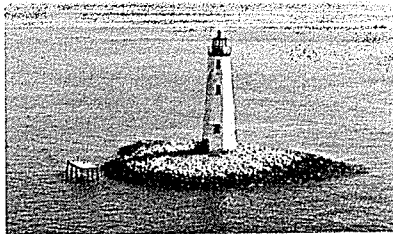


APR 17 2009

MATHEWS COUNTY

Statewaters Access Plan



Mathews County Planning & Zoning Office

P.O. Box 839

50 Brickbat Road

Mathews, VA 23109

(804) 725-4034

www.co.mathews.va.us

Acknowledgments

Mathews County Board of Supervisors

Geneva L. "Neena" Putt, Chairman

Charles Ingram

C. Gerald Sadler

Michael C. Rowe

Kevin Mitchem

Steve Whiteway, County Administrator

Mathews County Planning Commission

RADM Donald Roane, Chairman

William M. Snow

Raymond E. Owens

David C. Crockett

James W. Smith

William S. Pugh

Charles Dawson

Mathews County Planning & Zoning Office

Rodney S. Rhodes, Deputy County Administrator

Marion C. Love, Environmental Codes Compliance Officer

April Branton, Planning Assistant/GIS Coordinator

Liz Whitley, Administrative Assistant

Mathews County Wetlands Office

Sherry C. Ashe, Wetlands Administrator

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

Lewis L. Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning

CHAPTER 1	
Introduction.....	7

Scope and Purpose.....	7
------------------------	---

Background.....	7
-----------------	---

CHAPTER 2	
Statistics.....	9

Population.....	9
-----------------	---

Boat Registration.....	11
------------------------	----

Fishing Licenses.....	12
-----------------------	----

Sailing.....	13
--------------	----

Canoeing/Kayaking.....	13
------------------------	----

Beach Swimming.....	14
---------------------	----

Commercial.....	14
-----------------	----

CHAPTER 3	
Shoreline & Tidal Waters.....	15

Piankatank River	15
------------------------	----

Chesapeake Bay	15
----------------------	----

Mobjack Bay	16
-------------------	----

East River.....	16
-----------------	----

North River.....	16
------------------	----

CHAPTER 4	
SWA Sites.....	17

Map.....	18
----------	----

Inventory.....	19
----------------	----

Amenities.....	20
----------------	----

Blueways.....	21
---------------	----

Crew.....	21
-----------	----

Sports Fishing.....	21
---------------------	----

CHAPTER 5	
Signage.....	22

Gateway Signs.....	22
--------------------	----

Directional Signs.....	22
------------------------	----

Public Docks/Piers.....	22
-------------------------	----

Public Beaches.....	23
---------------------	----

Boundary Signs.....	24
---------------------	----

CHAPTER 6	
Funding.....	25

County.....	25
-------------	----

State.....	25
------------	----

Federal.....	25
--------------	----

VDOT.....	25
-----------	----

MPPAC.....	25
------------	----

CHAPTER 7	
Projects	

Recently Comp Proj.....	26
-------------------------	----

Ongoing Projects.....	26
-----------------------	----

Planned Projects.....	27
-----------------------	----

Potential Projects.....	27
-------------------------	----

CHAPTER 8	
Conclusion	28

Vision.....	28
-------------	----

Recommendations.....	28
----------------------	----

List of Tables

	<u>Page</u>
Table 1: Population 1900 – 2010	9
Table 2: 2002 Residential Bldg Permits.....	10
Table 3: Boat Registrations 1996 – 2003.....	12
Table 4: Fishing Licenses – 2003.....	13
Table 5: Water Access Site Map.....	18
Table 6: Water Access Site Info Database.....	19
Table 7: Water Access Site Amenities List.....	20

APPENDIX

Page

Appendix 1:	Auburn Landing.....	A-1
Appendix 2:	Roane's Point Landing.....	A-2
Appendix 3:	Warehouse Creek Landing	A-3
Appendix 4:	Piankatank River Landing	A-4
Appendix 5:	Roses Creek Landing	A-5
Appendix 6:	Grimstead Public Landing	A-6
Appendix 7:	Milford Landing	A-7
Appendix 8:	White's Creek Landing	A-8
Appendix 9:	Festival Beach	A-9
Appendix 10:	Haven Public Beach	A-10
Appendix 11:	Aaron's Beach/Old Haven Beach.....	A-11
Appendix 12:	Town Point Landing	A-12
Appendix 13:	Williams Wharf Landing	A-13
Appendix 14:	Winter Haven Landing.....	A-14
Appendix 15:	Winter Harbor Haven	A-15
Appendix 16:	Horn Harbor Landing	A-16
Appendix 17:	Davis Creek Landing	A-17
Appendix 18:	Doctor's Creek Landing	A-18
Appendix 19:	New Point Comfort	A-19

Introduction

Scope and Purpose.

The purpose of this plan is to provide the county and it's citizens with an overall inventory of all county owned public water access sites. The Comprehensive Plan for Mathews County notes that this inventory should look at the physical qualities of the facilities, the ease of entrance to and exit from the sites, the usage of the sites, and the potential expansion capabilities of each site.

It is envisioned that through this plan, an accurate record will be available to include site surveys, pictures, etc and improvements that can be made in order to obtain the maximum benefit each site has to offer. This plan will outline what is currently available, what improvements can be made, suggested plans for expansion, and will suggest a plan for the general upkeep and maintenance of sites.

Background

Nationwide, coastal areas have become hot spots for development. As land values escalate and private interests restrict access, pressure mounts to retain or increase public access to coastal waters.¹ Virginia, under the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, has completed a Tidewater access study and made the following recommendations.

Public Access (Taken from 2002 Chesapeake Bay Agreement)²

- Enhance interpretation materials that promote stewardship at natural, recreational, historical and cultural public access points within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

¹ Mathews County Comprehensive Plan, June 26, 2001, Page 1

² www.chesapeakebay.net/pavg.htm

- By 2003, develop partnerships with at least 30 sites to enhance place-based interpretation of Bay-related resources and themes and stimulate volunteer involvement in resource restoration and conservation.
- By 2005, increase the number of designated water trails in the Chesapeake Bay region by 500 miles.
- By 2010, expand by 30 percent the system of public access points to the Bay, its tributaries and related resource sites in an environmentally sensitive manner by working with state and federal agencies, local governments and stakeholder organizations.

