

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### **Introduction**

Parks and recreation are integral parts of James City County's public service system. The outlook on parks and recreation has dramatically changed from the years when the County contributed funding to the City of Williamsburg in order to secure access to recreational services for residents to the 1980s when pilot recreation programs were initiated by the County on a trial basis. Starting with several neighborhood parks and a modest offering of programs, the County formulated a plan of action in its 1982 Recreation Plan. Several of the recommended parks and facilities have been constructed as a result of that plan, including Upper County Park and the James City/Williamsburg Community Center.

A revised master plan was adopted in 1993, which confirmed that well-planned parks, offering a variety of recreational opportunities and quality programs for all ages and incomes, are essential for maintaining the high quality of life enjoyed by County residents. An update to this plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on *insert adoption date here*. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to develop a plan of action for meeting the growing needs for active and passive parks, facilities, open space, and recreational needs of James City County citizens over the next ten years.

The establishment of parks and recreational opportunities is vital to the creation of a sustainable and healthy community. Availability of parks and recreation programs spurs economic growth, enhances the social fabric, preserves connections to nature, protects environmental resources, and creates a sense of ownership and belonging for residents.

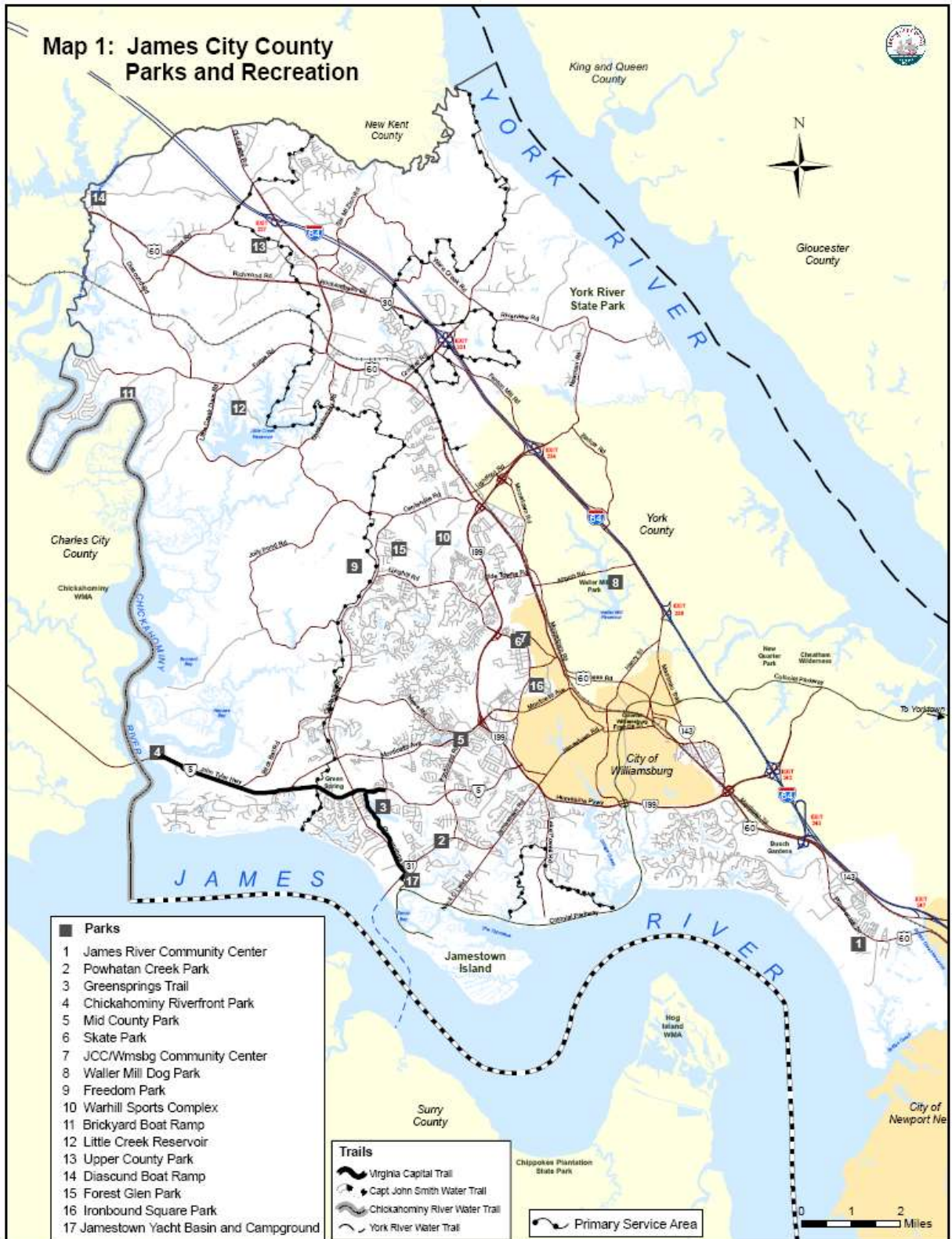
### **Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Today, the Parks and Recreation Division (of the Community Services Department) administers an annual budget of approximately \$6.1 million. A staff of 54 full-time employees oversees the program with the assistance of 21 part-time employees and an average of 128 part-time on-call, temporary, or seasonal employees. In addition, volunteers contributed over 40,258 hours in 2008 and Facilities and Maintenance Division staff provides the extensive maintenance necessary to keep parks, playing fields, and open areas maintained.

