

Virginia Parks & Recreation

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE VIRGINIA RECREATION & PARK SOCIETY ■ SPRING 2023



Loudoun County's New Regional Park

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

Page 8



**VRPS Welcomes
Dr. John Crompton**

Ashland
CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Page 7

**MEET YOUR 2023 LEADERS...READY AND
AVAILABLE TO SERVE YOU!**

THE FACES OF VRPS

*Representing the Central, Eastern, Northern,
Southwestern and Western Service Areas*



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IN YOUR AGENCY?



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next magazine.



Volume 92
SPRING 2023

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MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Recreation
and Park Society is to unite all
professionals, students, and interested lay
persons engaged in the field of recreation,
parks, and other leisure services in the
Commonwealth of Virginia.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Loudoun County's newest park, the Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park.
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Spring President's Message

Greetings to all members, leaders, partners, and sponsors. I am honored to be serving as your 2023 president. I am fortunate to work alongside the talented Board of Directors and the VRPS Staff. 2023 is an exciting year for VRPS as the Society celebrates the 70th anniversary. As we look through the archives, we notice how far we've come as an organization. Specifically, the last few years have brought about many updates to the organization. In 2023, we will continue that trend to redefine our mission and vision as well as create the road map for the next five years.

At its January meeting the Board elected Justin Bullock, Greene County Parks and Recreation, as Vice-President, and Tabitha Martinez, Hopewell Recreation and Parks, as Treasurer, and along with Amanda Walker, Lay Member, and myself, we will serve as the Executive Committee of the VRPS Board of Directors. Board members were assigned their 2023 liaison roles, as well as discussed the new groups that are forming. The Young Professional Network, Outdoor Resource Group, and the Out of School Resource Group are working to gather interest and structure in 2023. All of our service areas and resource groups exist to help support our members in parks and recreation roles.

Our service areas and resource groups have already hit the ground running in 2023. The Northern Service Area hosted its annual holiday social in January and conducted a roundtable on pickleball in February. The Western Service Area hosted its February meeting with guest speaker, Anna King on Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion. The Senior Resource Group had its 2023 Kick-Off meeting on Self Care. There are so many good things happening across the state.

The Strategic Plan Action Team had its first meeting in February. The team is working to define the workplan and timeline and

is planning to have a draft ready for Annual Conference in James City County. The team will be inviting members to take part in the "discovery sessions" to ensure we have a wide array of member input. If you are interested in being involved in this process, please reach out and stay tuned for more to come on the Strategic Plan.

The 2023 Management Conference was held on the Suffolk Riverfront. The theme of this year's conference was "Redefining Success: Resiliency, Perseverance, and Commitment." Members from around the state gathered to work on developing their leadership and management style. Big thanks to our speakers, Suffolk Parks and Recreation and the committee members for putting on this conference.

So many more opportunities to learn and network are to come in 2023. I am always impressed by our members and the programming opportunities that have been created. The Athletic Fields Training workshops in March, Aquatics Resource Group Recruitment Roundtable at SwimRVA in March, and of course the VRPS Annual Conference in James City County in September. Keep watching the website and social media for events and workshops. There are many opportunities to network and learn with fellow members in the coming year. I hope to see you at a future event!

Best regards,
Kat Fish, CPRP
2023 VRPS President



Kat Fish, CPRP
*President, Virginia Recreation
& Park Society*



NRPA's 30 Under 30 Includes Five from Virginia

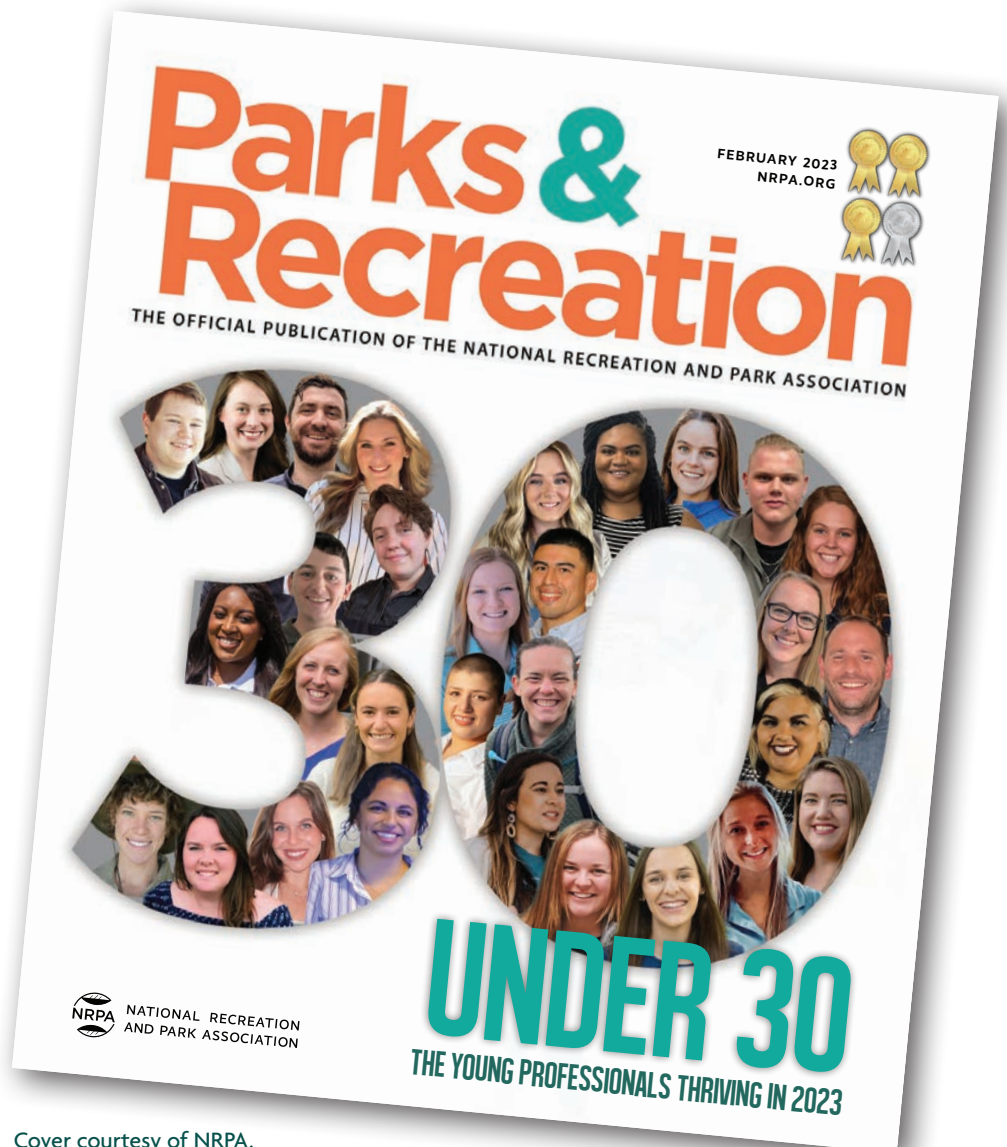
*Written By: Vitisia Paynich and Michael Biedenstein, CPRP, AFO, NRPA
Published in NRPA's Parks & Recreation magazine, February 2023 Issue*

Since NRPA launched its 30 Under 30 program two years ago, the response from the park and recreation field has been phenomenal. For some winners, this recognition program has garnered acknowledgement in their local newspaper, while for others working part time, it has led to full-time employment with their current park and recreation agency. We hope this year's program fosters continued career advancement opportunities for these hardworking young professionals!

The 30 Under 30 recognition program is a joint effort by the NRPA Young Professional Network and Parks & Recreation magazine, honoring 30 of the top young park and recreation professionals who serve as everyday champions in their communities. More than 100 nominations representing 15 different states comprise the class of 2023. The scoring committee evaluated the nominations on one or more of the following criteria:

- Impact on the agency's community and service population
- Contributions to the professional development of the field of parks and recreation
- Innovative ideas, programs or research in the field of parks and recreation

Following are the profiles of the outstanding Parks & Recreation 30

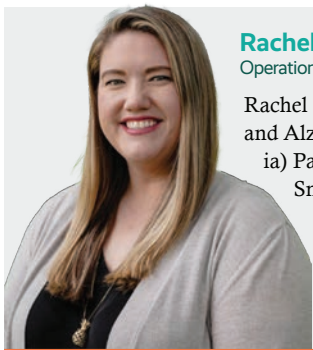


Cover courtesy of NRPA.
Photo composition by Kim Mabon.

Under 30 winners for 2023. With diverse backgrounds and varying areas of expertise, these talented individuals have each contributed exceedingly to the profession,

but more importantly, to their constituents. Their stories illustrate the incredible work happening across the country every day.

