

Public Access, Why the Concern?



Photo by Virginia Tourism

John Davy

CZM Conference

Fall 2007



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Types of Public Access

Boating



Photo by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

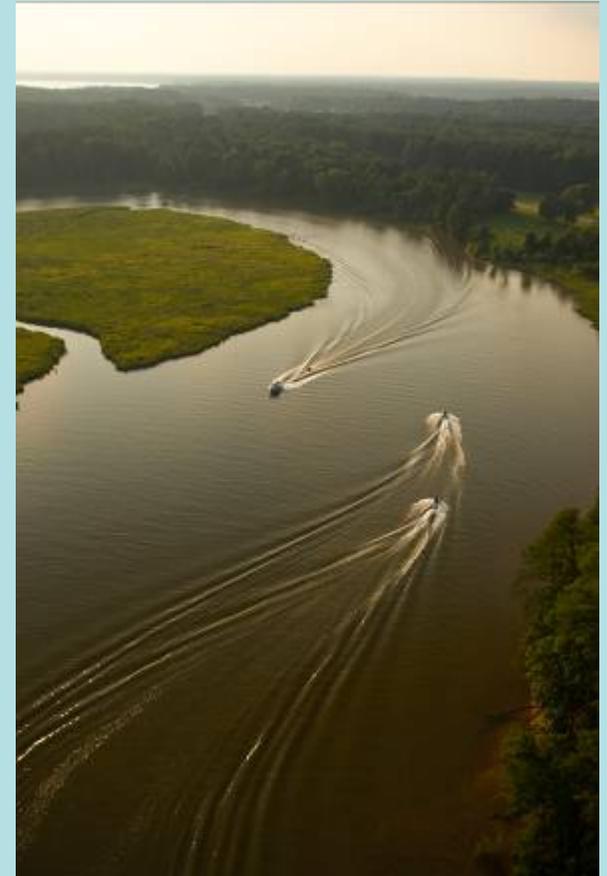


Photo by Virginia Tourism

Types of Public Access

Beaches



Lake Anna State Park

Types of Public Access

Fishing



Photo by Cameron Davidson

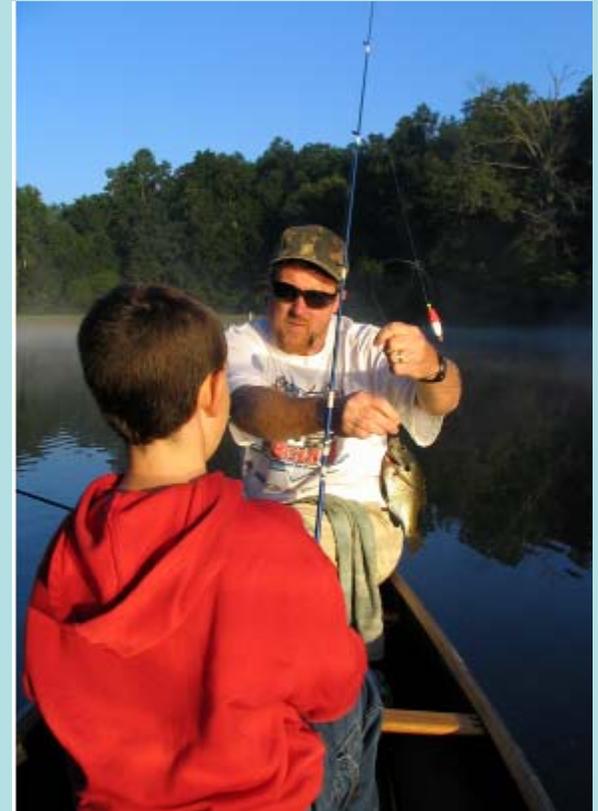


Photo by Stuart Connock

Types of Public Access

Natural Area Access



Photo by DGIF



Photo by Virginia Tourism

Types of Public Access

Outdoor Education



Photos by Gail Brown

Types of Public Access

Water related amenities



Need for Public Access

How important is it to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities?

- 51% very important
- 41% important
- 8% not important

2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey



Need for Public Access

2006 Ranking of Outdoor Recreational Activities

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>% Population Participating</u>
1	Walking for Pleasure	72%
2	Visiting Historic Sites	56%
3	Driving for Pleasure	55%
4	Swimming	44%
5	Visiting Nat. Areas, Parks	44%
6	Sunbathing on Beach	36%
7	Fishing	26%
8	Picnicking	26%
9	Using a playground	25%
10	Boating	24%
11	Jogging	24%

2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey



Need for Public Access

2006 Ranking of Outdoor Recreational Activities

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>% Population Participating</u>
12	Visiting Gardens/Arboretums	21%
•	Bicycling	21%
14	Camping	17%
15	Hiking/Backpacking	16%
16	Golf	14%
17	Basketball	12%
18	Fitness Trail	10%
19	Soccer	9%
20	Snow Skiing/Boarding	9%
21	Tennis	8%
22	Hunting	7%



Need for Public Access

What 3 outdoor recreation opportunities are most needed in Virginia?

