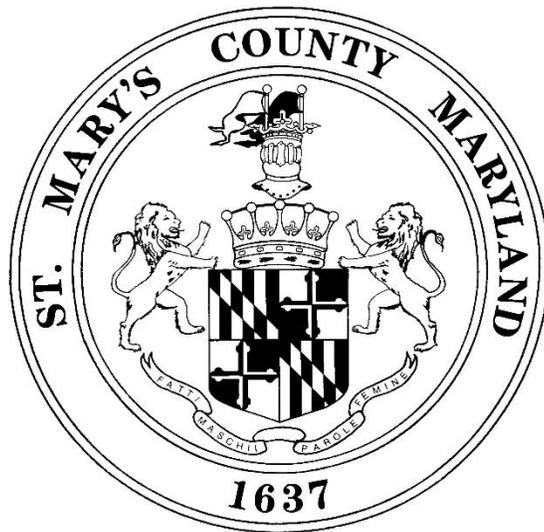


St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Citizen's Advisory Board



2024 Annual Report

Veronica Johnson - Chairperson
Glenn Larnerd, Jr - Vice-Chairperson
Donald DeGraves, Sr.
Jeffrey Kennedy
John Lydon, III
David McDonough
Enrique Navarrete
Mike Watson

Jessica Hale, Interim Director
Christina Bishop, Project Manager

January 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Parks (R&P) Board is an eight (8) member board appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) "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 Board generally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 5:30 P.M., in the Chesapeake Building, in Leonardtown.

During calendar year 2024, the Parks system consisted of twenty-two (22) parks, fifteen (15) public landings, nineteen (19) playgrounds, and four (4) dog parks. The Department manages the Gymnastics Academy; Great Mills Pool; Hollywood, Margaret Brent, Leonard Hall, Carver Recreation Centers and the Wellness and Aquatics Center; Three Notch Trail; and numerous Licensed Extended Day Centers (before and after school care centers).

Additionally, the Department manages the 150± acre Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC), with oversight provided by the WSGC Advisory Board. The Museums Division is responsible for St. Clement's Island Museum; Piney Point Lighthouse; Museum and Historic Park; Drayden African American Schoolhouse; Charlotte Hall Schoolhouse; Old Jail Museum; and the U-1105 Black Panther Historic Shipwreck Preserve; oversight of these facilities is provided by the Museum Board of Trustees.

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 to managing capital planning for new parks and facility expansion and enhancements.

Board Membership

Appointments: Veronica Johnson – January 2024; Jeffrey Kennedy – January 2024; David McDonough – January 2024; Enrique Navarrete – October 2024;

Returning Members: Glenn Larnerd, Jr; Donald DeGraves, Sr.; John Lydon, III; Mike Watson – St. Mary's County Public Schools Representative

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2024 Attendance – Eight Meetings

| Member | 01/04/24 | 02/01/24 | 03/07/24 | 04/04/24 | 05/02/24 | 06/06/24 | 08/01/24 | 09/05/24 | 10/03/24 | 11/07/24 | 12/05/24 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Veronica Johnson | P | P | P | P | C | P | A | P | C | C | P |
| Jeffrey Kennedy | P | P | P | P | C | P | P | P | C | C | A |
| David M McDonough | P | P | P | A | C | P | P | P | C | C | P |
| Glenn A Larnerd Jr | P | P | A | P | C | P | P | P | C | C | A |
| John W Lydon III | P | P | P | P | C | P | P | P | C | C | P |
| Mike Watson | A | P | P | P | C | A | P | A | C | C | A |
| Donald A. Degraives Sr. | P | P | P | P | C | A | A | P | C | C | P |
| Enrique Navarrete | | | | | | | | | | | P |
| Present: | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Absent: | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Excused: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Note: May & October meetings were cancelled due to lack of Agenda items. The November meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2024

- Advocated for Player Fees to remain at FY23 amount of \$9.50 per player
- Advocated to have open gym availability at Carver Recreation Center
- Reviewed and concurred with the Department's Strategic Plan
- Encouraged the Department to receive additional community input on programs and activities
- Encouraged the restoration of funds for the Shannon Park project that were used to fund the purchase of the Gymnastics Academy
- Advocated for multi-use of the space available at the Gymnastics Academy
- Conducted research on converting baseball fields to turf

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- Field use – Ensuring reserved fields are used and ensuring all organizations have an opportunity to reserve fields
- Player Fees - Continue to monitor balance between demand and staffing costs

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Board will continue to work with the Department and provide support for R&P Capital Improvement Projects and other projects and initiatives. Some of these include:

- Continue to monitor the durability and maintenance of the new clay mixture on the baseball fields
- Install water resources at the Dog Parks
- AED accessibility at parks
- Shade opportunities on turf fields
- Improve the registration and website navigation
- Continue to encourage energy savings through lighting and solar use.
- Encourage League Leaders to provide feedback
- Continue to encourage Recreation Facilities and Park Improvements
- New outdoor sports complex
- New indoor community/recreation center with multi-use courts
- Continue to monitor YMCA progress