

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

Chanda Norton, Chair
Gregory Weaver, Vice Chair



Commissioners of St. Mary's County
James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

January 5, 2023

ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Recreation and Parks (R&P) Board was established to provide advice and assistance concerning a comprehensive program of public recreation, including establishment, operation, and maintenance of a system of public parks and facilities throughout St. Mary's County. The membership of the Citizens advisory board consists of nine (9) members.

Chanda Norton - Chairperson
Greg Weaver - Vice-Chairperson (Wicomico Shores Golf Club Board member)
Joe Longobardi - SMCPs Rep
Donald De Graves
Glenn Larnerd
Veronica Johnson
John Lydon III

The Department is comprised of five divisions: Administration; Recreation; Parks; Museums; and Golf Course. The Director of Recreation and Parks provides supervision and management for these divisions, in addition managing capital planning for new parks and facility expansion and enhancements. The Museum Board of Trustees and Wicomico Golf Course have advisory boards respectively.

FY2022 Budget Highlights include:

Total Operating budget - \$10,757,871
General Fund - \$ 5,058,922
Enterprise Fund - \$ 5,698,948
*Capital Budget: 5-year total \$ 28, 673,861

Major accomplishments for FY2022, include:

- Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- EmPower Maryland Initiative
- Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) 2018-2029
 - Three Notch Trail Phase VII & VIII
 - Piney Point and St. Clements Island Museum Renovations -Improvements
 - Elms Beach Park Improvements
 - Lexington Manor Passive Park
 - Myrtle Point Park Improvements
 - Snow Hill Park Improvements
 - Shannon Farm Property Improvements
 - Synthetic Multi-Sport Field Major Park and Facility Improvements

- Field Fencing- Dorsey and Baggett Parks
- Field Lights- 5th District
- Tennis Courts- Baggett and Wicomico Shores
- Restrooms- Dorsey and Lexington Manor Passive Park
- Basketball Court- Baggett
- Wicomico Shores- Restaurant Improvements & ADA Golf Cart
- ADA Upgrades- Pavilions; Chancellors Run; Ballfields
- Baseball field renovations (16)
- Lights at Cecil Park & Dorsey Park
- Bathroom remodel- Margaret Brent and Leonard Hall
- Windscreens at 7th, CRRP and Baggett Parks
- Tennis Court Lights at CRRP
- Basketball backboards at Margaret Brent
- Nicolet Park Playground

The Advisory Board had 12 meetings in FY2022.

The following sport organizations briefed the Advisory Board on the state of their programs:

- SOMD Pickleball – USA Pickleball District Ambassador Floyd Warren
- St. Mary’s Little League Baseball – RJ Bean
- SOMDDGA – Adam Neal, Jerry Hannas
- St. Mary’s Lacrosse - Cynthia Lisa, President

*FY 2023 CIP Forecast for Advisory Board

#RP-2204 Park Land and Facility Acquisition - Utilizing Local Program Open Space (POS) funds, this project enables property acquisition for County parks, public landings, and recreation facilities. Several potential acquisition projects are included in both 2012 and 2017 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans adopted by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. Those projects include land for expanded parking at Wicomico Shores Public Landing; Patuxent River Waterfront Park and Public Landing; park land acquisition in Lexington Park; central and lower Patuxent Public Landing; trail related acquisitions; museum related acquisitions; and land acquisition for an indoor recreation center. FY23 - Potential purchase

#RP-2203 Recreation Facilities and Park Improve / Renovations - This project addresses capital improvements at existing recreation facilities and parks. FY23 Projects include: PARK LIGHTS: 5th District parking lights (\$85,000); COURT IMPROVEMENTS: 7th District (\$70,000); Cardinal Gibbons (169,000); Hollywood Recreation Center (22,000) PLAYGROUNDS: Baggett and Nicolet Park (\$600,000); ADA TRANSITION PLAN: Chaptico and Baggett Parks (\$200,000); ASPHALT OVERLAY: Three Notch Trail (\$100,00); 5th District Walkways (56,000) RECREATION FACILITY UPGRADES: Great Mills Pool storage building, water heater replacement, deck refurbishment and fencing (\$120,000); WICOMICO SHORES: greens improvements, dredging and pipe replacement (\$215,000) ATHLETIC FIELD FENCING: 5th District (\$13,000) FY24 Chaptico Park Skate Park (\$200,00 A&E; \$450,000 Construction)

#RP-2005 Myrtle Point Park - The 192-acre property on the Patuxent River was acquired for a county park in January 1997 and has been open for public use for hiking, picnicking, nature study and other passive uses since that time. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County adopted a park master plan in October 2005 that formally established Myrtle Point as a nature park. Park facilities and amenities presented in the master plan include a canoe and kayak launch, picnic areas, trails, restrooms, environmental boardwalks, parking, and shoreline access. A total of \$400,00 for design and engineering planned for FY24 and park construction to be determined.

#RP-2102 Park Planning Grant – This project is to update the 2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan which serves at the County’s five-year Recreation and Parks Master Plan. A parkland planning consulting firm will be hired to with county staff, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and the public to develop he Plan which is then presented to the Planning Commission for review and the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County for adoption.

Looking forward The Advisory Board will continue to advocate for the many organizations and residents in St. Mary’s County, by providing the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary’s County with advice and assistance concerning a comprehensive program of public recreation, including the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a system of public parks and facilities throughout the county.

Respectfully submitted,

Chanda R. Norton, Chair

*subject to change