- Public access to state waters
50%
- Trails for hiking, walking, bicycling
49%
- Access to natural areas
42%



Need for Public Access

When do you most often participate in outdoor recreation activities?

- 67% on weekends
- 28% on weekends and during the week
- 5% weekdays

Need for Public Access

How acceptable is it to charge additional fees for:

Swimming Facilities

- Not Acceptable 39%
- Acceptable 53%
- Very Acceptable 8%

Boat Launch

- Not Acceptable 26%
- Acceptable 57%
- Very Acceptable 17%



Need for Public Access

How important is it to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources?

- Very important 67%
- Important 27%
- Don't know 4%
- Not important 2%



2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey

Photo by Irv Wilson



Need for Public Access

84% of boaters beach or land their boats after leaving the initial launch site for:

- Restaurants 86%
- Sunbathing 73%
- Bathroom facilities 68%
- Picnicking 63%
- Visit interesting sites 57%
- Camping 51%
- Nature Study 43%

Need for Public Access

When asked, on what type of property did you land your boat, the results were:

- Public land 37%
- Private land 35%
- Don't know 68%
- Did not beach or land the boat 16%



2001 Virginia Outdoors Survey

Photo by Irvine Wilson

Need for Public Access



Photo by Stuart Connock



Photo by Keith Lanpher, VTC

How did you fish?

- From shore 20%
- From boat 64%
- From Pier 16%

Need for Public Access

Do you fish from public or private land when salt or tidal fishing?

- Public land 54%
- Private land 40%
- Don't know 6%



Photo by Jeff Greenberg

Need for Public Access

Crowded public access facilities



Need for Public Access

Crowded public access facilities



Need for Public Access

Boater registrations have increased 4% since 2000 and 7% since 1997.



Photo by DGIF

Public Access Considerations

- Lack of adequate signage for existing sites.
- Landowners encroaching publicly owned land.
- Rapid development and escalating land values
- Identification of opportunities on public lands
- Water to land access
- Need for restrooms

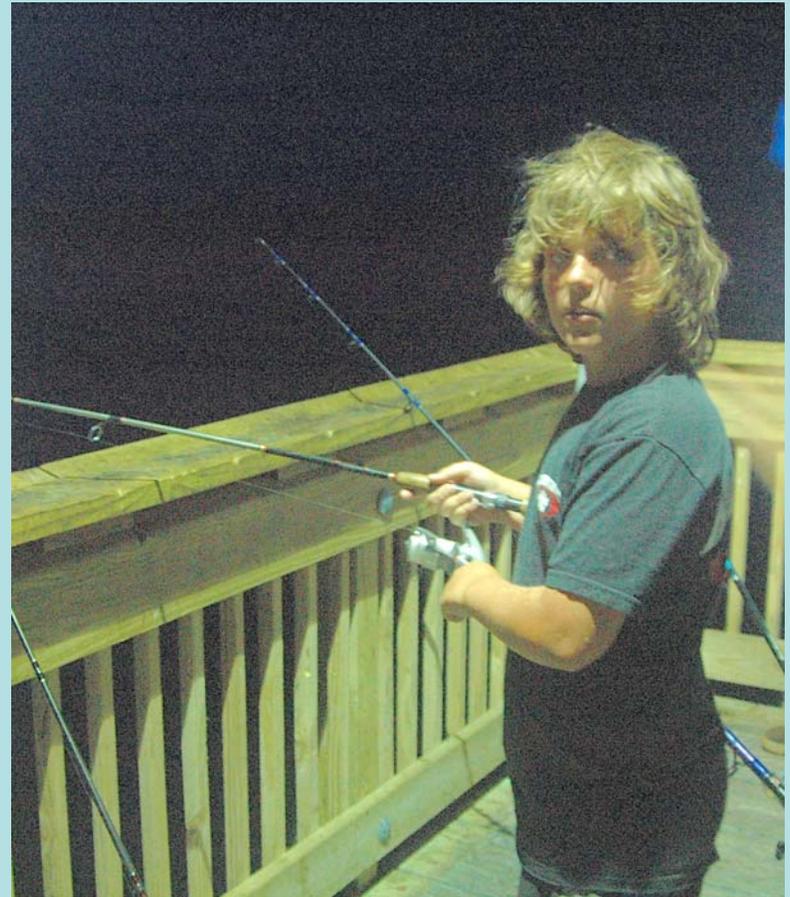


Photo by DOF

How to Address Public Access?