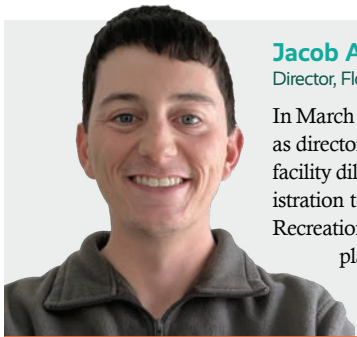
NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION



Rachel Smith, 27

Operations Manager, James City County Parks and Recreation (VA)

Rachel Smith began her career as a therapeutic recreation specialist working part time with dementia and Alzheimer's patients while attending college. After graduating, she joined the Lynchburg (Virginia) Parks and Recreation Department (LPRD) as a community recreation programmer. At LPRD, Smith conducted 225 new programs focused on health and wellness, technology, enrichment and art education. She coordinated programs and was tasked with renovating the Jackson Heights Art Studio, which provides pottery and stained-glass programs. Smith created an open, caring and inviting relationship with participants at the art studio. In 2022, she joined James City County, Virginia, as operations manager — overseeing programming and special events, which include a pottery program.



Jacob Agee, 28

Director, Floyd County Recreation Department (VA)

In March 2019, Jacob Agee, CPRP, joined the Floyd County (Virginia) Parks and Recreation Authority as director. At the time, the authority endured severe funding issues, lacked community support, faced facility dilapidation and more. Agee recognized these deficiencies and collaborated with county administration to take the authority on as a recognized county department. In August 2019, Floyd County Recreation Department was formed. Agee oversaw the renovation of the recreation park: replacing the playing surfaces with athletic turf and infield mix, installing a net/block backstop system, and putting in concrete sidewalks, pathways and driveways around the park. He also brought adult softball, basketball and volleyball back to the county.



Sammie Powers, 27

Assistant Professor of Recreation Management, George Mason University (VA)

Sammie Powers is a researcher and educator whose work centers on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in the park and recreation profession. Her research focuses on equitable and inclusive management of parks and recreation, as well as actions to address systemic and interpersonal racism. Powers examines access, use and experiences within park settings among diverse populations and the circumstances under which these settings can be more equitable and inclusive. She also focuses on management strategies agencies can use to increase engagement, representation and belonging among communities of color. As an educator, Powers incorporates JEDI content into all of her courses to advance students' intercultural competencies and knowledge of systemic inequalities.



Katherine (Katie) MacCammon, 30

Community Program Coordinator, City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation (VA)

Katie MacCammon serves as community programs coordinator for the City of Fairfax (Virginia) Park and Recreation, where she runs the summer camps and oversees 100 staff. She also is chair of the NRPA Young Professional Network. MacCammon is very invested in providing opportunities for overlooked and underserved populations in her community, and making them inclusive for everyone. During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, she led the park and recreation team in opening a childcare facility for the city's at-need families. This program not only helped those families in a time of need, but also helped open doors to establishing relationships with those communities and providing better assistance to them.

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[CLICK HERE](#)

To View Complete
NRPA Article

Luca Twohie, 20

Human Resources Generalist, Fairfax County Park Authority (VA)

As human resources generalist at the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) in Virginia, Luca Twohie works with the staff recruitment team. In 2021, Twohie created the #joinFCPA hiring campaign, as the park authority revived programs post-COVID-19. He used market research data and collaborated with the communications team to implement an innovative online and offline marketing communication plan to fill 1,200 part-time seasonal positions. His campaigns filled hiring gaps and created FCPA brand awareness. The campaign targeted racially-diverse candidates, including college students and retirees. The nonpaid social media recruitment campaign reached 25,000 social media users, resulting in 3,500 applications and ultimately 1,100 hires.

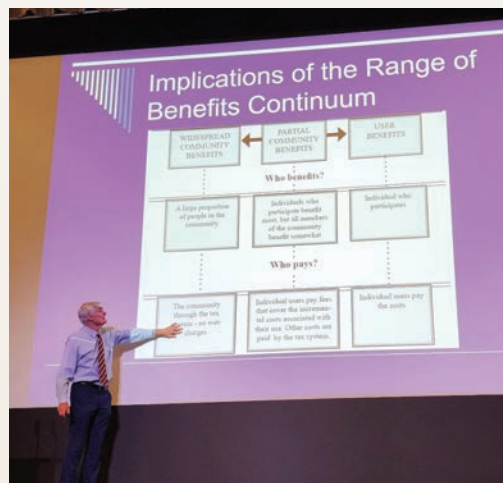


VRPS Welcomes Dr. John Crompton in Ashland

By Emmy Houck, Town of Ashland Parks & Recreation Coordinator

VRPS and the Town of Ashland Parks & Recreation Department welcomed Texas A&M University Distinguished Professor, Dr. John Crompton on December 14, 2022. Held at the historic Ashland Theatre, Dr. Crompton presented “Learn from a Legend: The Evolution of Parks and Recreation” to over fifty VRPS members, college students, and local government representatives. With over 50 years of experience in parks, tourism, and conservation, Dr. Crompton’s wealth of knowledge provided a tremendous professional development opportunity for attendees. His engaging presentation led participants through seven distinct eras of thinking in the parks and recreation field. As Dr. Crompton moved participants through the history and growth of the field, participants were challenged to reframe their approach to parks and recreation operations and programming to drive

their departments into new eras. Participants were energized to engage more with their communities and better sell the benefits of their services to the public and local officials. VRPS and the Town of Ashland would like to thank the Ashland Theatre, Town of Ashland staff, VRPS leadership, and Dr. John Crompton for an exceptional afternoon of learning and networking.





Loudoun County Opens Expansive New Regional Park

By Kraig Troxell- Communications Manager, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community

In September 2022, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) opened its fourth regional park designed to be a major destination for area residents and beyond.

Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park is an extraordinary 257-acre regional park in Aldie, Virginia, featuring ten rectangular multi-purpose fields with natural turf, two rectangular artificial turf fields, four baseball/softball fields, a cricket field, mixed-use courts creating four tennis and eight pickleball courts, and an outdoor basketball court- all illuminated for night play. Adding to the fun are batting cages, two themed playgrounds with accessible rubberized surfaces, and a 10,000 square-foot splash pad area featuring activator spray grounds, a water-squirting spider, water cannons, and a bucket drop. Encompassing the property are

four concession stands and seven pavilions.

As part of the mission of Loudoun PRCS to connect all communities through exceptional people, parks, and programs- the public played a pivotal role in helping champion the park's unique features including a tournament-level disc golf course, the first-ever field in Loudoun specifically designed to be a dedicated cricket field, and two off-leash dog areas- with one in a wooded setting. Both off-leash areas offer controlled access gates, perimeter fencing, separated large/small dog areas, and play equipment.

The disc golf course presents a unique challenge as the player must navigate through approximately 18-acres of wooded areas of the park. There are also multiple basket locations for most holes along the

course allowing players to choose their own level of difficulty.

The park also features a skate plaza by Wally Holladay, an acclaimed designer who also created the skate park for the Tokyo Olympics. Many of the same features in Holladay's 2020 Olympics design are included in the 15,000-square-foot skate park at Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park.

"This is a one-of-kind park for residents and visitors of Loudoun County and was a collaborative effort with the community that will provide recreational opportunities for all of Northern Virginia for generations to come," said Steve Torpy, Director of Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

The community's overwhelmingly positive response to the regional park reflects this

NEWS FROM LOUDOUN COUNTY *(continued)*

collaborative partnership. “Beautiful park. So well done,” said one resident with another adding “What an asset this is to our area.” One online review summarized the first impressions of many residents by simply stating, “Just wow!”.

In keeping with the wishes of the original owner of the land, Haldore ‘Hal’ Hanson, a writer, U.S. State Department official, and nonprofit leader, and his wife Berni, the Hanson Family Partnership agreed to sell the land to Loudoun County only for use as a park. Loudoun County Government acquired the property in 2009 through negotiations with the Hanson family, Dominion Power, and the National Park Service as a part of a United States Department of Interior program. “We believe this park exceeded the hopes of the Hanson’s when this property was transformed into a premier park not just here in Loudoun County, not just in Virginia, but in the country,” said Loudoun PRCS Director Torpy.

Driving onto the property through a main entrance you are greeted by a rustic venue called The Lodge at Hanson Park. The Lodge features a 3,800-square-foot of event space with elegant, exposed beams, vaulted ceilings, and a stunning floor to ceiling stone fireplace. The Lodge is a unique location for any occasion including rehearsal dinners and weddings, corporate functions, and other special celebrations. The Lodge is set over one of five ponds on the property with sweeping views of native trees, gardens, and a beautiful stone and wooden pergola to create a gorgeous backdrop for any event.