Mathews County, though the smallest rural county in Virginia (86 square miles), boasts one of the longest shorelines in the State. There are more than 217 miles of shoreline in the County. The life and livelihood of Mathews County has historically been tied to the waterfront. In the 18th and 19th centuries the County was a shipbuilding center. Prior to the advent of roads the County's commercial landings were vital centers of commerce and trade. Commercial fishing also provided a livelihood for many of the County's residents. Commercial freight and passenger traffic have ceased; their associated landings have disappeared. Public access continues to be needed for commercial fishermen who do not have their own piers or landings. More recent demands on waterfront properties have been made for home sites and for public access to support recreational fishing, boating and beach activities.³

³ Mathews County Statewaters Access Plan Draft by John Dahlgren, April 30, 2001, Page 3

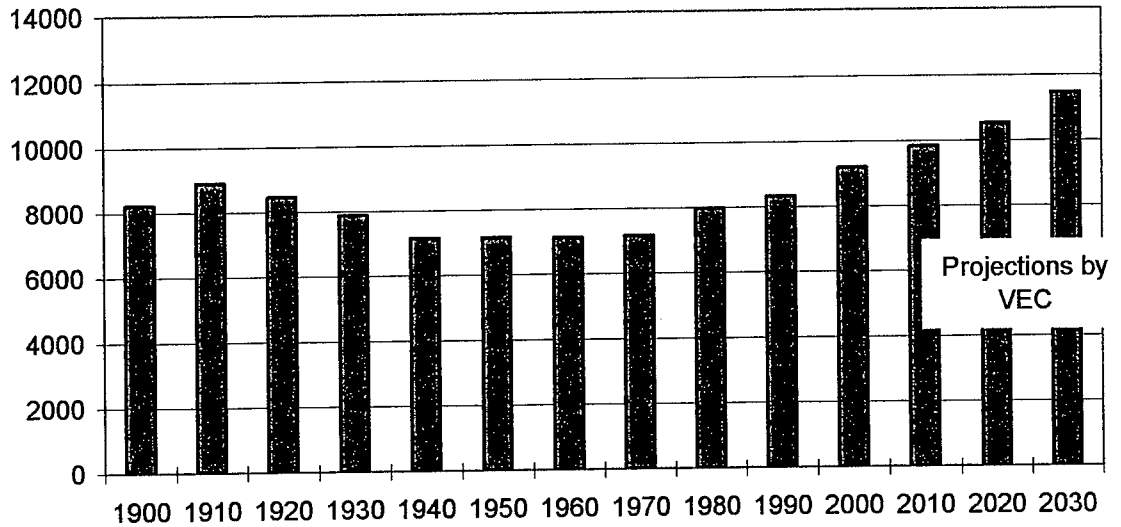
Statistics

Population

Mathews County has become a bedroom community for the Hampton Roads area and a haven for retirees. This county has also become a community for second-home owners. Thirty-five percent of the residents of Mathews County are 55 years or older. Population projections are shown below.

Table 1

Mathews County Population 1900-2010⁴



⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Quickfacts

Seasonal residents swell Mathews County's population by several thousand people during the summer months. The seasonal and year-round residents that are building houses in the County are more affluent than those moving into surrounding counties. In 2002, the average value of a newly built home in Mathews County was \$136,973. All of the other Middle Peninsula communities issued more permits than Mathews County, but only Essex County had a higher average value per unit. The following table illustrates that trend in housing.

Table 2
2002 Residential Building Permits
Middle Peninsula ⁵

	Number	Average Value
Mathews County	68	\$136,973
Essex County	120	\$140,000
Gloucester County	247	\$115,461
King & Queen	76	\$ 52,573
King William	122	\$ 90,000
Middlesex County	146	\$106,635

A growing population, healthy economy, and increased housing alternatives are all desirable, but these will place heavier pressure on shoreline environments and water quality, making an already finite resource more limited for future growth. The Chesapeake Bay Agreement recognizes this intricate relationship. Through the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, jurisdictions in Virginia are being asked for the first time to look beyond their immediate boundaries to exercise their powers to protect water quality in state waters. This will no doubt change the patterns of development, and can offer increasing waterside recreation opportunities for more people.

The economy of Mathews County is not dominated by any one economic sector. There is a scattering of retail business in the County, as well as some light industry. Commercial fishing is also a factor in the County's economy. The structure of the local economy has shifted from its former production-oriented nature of the 1700s and 1800s, to one of trade and services to local residents and visitors, while continuing a modest level of agriculture and seafood operations. A major strength of the economy today comes from movement into the County of retirees, seasonal visitors, and persons seeking to live on the water but hold jobs outside the County. The retirees and seasonal residents generally bring more disposable income into the County than families with young children.⁶

⁵ Building Officials Offices

⁶ Mathews County Statewaters Access Plan Draft by John Dahlgren, April 30, 2001, page 7

Tourism plays an increasing role in the County. Tourists are visiting the County in greater numbers and are exploring the natural beauty that Mathews County offers. The tourists are partaking of the various sports-fishing charters in the County, the Mathews County Blueways Trail (a human and wind-powered water trail), bird watching, bicycling, and other recreational opportunities (See Chapter 4). In 1997, tourist spending went over \$18.0 million, up from \$10.7 million in 1992.

All of this activity creates opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural beauty of the County. A large part of that beauty is the incredible expanse of the shoreline of the County. Much of the shoreline in the County is privately owned, but there are still areas of the County that are controlled by various public agencies. In order to meet the needs of its citizens and tourists, Mathews County should increase access to the shoreline and improve the facilities that are currently in use. One goal of the 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan is to increase public access to the State waters. The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAB) also requires localities to consider public access and the impact it has on water quality in their comprehensive plans.⁷

The Mathews County 2000 Comprehensive plan looks at public access to state waters, but clearly, a more intensive exploration is necessary. In 1989, the County published the *Mathews County Shorelands Access Plan*. This plan looked at the existing facilities and explored ways for the County to increase public access to state waters. That access plan was published before CBLAB published their regulations and recommendations.⁸

Is there a need for more publicly owned access facilities? Increasing tourism and population, especially during the summer months, can overwhelm the public facilities and make residents and tourists frustrated. This may cause people to travel outside the County to meet their recreational needs. There is also a limited amount of shoreline that is not either privately owned or set aside for use as a preserve. Preserving the shoreline for public access and enjoyment will ultimately increase the tax base of the County through growth in tourism and growth in property values of those properties that have an unobstructed view of the water. For each type of access, there is a special reason for increasing the number of access points along state waters.

Boat Registration

An accurate estimate of boat access needs in Mathews County is difficult to assess. Data for documented boats is not analyzed on a local basis. Furthermore, these statistics will not reveal the large numbers of visitors with boats to these waters.

Use of public boat landings are a factor of peak use rather than average use. A weekly average use of ten boat launches per day does not show that on the weekends, there may

⁷ Ibid, Page 8

⁸ Ibid, Page 8

be much more boat launchings per day. With the growth in registered boats in the County, it can only be expected that growth in launchings will continue to grow. The table below shows the number of registered boats in the County.

