

Mathews County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Agenda Thursday, April 4, 2024

Historic Courthouse, Mathews, VA.

Call to Order, Roll Call for quorum

Approval of March Minutes, Approval of Agenda

Election for Chair and Vice Chair

Welcome Guests

Public comment period

Old Business

- Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries water access sites- Earl
- 897 South Bay Haven -New low impact park
 - County request- a recommendation from Parks and Rec

Sub-Committee Reports

- Pickleball- Status
 - Port Fun Event
- Future Multi-use Parks:
 - 63 Acres near Sheriff's office
- Multi-use Trails: Statewide Trails Eastern District Advocacy Group for Mathews

New Business

- Community communication
- Activities discussion

Second Public comment period

Action Items

Next meeting: May 2, 2024

Parks and Rec

April 4, 2024

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Committee Members

Mathews County Parks & Recreation Members Contact Information

Members Name, Title	Email Address
Nicholas Koch, Interim Chair	nickkoch10s@gmail.com
Jean Howard, Secretary	cajfarm@gmail.com
Terry Dixon, Member	dixonterry954@gmail.com
Sharon Frye, Member	sharonfrye1@msn.com
Janice Towne, Member	jtowne888@gmail.com
Amber Moore, Member	ruemoore11@gmail.com
Earl Byrum, Member	earlby@va.metrocast.net
Dan Reno, Alternate	nandanreno@gmail.com
Buzz Lambert, YMCA Liaison	buzz.lambart@ymcavp.org
Tom Bowen, BOS Liaison	tombowen@mathewscountyva.gov

Election for Chair and Vice Chair

Tom Bowen, Mathews BOS Liaison will officiate

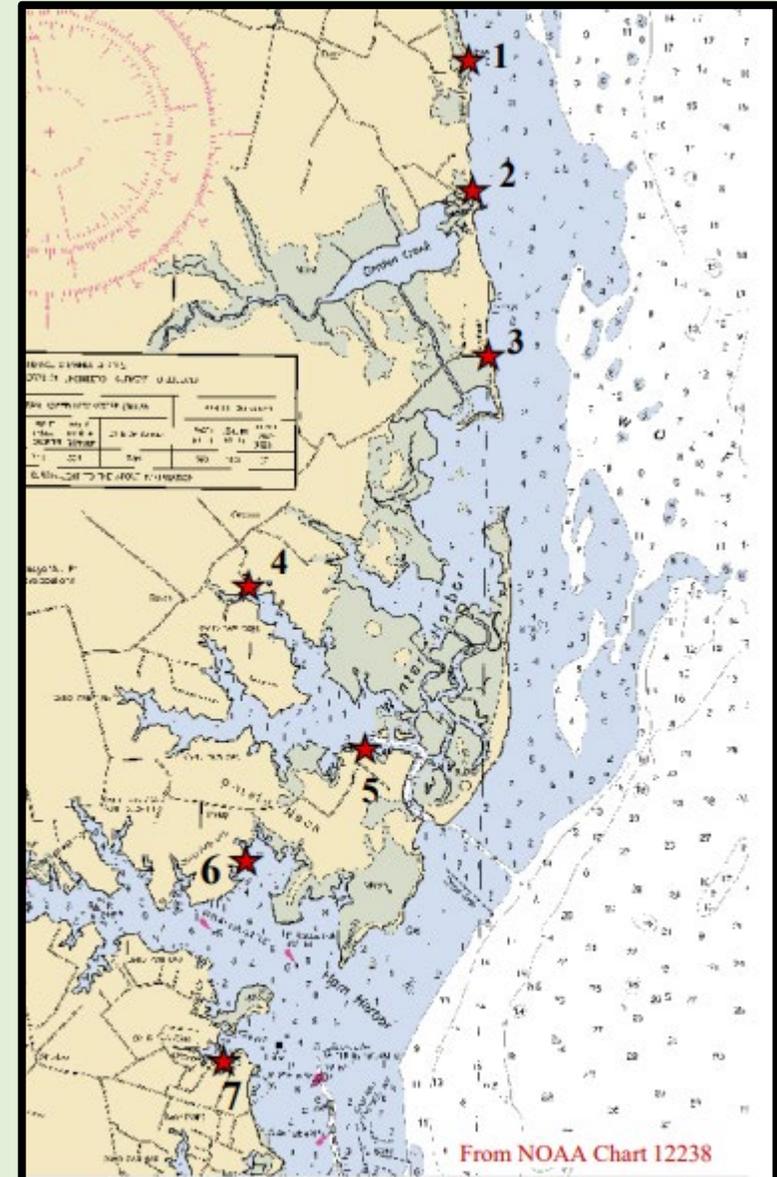
Vote

Recreation is very important to our residents.