Directly resulting from the strategies of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, the County has made significant contributions to the development of the parks and recreation system in the past five years. The Parks and Recreation Division has moved forward to develop active recreational facilities at the Warhill Sports Complex, build new historical interpretation features at Freedom Park and picnic shelters and playground at Chickahominy Riverfront Park, complete the County portion of the Virginia Capital Trail, and many others. Additionally, the County acquired the Jamestown Beach Campground and Yacht Basin, which will contribute to meeting public water access and recreational needs. The County now operates 14 parks containing 1,491 acres. These parks are categorized as mini-parks/neighborhood parks, community parks/athletic complexes, regional parks, greenways and multi-purpose trails, special use areas, blueways, or recreation centers. Descriptions are based on the guidelines of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and national benchmarking standards. More information on each category is available in the 2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and

Technical Report. The map on the accompanying page shows the public recreation facilities in James City County.

Map PR-1: James City County Parks and Recreation Facilities



School properties also provide recreation/athletic areas to the public. A total of eight softball fields, 15 baseball fields, 12 soccer fields, 11 multi-use fields, 21 tennis courts, nine basketball courts, three tracks, two nature trails, and 17 playgrounds are all accessible to the public.

In addition to its public facilities, James City County contains a wealth of private recreation facilities, including tennis courts, golf courses, trails, and swimming pools, within many of its neighborhoods. The development of these amenities is designed to and does in fact relieve some pressure for County provision of public facilities. It is important to acknowledge the positive contribution these facilities make to overall community quality of life and how they help make amenities accessible to individuals, reducing vehicle miles traveled. While these facilities provide invaluable services and should be promoted, the goal of the County is to provide a quality park system with facilities available to all citizens.

The adjacent localities of the City of Williamsburg, City of Newport News, and York County offer many recreational opportunities which are available for shared use with James City County residents (Waller Mill Park, for example, is located in the City of Williamsburg). Since many facilities are open to users living in any jurisdiction, it is important to provide sidewalk, bikeway, and greenway connections across locality borders to provide access to the facilities.

Several state and federally operated park facilities are also located within to the County, including York River State Park, the Colonial National Historical Park, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (blueway), and Historic Jamestowne. These continue to offer excellent recreational facilities, including boating, bicycling, hiking, passive recreation, and sightseeing.

### **Programming**

The Parks and Recreation Division currently offers numerous programs and special events for active and passive recreation for both youth and adults. The Parks and Recreation Division also offers several other specialized services. One example is the award-winning *Inclusion* service, which provides accommodations and accessibility to persons with disabilities for participation in recreational programs, facilities, and leisure activities offered to the community. As with many of the facilities operated by the County, Parks and Recreation continually seeks creative partnerships with private providers and adjacent localities to meet some programming needs.