Preserved on the property are the Historic Hanson House and other features highlighting the natural beauty of the land, including miles of trails traversing 80 acres of passive recreational space, five ponds, five fishing piers, and a nature center with displays educating the public on the park’s natural habitat.

Park users can enjoy programs and events held at the large outdoor firepit

outside the nature center, or at one of two amphitheatres on the grounds. One amphitheater has been incorporated as part of the Nature Center in the north park section. It comprises a concrete terrace with natural turf staging and steps leading parkgoers down to the adjacent pond and fishing pier. While seating accommodates a large audience, the intended program use is meant to accommodate small presentations and outdoor classroom activities. When the space is not being used for events, it also functions as an outdoor seating area with views of the pond. The second amphitheater is built into a large knoll on the south portion of the property and incorporates a natural turf surface behind small retaining walls and focuses on a concrete staging area.

Since the grand opening, Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park have held several events including disc golf tournaments, a BioBlitz, and child-friendly programs such as The Snowy Day Storybook Trail, Noon Year’s Eve, and a luminary hike.



Augusta County Announces Opening of Dooks Crossing Recreational Access to South River

By Augusta County Parks and Recreation

Opened on April 29, 2022

On April 29, 2022, Augusta County celebrated the grand opening of the Dooks Crossing – South River access point. This long-awaited river access, Augusta County's first, is the culmination of years of collaboration between federal agencies, state partners, and local and regional businesses. Completely funded through grants, this premiere addition to Augusta County Parks and Recreation department's offerings will improve opportunities for recreation, fishing, tubing, and boating.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Andy Wells, stated, "Because of the diligent and complex work done by our county engineers to secure funding, Augusta County citizens can enjoy a unique amenity that connects them to a one-of-a-kind outdoor experience at no expense."



Environmental, Ecological Impact

The South River is home to a diverse and vibrant wildlife population for fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching. The American eel, brook trout, and freshwater mussels are among the aquatic life that may benefit from the restoration of this part of the river, and a variety of river birds, bald eagles, and two species with state or national level conservation status call the South River home. This project helps to conserve the water quality, aquatic habitats, and wildlife and fish populations of the South River.

Economical Impact

The Dooks Crossing access point will also improve Augusta County's ability to attract outdoor enthusiasts and anglers. A 2016 study by the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) estimated that 14,000 fishing trips were taken on the South River between April and September and counted approximately 29,000 non-anglers who used the river during the same timeframe. The economic impacts of this usage during that six-month period include conservative estimates totaling \$700,000.

Wayne District's Board of Supervisor, Dr. Scott Seaton, said, "Convenient water ways such as this provide environmental, social and economic benefits to communities. We can use these boat launch and fishing sites to engage a larger, growing audience and introduce them to all that Augusta County has to offer, benefitting our lodging, retail, and food service industries, among others."

Use of Dooks Crossing

Dooks Crossing will be open from dawn to dusk for fishing, launching

kayaks, canoes or other non-motorized boats. Other activities are prohibited, including camping, fires, consumption of alcoholic beverages, trespassing after/before hours, and the discharge of firearms. For information on fishing licenses, fish consumption advisories, and fishing regulations, see the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources page at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/>.

The handcrafted kiosk in the Dooks Crossing parking lot provides information about the site and includes a map of this segment of the waterway. The kiosk was designed and built by Knoched VA and True Craft Sheds, two local artisans who specialize in unique pieces that highlight the use of local, salvaged hardwoods. The map was designed and crafted by local artist and graphic designer, Kenneth (Wil) Wilfong, owner of Mountain Laurel Studio.

Overview and Funding for Dooks Crossing Project

Dooks Crossing is located between river access points in Waynesboro and Crimora. Dooks Crossing is approximately 3 miles downstream from Basic Park in Waynesboro and about 4.5 miles upstream from Crimora Park and enhances the connection between points along the water trail from Waynesboro to Grand Caverns and access sites further north. Improvements to water access will be forthcoming at Crimora Park.

In February 2018, the engineering office in Augusta County's Community Development department applied for and received two grants as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) process. NRDAR is the result of a settlement agreement

between the federal Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia and DuPont that provides funding for restoration of wildlife habitats that were impacted by the release of mercury from the former Dupont facility in Waynesboro over 70 years ago. Mercury entered the South River and South Fork Shenandoah River as well as the habitat next to the rivers and impacted the fish and wildlife living in these habitats as well as the recreational use of the rivers for many years.

County engineers combined two separate grants for a total funding amount of \$451,961 to restore and preserve the waterway and provide citizens with opportunities for recreation. The project initially focused on improving water quality and fish habitat. Augusta County worked with DWR and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) to remove the remnants of a failed dam at Coiner Mill and associated log jams, which created navigational hazards for boaters and impediments for fish migrating upstream to the headwaters of the South River to spawn.

Six hundred feet of eroding bank upstream of the former dam needed to be restored, a formidable task that redirected the use of remnants from the dam to reinforce the bank from additional erosion. The bank area was seeded and live staked using three different tree species to stabilize the area, provide a riparian environment, and improve fish habitat and water quality for the long term. Staff members from DWR were onsite to provide design guidance throughout the bank stabilization process.

Once the restoration segment was complete, the project focused on recreational enhancements. This work included acquisition of more than six acres of floodplain property at the site of

NEWS FROM AUGUSTA COUNTY *(continued)*



the former, historic Coiner Mill Dam. An access roadway to the parking lot, necessary for the construction equipment during the restoration work, was further graded and paved for visitor access. A parking lot with eight parking spaces and one parking space that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides parking for visitors. A gravel trail from the parking area leading to the river access point and a small boat launch allows individuals to conveniently put in non-motorized watercraft.

[EGS and Associates](#), a survey and engineering firm in Staunton, was procured to aid in preliminary engineering as well as the design process. [RES](#) was selected as the contractor through a competitive bidding process to conduct site improvement work for the project. RES specializes in in-stream restoration work and is based in Warrenton, VA.

For more information about the Dooms Crossing South River access point, please visit <https://www.co.augusta.va.us/government/county-projects/dooms-crossing-south-river-access>.



**VIRGINIA RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY**

Awards

**SEE YOURSELF ON THE AWARD STAGE
IN JAMES CITY COUNTY**

AWARDS TO BE CONSIDERED ARE FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

**EARLY BIRD SUBMISSIONS DUE BY APRIL 14, 2023
ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE BY MAY 12, 2023**

IT'S THE THIRD ANNUAL *Clark in the Parks* IN AUGUSTA COUNTY!

By Augusta County Parks and Recreation

Clark in the Parks is a county-wide, hide-and-seek style scavenger hunt. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, park staff hides elves in each of the 6 Augusta County Parks for park visitors to find! Being the second largest county in the state, and sparsely populated- this can be quite the trek for both staff and players alike! Sponsors make the games well worth the challenge. This past year, over \$1000 in sponsor money and items was donated for prizes! Over the course of 4 weeks, 36 elves were hidden, and found by players following the clues posted on social media! 36 prize packs consisting of toys, games, stuffed animals, trinkets, coloring books, stickers, gift cards, treats,

and more; were given to the lucky winners who found elves. The last weekend of the games featured a Grand Finale. Each park featured a poster of a specific Elf. Players were instructed to find the poster and take an (s)Elfie with the poster. The more (s)Elfie's they took and sent to us, the more entries they gained in the grand prize drawings! We had a total of 80 entries in the drawing, and gave away two grand prizes! Grand prizes this year included bicycles, helmets, backpacks, LED Bluetooth speakers, treats, games, toys, oversized candy bars, and more! Total participation for this event is hard to gauge due to the nature of the



event. However, based on social media interactions, winners, call ins, and grand prize submissions, it is safe to say this event had over 200 participants.

This year's games featured 9 elves: Clark, Clayton, Caleb, Chloe, Cleo, Clarissa, Carter, Clara, and Callie. Elves are rotated through each park as they come back to the office. Elves must be returned for winners to obtain their prize.