One of the ways to do this is to improve and create recreation facilities and activities.

First Public Comment Period

Site visits for March
Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries (Earl)



**Haven Beach(1), Aaron's Beach(2),
Bethel Beach(3), Old Mill Landing(4),
Winter Harbor Landing(5), Horn Harbor
Landing(6), Doctor's Creek Landing(7)**

South Bay Haven - Public Access

Approved by BOS on March 21, 2024

- 897 South Bay Haven provides an excellent opportunity to improve low impact public access to Milford Haven from Gwynn's Island.
- This property was acquired through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and as a part of that program, must be maintained as open space.
- Due to the restrictions attached to this property the greatest potential of uses include public recreation, water access and education.

897 South Bay Haven Usage Plan
Residential allowed

Description	Allowed	Restrictions Mathews Park and Rec	FEMA	Importance/priority
House	YES		Restrooms only	3
Pier to replace pier	YES			1
Kayak launch	YES			
Handicap accessible Kayak launch	YES			2
Access to the water	YES			1
Tennis Court	YES		No	
Picnic Area	YES			1
Alcohol permitted	YES	NO alcohol		
Build a swimming pool	YES		No	
Community garden	YES			
Fishing Pier	NO	YES		
24 hour use	YES	Sunrise-sunset		
Parking unlimited	YES	Sunrise-sunset		
Pets	YES	leash only		
Burn leaves and limbs	YES	NO		
Cook in outside firepit	YES	NO		

Location	Parking	Restrooms	Pier	Boat Ramp
Piankatank River & tributaries				
Roane Point Landing	6-7			small
Warehouse Cove Landing	2-3			
Piankatank River Landing	several	yes		
Roses Creek Landing	several			
Milford Haven & tributaries				
Grimstead Public Landing	paved	yes	yes	yes
Edwards Creek Landing	none		yes	
South Bay Haven	??			
Whites Creek Landing	1-2		yes	small
Chesapeake Bay & tributaries				
Haven Beach (Festival Beach)	20	yes		
Aarons Beach	3			
Bethel Beach	5-6			
Old Mill Landing	1-2		yes	
Winter Harbor Landing	3-4		wharf	
Horn Harbor Landing	1-2			
Doctors Creek Landing	1-2			
Mobjack Bay & tributaries				
New Point Comfort	few			
Davis Creek Landing	few			
Williams Wharf	ample	yes		
Town Point Landing	15			yes
Put-in-Creek Park	In town			

Parking considerations.....

