Getting Your Feet Wet: Big Benefits of Water Recreation

• New Public Water Access: Accomplishments, Opportunities and Benefits in Anne Arundel County

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• Water Access Commission

• Anne Arundel County
Why? Benefits of Water Access

- Health & Family Strength
- FUN
- Environmental Support
- FUN
- Fairness
- FUN
- Economic Benefit
- FUN
6 boats = 1 job!

- The outdoor recreation economy in Maryland already generates 109,000 direct jobs, $14 billion in consumer spending, $4.4 billion in wages and salaries, and $1 million in state and local tax revenue. Investment in outdoor recreation and nature and heritage tourism economies supports many outdoor activities in Maryland, including hiking, biking, horse-back riding, paddling, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, wildlife-viewing, and visiting historic sites.
When?

• NOW
• We don’t get years back – taking your 3 year old child to the beach is different than taking your 8 year old or 13 year old to the beach

• Program Open Space funding is for “public outdoor recreation” - we’re spending public tax dollars and taking land off the tax rolls and the general public deserves to benefit from that public investment as soon as possible
How?

- Identify publicly owned waterfront land
- Work with user groups to open immediately as rustic parks
- Focus on basic access
What Is Basic Access?

- Park Sign
- Open Gate
- Ample Parking
- Unloading area near the water
- Portapotty
Who?

- Local government
- Local nonprofits
- Local businesses
- Local user groups working together for the benefit of all
Who are the local user groups?

- Working coalition of wet feet activists organized through the Public Water Access Committee
- It’s all of us or none of us
- Sea kayakers, kayak anglers, recreational kayakers, stand up paddleboarders, pier and shore anglers, wind surfers, kiteboarders, trailered boat owners, beach goers, birdwatchers, dog walkers
- No privileged groups
Success Stories

- Homeport Farm Park
- Downs Park onto the Bodkin
- Beverly Triton Beach Park
- Discovery Village
Anne Arundel Water Trail (AACWT.org): MAP 4 - Northeast Section

Hancock's Resolution Park

At the head of Tar Cove, at the black pipe's end 100 yds. past the last pier, on a mid/high tide, stretch your legs: 30 yds. uphill on the right, a wooded old quarry w/boulders, a Coastal Plain rarity. Those "ironstone" ("bog iron") compacted, red-brown sandstone rocks are cemented by iron. Public park land on the right starts opposite the last pier on the left. Playful river otter have been seen here.

215 acres, 100% forest, miles of trails; bald eagle, great blue heron common. Explore the shore. Birdwatch by kayak/canoe.

Hancock's Resolution Park

A regionally-rare "middling planter's stone farmhouse" occupied by the Hancock's from 1795 to 1963. To get there, paddlers have not one but two ways, 200 or 400 yard flat carry to exposed (when windy) sandy beach launch.

At the east take-out 10 yards north of the last pier on the west side of the cove, find the small mowed trail next to a bamboo stand now spreading on county property. At the west take-out, look for an old stone fireplace next to a huge poplar tree near the shore...a walk up through an area w/cleared understory to a dirt, then gravel road. The house is open Sundays, April through Oct., 1-4 pm (free), but paddlers should explore dawn to dusk on any day.

Explore the shore; bald eagles often seen here.

Dee's Cove Woods (A.A. Rec/Parks)

Bill Burton Launch
39-06.70N 76-29.10W
Between historic Cedar Pkwy to N & boat ramp & Bill Burton Fishing Pier to S., a 20 yd. flat carry to a sandy beach protected from wind, waves by breakwaters.

Hog Neck

Rock Pt. Launch 39-09.88N 76-28.61W
20 yd. flat carry to exposed (when windy) sandy beach launch.

Ft. Smallwood Park*
15:30am-dusk daily: $6/car, $40/yr (free ifoco.res.); power boat ramp $10

Wall Cove Launch
39-06.19N 76-29.80W
A bit awkward launch; an 80 yd. carry thru woods (flat, no trail at first), then a short steep trail to a tiny beach on a grassy shore. Carry is direct across from the "1552" mailbox at 39-06.22N 76-29.79W. Some what limited shoulder parking on public road (free, 7am-dusk).

Rock Creek

Fairview Beach Rd

Weinberg Park

Explore the shore; bald eagles often seen here.

Patapsco River

Downs Park: 7am-dusk Wed-Mon: Just S. of the fishing pier, sand beach

Bay Side Launch (A) subject to winds, waves from NE, E, SE; 20 yd. flat carry past Fernwood Pavilion from the parking lot on the right after the main park area. or Locust Cove Launch (B) (muddy at low tide), a flat 60-130 yd. carry from the last parking lot on the Locust Cove park rd. For both: $6 per car, vets/military free ($40/calendar year ($30 co-resident); $40 lifetime for 60+ srs.; both also cover Quiet Waters, Ft. Smallwood.) $40 youth group camps 300-400 yds. to tidewaters. (res.: 410 222-6260) MD Rt. 177(Mtn. Rd.) leads past the town of Lake Shore to the park.
MORE INFORMATION

- Water Access Activity Finder
  Department of Recreation and Parks
  Anne Arundel County

- Anne Arundel County Water Trail
  http://aacwt.org
MORE INFORMATION CONT.

• Chesapeake Water Access and Paddle-in Campsite Atlas
  Ralph Heimlich, Chesapeake Paddlers Association

• Public Water Access Committee
  https://www.facebook.com/aapwac