Holiday Traditions Twinkle Brighter Than Ever After 20 Years

By Ashley Ferguson, Program Supervisor, Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department

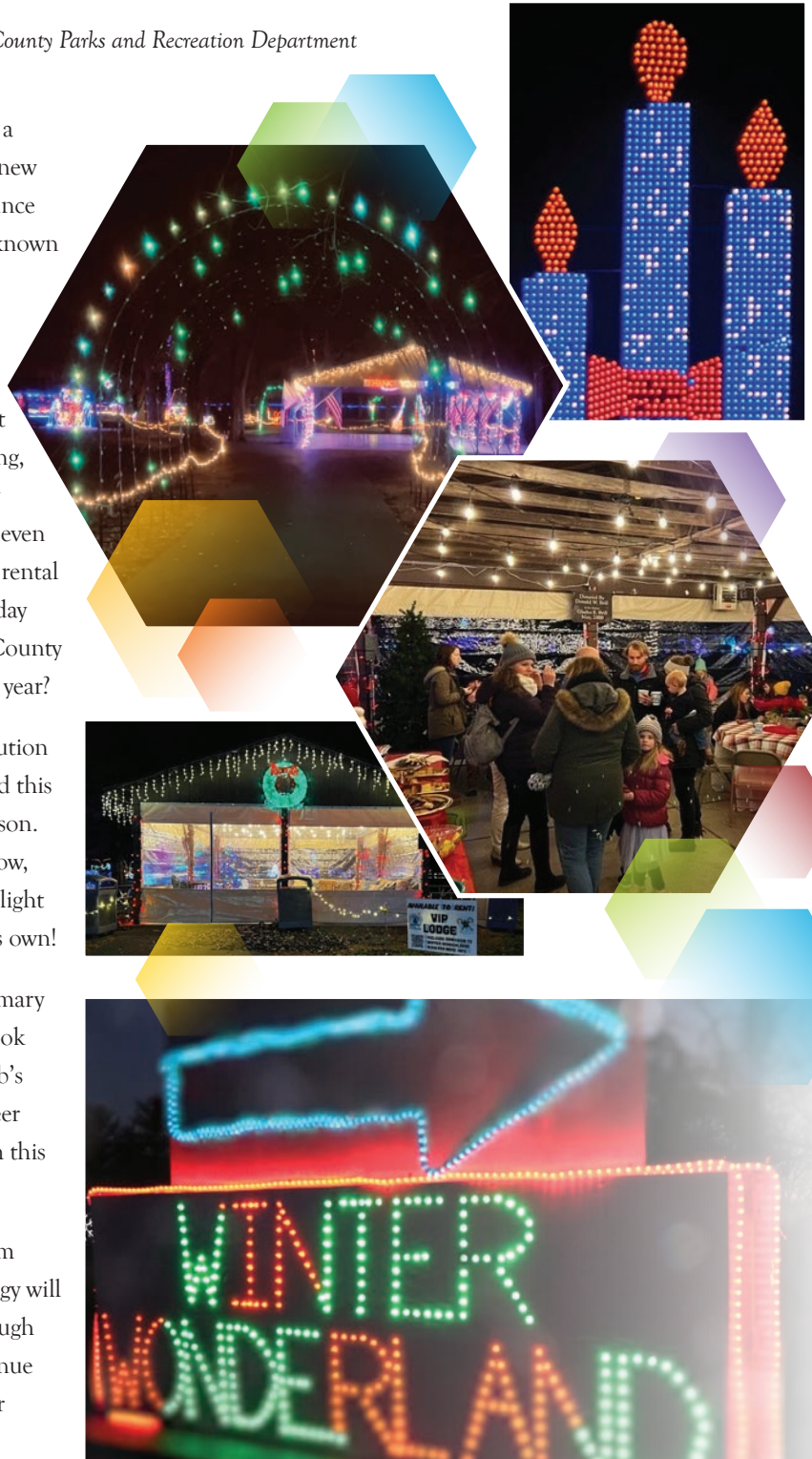
In 2002, Frederick County Parks and Recreation's Walking in a Winter Wonderland at Clearbrook Park won the VRPS "best new program" award for populations between 50,001 – 100,000. Since that time, this event has grown into the largest and most well-known annual special event for our department. During the 2022 season, Walking in a Winter Wonderland welcomed over 35,000 participants, one of our largest years yet.

As many agencies know, it takes a village of Santa's elves to put on a holiday light show. To keep the show engaging and alluring, park staff work hard every year to reinvent the layout, add new elements, and highlight longstanding traditions. This year, we even introduced "The VIP Lodge" - an enclosed and heated shelter rental - as an alternative option to a traditional indoor space for holiday gatherings. But during such a busy time, how does Frederick County Parks and Recreation keep its residents coming back year after year?

Over a 20-year span, many hands have contributed to the evolution and execution of our event, both physically and logistically, and this year our department had additional help from an unlikely person. No - not anyone on our payroll, but a neighbor of our light show, Rob Andrick, who also happens to be a LED RGB Christmas light display hobbyist with a spectacular residential light show of his own!

Advancing the technology in our show has recently been a primary focus of our staff and after a quick conversation with Clearbrook Park Manager Mike Reynolds regarding his admiration for Rob's display, a team effort was formed! Rob spent countless volunteer hours in 2022 teaching department staff to build and program this new technology.

The learning curve has been steep but the knowledge to custom build new and convert existing displays to LED RGB technology will keep staff busy refreshing our show for years to come! It's through generous volunteers like Rob that our holiday traditions continue to twinkle brighter than ever, with the help and support of our community.



STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND BECOME AN OFFICIAL

By Jillian Franklin, Superintendent of Sports and Fitness / Justus Casino, Community Outreach Coordinator, Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events

Recreational sports leagues can play a major part of a child's development, regardless if they continue sports later on in their lives. Recreational youth sports offer many great opportunities for children to learn and grow life skills.

The importance of our youth sports and

recreational leagues cannot be overstated. However, sports across all age ranges are seeing a shortage of referees and officials, which have a direct impact on the future of our recreation leagues.

What is causing this shortage? Many officials have declined to return due to the toxic environment that parents, coaches and some players have created.

In a report conducted by Officially Human, which is an organization that promotes respectful behavior toward referees, it was discovered that out of 19,000 referees, 60% stated that their top motive for quitting is the verbal abuse they take from parents and fans.

Referees only get paid on a per game basis so oftentimes they do it because they are passionate about sports and the positive effects it has on the children. Passion may not be enough anymore, as officials are walking away in droves. Virginia has experienced more



than a 50% decrease in officials since 2018. Without referees, there is no game. Without games, there are so many missed opportunities for kids.

If you have a love of the game and are interested in learning to officiate sports, while earning

some income, consider becoming a sports official. You can find your local sports official association contact information for baseball, basketball, cheer, field hockey, football, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling at your local parks and recreation department.

"I believe in this community! We can be respectful and passionate at the same time, and hold ourselves to a higher standard so we can be excellent examples for our children. Please consider getting involved. Volunteering as a coach or becoming a paid official ensures our programs can continue to inspire children in the community," stated Justus Casino, The Community Outreach Coordinator of Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events.

For more information on the Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events' sports division, please contact Jillian Franklin at 540-372-1086 or jilfranklin@fredericksburgva.gov

VRPS SPRING 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit

<https://vrps.memberclicks.net/upcoming-events>
for the complete VRPS Calendar of Events.



Thinking Outside the Sandbox



Let Cunningham Recreation help you design and build your next outdoor play and recreation space. Our design experts can give your park playground a “playful landscape” look and feel and add the “WOW factor” to your next project creating outdoor spaces that are unique and give park guests a one-of-a-kind experience. Set your park playground apart from all the rest with custom design capabilities by Cunningham Recreation!



800.438.2780 | cunninghamrec.com

Outdoor Resource Group Interest Meeting

By Hannah Bell, AFO, Recreation Specialist II, Colonial Heights Recreation & Parks

On Thursday, February 23, the newly revived Outdoor Resource group will host a virtual interest meeting. The Outdoor Resource group was active within VRPS about twenty-five years ago, and the revived group will focus on some of the original elements of the group. This interest meeting will allow professionals within the outdoor field to connect, share ideas and

discuss what topics, guest speakers and trainings they would like to see offered.

The Outdoor Resource group welcomes any professional in Virginia who is interested and/or working in an outdoor capacity. The initial interest meeting will help determine how often this group meets, what day and times work best for

most. If you cannot attend the meeting on February 23, reach out to Hannah Bell at bellh@colonialheights.gov to get more information and a link to a Google Survey. The survey will help determine meeting days and times. We are excited to create a new community within VRPS and get connected!

A photograph of a person climbing a large, dense evergreen tree in a forest. The person is wearing a green and white climbing harness and a helmet. The text "VRPS OUTDOOR RESOURCE GROUP" is overlaid in a white, hand-drawn style font.

VRPS OUTDOOR RESOURCE GROUP

Join our new VRPS resource group that allows professionals working in any outdoor job to connect, learn and grow together. A virtual interest meeting will be held on: Thursday, February 23 from 2P.M.-3P.M. For more information and meeting Zoom link contact Hannah Bell at bellh@colonialheightsva.gov

CHARM AND CULTURE AWAIT YOU!