As the County's population changes, the types of programs that are in demand and barriers to serving the youth and senior populations change as well. As noted in the Population Needs section, it continues to be important for Parks and Recreation to be flexible in revising the programs offered to meet the changing needs of the population.

### **Greenways**

Walking for pleasure continues to be the number one recreational activity in America, and in James City County, the Virginia Tech Citizen Survey revealed that 78.6% of citizens feel that bike and walking trails for all age groups are somewhat or very important. Planning for greenways can help provide these types of facilities.

Greenways are linear open spaces that are managed for conservation, recreation, and/or alternative transportation uses. Most are networks of natural open space corridors that connect

neighborhoods, parks, and schools to areas of natural, cultural, recreational, scenic, and historical significance.

Recognizing the importance of greenways, the Board of Supervisors adopted the *Greenway Master Plan* in 2002. The *Greenway Master Plan* establishes a framework for a countywide system of interconnected greenways and trails with the goal of balancing environmental protection with the need for recreational amenities. Elements pertaining to greenway planning and design, maintenance and management, and implementation strategies and funding are also included in the plan. The plan should become part of a broader green infrastructure plan, which would identify a network of cores (parks or conservation areas) connected by linear greenway corridors. While this technique is often seen as a way to protect environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife corridors, green infrastructure planning can contribute significant opportunities for outdoor recreation.

### **Blueways and Shoreline Recreation**

Public access to water and blueways planning was one of seven items identified by the *2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan* as a key emerging issue. Not only does water access provide for excellent recreational opportunities, but the personal interaction with local rivers that feed into the Chesapeake Bay can also help residents become aware of the connection between the value of the Bay and individual interests in protection. According to the Virginia Outdoors Survey, more than half of the respondents thought that the most needed outdoor recreational opportunities included public access to water for boating, fishing, swimming, and beach use. Additionally, according to the HRPDC, by the year 2010, the demand for water access for water-based recreational activities can be expected to increase 25% from year 2000 levels, indicating the County will be short 141 acres of beach and 12,891 acres of available lake and bay to meet demand.

There are currently 11 private and ten public water access facilities. More detail is available in *Tables PR-1 and PR-2* and *Map PR-2*. Numerous private developments also allow property owners to maintain docks and piers on their lots.

### **Recreation Needs**

Several techniques are used to identify the County's recreational needs, including inventorying existing public facilities, analyzing population trends, and collecting public input. Facility standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population and can change over time as the demographics change. The County's parks and recreation facility standards were recently re-evaluated during the *2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* update. The Master Plan sets a guide of 12 acres of public recreation space for every 1,000 County residents. The 12 acres should consist of approximately three acres of community park, five acres of regional park, two acres of linear parks/greenways, and two acres of special use areas. Readers should consult the current Master Plan for additional facilities and the most recent standards.

In comparison to NRPA standards, James City County calls for slightly higher facility/population ratios for regional open space, special use areas, bikeways, youth competitive softball fields, and multi-purpose fields based on community demand, high program participation, and citizen interest to preserve open space for conservation and recreational purposes. County standards are slightly lower than the NRPA standards for some

Table PR-1: Private Water Access Areas

|  | <b>Water Body</b>  | <b>Parking</b> | <b>Boat Launch Ramp</b> | <b>Wet Slips</b> | <b>Dockside Pumpout Station</b> | <b>Restrooms</b> | <b>Private Resident Docks</b> |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kingsmill Marina                           | James River        | X              | X                       | X                | X                               | X                | X                             |
| The Marina at Two Rivers (Governor's Land) | James River        | X              | X                       | X                |                                 | X                |                               |
| Chickahominy Marina                        | Chickahominy River | X              | X                       | X                |                                 | X                |                               |
| Chickahominy Haven                         | Chickahominy River | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                  | X                             |
| Riverview Plantation                       | York River         | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                  | X                             |
| First Colony                               | James River        | X              | X                       | X                |                                 |                  | X                             |
| Jamestown 4-H Educational Center           | James River        | X              | X                       |                  |                                 | X                |                               |
| Stonehouse Marina*                         | York River         | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                  |                               |
| Powhatan Shores                            | Powhatan Creek     | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                  | X                             |
| Kingspoint                                 | Powhatan Creek     | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                  |                               |
| Jamestown Marina                           | Powhatan Creek     | X              | X                       | X                |                                 | X                |                               |

\*Stonehouse is a proposed facility. Guarantees for water access provided by proffers.