Table 3

Boat Registrations 1996-2003 - Mathews County, VA. ⁹

Year	No. of Boats
1996	2596
1997	2626
1998	2745
1999	2875
2000	3375
2001	3070
2002	3128
2003	3750

Fishing

Docks and piers provide a place for fishing and crabbing and they provide places for people to tie up their boats. Many commercial fishermen use these to tie up their fishing boats. Even though the commercial fishing industry is not as economically widespread in the County as it was, there are still many people in the County who make their living in this way. Piers and docks are also important to the tourist industry. Fishing is an important pastime in America. Adequate and safe dock space will encourage out-of-town boaters to spend more time exploring the attributes the County has to offer.

Piers were originally built on county property to aid commercial watermen. Many watermen conducted their fishing business from these piers and moored their boats here. Over the years residents also began using these piers and the use has shifted from commercial to recreational. During this shift, there has been conflict between the two uses. New residents have difficulty understanding why watermen are allowed to use these facilities for their business. The county has tried to maintain a balance in the usage.

⁹ Mathews County Commissioner of Revenue Office

Information obtained from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries indicated the following licenses were obtained in Mathews January 2002 through December 2002 (see table below):

Table 4

Mathews County Fishing Licenses – 2003 ¹⁰

Residents 65 years and older	29
State residential fishing	231
Non-residential fishing	2
County/City Freshwater	1
Non-residential five day fishing	5
National Forrest	1
Individual Saltwater	1,216
10 day Saltwater	124
Saltwater/Boat	1,315
One Boat	3,128

Sailing

Like power boating, the waters most attractive for sailing depend on wind, tide and shoreline. Also, as for power boating, the level of use depends on the craft – smaller craft are suitable for day sailing and have an effective use radius of only a few miles from an access point. Local waters easily provide this. In the future, in areas of high traffic, the enjoyment of boating activities, such as day sailing may be affected as power boating or water skiing compete for space.

¹⁰ www.dgif.state.va.us/boating/publicaccess

Canoeing/Kayaking

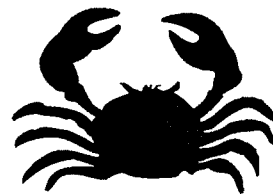
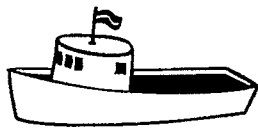
Canoeing is about as popular in this area as water skiing. The county offers numerous sites to launch these boats and a number of trails for any novice to follow. Detailed maps are available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

Beach Swimming and Sunbathing

This is the most popular water-oriented activity in the region, participated in by approximately 44 percent of the local population. Many sandy beach areas currently exist in Mathews County; however, numerous barriers exist for their public use or development.

Commercial/Water Dependent Businesses

Because of its geography, much of the county's citizens depend on the water for their livelihoods. The county has a number of seafood businesses (retail and wholesale), boat building and repair shops, a number of marinas, as well as some retail stores that sell boating/fishing supplies. We also have a number of citizens with small businesses making crab pots, nets, etc. Other businesses/pastimes that depend on the water include aquaculture, hydroponics, oyster reefs, fishing party/charter boats and canoe/kayak rental and sales.



Shoreline and Tidal Waters ¹¹

Piankatank (Godfrey Bay)

Nine miles along the Piankatank River shoreline from the county line east to Iron Point on Godfrey Bay is beach with a mainly narrow near shore. Flood hazard is generally low and water quality satisfactory for swimming and fishing. Most beaches are very narrow and are limited by poor access. Shore erosion rates are generally low, less than one foot/year. Depending on local fetch, wind direction, local traffic and access, there may be potential for beach improvement. The Piankatank River has a maintained navigation channel, with commercial traffic.

From Iron Point to Burton Point, Godfrey Bay has 2.3 miles of beach and 12 acres of fringe marsh in addition to marsh in Chapel Creek. The near shore is mainly narrow and water quality is satisfactory. The maximum fetch is greater than 20 miles across the Chesapeake Bay but from the north and east about 2 miles. Flood hazard is low as the land is above 10 feet. Beaches are narrow and there are no protected anchorages. Erosion is moderate, about 2.2 feet per year.

Chesapeake Bay (Hills Bay, The Narrows, Gwynn's Island, Stutts Creek, Bethel Beach, Horn Harbor, New Point Comfort)

Hills Bay, the approach to Queen's Creek, is very exposed with a fetch over 20 miles to the northeast, thus erosion rates are severe, more than 3.7 feet per year. Beach comprises the shore in more exposed areas, while coves contain embayed marshes. Flood hazards are low. Queen's Creek is a small tidal river with about 19 acres of fringe or embayed marsh. Water quality in this area is satisfactory for swimming or fishing.

The Narrows separates Gwynn's Island from the mainland, and because of the location, slight to moderate erosion rates and shoreline characteristics there is a potential for marina development. Flood hazard is critically high however, with most of the land area below seven feet. Areas with fringe marshes should be protected because of their water quality and shoreline erosion protection potential. Areas overlooking Milford Haven are also low and have extensive marshes, making them unsuitable for beaches.

¹¹ Mathews County Shorelands Access Development Plan, December 1989, Page 1

Gwynn's Island, facing east to the Chesapeake Bay, has an excellent beach but erosion rates are severe, historically over seven feet per year. Much of the shoreline area is groined or bulkheaded. A uniform bulkhead line and standards for construction may help to alleviate the localized erosion resulting from the scouring (VIMS 1975). There are no protected anchorages on the east side of the island, but ample access from Milford Haven.

Stutts Creek, with its tidal tributaries, has 28.2 miles of shoreline and extensive marshes comprising 260 acres. The tidal creeks are generally shallow, less than six feet, but are popular for shellfishing, fishing and boating activities. Water quality is satisfactory for fishing except the upper part of Stutts Creek, which has sewage outfall. There are virtually no beaches in the area.

Bethel Beach extends 9.8 miles from Rigby Island to Potato Neck, and is mainly a narrow barrier island on the Chesapeake Bay. Beaches are narrow, and because of the severe erosion rates here, offer little opportunity for side facilities enhancement. Although now open, the inlet between Rigby Island and Bethel Beach has historically been closed. The back beaches have a narrow, somewhat protective tidal marsh.

From Potato Neck to New Point Comfort, including Horn Harbor, there are 47.7 miles of shoreline with about 500 acres of extensive marshes, and small localized beaches. Flood hazard is high due to the low-lying land. Water quality is satisfactory, except for Horn Harbor. Bay shoreline is susceptible to severe erosion rates, as much as 30 feet per year near Dyer Creek. At New Point Comfort, a channel separates the lighthouse from the point.

