

Mathews County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Agenda Thursday, 4:30 PM, May 2, 2024

Historic Courthouse, Mathews, VA.

Call to Order, Roll Call for quorum

Approval of April Minutes, Approval of Agenda

Welcome Guests

Public comment period

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

Old Business

- Mobjack Bay and Tributaries water access sites- Earl
- Mathews county water access summary
 - Commercial ramps in Mathews

New Business

- Community communication
- Activities discussion

Second Public comment period

Action Items

Next meeting: June 6, 2024

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		

Multiuse Trail Subcommittee Report

May 2, 2024

Met with VDOT, Dominion Energy, MPPDC, Gloucester Co Trail Project Team, Lancaster Co Trail Project Team

Mathews Co Project Outline

1. **Communication** – make a case for Multiuse Trails in Mathews County
 - a. Resident usage – safe passage into towns along major routes (Rte 14 & 198) for current users; encourage usage for other residents (i.e., biking/ walking to school, biking/ walking to see friends & family)
 - b. Resident usage – safe usage for local cyclists, joggers & dog walkers so they no longer have to drive to a safe location to enjoy those activities
 - c. Nonresident usage – Tour de Chesapeake is one of the largest gatherings of cyclists in the state; provide options for them to get out of traffic (safety for riders, convenience for drivers)
 - d. Survey residents & nonresidents to solicit input & feedback – incorporate input as available into Multiuse Trail project.
2. **STEP 1 – explore shoulder widening** on Rtes 14 & 198 – Reference document: VDOT Complete Streets: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Guidelines, Bus Stop Design and Parking Guidelines, Pg A(1)-17.
 - a. *“AASHTO’s recommendations for shoulder width (as described in A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets) are the best guide for bicycles as well, since wider shoulders are recommended on heavily traveled and high-speed roads and those carrying large numbers of trucks. In order to be usable by bicyclists, the shoulder must be paved.
“Rumble strips or raised pavement markers, where installed to discourage or warn motorists they are driving on the shoulder, are not recommended where shoulders are used by bicyclists unless there is a minimum clear path of 1 foot from the rumble strip to the traveled way, 4 feet from the rumble strip to the outside edge of paved shoulder, or 5 feet to adjacent guardrail, curb or other obstacle. If existing conditions preclude achieving the minimum desirable clearance, the width of the rumble strip may be decreased, or other appropriate alternative solutions should be considered. VDOT’s policy is to not install pavement markers along the outside edge line of a travelway. For more information, see IIM-LD-212 on (Rumble Strips and Rumble Stripes).”*
 - b. https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/media/vdotvirginiagov/doing-business/technical-guidance-and-support/technical-guidance-documents/location-and-design/migrated/rdm/Appendix1_acc10192023_PM.pdf
 - c. Lee McKnight at VDOT is aware that we are discussing.
3. **STEP 2 – feasibility study** – this would be a grant-funded, lengthy process. Request proposals from area engineering firms (Lancaster Co trail team provided recommendations for grant possibilities & engineering firms). Feasibility Study will identify cost, right-of-way considerations, timelines and provide detailed maps of trails by “phases.”

Multiuse Trail Subcommittee Report

May 2, 2024

Action Items, Next Steps

1. P&R and BOS input, awareness & approval –
 - a. Survey: can this go on Mathews Co website (use Survey Monkey) – need team to design questions (example from Lancaster Co), & publicize
 - b. VDOT: BOS address shoulder widening with VDOT – Christine Johnson can be P&R liaison to prioritize key locations.
 - c. Study: approval for Multiuse Trail Subcommittee to move forward with Feasibility Study (grant writing).
 - d. MOU: Lancaster Co Govt created a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) with Trail Project Team, a nonprofit organization. Determine if Mathews Co needs this.
 - e. Nonprofit: If Mathews Co needs a nonprofit to align with Multiuse Trails Subcommittee, Mathews Outdoor Club (MOC) is available.

