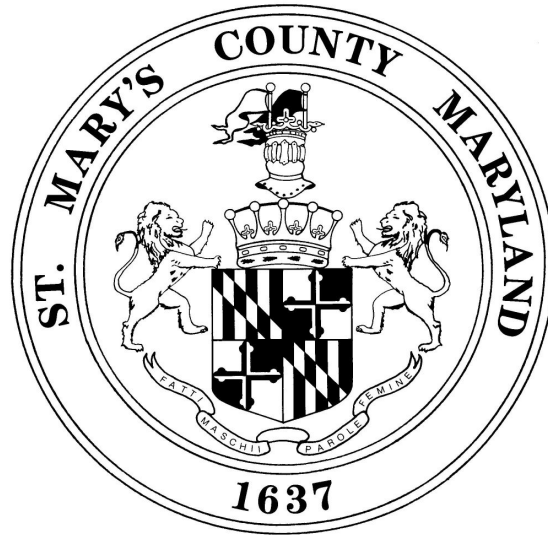


Recreation and Parks Board of St. Mary's County



2017 Annual Report

Doug Bellis, Chairperson
Caroline King, Vice-Chairperson
Dick Buckler
Jake Heibel
Patrick Murphy
Thomas Nelson
Fred Parker
Ashley Varner
Floyd Warren

Arthur Shepherd, Director

February 1, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Parks (R&P) Board is a nine (9) 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 2017, the Parks system consisted of twenty-one (21) parks and fifteen (15) public waterfront landings. The Department manages the Leonard Hall, Margaret Brent, Hollywood and Carver Recreation Centers; a Gymnastics Center; the Great Mills Swimming Pool; Skatepark and Sprayground at Nicolet Park; 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 Department also manages the St. Clement's Island Museum, the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse; 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 managing capital planning for new parks and facility expansion and enhancements.

Board Membership

Mr. Patrick Murphy was reappointed to the Board in December 2017; his term expires on December 31, 2021.

**2017 Annual Report
Recreation and Parks Board**

2017 Attendance – Ten Meetings

Member	2/8	3/2	5/4	6/1 * No Quorum	6/29 **	8/3	9/7	10/5	11/2	12/7 ***	Total
D. Bellis				A							9
R. Buckler				A				A			8
J. Heibel				A			A		A	A	6
C. King						A					9
P. Murphy	A		A				A			A	6
F. Parker						A			A		8
T. Nelson	A					A	A	A	A		5
A. Varner	A			A		A		A			6
F. Warren			A	A			A		A		6
Members in Attendance	6	9	7	4	9	5	5	6	5	7	

Meeting held at Elms Beach Park *

Meeting held at Snow Hill Park **

Meeting held at Hollywood Rec Center ***

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2017

- Snow Hill Park Acquisition and Opened for Limited Use
- John G. Lancaster Park at Willows Road Improvements Completed
- Clarke’s Landing Waterfront Public Landing Renovations Completed
- Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Approved (parkland acquisition goal met)
- Elms Beach Park Master Plan Approved
- Wiecks Playground at Miedzinski Park Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant & Playground Committee Establishment
- Nicolet Park Entrance Project Permitting Approvals Received
- Three Notch Trail Phase Seven Design 30% Completed (partnerships confirmed with SMECO and Wildewood Shopping Center)
- Gymnastics Center Improvements
- PPLM&HP Interior Improvements Completed
- New Museum Division Manager Hired
- Golf CIP Plan of Action Endorsed; FY2018 Will See Renovated Bunkers
- WSGC Booking Online Tee Times Now Available

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- The R&P Board will continue to work with R&P staff to study the issue of fees and charges for parks and facilities (Elms Beach Park, Myrtle Point Park, Snow Hill Park, Dorsey Park, etc.). This is needed to offset costs for park supervision to provide for safe and orderly environments for public recreation.
- Some issues are anticipated to be encountered during design and engineering phase of Phase VII, VIII and IX of the Three Notch Trail (as additional land acquisition, environmental constraints (wetlands), agreements and easements will be needed).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

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

- Three Notch Trail Development
- Snow Hill Farm Development
- Recreation Facilities and Park Improvements
- Elms Beach Park Improvements
- New outdoor sports complex and community/recreation center
- Continued support for Departmental efforts for new programs, events and activities