Mobjack Bay

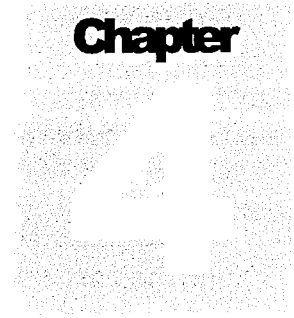
Nineteen miles of shoreline extend from New Point Comfort to the East River, most of which is marsh. Water quality is satisfactory and erosion rates are from slight to sever, depending on local fetch and shoreline characteristics. Davis Creek and Pepper Creek have potential as marina and commercial watermen service areas. The area is popular for fishing, shellfishing and water sports.

East River

Containing 183 acres of fringe and embayed marsh, the East River has a narrow marked channel with depth of at least four feet, with local shoals. Water quality is satisfactory except for the upper end of Put-In Creek at Mathews Courthouse. Flood hazards vary from moderate to low as topography rises upstream. The shore has many boat yards and private or quasi-private boat access points. Town Point Landing, an improved boat ramp owned by the county, is located on Put-In Creek.

North River

Like the lower Mobjack Bay, this area contains no beaches, but is popular for boating and fishing. Water quality is satisfactory. The channel has depths to 12 feet, and Blackwater Creek is seven feet up to Greenmansion Cove. There is localized shoaling. The shoreline has many piers and fish traps.



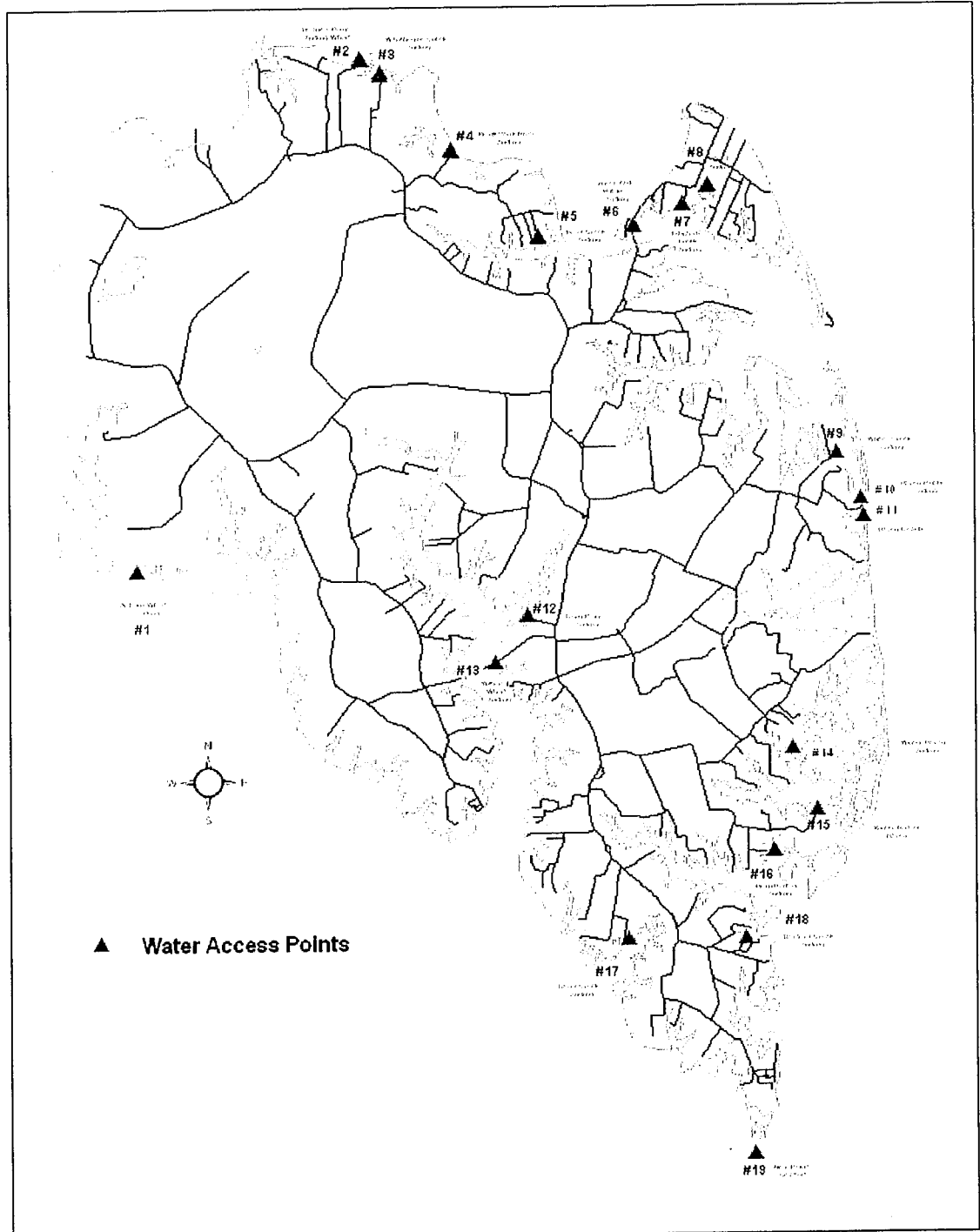
Statewaters Access Sites

The Planning Office staff, in conjunction with the Planning Commission, has researched and compiled information on all county-owned water access sites. The following information was obtained:

- ◆ An extensive inventory was done for each site.
- ◆ The most current plat and deed book information was obtained.
- ◆ Pictures were taken.
- ◆ A water access map was updated. The map on the following page (**Table 5**) shows water access points that are owned by the county. Each site is numbered and named.
- ◆ The members of the Planning Commission visited the sites and made their recommendations.
- ◆ A database was produced containing all the information that was collected and the recommended improvements (**Table 6**).
- ◆ The Planning Commission then prioritized the sites according to their high interest and capability of improvements.
- ◆ Quick references to amenities that can be found at each site are shown on **Table 7**. Detailed information and pictures of each site are provided in the appendix.

Most of the public access sites are on the Chesapeake Bay and the East River. There are only a few unimproved sites on the Piankatank River and only one site on the North River. There is very little public access on the Mobjack Peninsula (the peninsula between the East River and the North River). There are some commercial establishments along the East River (on the Mobjack Peninsula) but there are no boat ramps, beaches, or fishing piers on public land.