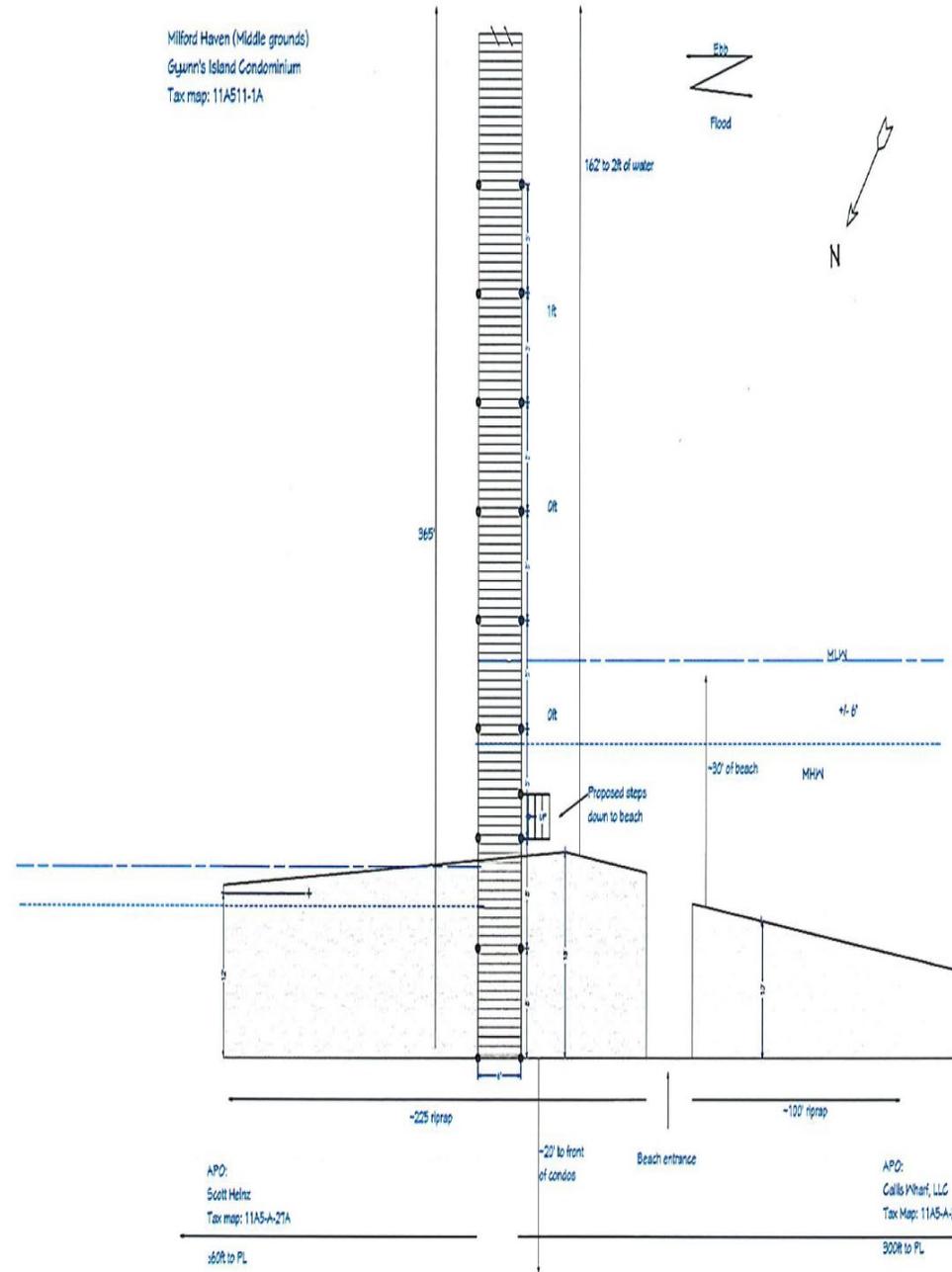
- VDOT turn around at end of road
- Transfer right of way to county as part of the park
- Stay clear of the septic fields
- Limit the number of spaces
- Trailer parking??
- Parking location

How can we get to the water at South Bay
Haven?

Water Access Options



Milford Haven (Middle grounds)
Gunn's Island Condominium
Tax map: 11A511-1A



APO:
Scott Heinz
Tax map: 11A5-A-27A

APO:
Call's Wharf, LLC
Tax Map: 11A5-A-27

South Bay Haven

Next steps....

Discussion...Recommendations

Facilities update

Pickleball Courts

Swings and Playground Equipment

Basketball Courts



Port Fun Event

Pickleball Court, Basketball Court, New Handicapped Accessible Playground Equipment

Invitations to include:

County Administrator, BOS, Planning, Facilities Administrator, and P&R. USA Pickleball Ambassador, Public, Media

Event organization:

- Brief remarks from County representative
- Remarks from Pickleball players, Basketball and Playground representatives, and/others to thank the County for making this happens so quickly.
- Possible events
 - Demo pickleball game with different level players
 - Beginner Pickleball lesson
 - Basketball shoot-around on 10 foot and 8 foot courts
 - Playground games
 - Tale Trail and Little Free Library
 - Adult Fitness Trail
- Other:
 - Food Truck or other vendors
 - YMCA- Adult Fitness etc.
 - Mathews Library for Tale Trail etc.
 - Can we get some items to give away? Water bottles, balls, etc.
 - Sports vendors (pickleball paddles, basketballs, etc.)
 - Media coverage- Gazette Journal, announcements on radio stations, etc.
 - Need to get PA system for announcements
 - Rescue squad or other first responders

Pickleball Considerations

Robyn Callis is leading a group to formulate signs, rules etc.

Sign, Court rules:

- Shoes should have non-marking soles
- Pickleball ONLY on these courts.
- Please yield courts after game if players are waiting.

