All projects must be better defined in terms of scope, cost and operational impacts before being included for potential funding within the Capital Improvement Program with the exception of the Property Acquisition projects.

Because of the opportunistic nature of property acquisition, an annual funding source to provide "seed" money for is necessary. This approach has worked well in the past and contributed to the great success in meeting most of the original goals of the Open Space Acquisition Program that began in 2001. However, in FY16, the CIP project for open space acquisition did not receive any new funding and the current FY17 budget does not show funding being restored until after FY22. The 2016 Outdoors Plan sets new goals for open space acquisition based on the plans and policies for open space and recreation adopted with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. In order for the Department of Parks & Recreation to diligently pursue these goals, annual funding in the amount of \$500,000 per year for the open space acquisition program must be restored as soon as practical. It should continue to be funded into the future in order to provide adequate and equitable park spaces for all residents, especially those future residents in and around the Strategic Growth Areas.

“GREAT THINGS ARE DONE WHEN MEN AND MOUNTAINS MEET.”
- WILLIAM BLAKE



IMPLEMENTATION
ACTION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION VIRGINIA BEACH OUTDOORS PLAN



The City of Virginia Beach is embarking on a bold future to create a vibrant and sustainable community for a lifetime. The Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role in creating that future by building communities and providing significant value to citizens and businesses. The park and recreation system helps preserve and enhance the unique natural and social character of the City and is a central reason that people want to move here and to stay here to live, work and play. Parks & Recreation consistently scores high on city-wide satisfaction surveys for appearance as well as function. The Department works diligently to follow the highest standards in park excellence by participating in the National Accreditation Standards of the Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) as well as national benchmarking surveys such as PARKSCORE managed by the Trust for Public Land. A summary of the actions and ideas disseminated throughout this Outdoors Plan update is provided below. The overall goal of this 2016 Outdoors Plan is to nourish and sustain the excellence of our park system for future generations and to ensure that everyone has parks, gardens, playgrounds, trails or other natural places within a ten-minute walk from home.

PARK PLANNING AND PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Expand park inventory types to include three new park designations to provide a framework for new parks that will accompany mixed use urban development that is planned for the Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Eco-Garden
- Town Green
- Urban Plaza
- Concentrate park acquisition efforts on creating new parks and open spaces within Strategic Growth Areas and acquire other strategic properties in areas that can help close gaps within our neighborhood park system, improve water access or provide additional athletic field space.
- Increase public awareness of park resources and ways that citizens can participate in decision making for the park system.
- Increase the number of Dog Parks and Skate Parks within the park system.
- Develop relationships with business organizations such as the Central Business District Association.
- Continue to partner with non-profit organizations on youth development, health and environmental initiatives.
- Participate as a stakeholder in efforts to revise development ordinances and policies, including incentive policies, related to redevelopment and creation of new park spaces within Strategic Growth Areas.
- Work with the Open Space Advisory Committee, Management Services and City Council to restore the necessary annual funding for open space acquisition prior to 2023.
- Develop a detailed strategy to prioritize and fund the modernization of existing recreation centers.
- Develop a strategy for transition of properties that have been planned for a change in use such as Lynnhaven Maintenance Yard, City-Wide Office and Owl Creek Tennis Center.
- Continue to work with the Planning Department and Convention and Visitors Bureau to develop the Green Sea Blueway and Greenway as a destination for eco-tourism.
- Continue to plan and develop greenway and blueway trails, bikeways and pedestrian pathways to improve connectivity and expand wholesome recreational opportunities in our park system, our City and throughout the region by assisting with

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implementation of projects outlined in the Virginia Beach Bikeways and Trails Plan.

- Include historic and cultural initiatives and public art in park planning and project development. Participate in the planning and design efforts for historic and cultural areas such as Historic Kempsville, the VIBE creative district, Owl Creek/Aquarium district and Burton Station SGA.
- Continue to work with Convention and Visitors Bureau Sports Marketing Office to promote and expand athletic tourism within the Princess Anne Commons Athletic Village.
- Continue to partner with Public Works on road and stormwater projects to integrate park space and promote efficient use of urban land.
- Utilize the 2016 Outdoors Plan as a platform from which to plan future Parks & Recreation CIP and operating budgets.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT AND PARK OPERATIONS

- Initiate a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis for all tennis court assets that includes community input.
- Expand the coverage for wireless communication networks in parks.
- Increase the use of technology to assist park operations and maintenance staff with tasks such as site inspections, scheduling, work order reporting and fee collection.
- Continue to partner with Resort Operations to support and maintain the Resort Area parks, trails and landscaped areas.
- Increase tree canopy within parks using the strategies adopted in the Urban Forest Management Plan.
- Continue to support the Parks Plus program and other initiatives developed in partnership with the Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation.
- Utilize the 2016 Outdoors Plan as a platform from which to plan future CIP and operating budgets.

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