Mathews County State Water Access



Source: Department of Planning and Zoning

Liz Whitley & April Branton

TABLE 5

Mathews County SWA Site Information


 Name of Access	Location No.	Priority	Waterway	Location in County	Map No.	Plat Avail.	Deed Book	Ownership	Maintained By	Zoning	Average	Linear Footage of Beach
Auburn Landing	1	L	North River	Rt 620	23-A-20	Yes	Unknown	County	County	B1	0.67	80 ft
Roane's Point Lndg	2	M	Piankatank	Rt 630	1-A-21	Yes	Unknown	County	County	B1	0.4	216 ft
Warehouse Crk Lndg	3	L	Piankatank	Rt 631	2-A-1	No	Unknown	County	County	B1	0.24	
Piankatank Rivr Lndg	4	M	Godfrey Bay	Rt 632	5-A-86A	No	Unknown	County	County	B1	0.48	
Roses Creek Lndg	5	H	Queens Creek	Rt 662	10-A-206	6-140	77-337	County	County	B1	0.64	420 ft
Grimstead Pblc Lndg	6	H	Milford Haven	Rt 223	11A5-A-6	4-263	57-59	County	County	B1/R1	0.927	130 ft
Milford Landing	7	M	Edwards Creek	Rt 672	11A6-A-11A	No	Unknown	County	County	R1	0.5	
Whites Creek Lndg	8	M	Whites Creek	Rt 682	22-A-118	10-56	74-559	County	County	B1	0.25	61 ft
Festival Beach	9	H	Chesapeake Bay	Rt 643	27-7-1,2,3	5-122	15-282	County	County	C	5.339	
Haven Public Beach	10	L	Chesapeake Bay	Rt 645	27-6-1,2	5-121	15-282	County	County	C	15.8	
Aaron's Beach	11		Chesapeake Bay									
Town Point Landing	12	H	Put-In-Creek	Rt 615	29-A-201			County	G&IF	B1		
William's Wharf Lndg	13	H	East River	Rt 614	29-A-221,222	20-71	193-484	County/Private	Land Cons	B1	3.35	
Winter Harbor Lndg (Old Mill Landing)	14	M	Winter Harbor	Rt 611	36-A-21A	No	Unknown	County	County	B1		< 125 ft
Winter Harbor Haven	15	H	Winter Harbor	Rt 608	36-A-148	1-161	43-542	County	County	B1	0.25	180 ft
Horn Harbor Landing	16	L	Horn Harbor	Rt 698	40-A-88	w/deed	87-349	County	County	B1	0.9	1,000 ft
Davis Creek Landing	17	M	Davis Creek	Rt 689	43-A-36	7-230	54-356	County	County	B1	0.023	208 ft
Doctor's Crk Lndg	18	L	Doctor's Creek	Rt 699	42-5-4B	3-245	50-121	County	County	B1	0.5	
New Point Comfort	19	H	Chesapeake Bay	Rt 600	45-A-2 & 3			County	County	C		
			Updated 5/20/03									
							- 19 -					

TABLE 6

Mathews County SWA Site Amenities

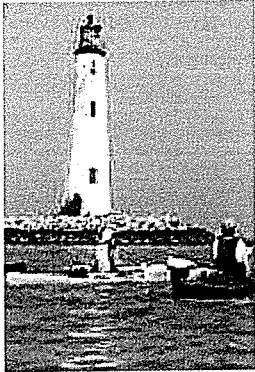
Location No.	Priority	Waterway	Signs Site name listed @ ea site	Shoulder Pkg	Sm Pkg Lot < 10	Lg Pkg Lot > 10	Trailer Pkg	Picnic Area	Waste Rec	Lighting	Restrooms	Hiking Trail	Bike Trail	Rules	Food	Fuel	Handicap	Fee/Permit	Slips/Mooring	Boat Storage	Fishing Pier	On-top Launch	Unimp Ramp	Cement Ramp	Swim Beach	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS				
																										Signage	Parking	Fishing Pier	Boat Ramp	Other (lighting, picnic benches, waste recept., port-o-jons)
1	L	North River		◆																						◆ need approach access				
2	M	Piankatank		◆																						◆				
3	L	Piankatank	◆																							◆				
4	M	Godfrey Bay			◆																					◆				
5	H	Queens Creek		◆																						◆				
6	H	Milford Haven	◆																							◆				
7	M	Edwards Creek	◆																							◆				
8	M	Whites Creek		◆																						◆				
9	H	Chesapeake Bay	◆																							◆				
10	L	Chesapeake Bay	◆																							◆				
11		Chesapeake Bay	◆																							◆				
12	H	Put-In-Creek	◆			◆																				◆				
13	H	East River	◆			◆																				◆				
14	M	Winter Harbor	◆																							◆				
15	H	Winter Harbor	◆																							◆				
16	L	Horn Harbor		◆																						◆				
17	M	Davis Creek			◆																					◆				
18	L	Doctor's Creek		◆																						◆				
19	H	Chesapeake Bay	◆																							◆				

LEGEND: ◆ Sufficient
 ◆ Needed (not existing)
 Existing, needs improvement
 n/a Not Applicable

TABLE 7



Blueways¹²



NEW POINT COMFORT
10.7 to 15.2 Miles



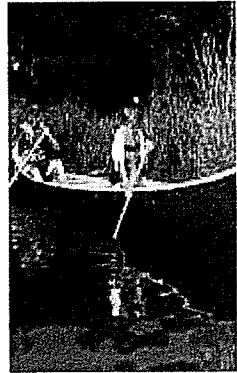
**GWYNN'S ISLAND/
MILFORD HAVEN**
14.2 to 20.5 Miles



EAST RIVER
11.7 to 13.8 Miles



**PIANKATANK
RIVER**
11.8 to 18.5 Miles

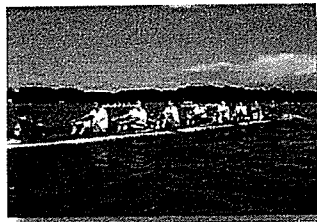


**WINTER HARBOR &
HORN HARBOR**
15.5 to 22.1 Miles

The **MATHEWS BLUEWAYS WATER TRAILS** is an interconnected system of five separate water trails spanning 90 miles.

Crew

Williams Wharf Landing, a historic steamboat wharf, is home to the international champion Mathews High School Crew Team.



Sports Fishing Charters

A very popular pastime for locals and visitors alike is sports fishing. Approximately six charters operate activities such as deep-sea fishing, fly-fishing, tours to Tangier Island, in-shore wreck fishing and Ocean wreck fishing.

¹² www.visitmathews.com

Signage

Signs at county access points are not consistent and at times appear to be confusing. The county is attempting to make signs uniform at each site. It is not feasible that each site display the same type of sign, since there are different uses; however a few standard signs are being developed that should meet the county's needs.

Gateway Signs

Currently, there are no signs at the "Gateways" to the County regarding our public access sites. An attractive billboard type sign could be placed at our Gateways to include a large county map with access sites marked and a receptacle to place brochures. The base of these signs should be attractively landscaped.