Photo by Cameron Davison



Little Island Fishing Pier

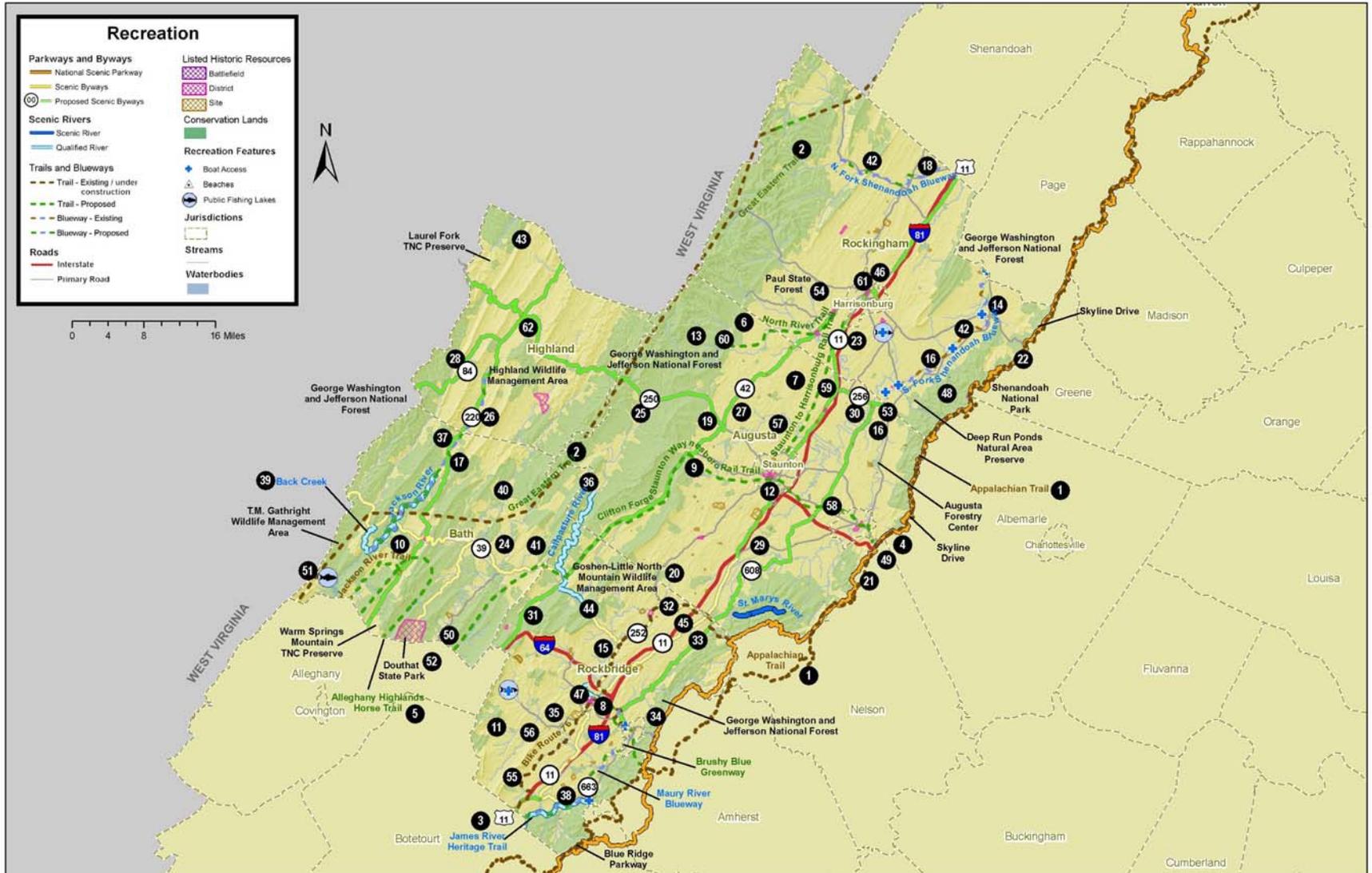
Photo by City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation



How the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan can help with public access planning

- Defines the types of public access to Virginia's waters.
- Identifies the state needs for each type of public access.
- Provides provides regional recommendations for public access.
- Delineates existing and proposed public access and water trails on regional maps.

Outdoor Recreation Map





Next Speakers

- **“Utility of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority”**

Lewie Lawrence, Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

- **"Working Waterfront Issues and Solutions"**

Tom Murray, Virginia Sea Grant

- **"Guiding State Waterfront Access Policy & Programs in North Carolina"**

Mike Voiland, North Carolina Sea Grant