Sources: James City County Comprehensive Plan Shoreline and Ground Water Element, James City County Parks and Recreation, James City County Geographic Information System, 2007 aerial photography, and site visits.

Table PR-2: Public Water Access Areas

|  | <b>Water Body</b>         | <b>Day Use</b> | <b>Seasonal Use</b> | <b>Fee or Permit to Launch</b> | <b>Parking</b> | <b>Boat Launch Ramp</b> | <b>Wet Slips</b> | <b>Dockside Pumpout Station</b> | <b>Fishing</b> | <b>Swimming Beach</b> | <b>Hiking</b> | <b>Camping</b> | <b>Picnicking</b> | <b>Restrooms</b> | <b>Handicap Access</b> | <b>Cultural Resources</b> |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestowne Island) and Parkway          | James River               | X              |                     |                                | X              |                         |                  |                                 | X              | X#                    | X             |                | X                 | X                |                        | X                         |
| Croaker Landing - York River State Park                                    | York River                | X              |                     | X                              | X              | X                       |                  |                                 | X              |                       | X             |                |                   |                  | X**                    |                           |
| Diascund Reservoir Park  | Diascund Reservoir        | X              |                     |                                | X              | X*                      |                  |                                 | X              |                       |               |                |                   |                  | X                      |                           |
| Little Creek Reservoir Park  | Little Creek Reservoir    | X              | X                   | X                              | X              | X*                      |                  |                                 | X              |                       | X             |                | X                 | X                | X                      |                           |
| Jamestown Campground   | James River               | X              |                     |                                | X              |                         |                  |                                 | X              | X                     |               |                | X                 |                  |                        | X                         |
| Powhatan Creek Park  | Powhatan Creek            | X              |                     |                                | X              | X*                      |                  |                                 | X              |                       |               |                |                   |                  | X                      | X                         |
| Brickyard Landing Park   | Chickahominy River        | X              |                     |                                | X              | X                       |                  |                                 |                |                       |               |                |                   |                  |                        |                           |
| York River State Park - Taskinas Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve | York River/Taskinas Creek | X              |                     |                                | X              | X*                      |                  |                                 |                |                       | X             |                | X                 | X                | X**                    |                           |
| Chickahominy Riverfront Park   | Chickahominy River        | X              |                     | X                              | X              | X                       |                  |                                 | X              | X                     |               | X              | X                 | X                | X                      |                           |
| Jamestown Yacht Basin and Marina   | James River               | X              |                     | X                              | X              | X                       | X                | X                               |                |                       |               |                |                   | X                | X                      |                           |
| Stonehouse Canoe Launches (2)***   | Ware Creek                | X              |                     |                                |                | X*                      |                  |                                 |                |                       |               |                |                   |                  |                        |                           |

#Swimming is permitted at College Creek and Archer's Hope; however, it is strongly discouraged due to dangerous currents (Mike Litterst, National Park Service)