Directional Signs

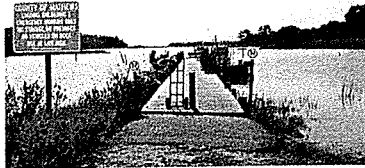
The use of directional signs is also inconsistent throughout the county. A few sites are clearly marked and directions given throughout the county; while others are virtually invisible to visitors. Descriptive signs should be placed on the roads leading to the various access sites.

Public Docks/Piers

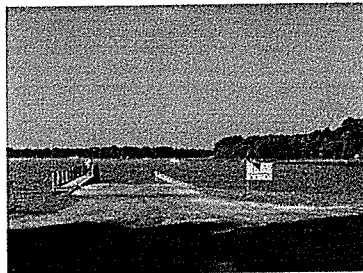
In 1970 the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance regulating the use of public docks, harbors and channels. The ordinance stated in part:

"The public docks of Mathews County are reserved for the use of the general public and shall be open to use of all boats, both commercial and recreational, provided that not more than one-half of any such dock shall be used for recreational purposes and the portion of any such dock to be used for commercial purposes shall be designated from time to time by the Board of Supervisors. No boat, vessel or craft shall remain at any such public dock except for the purposes of loading or unloading and in no event shall remain tied to such public dock in excess of forty-eight (48) hours. Any cargo equipment, of whatever kind, placed thereon shall remain thereon at the risk of the

owner or consignee and shall be available to use of the general public on equal terms with the owner situated thereon.” Signs such as the one shown below were placed at several of the sites. It reads “County of Mathews Loading, Unloading and Emergency Mooring Only, No Storage on Premises, No Vehicles on Dock, Use At Own Risk”. These regulations are outdated and have not been enforced. These regulations were omitted from the current codified ordinance of Mathews County.



Another sign that is found is located at Town Point Landing. This is a state sign.



The existing signs should therefore be removed. Possible rules and regulations for the public docks/piers include the following:

- A. No vehicles are permitted beyond the road or designated parking areas.
- B. The setting of fires on the property is prohibited.
- C. Persons using this area must not trespass on adjoining properties.
- D. No alcohol, drugs, or profanity of any kind will be allowed.
- E. No loud music or noise.
- F. Persons using this area will be responsible for their own litter.
- G. No person under the age of 12 unless accompanied by an adult.
- H. The end of the pier shall be used for loading, unloading and emergency mooring only.
- I. The use of firearms is prohibited.

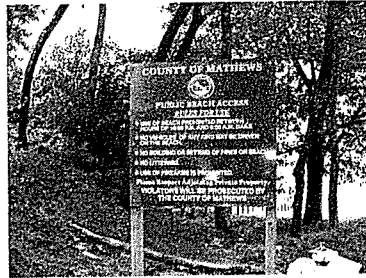
Public Beaches

In 1980 the County adopted the following restrictions for Festival Beach:

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to operate or drive a vehicle of any kind on the Festival Beach property beyond the road or designated parking areas.

- B. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to use, go upon, or remain upon the Festival Beach property between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to set a fire or fires upon the Festival Beach property.

In October of 2002 the Board of Supervisors amended Chapter 109 of the Code of Mathews County to extend these regulations to the two other public beach areas. New signs were installed at each site. Below is a picture of the new signs.



Boundary Signs

In very few cases are the boundaries of the public access sites clearly established. In order to reduce conflicts with adjoining property owners the boundaries of the public access sites should be clearly marked by the county.

Funding

Along with implementation, it is important to consider how the County is going to fund these improvements. Most of the state and federal grants require a locality to put up matching funds. Fortunately, this also means that the County will not have to fund the entire cost of all the projects. The County should actively seek these grants to help fund the improvements to the sites.

Types of SWA Funding Available

County

The County provides some funding through the capital improvement program and the annual budget. Williams Wharf Landing, New Point Comfort Lighthouse restoration and public access sites are line items included in the budget. Currently there is \$625,000 available for statewater access improvement use.

State

VDGIF: If local recipient can match 25 percent of completed projects such as boat ramps, docking, marina facilities, breakwaters, restrooms, parking areas and maintaining existing facilities; the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VGIF) will reimburse 75% of cost.

VMRC: Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund

Federal

Federal excise taxes on fishing tackle, motorboat fuel and import duties on tackle and boats are diverted under this program to state fisheries and boat access projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program is administered at the federal level by **U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS)**

Virginia Coastal Program

Chesapeake Gateways & Trails Program

VDOT

Transportation Enhancement Program – TEA 21

MPPAC

The Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority will look for a source of funds, through grants and other means, to assist the county in carrying out their projects. For example, the Recreational Sports Fishing Fund offers money to counties if they can meet specific qualifications -- MPPAC compares these types of grants with the county's needs and determines if we qualify and then they assist us in obtaining the funds.

Projects

Recently Completed Projects

- Davis Creek Landing: 16'x150' Dock. In 1997 constructed 120 linear feet of riprap revetment and 30 linear feet of marsh toe stabilization and 6 ft wide ramp to pier.
- Edwards Creek Landing: 12' x 100' Dock. 1998 installed 12 x 16 pierhead. Remove drive-on ramp
- Horn Harbor: Dredged in 1988, 1996
- Milford Haven/Seabreeze: In 1998 constructed 51 linear feet bulkhead placed 2 ft channelward of existing bulkhead; 10 linear feet riprap at end of bulkhead and a finger pier.
- Roses Creek: 8' x 125' Dock. 1999 installed 20 x 40 pierhead. 2000 installed 110' riprap. 2001 constructed 180 feet linear feet of riprap revetment with backfill, graded bank, installed guardrails, seeded, constructed gravel walk to pier. Dredged in 1991.
- Whites Creek: 6' x 150' Pier. 1999 installed partial deck. At a later date redecked pier, drove pilings
- Williams Wharf: Phase I – 1995 installed 990.8 linear feet of riprap revetment, 137.3 linear feet of timber bulkhead and floating pier and floating dock structures.
- Winter Harbor Haven: 16' x 150' Dock. Dredged in 1991 and 2002.
- Winter Harbor Landing: 8' x 120' Pier and 12' x 20' Pier. 2000 deck reworked and pierhead installed. Site also known as "Old Mill"

Ongoing Projects

Festival Beach:	Shoreline protection, dune stabilization, improved accessibility to the public beach and enhanced public amenities such as parking and restroom facilities.
Horn Harbor:	Dredging in 2003 (to be dredged every three to four years over next 10 years).
New Point Comfort:	Stabilization, preservation and restoration of lighthouse in the permitting process.
Queen's Creek:	Dredging in the permitting process.
Williams Wharf:	Phase II under construction