VRPS Conference ▲ 2023 ▲ James City County

PRISM OF POSSIBILITIES



reflecting on history to illuminate the future

By Joy Johnson, M.S. Ed, CPRP, Marketing Coordinator, James City County Parks & Recreation, 2023 VRPS Marketing Co-Chair

The new year is here and James City County anxiously awaits your arrival this September to its unforgettable county of historic charm, great food, rich culture and awesome recreational experiences!



Celebrating 70 years of VRPS, this conference and keynote will ignite “Prisms of Possibilities.” Refocus your lens and See Yourself in James City County! The conference keynote speaker **Brett Leake**, Williamsburg native and corporate comedian will bring energy, motivation and laughs to attendees on Sunday, September 10 during the Opening Session and Business Meeting.

About Brett Leake:

- began his career as a standup comic and worked his way up to corporate clients such as IBM, Toyota and Ford.
- has facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy; the first comedian with a physical disability to appear on NBC’s The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.
- performed at the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center and Wolftrap.

This will be a keynote you will not want to miss!

Registration is NOW OPEN for the 69th Annual Virginia Recreation & Park Society Conference!

Visit the conference site to register, book your hotel room and submit your educational proposal. Scan the QR code below to access the website now!

What’s New? What’s Different? Some teasers to keep you on your toes...

- ▲ Traditional Banquet... nope!
- ▲ Traditional Awards Ceremony...nope!
- ▲ Social with rides... yup!
- ▲ Social in the sand on the beach...yup!

Stay tuned for more details — we’re sure that this will be a conference you won’t soon forget!

**Exhibitor opportunities are available — Exhibit Hall,
Monday, September 11.**

**Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels;
scan the QR Code for more info!**

Do you follow VRPS on Facebook?



If not, now’s the time! Important updates, conference teasers & tidbits will be shared online through August 2023. Don’t say we didn’t tell you!



PRISM OF POSSIBILITIES

reflecting on history to illuminate the future



REGISTRATION

Registration must be completed online

VRPS.COM/2023-ANNUAL-CONFERENCE**SIGN UP**

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

SAT. SEPT. 9, 12:30 P.M.Golf Tournament
Ford's Colony Golf Club**PER PLAYER****\$90****FOUR-SOME****\$360**

PRE-INSTITUTES & OFFSITES

More information **coming soon!** Please monitor the conference website for the latest updates.**MEMBER****TBA****NON-MEMBER****TBA**

FULL DELEGATE *Earn up to 1.0 CEU | Regular: \$15 Late: \$20*

- Keynote Speaker
- VRPS Business Meeting
- Educational Sessions
- Awards Banquet
- Exhibit Hall/Luncheon
- Daily Social Events

REGISTRATION TIMELINE

EARLY (by 6/1)**REGULAR** (6/2 - 7/31)**LATE** (8/1 or after)**MEMBER****\$435****\$460****\$485****NON-MEMBER****\$510****\$535****\$560**

DAILY REGISTRATION *Regular: \$15 Late: \$20*

Includes educational sessions and respective daily activities. Tickets for meals, awards banquet and social events not listed **MUST** be purchased separately.**SUNDAY** — Keynote, VRPS Business Meeting, Service Area & Resource Meetings**MONDAY** — Exhibit Hall and Lunch**TUESDAY** — Educational Sessions Only**MEMBER****\$215****\$235****\$205****NON-MEMBER****\$290****\$310****\$280**

ADDITIONAL TICKETS

**EXHIBIT HALL
LUNCH****\$50****AWARDS
BANQUET****\$60****SOCIAL
EVENTS****\$30
each****DIRECTOR'S FORUM****\$30**

CEU OPPORTUNITIES

Earn up to 1.0 CEU. CEU's available for Full Delegate or Daily Registration.

REGULAR**\$15****LATE****\$20**

STUDENT REGISTRATION

Through a generous grant from the Foundation of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society, student membership now includes complimentary registration to VRPS Annual Conference including all educational sessions (meals, awards banquet and social event tickets must be purchased separately). **Register by September 1, 2023.**

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration cancellation requests must be emailed to VRPS@VRPS.com by **Aug. 1, 2023** for a refund (\$50 administrative charge will apply). Substitution requests will be accepted via email up until conference at no additional charge.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Note any special accommodations including dietary preferences in the corresponding area of the online registration form.

THE VRPS 2023 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The 2023 Management Conference was held February 12th-14th, in Suffolk Virginia. The Keynote Speakers Barbara Heller and Tracey Crawford offered participants innovative and timely presentations that made the theme “Redefining Success” a reality. The line-up of informative speakers, an interesting and historic social , much-beloved ghost walk and good old Suffolk hospitality made for a great conference! Each participant left the City of Suffolk with new ideas to put in their tool bag and renewed enthusiasm to continue to elevate the profession.



Delegates enjoy
an interactive
session presented
by Joy Johnson



Barbara Heller,
Keynote speaker



Tracey Crawford,
Keynote speaker



Kevin Hughes,
Suffolk Deputy City
Manager, welcomes
conference
delegates to
the city

Celebrating 70 Years

1953-2023



A LOOK BACK IN TIME

By Amy-Jo Hendrix, Recreation Program
Manager, Town of Vienna

Titles and Articles from the 1950s.

July 30, 1953

“Franklin Midge Tennis teams Defeat
Suffolk”

“Show Wagon” will Travel Parks and
Playgrounds” – Charlottesville’s Recreation
Department

“Salaries and Professional Requirements
on Increase” – In Milwaukee Wisconsin the
salary schedules for 1953 provide a minimum
salary of \$3327 for a ten month year for
Recreation Instructors; maximum \$6027;
Recreation Directors start at \$5027 and can
reach \$7127. Recreation Supervisors go from
\$5127 to \$7577 and Division Directors go
from \$5127 to \$7977. Pay for seasonal and
part-time playground instructors ranges from
.65 an hour to \$1.50.

It is doubtful that any city in Virginia has
reached as high a salary schedule; however,
the goal should be as high in many of the
localities and through good work, good
public relations, and good sound policy such
a goal can be reached.

August 25, 1953

“Playgrounds in Petersburg” With
attendance slated to reach 22,500 in 10

municipal playgrounds closed on Friday August 14, 1953 after having been in operation since June 15. Attendance at the playgrounds averaged 450 a day. Activities were directed by Randy Mallory, who has been connected with playground work in Petersburg for more than six years. The City put the playgrounds on a year round basis this season for the first time and Mr. R.H. Salmon, the new Recreation Director is at work on an even more elaborate program for the next year. His department has used this summer to observe and study 10 playgrounds, ages of children attending and their interests.

September 25, 1953

"The Recognition of Recreation As A Function of State Government" by Ted Dalton, GOP Candidate for Governor of Virginia.

AD: WANTED

Supervisor of Special Activities

Woman Preferred

Salary - \$2900 to \$3150 (Starting)

Vacation - 2 weeks

Duties - Supervise Playground Program, Social Recreation, Square Dancing, Ballroom Dancing, Girls Activities.

If interested, please contact Mr. V.C. Smoral Recreation Department, Danville, VA

March 30, 1954

"Training Institute A Tremendous Success" - The Annual Training Institute conducted March 18-19 at Charlottesville by the Virginia Recreation Association and the State Department of Physical Education, Health, Recreation and Safety, was attended by approximately one hundred recreation workers and school personnel.

Titles and Articles from the 1960s.

December 2, 1960

Magazine title VRS (Virginia Recreation Society) changed to NOVELES

"The first issue of the NOVELES. It is planned to have an issue each month. Your contributions will be welcomed. It is hoped that it will be interesting informative and controversial enough that you will read it and want to contribute to it. This is your NOVELES; everyone should help to make it good.

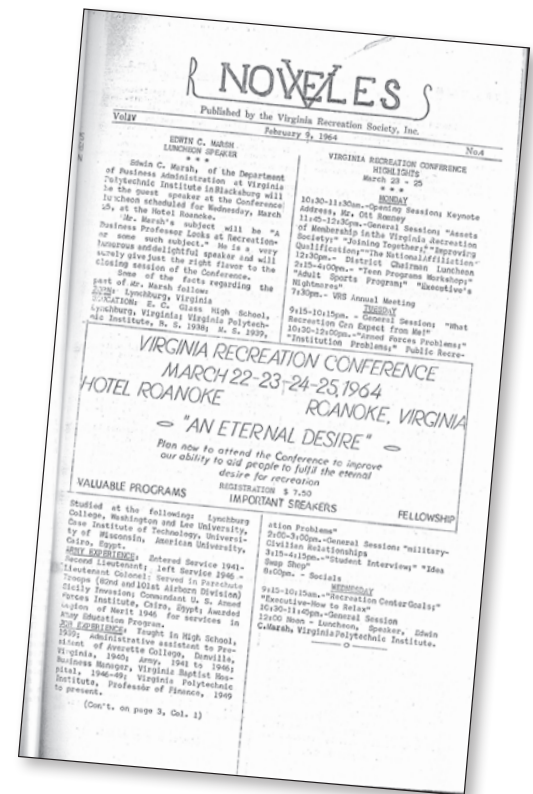
WHERE DO WE GO IN 1961?