Communication Plan. A clear strategy of how to present this idea to residents is essential, emphasizing the benefits to local community. Recommend a combination of online (County Website), Social Media (new page? Existing county page?) and community town hall forums. Upon approval from P&R and BOS to move forward with project, Multiuse Trail Subcommittee will develop a Communication Plan for review/ approval by P&R Commission.

Conclusion. Using a combination of shoulder widening on major roads (Rtes 14 & 198) and pathways adjacent to major roads, where Right-Of-Way is granted, Mathews Co can offer residents & visitors the opportunity to safely navigate around the county via foot or bicycle. The Feasibility Study is critical to determine timing & cost; our hope is that this phased & blended approach can be spread out over time and therefore easily budgeted for.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Johnson



**PARKS AND
FACILITIES**

Port Fun

A COMMUNITY SPONSORED PLAYGROUND BUILT TO ENHANCE
THE COMMUNITY AND ENJOYMENT OF ITS CHILDREN

ESTABLISHED



Family Port Fun Day!

- ✔ New Basketball Court Activities
- ✔ Trail Tales- Hosted by Mathews Memorial Library
- ✔ New Pickleball Courts
(Open Play & *Learn to play lessons) *Equipment provided
- ✔ Adult Fitness Trail
- ✔ Playground Activities

SUNDAY
JUNE 9th
1-4 PM

Fun for Children & Adults of all ages!

**Vendor
Giveaways!**

Rain Date: June 15th

Port Fun Park located next to Mathews High School & Mathews Visitor Center

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

Mathews County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Agenda Thursday, 4:30 PM, June 6, 2024

Historic Courthouse, Mathews, VA.

Call to Order,

Present: Nick Koch, Earl Byrum, Jan Towne, Amber Moore, Sharon Frye,

**Buzz Lambert- YMCA, Tom Bowen and Mike Walls-BOS, Amy O'Neil- Mathews Schools,
Eileen Koch, Multi-use parks subcommittee**

Motion to Approve minutes and agenda- Jan Towne. Seconded by Amber Moore. Motion passed.

Public comment period

- **John Porter- comments on bike trails, concern about Church Street intersections and curves**
- **Larry Kenny- comments on bike trails**
- **John Craig Lewis- comments on bike trails and ebikes. Concern about funding**

Comments from Chair

- **Subcommittee organization**

Old Business

- **Park Ordinance Changes**
- - **Motion for the following Park Ordinance Changes as listed-** Jan Towne. Seconded by Earl Byrum. Voted and Approved. .
 - **Motion to send Park Ordinance Changes as listed to the BOS for a Public Hearing.** – Jan Towne Seconded by Earl Byrum. Voted and Approved .
 - **3. 11 Hours of operation.** No person shall enter or remain in Mathews County Parks from 10PM to 5AM without written consent of the County Administrator, or during authorized events.
 - **Exceptions are all Park and Rides- and Fishing ramps (Edwards Landing, Town Point, and Grimstead Public Ramp. East River Boat Yard.)**
 - **3. 13 - Sports and games.** Athletic fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, basketball courts, and horseback trails shall be determined by future BOS approvals. USA pickleball rules apply at the Pickleball Courts at Port Fun.
- **Family Port Fun Day- updates and final plan**

- YMCA has staff to support
- Pickleball plan, games, and survey has been completed
- Sherry Hamilton will prepare article for Gaz. Journal
- Multi use trails
 - Reviewed and commented on May report from Christine Johnson
 - **Motion**– multi use trails subcommittee to move forward to pursue grants for feasibility study- Jan Towne. Seconded by Amber Moore.
 - Christine Johnson has possible funding sources for feasibility study for bike trails
 - Discussion of rumble strips and VDOT responsibility
 - Tom Bowen will discuss multi use trails with Christine Johnson and VDOT
 - Pictures Attached.
 - Haven Beach will open officially on June 8

New Business

- Community communication – website not yet complete
- Discussion/ recommendations to change meeting times. Nick will research

Second Public comment period

Action Items

Next meeting: August 1, 2024

Updated June 13, 2024