Planned Projects

Davis Creek:	Dredging within the next few years
Public Fishing Pier:	County actively seeking a public fishing pier in the county.
Roane Point:	Shoreline erosion control, delineation of parking spaces, and possible fishing pier

Potential Projects

Haven Public Beach:	Add parking area
Piankatank River Lndg:	Improve site by delineating parking spaces, installing walkways, picnic benches
Roses Creek Landing:	Improve, enlarge & designate parking areas, extend guardrail and designate area next to dock to launch canoes & kayaks
Town Point Landing:	Construct a fishing pier and a "step down" for launching canoes & kayaks
Whites Creek Landing:	Improve parking, install boat ramp
Tin Can Alley:	Acquire from VDOT

Conclusion

Vision

Mathews County is ideally located to provide its residents and visitors with a wealth of shorelands access opportunities. Shorelands access is currently limited in Mathews County to approximately 19 publicly owned sites, many of which are undeveloped end of the road landings. At present, their use is limited by shortage of parking space and a lack of infrastructure. As the county's shoreline is developed with single-family dwellings, it becomes imperative for the county to protect a portion of this resource for the public's enjoyment. According to population estimates and projections, the population is increasing at a rate necessary to secure/improve public shorelands access. The shorelands use should be planned rather than haphazardly developed in response to short-term interests and pressures. It is envisioned that through this plan the county retain an accurate record of public access sites, maintain them on a regular basis, and make improvements to these sites, as needed.

Recommendations

The Planning Office, in conjunction with the Planning Commission, recommends the following plan of action to meet their goals:

- ④ Assign a county department that will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of all water access sites. Individual will report to the County Administrator.
- ④ Set up a site-specific list with improvements to be made
- ④ Set a timeline for accomplishment of each task
- ④ Each site should be surveyed with boundaries marked
- ④ Each site should be marked with name and directions and amenities available
- ④ Determine sites that should have rules posted and post these rules
- ④ Map/info available of sites at "Gateways" to the county

- ④ Begin improvements to sites according to the priorities given. Include specific projects in the CIP.
- ④ Provide information on the public access sites on the County Website
- ④ Prepare a brochure on the public access sites

Mathews County is a very scenic place that has a lot to offer those who enjoy the water. The Chesapeake Bay is one of the great natural wonders of the world and has historically been home to some of the most bountiful fisheries in the Atlantic. Unfortunately most of Mathews County's shoreline is in the hands of private citizens. It is imperative that the County preserves what is left of the open shoreline for use by citizens of the County and for tourists and visitors. It is the beauty of the shoreline that makes Mathews County a desirable place to live. Restricting access to the water of the Bay and the rivers to only those who can afford to purchase waterfront property is shortsighted and will hurt the County in the long run. The waters of the state as well as some land that abuts it should be free and open to the public.

References

Mathews County Comprehensive Plan, June 26, 2001

Mathews County Statewaters Access Plan Draft by John Dahlgren, April 30, 2001

U.S. Census Bureau, Quickfacts

Building Officials Offices: Mathews, Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William and Middlesex

Mathews County Commissioner of Revenue

Mathews County Shorelands Access Development Plan, December 1989

www.chesapeakebay.net/pawg.htm

www.dgif.state.va.us/boating/publicaccess

www.visitmathews.com



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Auburn Landing

Map #: 23-A-20

Waterway: North River

Zoned: B1

Location: #1

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (Buckley Hall Rd), turn onto Rt. 620 (Chapel Neck Rd), L onto Northview Lane go to end

Signs to Site: 1

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use:

Improvements: None

Facilities: small parking area

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-Family Dwellings

Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, fishing pier and approach access

Comments: This was in litigation. State Supreme Court ruled this site can

be used for public access.

A-1



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Roane's Point Lndg

Map #: 1-A-21

Waterway: Piankatan River

Zoned: B1

Location: #2

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Road) turn onto Rt. 630 (Roane Pt Dr.) go to end

Signs to Site: None

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: beach, boat launching area

Improvements: None, permit approved for shoreline stabilization

Facilities: parking for one vehicle & trailer, small turn around in grassy area, small sandy beach, unimproved beach used for launching small trailered boats.

Improvements: None

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings

Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, boat ramp, lighting

Comments: Exposed to north, .45 acres, Water Depth - ?, 4 pilings offshore

Was there once a wharf? – Picnic/swimming potential

A-2



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Warehouse Crk Lndg

Map #: 2-A-1

Waterway: Piankatank River

Zoned: B1

Location: #3 Plat Available:

Directions to Site: Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd) turn onto Rt. 631 (Chapel Lane) to end

Signs to Site: "Warehouse Cove" Sign (signs are for private residence)

Location of Signs: 1 @ landing, 1 @ last curve

Wording of Signs: Warehouse Cove No County Signs

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: local fishermen

Improvements: None

Facilities: small sandy beach, parking for 1 vehicle only, no pier, no landing

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: single-family dwellings

Potential Improvements:

Comments: .24 Acres, Dept Hemmed in at end of road. No potential.

A3



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Piankatank River Lndg

Map #: 5-A-86A

Waterway: Piankatank (Godfrey Bay)

Zoned: B1

Location: #4

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Road), turn onto Rt. 626 (Hallieford Road), L on 632 (Godfrey Bay Rd) to end "End of Public Beach" signs nice touch.

Signs to Site: follow Sandpiper Reef Signs - No County signs

Location of Signs: Int 198 & 626

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County .48 acres

Maintained By: County

Current Use: beach, boat launch (used often by locals)

Improvements: None

Facilities: sandy beach, parking for 5-10 vehicles, small turn around area, parking for boat trailers, sandy beach for launching boats

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: SF dwellings & Restaurant

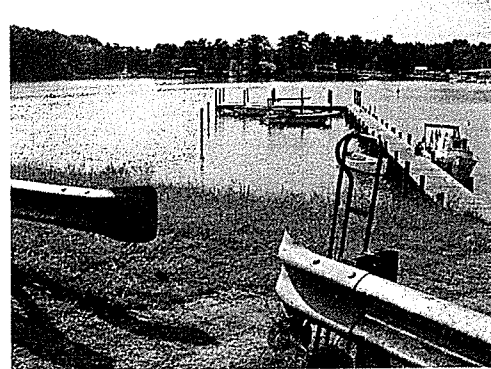
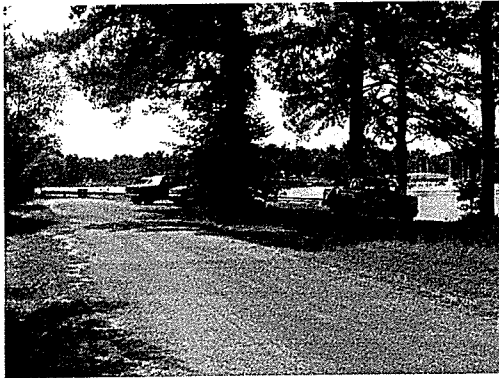
Potential Improvements: Improve, enlarge and designate parking areas. Parking, lighting, picnic benches

Comments: Depth ?, N & NE exposure, nice beach.