By Howard Mast

"Recreation is a thing of vitality, exuberance, vibrancy, curiosity, self-expression, joy and happiness; passiveness and laziness are NOT components of Recreation.

There is no place in the world today for a professional society that is marking time with our without music. There must be a plan for advance: that plan must be actuated.

The first and foremost responsibility of the Virginia Recreation Society is to the field of Recreation because without it there will be no need for us. For the personnel now employed to prosper and to grow in stature, we must make it our business to aid in the expansion of recreation, both private and public, throughout the State of Virginia. There must be new jobs and new opportunities; there must be competition for employers and employees; there must be standards of quality for personnel and programs; there must be understanding of the necessity and the needs of recreation personnel by the general public and government officials; there must be an unquestionable liaison with the public and



with the government; there must be poise, patience, intelligence, charm and wit on our part; there must be good, sound leadership with sincere and active support; we must do the thing, as individuals as a Society, that not only gains respect but also demands it.

At the present time, Recreation and its personnel represent the tolerated but unwanted step-child. We stand in our urchin-like clothing crying out to any and all that will listen to give us help and to give

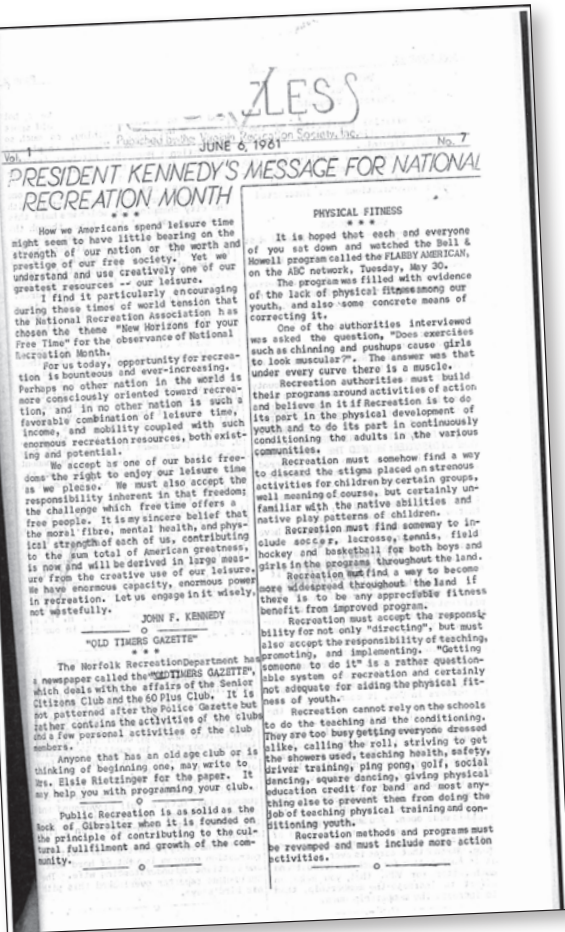
Our Magazine titles over the Decades

50's - Virginia Recreation News

60's - VRS (Virginia Recreation Society) and Noveles

70's - Virginia Views

80's and our current title - Virginia Parks And Recreation
Official Publication of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society



us understanding; we constantly compare ourselves to the other people in this vast empire of social service in regards to our service, its importance and its results.

No longer can we appeal with naked, out-stretched hands or dark glasses and a tin cup. We must now come well dressed, with intelligence and persuasiveness, with vitality and knowledge, with open eyes and an armored car. We must stand together, pull together, profit together and enjoy the fruits of our labor together.

In our bag of tricks must be a job well done by each and every one of us in our own communities, for without it we should not begin to open the bag. And we must not rely entirely on our own judgment of others. We must evaluate ourselves and our program without selfishness, inhibition, or fear; but instead with objectivity and enlightenment for the

purpose of improving ourselves and our programs.

We must have in our bag of tricks the desire and ability to cooperate with all agencies (schools, boys clubs, scouts, municipal departments, hospitals, private clubs) in service, advise and program. This must be done if we are to broaden the base of recreation and if we are going to give it stability, reliability and respect.

In our bag of tricks must be the understanding and the wisdom to accept the fact that Recreation requires more than experience alone. We must realize that we are working with people and their lives, and to be effective, we must give ourselves to these people. We must, therefore, set the educational standards equal to or higher than other social service organizations so that, not only can

we grow bigger and inherit more wisdom, but so that we are in an unquestioned position to contribute more to the lives of those we serve. It requires a far more active and ingenuous person to work in recreation than it does Welfare; it requires more ingenuity, more versatility, more patience, more poise, better general personality, and general knowledge to work effectively in Recreation than it does in school teaching. Both of these now have relatively high educational requirements; we need it more than either of them. We must recognize it; accept it and plan to effectively work in the direction that is considered best.

The Virginia Recreation Society is our medium through which we can collectively jell our philosophy and through which we can effectively promote Recreation and its personnel.

This shall be the goal of VRS in 1961.

June 6, 1961

"President Kennedy's Message For National Recreational Month"

November 7, 1963

"Cecil Gilkerson Installed For Second Term"

Cecil Gilkerson, Director of Parks and Recreation in Harrisburg, was installed as President of the Virginia Recreation Society, for a second term, for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 1963 to October 31, 1964, following the Southeastern District Meeting at Langley Air Force Base on November 6. Also installed were Harry Knight, first Vice President; Fred Williams, second Vice President; Connie Rollison, Treasurer; Board Members, Myrtle Patterson, Donald Wingo and Kenneth Burnett; Ex-Officio, Hoard Mast.

The leadership is only as effective as the membership reacts favorably. It is, therefore, essential that each and every member give whole support to the officers.

Under President Gilkerson's leadership the membership grew tremendously in 1962-63. The Virginia Recreation Conference, conducted in Norfolk in March 1963, has been acclaimed as the best in its history.

The membership grew from 187 to 257 and increase of 70. Mr. Gilkerson set the goal for 1963-64 at 300 members. It is a modest goal, but he believes it can easily be achieved.

Side note - As of October 2014 membership is at 935.

June 3, 1966

"Howard Mast Resigns As Editor"

"Softball in Virginia"

A number of recreation Department officials are cooperating again this year with the Virginia Amateur Softball Association.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY (continued)

Marshall Rotella of Richmond and James Barnett of Winchester are members of the Virginia ASA Advisory Board.

Serving as District Commissioners are George Peters of Lynchburg, John Campbell of Portsmouth, and Ronnie Burroughs of Newport News, George Rhodes of Chesapeake, Tome Brown of Fieldale and Ralph Smith of Fredericksburg.

In addition to the Recreation Department officials, a number of laymen are serving as District Commissioners.

The Virginia ASA holds 12-inch pitch tournaments and slow pitch tournaments in which the 10-inche, 14-inch and 16-inch softballs are used. It has the largest, longest and most diversified softball program in the United States.

Other Recreation Department aids interested in playing a role in the Virginia ASA Program should write to the State Softball Commissioner Hank Wolfe, 118 Seneca Road, Richmond, VA 23226. Wolfe is an Associate Member of The Virginia Recreation Society.

"New Constitution"

So that everyone will know what changes in the Constitution were made at the Annual meeting in March, 1966, a copy has been enclosed in this issue for you to read and know.

The major changes are: (1) name Virginia Recreation and Parks Society; (2) Vice-Presidents increased to include one from each district; (3) cycle billing instead of calendar billing; (4) fiscal year May 1 - April 30; dues Professional\$25, Associate \$15 Student \$6.

November 1966

Publication title changes from Noveles to VRPS NEWS

January 1967

Employment Opportunities

Arlington County- Recreation I (3 vacancies)

Professional and supervisory work as a director or assistant director of a neighborhood recreation center or as an area supervisor of a group of playgrounds. Graduate of four year college, preferable with specialization in recreation or closely related field. Some recreation experience desirable. Ability to obtain Virginia Driver's License. Salary \$6156 - \$7488 with top longevity \$8112. Apply Department of Personnel, Court House, Arlington 22201 before June 30, 1967

Richmond - Richmond Group Worker

College graduate with one year experience working with handicapped. Drivers permit. Salary \$4784-\$5720. Apply Department of Personnel, 1001 East Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

February 1967

"Hopewell Camping Club Utilizes Trailers"

"Portsmouth Begins Young Citizens Council"

November 1967

"Bull Run - Occoquan Creek Area Enlarged" - The Northern Virginia regional Park Authority following more than a year's negotiations, has added 167.1377 acres to its 1700 acre park holdings along the Bull Run - Occoquan Creek shore line on the Fairfax County border. Cost per acre \$1715.