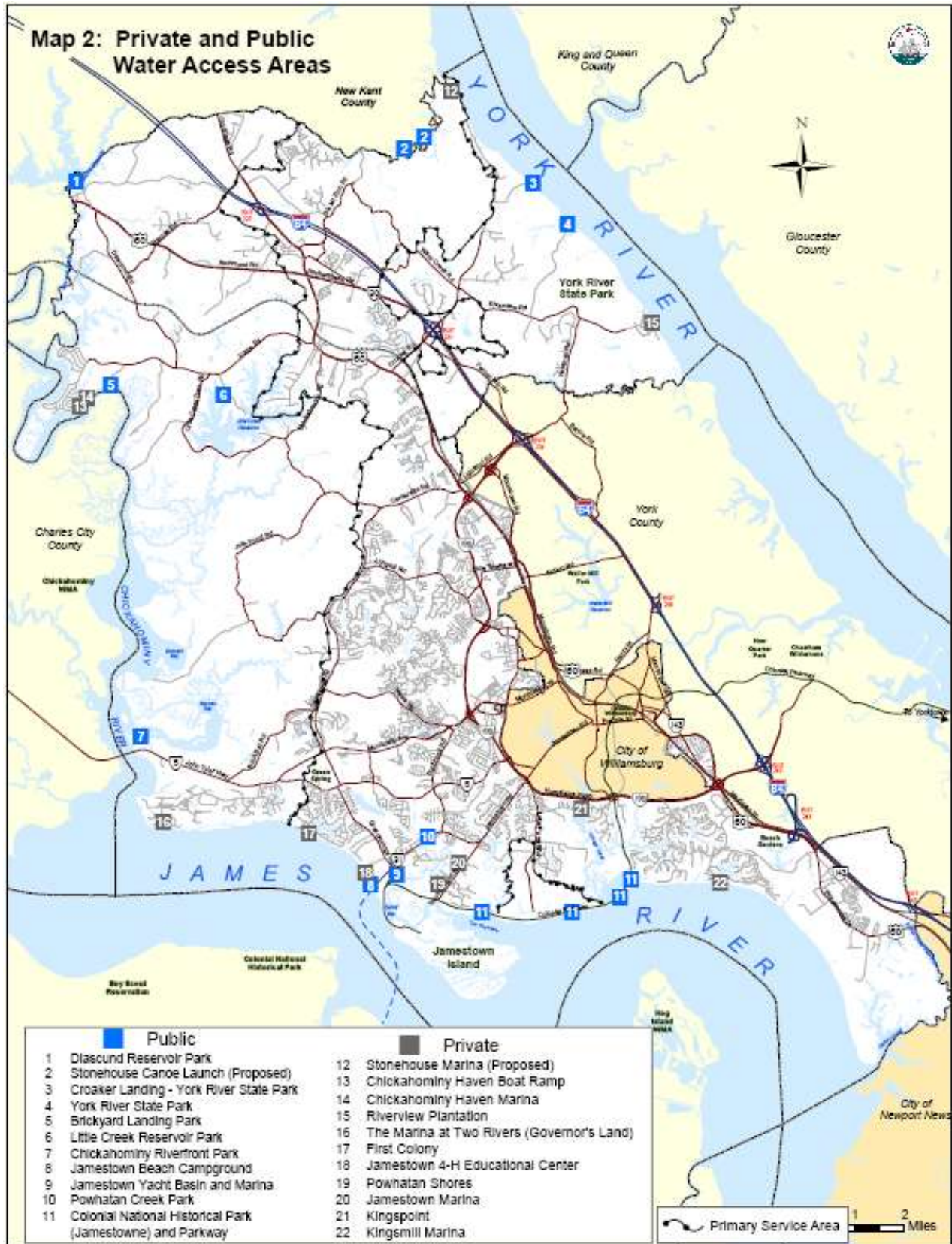
\*Launch restricted to non-motorized boats

\*\*Portions of park are handicap accessible: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/yor.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/yor.shtml).

\*\*\*Two proposed public launch facilities. Guarantees for water access provided by proffers.

Sources: The Chesapeake Bay Program, James City County Comprehensive Plan Shoreline and Ground Water Element, Environmental Division, Parks and Recreation Division, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Map PR-2: Public and Private Water Access Areas



facilities due to decreased demand and the observation that many private gyms, developments, and adjacent localities tend to provide these facilities. More specific detail about the facility classifications and standards is available in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Population projections and equity mapping, together with the facility standards, help the Parks and Recreation Division locate where services are available, how equitable the service delivery is across the County, and where land should be acquired for the construction of new parks or facilities. The most underserved areas for several types of facilities are in the north (Stonehouse District) and south (Roberts District).