Safety and Courtesy

- No yelling or swearing;
- retrieve and return balls from other courts;
- No throwing or hitting paddles or anything else;
- Only positive, encouraging comments to any player;
- Pickleball “means never having to say you’re sorry”.
- Water removal equipment, rollers

For further discussion

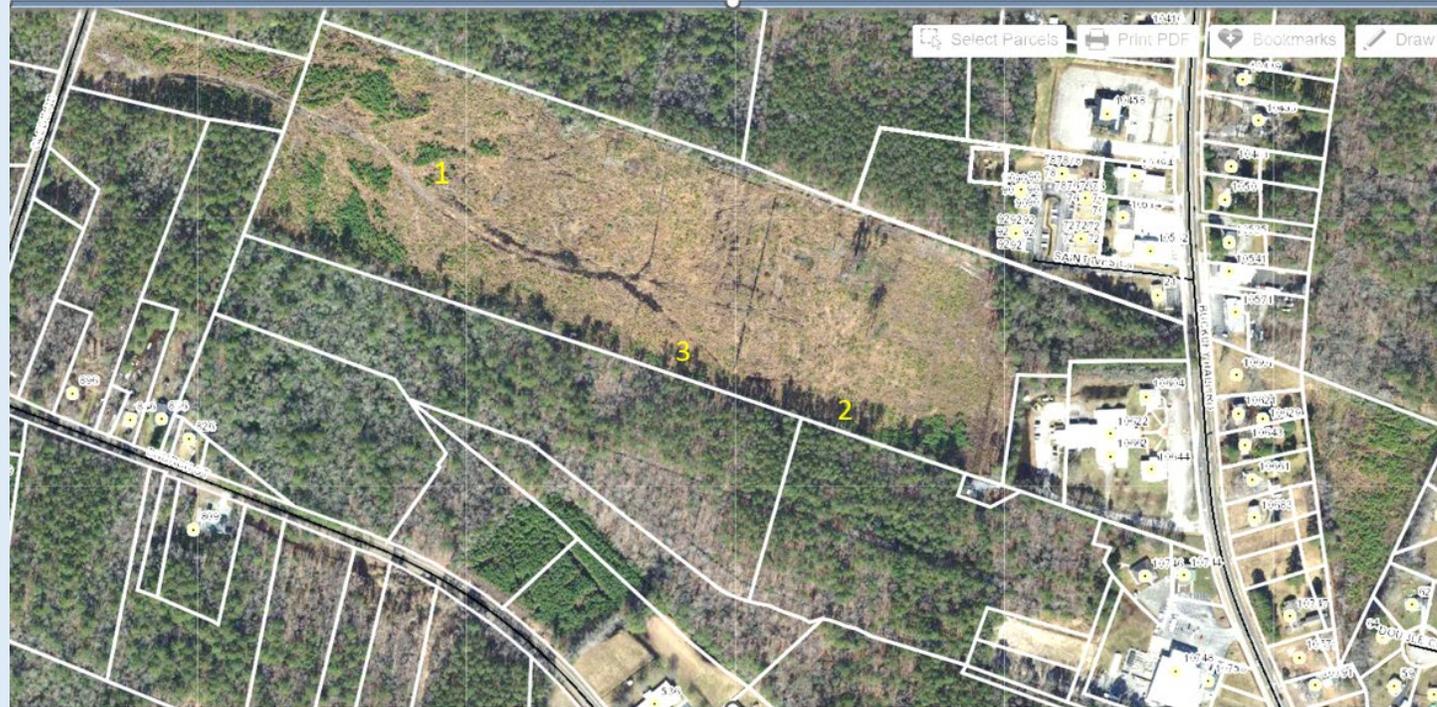
- Paddle racks.? Time limits?
- Singles v doubles at certain times?
- Beginner or more-experienced players certain times?
- Maybe, eye protection, hearing protection
- AED for Port Fun
- Non-prime time league play.
- Inter-county team matches
- Tournaments
- Reserving for special events procedures
- Lessons, group or individual.
- Use of ball machines.



Potential Future Multi-Use Parks- County Owned

--63+ acres near the Sheriff's Office

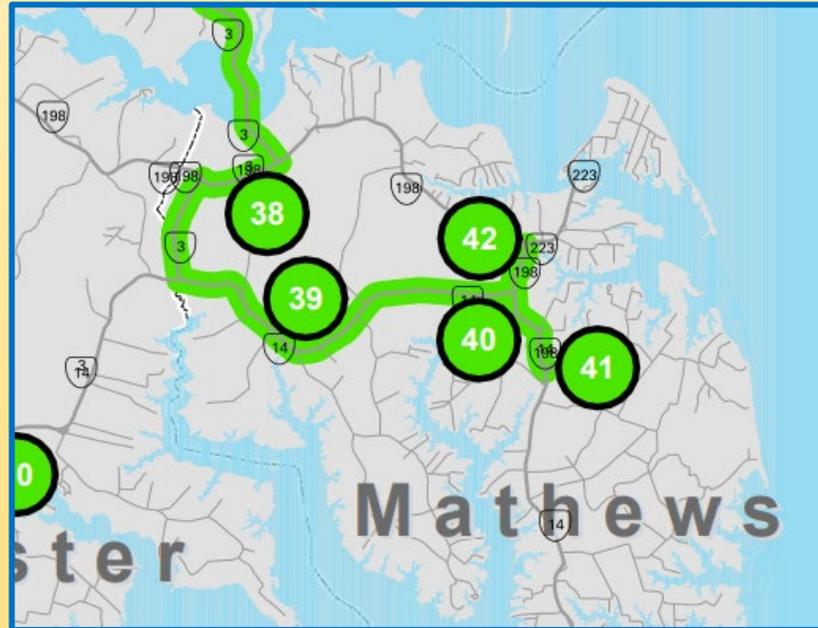
- Known problems- Wetlands and Timbered Area
- More research needed