January 1968

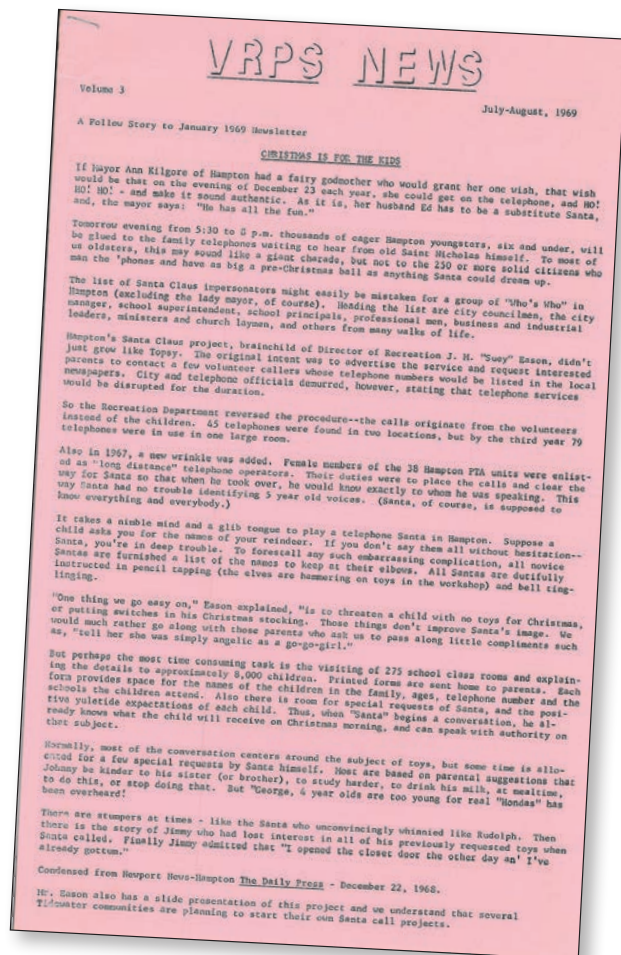
"Youth Coffee House - It's No Place Like Home" - The Old

Police Station (we have a new One) was converted to "The 13th Floor". ... the real organizational strength of this program was the cooperative effort by a local civic club to assist in financing the initiating of the program, the strong leadership and talents the youth showed and the guidance of the Department of Recreation...The coffee house is "In" in Charlottesville.

February 1969

"Suffolk Innovation" - The ancient Scandinavian custom of Sauna bathing has come to Suffolk, Virginia. Although many communities throughout the country have this custom available, it is unique in Suffolk because it is furnished through the municipal recreation program.

This program was set up as part of the men's and women's health clubs as well as a program in itself. Members of the health



NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY (continued)

club are entitled to use the Sauna Bath during health club hours...I feel one of the reasons for the great success of the program is that we can furnish the activity for so much less than private clubs or commercial groups. A person can buy a ticket that entitles him to 52 baths for \$10.00, 26 baths for \$7.50 and 13 baths for \$5.00 and individual baths are .75.

April 1969

“Apple Blossom Festival” – Winchester’s Department of Parks and Recreation extends an invitation to all to attend the 42nd Annual Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival May 1-3.

“Wanted Immediately” Information on Mini Pools, Portable Pools, Summer

Program Plans Including Festivals, Summer Playground Themes, Innovations, Different Teen-Age Programs.”

Job Opportunities

Alexandria is recruiting for an assistant director at their Cameron Street Center. This recreation supervisor I Position will work 35 hours a week at \$6510 per annum.

LEARN, TRANSFORM, AND INSPIRE



2024 Virginia Recreation & Parks Society LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

APRIL 14 - APRIL 16
@ WINTERGREEN RESORT

**REGISTRATION OPENS
MARCH 2023**

REGISTRATION INCLUDES
LODGING, CONFERENCE FEES,
CEU'S & SOME MEALS



Virginia
Recreation
and Park Society
www.VRPS.com

join us

VIRGINIA RECREATION &
PARK SOCIETY

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

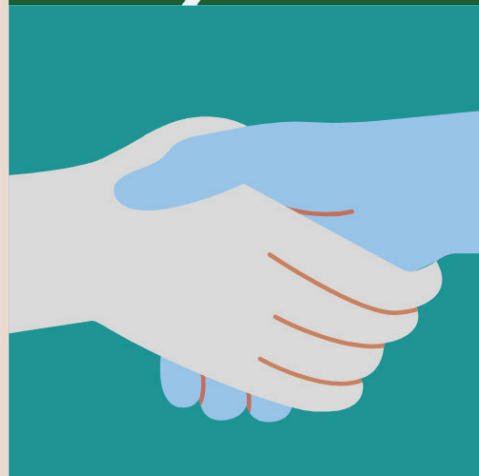
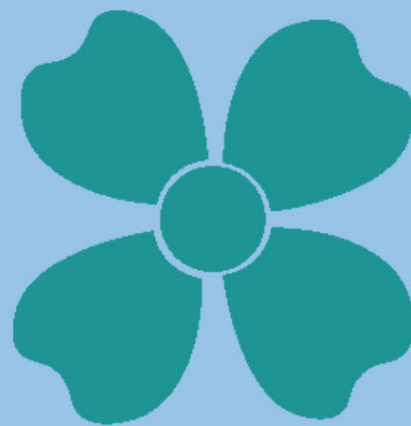
ARE YOU UNDER 35 OR WITHIN 7 YEARS OF
YOUR CAREER IN PARKS AND RECREATION
AND LOOKING TO LEARN AND GROW
YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK AS
WE FORM VRPS'S FIRST YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK AND GET
INVOLVED BY SCANNING THE LINK
QR CODE BELOW



scan here





2023 HANDS-ON ATHLETIC FIELDS TRAINING

*From Irrigation to Aeration, Mowing to Management,
What Works and What Doesn't*

Date

Location

March 20	Virginia Tech Lane Stadium (185 Beamer Way, Blacksburg, VA 24060)
March 21	Western Branch Community Center (4437 Portsmouth Blvd, Chesapeake, VA 23321)
March 22	Dorey Park Recreation Center (2999 Darbytown Rd, Henrico, VA 23231)
March 23	Claude Moore Recreation Center (46105 Loudoun Park Ln, Sterling, VA 20164)

VRPS has partnered with Toro to offer an educational workshop for your department's athletic field, irrigation, and turf management personnel.

\$49

Registration Fee

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



VRPS.COM

Daily Schedule

8:00-8:30 am	Check-In
8:30-9:45 am	Topics
9:45-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:15 am	Topics
11:15-11:45 am	Q&A
11:45-12:30 pm	Lunch*
12:30-2:00 pm	Facility Tour

*CEUs included
(.2 CEUs pending approval)*

**Lunch Included*

2023 VRPS BOARDS, KEY LEADERS & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kat Fish, CPRP	Prince William County Parks & Recreation	703-792-8203	kfish@pwcgov.org
Vice President	Justin Bullock, CPRP	Greene Co. Parks and Recreation	434-422-6059	jbullock@gcva.us
Treasurer	Tabitha Martinez, CPRE	Hopewell Recreation & Parks	804-541-2353	TMartinez@hopewellva.gov
Lay Member	Amanda Walker	Patdart, LP	804-643-0406	acwpinrich@aol.com
Board Member	Matt Spruill, CPRP	Colonial Heights Recreation and Parks	804-520-9392	spruillm@colonialheightsva.gov
Board Member	Arlana Fauntleroy, CPRP	James City Co. Parks & Recreation	757-259-5377	Arlana.Fauntleroy@jamescitycountyva.gov
Board Member	Karen Lussier	Fairfax County Park Authority	703-324-5576	karen.lussier@fairfaxcounty.gov
Board Member	Michael Clark, CPRE, AFO	Roanoke Parks and Recreation	540-853-2236	michael.clark@roanokeva.gov
Board Member	James Mickle, CPRP, CPSI	BerryDunn	757-535-1942	James.Mickle@berrydunn.com

