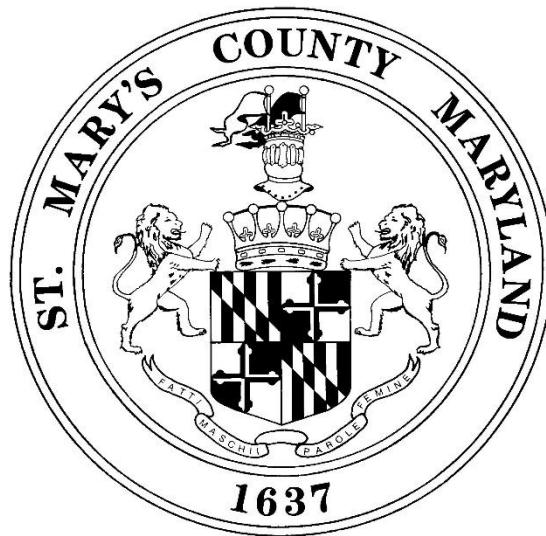


# **St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Citizen's Advisory Board**



## **2025 Annual Report**

Veronica Johnson - Chairperson  
Jeffrey Kennedy - Vice-Chairperson  
Ryan Hanley  
Lawerence Ludwig  
John Lydon, III  
David McDonough  
Sean Ritchie  
Nathanial Scroggins  
Sara Urtz

Raymond Bivens, Director  
Christina Bishop, Project Manager

**December 4, 2025**

### **REMEMBERING MRS. VERONICA JOHNSON**

The Advisory Board mourns the unexpected passing of our Chair, Mrs. Veronica Johnson, in August 2025. Mrs. Johnson was a dedicated leader whose vision, professionalism, and genuine care shaped the work of this board. Her service enriched our community, her guidance strengthened our efforts, and her kindness uplifted those around her. We remain grateful for her contributions and honor her memory as we carry forward the work she helped build.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Recreation & Parks (R&P) Department provides comprehensive public recreation services, facilities, and open-space management for St. Mary's County. The Department is responsible for planning, operating, and maintaining a wide range of assets that support recreation, wellness, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

As of 2025, the County's recreation and parks system includes 23 parks, 18 playgrounds, 15 public landings, a network of recreation facilities such as pools, recreation centers, the Gymnastics Academy, and the Wellness & Aquatics Center, as well as the Three Notch Trail and numerous other public amenities. The Department also oversees four county museums and historic sites and manages the Wicomico Shores Golf Course, a public 18-hole facility with an accompanying clubhouse and dining amenities.

R&P is organized into four program divisions—Recreation, Parks/Trails/Beaches, Museums & Historical Sites, and Golf—with centralized leadership providing oversight, coordination, and capital planning for new parks, facility enhancements, and long-term system development. Through this structure, the Department continues its mission to provide safe, accessible, and high-quality recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of St. Mary's County.

### **Board Membership**

**Appointments:** Lawrence Ludwig – October 2025; Nathaniel Scroggins – October 2025; Sara Urtz – October 2025; Ryan Hanley – St. Mary's County Public Schools Representative – February 2025

**Returning Members:** Veronica Johnson; Jeffrey Kennedy; Davis McDonough; Glenn Larned, Jr; John Lydon, III;

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## 2025 Attendance – Eight Meetings

| Member                | 6-Feb-25 | 6-Mar-25 | 3-Apr-25 | 1-May-25 | 5-Jun-25 | 7-Aug-25 | 4-Sep-25 | 2-Oct-25 | 6-Nov-25 | 4-Dec-25 | TOTALS |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Veronica Johnson      | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| Jeffrey Kennedy       | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| David McDonough       | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| John W Lydon          | P        | C        | P        | P        | A        | C        | P        | P        | A        |          | 71%    |
| Glenn Larnerd, Jr     | P        | C        | P        | A        | RESIGNED |          |          |          |          |          | 67%    |
| Sean Ritchie          | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | C        | P        | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| Ryan Hanley           | P        | C        | P        | A        | P        | C        | P        | P        | A        |          | 71%    |
| Lawrence Ludwig       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| Nathanial Scroggins   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| Sara Urtz             |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | P        | P        | P        | 100%   |
| Members in Attendance | 7        | 0        | 7        | 5        | 5        | 0        | 6        | 9        | 7        | 6        |        |

Note: March & August meetings were cancelled due to lack of quorum.

## SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2025

- 2025 welcomed the new director Mr. Raymond Bivens
- Three Notch Trail Phase VII in progress
- Water Fountain and Bottle Filler Installed at CRRP and Dorsey
- Increased revenue at Wicomico Shores by \$795,000 since 2021
- HB 717 Program Open Space Passed 1 Oct 2025
- New Water Taxi purchased
- New playgrounds at Chaptico & 7<sup>th</sup> District Parks
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Co-County Middle School Baseball Championship
- Rec & Park visit to Camden Yards for field maintenance training
- Leonard Hall Floor Renovation completed
- AED accessibility at parks
- Arts Council Murals across county parks
- 33% increase across all county park usage
- Dedicated Pickleball Courts at CRRP
- Civic Plus Reservation system up and running
- Sports Complex St Andrews Church Phase 2 completed
- Basketball jerseys for the 5<sup>th</sup> and up leagues for winter 2025 season

## 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
- Shade opportunities on turf fields
- Continue to encourage Recreation Facilities and Park Improvements
- New indoor community/recreation center with multi-use courts
- Continue to monitor YMCA progress