	Parcel	Acres	Description
1	21-A-15	35.982	Woodland Cutover
2	26A2-A-39B	10	Woodland
3	21-A-16	13.5	Primary Commercial Industrial
4	20-A-107	3.14	Woodland Timber- Fronts Glebe Road

Multi use trails

Christine Johnson has met with a number of people from VDOT, Dominion Energy TriWater Trail, Gloucester Parks and Rec, and Middle Peninsula Planning. She will share a timeline with Mathews Parks and Rec in the near future.



Community Communications Update

Second Community Comment Period

ACTION ITEMS

- VISIT MOBJACK BAY AND TRIBUTARIES SITES
 - TALK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING WITH THE COMMUNITY
 - WHAT ELSE??
-
- NEXT MEETING, MAY 2 AT 4:30 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

Mathews County Parks & Rec Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes: April 4th, 2024, 4:30-5:30pm

Historic Courthouse, Mathews County

Meeting called to order by Interim Chair- Nick Koch at 4:30pm

In attendance- Dan Reno, Terry Dixon, Amber Moore, Earl Byrum, Sharon Frye, Jean Howard, Eileen Koch-guest, Tim Tillage- County, Buzz Lambert- YMCA, Judi Green- County, Tom Bowen- MC BOS. Jan Towne on Zoom.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome to any Visitors, Approval of March Minutes, Nominations & Elections. Officiated by Tom Bowen
Nick Koch to Chairman, Earl Byrum to Vice Chairman

Citizen Comments

- Merle Guy Spoke – South Bay Haven, Opposed to the thought of more traffic & people.
- Lisa Edwards – Lives at the end of South Bay Haven, very opposed to development, advised of another more suitable area, Edwards Creek Road, already has a Kayak launch.
- Phyllis Mcarron – agreed with Lisa Edwards.

Earl discussed Chesapeake Bay Access Sites visited:

- Haven Beach Road- (trash can & portapot) closed currently due to construction (beach re-nourishment), sign deteriorated, needs replacing, approx.. cost \$2000.00.
- Buzz suggested QR Code sign, submitted an example
- Aaron's Beach- just a road, nice beach but no parking, old pier footings need to be removed.
- Bethel Beach- nature preserve, no trash can or portapot, can park 23-26 cars, State re-graveled the road, but it floods, needs road repair, sign needs replacing. Site gets lots of tourist traffic during the summer, approx. 30 people there at any time.
- Old Mill Landing- Shallow water, kayak only launch, condemned pier.
- Winter Harbor Landing- approx. \$80,000.00 to fix wharf & replace pier. Nice sandy area for swimming & kayaks. Access to larger boats from Marina across from it. Tom commented it seems to be a premier spot, lots of parking, good for commercial fishing, better than the Old Mill Landing.
- Horn Harbor Landing- marshes both sides of road, only good for kayak launch, very limited parking,
- Doctors Creek Landing- Same as Horn Harbor, but easy access to Ches. Bay, but no parking.

South Bay Haven Discussion

Nick- South Bay Haven approval by BOS in March, presented a table showing usage plan

Discussed ideas and options.

Tom- let's discuss other options for a pier besides South Bay Haven, maybe Winter Harbor, South Bay Haven does suffer low tides. Let's make 63 acre site a focus.

Port Fun

Tim got a good price for rubber mulch, Jan happy!

Pickleball courts- Should be finished and fenced by 4/15 approx. aiming for June Completion Event.

Future Multi-use park- Per 63 Acres- Eileen submitted that wetlands and timbered area need to be addressed

Multiuse trail still in planning stage.

Discussion : possible Facebook page

- Mobjack sites to be visited before the next meeting.

Nick closed the meeting 5:45pm, next meeting is May 2nd 4:30pm, Historic Courthouse.