### **Action Plan**

The adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets out the specific actions the County will take to meet its projected recreation needs and is expressed in terms of specific goals, strategies, and tactics, as well as a list of future capital improvements.

In order to offset the cost for the construction and operation of new facilities, the County and Parks and Recreation Division continue to explore revenue-generating programs and facilities and seek additional funding through alternative sources. The adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan also contains proffer guidelines that are used by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to address provision of neighborhood recreational facilities when considering special use permit and rezoning applications.

### **Community Sustainability Spotlight**

Parks and recreation opportunities play a fundamental role in each pillar of sustainability and serve to make James City County an attractive quality community for all residents.

- *Economically strong:*
  - Parks and open space can increase the value of nearby properties.
  - Interconnected bikeways and sidewalks, coupled with development of employment opportunities near residential communities, can help alleviate traffic congestion and reduce household transportation costs.
  - Good recreational opportunities play a role in attracting businesses, trained employees, and tourists in search of a high quality community.
- *Socially responsible and engaged:*
  - Support for exercise encourages residents to incorporate activity into their daily lives and can help reduce obesity rates and lower health care costs.
  - Community parks can serve to deter crime in neighborhoods and youth recreational programs may help reduce juvenile delinquency.
  - Parks provide areas for people of diverse backgrounds to gather, gain knowledge about the County and world, and socially relate to other residents.
- *Environmentally viable:*
  - Open space, particularly when contiguous, provides opportunities for native wildlife and vegetation to flourish and safeguards drinking water.
  - Parks and recreation can promote environmental education by offering residents personal experiences with the natural environment.

In order to reap the community sustaining benefits that parks and recreation have to offer, the County should continue to support both the maintenance of existing facilities and development

of new facilities, including acquisition of open space. Significant opportunities, partnerships, and amenities are already provided, but as County demographics change and growth continues, it becomes increasingly important to plan the location for amenities, connections to neighborhoods, and explore alternative funding and partnership strategies.

The following goals, strategies and actions, in addition to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Strategy Matrix, serve to link the desire of residents to maintain a high quality community through the provision of a wide variety of indoor, outdoor, active, and passive recreation opportunities with the desire to create a more sustainable community that future generations can enjoy.

### **Citizen Commentary**

More than eight in ten respondents (83%) of the Virginia Tech Citizen Survey rated existing parks and recreation facilities and services as good or excellent. Likewise, favorable ratings for parks, recreation classes, and facilities in the National Citizen Survey rated above the national and Southern states benchmarks. Eighty-nine percent of respondents did, however, indicate the need to increase the number of youth friendly activities in the area. In order of importance, citizens view biking and walking trails for transportation and recreation (79%) and public access to waterways (72%) as very or somewhat important.

Input from Community Conversations reinforced these results. Particularly, participants were interested in improved connectivity between neighborhoods and areas of interest via bikeways and trails. Other comments focused on making recreational facilities more affordable, constructing a competitive aquatic facility, maintaining existing facilities, improving recreational opportunities for seniors and youth, protecting greenspace and open space, and looking for ways to partner with schools and private providers. Finally, 77% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that green technologies should be used in the site design of County facilities.

### **Goals, Strategies and Actions**

**Goal:** Provide a range of recreational facilities and activities that are affordable, accessible, appropriate, and adequate in number, size, type, and location to accommodate the needs of all County residents and that promote personal growth, social development, and healthy lifestyles.

#### **Strategies and Actions:**

#### **1.1. Match public facilities and programs with citizen needs for recreation and open space.**

- 1.1.1. Implement the specific strategies and tactics approved in the *2009 James City County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Strategy Matrix*.
- 1.1.2. Prioritize potential property acquisition for parks in underserved areas of the County.
- 1.1.3. Continue to develop Freedom Park and the Warhill Sports Complex based upon

approved master plans.