SERVICE AREA CHAIRS

Central	Marlie Creasey-Smith	Chesterfield Co. Parks & Recreation	804-541-2353	CreaseySmithM@chesterfield.gov
Eastern	Thurmond Diamond	Chesapeake Parks, Recreation & Tourism	757-382-6411	TDiamond@cityofchesapeake.net
Northern	Roberta Korzen	Fairfax County Park Authority	703-324-8782	roberta.korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov
Southwest	Crystal Hylton	Wytheville Parks & Recreation	276-223-3517	crystal@wytheville.org
Western	Leslie Bowery CPSI, CPRP	Winchester Parks & Recreation	540-662-4946	leslie.bowery@winchesterva.gov

RESOURCE GROUP CHAIRS

Aquatics	Allen Dunn	Prince William Co Public Schools	571-374-6349	dunna@pwcs.edu
Health & Wellness	Julie Frederickson, CPRP	Fairfax County Park Authority	703-817-9407	Julie.frederickson@fairfaxcounty.gov
Park Operations	Dan Smith, CPRP	Hanover Co. Parks & Recreation	804-365-4693	dcsmith@hanovercounty.gov
Seniors	Kim Graves	Chesterfield Co. Parks & Recreation	804-768-7890	GravesK@chesterfield.gov
Special Events & Marketing				
Therapeutic Recreation	Tracy Newsom, CTRS	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5354	Tracy.newsom@jamescitycountyva.gov

ENTERPRISE GROUP CHAIRS

Annual Conference 2023	Arlana Fauntleroy, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5377	Arlana.Fauntleroy@jamescitycountyva.gov
	Angie Sims, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5403	Angie.Sims@jamescitycountyva.gov
Management	Mark Furlo, CPRE	Suffolk Parks and Recreation	757-514-7266	mfurlo@suffolkva.us
Conference 2023	LaTanya Turner, CPRP	Suffolk Parks and Recreation	757-514-7255	lturner@suffolkva.us
LTI 2024	AJ McCage, CTRS	Henrico Recreation and Parks	804-833-5064	mcc159@henrico.us
	Shawn Hopson, CPRP	Chesapeake Parks, Recreation & Tourism	757-382-1317	shopson@cityofchesapeake.net
Awards & Citations	Leslie Bowery, CPSI, CPRP	Winchester Parks & Recreation	540-662-4946 x16	Leslie.Bowery@winchesterva.gov
	Tracy Newsom, CTRS	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5354	Tracy.newsom@jamescitycountyva.gov
Foundation	Susan Van Patten	Radford University	540-831-7644	svanpatt@RADFORD.EDU
Professional Education	Arlana Fauntleroy, CPRP	James City Co. Parks & Recreation	757-259-5377	Arlana.Fauntleroy@jamescitycountyva.gov
Magazine Editor	Amy-Jo Hendrix, CPRP	Vienna Parks & Recreation	703-255-6357	ahendrix@viennava.gov

VRPS STAFF

Sue Black	Executive Director	804-730-9447	sue@vrps.com
Lori Haislip	Office Manager	804-730-9447	lori@vrps.com

BOARD LIAISONS

SERVICE AREAS

Central	Tabitha Martinez
Eastern	James Mickle
Northern	Karen Lussier
Southwestern	Michael Clark
Western	Justin Bullock

RESOURCE GROUPS

Aquatic	Kat Fish
Health and Wellness	Justin Bullock
Park Operations	Michael Clark
Senior	James Mickle
Special Events & Marketing	Michael Clark
Therapeutic Recreation	Karen Lussier

EVENTS

LTI	Matt Spruill
Annual Conference	Matt Spruill
Management Conference	Tabitha Martinez

COMMITTEES

Awards & Citations	Arlana Fauntleroy
Legislation	Matt Spruill
Nominations & Elections	Matt Spruill
Professional Education	Arlana Fauntleroy
Student Initiatives	Justin Bullock

ACTION TEAMS

Administrative	Karen Lussier
Marketing & Communications	Tabitha Martinez
Technology	Matt Spruill
Strategic Plan	Kat Fish
Finance and Budget	Tabitha Martinez
Mentorship Program	Justin Bullock



Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course and Exam

April 12 - 14, 2023 – Williamsburg, VA



Phone: 804-730-9447

FAX: 804-730-9455

Web: www.vrps.com

Email: vrps@vrps.com

CIRCLE REGISTRATION

CHOICE

CPSI Course & Exam

*Includes Lunches & Site Visit

On or before 1/31/2023

VRPS Member

Non-Member

2/1/23– 2/28/2023

VRPS Member

Non-Member

3/1/23 or after

VRPS Member

Non-Member

\$600

\$675

\$660

\$735

\$690

\$765

CPSI Course Only

*Includes Lunches & Site Visit

VRPS Member

Non-Member

VRPS Member

Non-Member

VRPS Member

Non-Member

\$460

\$535

\$510

\$585

\$530

\$605

CPSI EXAM Only

VRPS Member

Non-Member

VRPS Member

Non-Member

VRPS Member

Non-Member

\$150

\$200

\$160

\$210

\$170

\$220

1.5 CEUs are included in the course fee.

*A candidate who has a disability may request a special accommodation; the request must be submitted in writing at the time of course or exam registration. In order to properly accommodate all persons with disabilities it is recommended that all requests be made 45 days prior to the scheduled date for the course and exam.

*English as second language (ESL) candidates may request a time extension and/or the use of a strict translation dictionary. Candidates request forms/fees must be submitted to NRPA no less than 30 days prior to the exam.

Request forms are available online at <http://www.nrpa.org/cpsi>. The course host will work collaboratively with NRPA to ensure all approved, reasonable accommodations are met.

*Price includes UPS Ground Shipping within the Continental United States to a BUSINESS address. Shipping to Residential address will be an additional \$15 fee. Please call for international shipping fees.

Cancellation Policy: Registration fee, less a \$300 cancellation charge, will be refunded if cancellation is received in writing by **January 31, 2023**. Substitutions are allowed. No refunds will be considered after **January 31, 2023**.

REGISTRATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.vrps.com

Legal First Name: _____ Legal Last Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____

Agency: _____ Title: _____

Shipping Address: (No PO Boxes): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

Address is Business or Residential? _____ VRPS Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Special Accommodations required, including dietary: _____

Registrants that are renewing MUST provide their CPSI Certification Number: _____

Study materials will not be shipped until both the minimum of 25 course registrants is reached and full individual payment is received. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely payment is received by VRPS in order to allow materials to be sent and received, adhering to three weeks minimum preparation as recommended by NRPA.

Credit Card Type: _____ Check/PO Number: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name on Card: _____ Agency: _____

Billing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Payment-in-full, in the form of check, money order, or credit card, is required to secure placement in program. If paying by check, make payable to VRPS and mail with registration form to:

Virginia Recreation & Park Society/CPSI
6372 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Suite 109
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



Course and Exam (2 forms of ID required!) held at:

James City County Recreation Center
5301 Longhill Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 259-4200

VRPS Preferred Vendors

ACTIVITIES

Kings Dominion
USA Softball of Virginia
USTA Mid-Atlantic

AQUATICS

Harper and Company
HydroApps
National Pools of Roanoke, LLC
Poolside Adventures
Vortex Aquatic Structures

DESIGN/CONSULTING/ CONSTRUCTION

Foresight Design Services
Gordon US, LLC
H2I Group Inc
Land Planning & Design
Associates
Lose Design
McGill Associates
The LandTek Group
Timmons Group

EDUCATION

National Alliance for Youth Sports
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Virginia Turfgrass Council

FACILITY AMENITIES

All Traffic Solutions
Cintas
CXT, Inc.
Glasdon, Inc.
JJM Associates
Mosca Design
Musco Sports Lighting, LLC
Pioneer Athletics
R.J. Thomas Manufacturing
Royalwood Associates
Sealmaster
SELS Solar
Smith-Midland, Inc.
SportsEdge
Target-Specialty Products
Tiny Mobile Robots

PLAYGROUND/PARK

All Recreation
American Ramp Company
Bliss Products
Carolina Recreation
Cunningham Recreation/
GameTime
Kompan
MaxPlayFit, LLC
Playground Specialists, Inc.
Site Concepts
Sparks@Play

SOFTWARE/DIGITAL

MyRec.com
Perry Weather
Vermont Systems



LOOKING FOR KEY TEAM MEMBERS?

Visit the VRPS Job Board and Career Center!

Posting jobs to the Job Board is a FREE service to VRPS members, and you can have your ad featured for \$25. Visit www.vrps.com and click on **Job Board and Career Center** at the top of the main page — to post a job you will need to log in with your new website credentials.

For information and instructions on posting to the job board you may visit the link below.

[Job Board Posting Instructions](#)