- 1.1.4. Update park master plans to coordinate construction phasing and validate capital improvement requests.
  - 1.1.5. Continue to plan and develop a park with open space areas on the 13-acre water tower parcel next to the Community Center.
  - 1.1.6. Develop parks and fields in conjunction with new school development whenever possible and continue to collaborate with Williamsburg/James City County (WJCC) Schools during the site design process.
  - 1.1.7. Encourage regional cooperation in the development of recreation facilities and provision of programs whenever possible.
- 1.2. Continue to develop an integrated network of linear parks, trails, bikeways, sidewalks and greenways with connections to a regional greenway system that allow foot or bike access to destinations and that preserve the diverse natural, cultural, scenic, and environmental resources of the community that contribute to recreation activities.**
- 1.2.1. Continue to coordinate with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee (HTBAC), and local running, hiking, and bicycling clubs to develop a bikeway network consistent with the adopted Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan and support the public provision of bicycle facilities by providing County funding and seeking non-County funding sources.
  - 1.2.2. Incorporate bikeway design standards from the Greenways Master Plan into the County's Zoning Ordinance. These design standards should address not only cross sections and surface materials, but also signage, support facilities (such as bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, etc.) and road crossing safety measures.
  - 1.2.3. Continue to develop a greenway network consistent with the Greenway Master Plan and implement the Action Plan by:
    - a. Aligning the Greenway Master Plan with existing and planned sidewalks and bikeways, and integrating this plan with greenway plans of adjacent localities and interested organizations.
    - b. Pursuing the acquisition and construction of greenway multiuse trails parallel or as an alternative to Jamestown Road to enhance alternative transportation modes leading to Jamestown Island.
    - c. Developing the Regional or Peninsula Greenway spine of the Greenway Program within the existing utility easement shared by Virginia Power, Colonial Gas, and Newport News Waterworks.

- d. Coordinating with the National Park Service to establish a multiuse trail along the Colonial Parkway with connections to adjoining County areas as recommended in the Greenway Master Plan.
  - e. Continuing to provide funding in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the acquisition and use of open space areas and greenways to preserve the scenic, natural and historic character of the area.
  - f. Examining the feasibility of including a system of equestrian trails as part of the Greenway Master Plan.
- 1.2.4. Continue to collaborate regionally to improve connectivity of open space, including but not limited to, working with Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and County staff to develop a local level green infrastructure map which identifies critical natural, cultural, and recreational networks and develop a plan for implementation. Build upon the open space diagram in the Greenway Master Plan.
- 1.2.5. Work with the National Park Service to realize the recreational and cultural potential of Green Spring Plantation, including evaluation of a multi-use trail on Centerville Road between Monticello Avenue and John Tyler Highway.
- 1.3. Research and pursue alternative methods for funding park development and recreation programs that create a positive cash flow to offset expenditures, including private sector partnerships, establishment of a park foundation, citizen volunteers, grants, and revenue producing facilities.**
- 1.3.1. Develop a business plan for the Parks and Recreation Division to support financial goals for the future.
- 1.3.2. Reinstitute the grant-in-aid program for neighborhood associations and other non-profit groups to make funds available for neighborhood park improvements.
- 1.3.3. Coordinate Purchase of Development Rights, greenway, green space, community character, and environmental protection programs to maximize utility of shared resources, funding, and criteria necessary for site selection and land protection.
- 1.3.4. Submit grant applications to secure funds for new parks and recreation programs, services, facilities and related transportation services.
- 1.3.5. Emphasize the maintenance of existing facilities as a way to make efficient use of limited financial and physical resources.
- 1.3.6. Develop a sponsorship policy to support special events and programs.

- 1.4. Continue to provide access to major water bodies for expansion of water recreation opportunities.**
  - 1.4.1 Seek additional waterfront access on the James, York, and Chickahominy rivers to improve and expand water access and blueway trail development, especially in areas currently lacking water access such as the lower James River.
  - 1.4.2 Develop recreational components of the Jamestown Beach Campground, Jamestown Yacht Basin, and Chickahominy Riverfront Park in accordance with approved master plans.
  - 1.4.3 Collaborate with the National Park Service to develop water trails and continue to provide trail information at designated Chesapeake Bay Gateways.
  
- 1.5. Collaborate with developers of all new developments to provide neighborhood park facilities, sidewalks, bikeways, and trails as outlined in the Parks and Recreation, Greenway, and Sidewalk master plans and to permanently protect open space and natural resources.**
  - 1.5.1. Continue to encourage new developments to dedicate or otherwise permanently convey open space, greenway, and conservation areas to the County or a public land trust.
  - 1.5.2. Encourage new developments to dedicate right-of-way and construct sidewalks, bikeways and greenway trails for transportation and recreation purposes, and construct such facilities concurrent with road improvements and other public projects in accordance with the Sidewalk Master Plan, the Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan, and the Greenway Master Plan.
  - 1.5.3. Encourage new developments requiring legislative review to proffer public recreation facilities consistent with standards in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. New developments should have neighborhood parks with trails, bikeways, playgrounds, practice fields, and open spaces.
  - 1.5.4. Maintain a comprehensive inventory of privately owned recreation facilities within the County and apply a percentage of these facilities towards meeting the overall Parks and Recreation Facility and Service Standards.
  - 1.5.5. Amend Zoning Ordinance regulations to facilitate development of recreational facilities including, but not limited to, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and trails within by-right residential developments in accordance with design standards.
  
- 1.6. Incorporate the particular needs of the County's diverse population, including but not limited to teens, at-risk youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities when planning for recreational facilities, programs, and greenways.**

- 1.6.1. Include input from the diverse population noted in Strategy 1.6 in all master plans for new parks.
  - 1.6.2. Reevaluate the types of programs offered based on changing County demographics and citizen needs.
  - 1.6.3. Continue to offer the Inclusion service and conduct assessments with persons with disabilities to ensure necessary accessibility for participation in recreation programs.
  - 1.6.4. Establish program performance measures (include goals, objectives, essential eligibility guidelines) to incorporate consistent standards in program design.
  - 1.6.5. Incorporate leadership and volunteerism in teen programs in an effort to increase skill building and employability within the County.
  - 1.6.6. Include programs and services that build resiliency in at-risk youth and their families.
- 1.7. Address issues of affordability and accessibility in planning recreation programs.**
- 1.7.1. Work with Williamsburg Area Transport Authority to improve the public transportation service to County parks and facilities.
  - 1.7.2. Plan for multiple points of access for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists to improve connectivity between Parks and Recreation Division facilities and surrounding neighborhoods.
  - 1.7.3. Reevaluate and continue to provide financial assistance to families and individuals who are most in need for essential programs (such as the before and after school program) and continue to offer free access times to County recreation centers.
  - 1.7.4. Conduct a comparative market analysis to review fees biannually, to ensure that programs are offered at fair market value.
  - 1.7.5. Identify potential partnerships with neighborhoods to develop neighborhood programming.
- 1.8. Support programs that promote healthy lifestyles, such as fitness, aerobics and wellness education, and that emphasize conservation and environmental awareness.**
- 1.8.1. Enhance the partnerships with the schools to offer joint programming for health and wellness.
  - 1.8.2. Develop a plan to incorporate health and wellness components into program

areas.

**1.9. Continue to promote awareness of the recreational opportunities available to County residents and visitors.**

1.9.1. Continue to disseminate brochures and keep up to date information on the website to inform County residents and visitors about County park and recreational opportunities in accordance with approved public information plans.

1.9.2. Provide information at community events regarding Parks and Recreation Division programs and services.

**1.10. Sponsor educational opportunities that emphasize the connections between parks and recreation and environmental and historical preservation.**

1.10.1. Investigate development of an ecotourism program that promotes passive recreational opportunities within natural open spaces and identify and designate lands in support of this purpose.

1.10.2. Continue to promote signage and programs that provide educational opportunities in cultural and natural resources. Develop public historical interpretive sites at County facilities in keeping with the County's Archaeological Policy.

**1.11. Design, construct, and operate facilities in a sustainable manner.**

1.11.1. Adopt a specific County policy governing the application of sustainable building standards to Parks and Recreation built and occupied facilities and buildings.

1.11.2. Develop sustainable strategies similar to LEED for the design and location of parks and incorporate the strategies into park development guidelines, where feasible.