A-4



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Roses Creek Landing

Map #: 10-A-206

Waterway: Queen Creek

Zoned: B1

Location: #5

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Road), turn onto Rt. 626 (Hallieford Road), R on 662 (Old Mathews Lane) to end

Signs to Site: 1 County of Mathews Sign

Location of Signs: @ site

Wording of Signs: Loading, unloading & emergency mooring only, no storage on premises, no vehicles on dock, use at own risk

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: (Hallieford Public Landing) local watermen mostly, few Private boats, fishing/crabbing from pier

Improvements: Large pier, guard rails, riprap, gravel walkway

Facilities: parking for few vehicles, 2 boat trailers, small turn around area, no beach, no ramp, long L-shaped pier for boat tie ups.

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-Family Dwellings

Potential Improvements: Improve, enlarge & designate parking areas. Extend guard rail along parking area to prevent vehicles from going in water. Install signs at boundary to designate public area. Designate area next to dock to launch canoes & kayaks. Signs, parking and lighting.

Comments: Depth? Obvious permanent mooring. Interesting – nice pier with “temporary” mooring only. Sheltered – nicely maintained pier. A ramp would be great. Rent/Lease permanent mooring to Mathews residents?



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Grimstead Public Lndg

Map #: 11A5-A-6

Waterway: Milford Haven

Zoned: B1/R1

Location: #6

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 223 (Cricket Hill Rd) go over bridge, on right hand side of road - Public Landing @ Seabreeze (384 Old Ferry Road)

Signs to Site: 2
Location of Signs: Int Rt 198/223 and @ landing
Wording of Signs: Public Landing

Ownership: County **Maintained By:** County

Current Use: boat ramp and pier
Improvements: Concrete ramp, pier
Facilities: 19 spaces for trailer parking, + 10 car parking, pier, boat ramp

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: SF dwelling, Restaurant

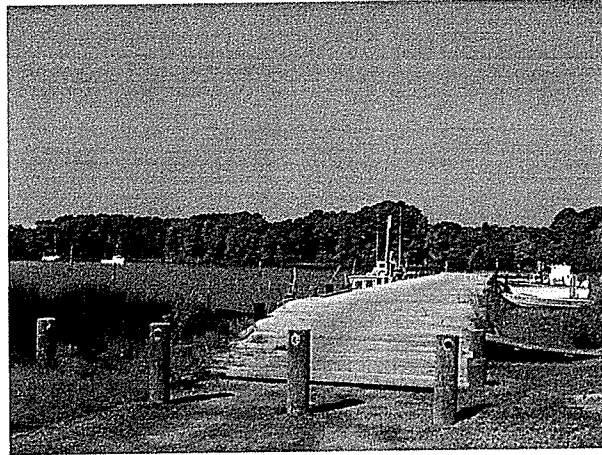
Potential Improvements: Additional parking, lighting, picnic benches

Comments: "No Wake Zone" Sign

A-6



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Milford Landing

Map #: 11A6-A-11A

Waterway: Edwards Creek

Zoned: R1

Location: #7

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd), turn onto Rt 223 (Cricket Hill Rd), R on 633 (Old Ferry Rd), R on 636 (S Bay Haven Dr), R on 672 (Edwards Landing Rd), to end

Signs to Site: None County of Mathews sign

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs: Emergency mooring only, etc. – sign approved by BOS 2/22/00

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: local fishermen use extensively – 8 boats moored

Improvements: wide pier

Facilities: Limited parking – Rt 672 shoulders

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-family dwellings

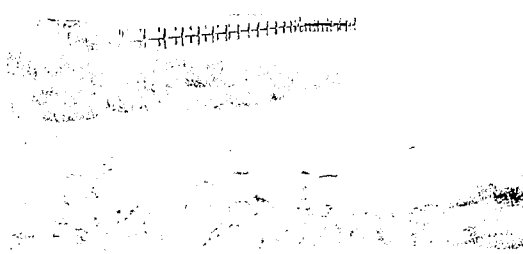
Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, lighting

Comments:

A-7



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Whites Creek Landing

Map #: 22-A-118

Waterway: Whites Creek
(Bay access through "Hole-In-Wall")

Zoned: B1

Location: #8

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Take Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd) until it becomes Rt 642 (Fitchetts Wharf Rd), bear right onto Rt 643, follow Rt 643 (Haven Beach Rd) to Rt 682 (Rigby La) to end of state maintained road, go straight onto dirt road and follow to the end.

Signs to Site: 1 County of Mathews Sign

Location of Signs: @ Site

Wording of Signs: Loading, unloading & emergency mooring only, no storage on premises, no vehicles on dock, use at own risk

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: local fishermen – no boats moored

Improvements: long pier – good shape

Facilities: sandy beach, parking for a few cars

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-family dwellings

Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, lighting, picnic benches

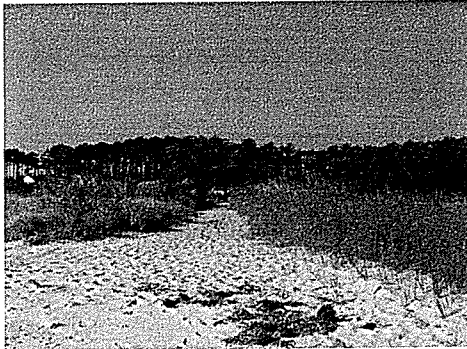
Comments: Site is in good condition and located @ ESM Rt 682. Wooden pier in very good condition.

Site has unpaved (sandy) site where small boats can be launched at high tide. Very limited parking area.

Vehicle/trailer units could not exceed 5. Site should be upgraded because of close access to Bay Fishing grounds. Parking and paved boat launch with pier.



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Haven Public Landing
"Festival Beach"

Waterway: Chesapeake Bay

Location: #9

Map #: 27-7-1, 2, 3

Zoned: C

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Take Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd) until it becomes Rt 642, (Fitchetts Wharf Rd) bear right onto Rt 643 (Haven Beach Rd), follow Rt 643 to end of state maintained road, bear right onto dirt road and follow to the end, this site is on the left.

Signs to Site: None
Location of Signs: None
Wording of Signs: None

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use:

Improvements: None

Facilities: long sandy beach, parking on side for about 5 vehicles, no
Turn around

Handicap Accessibility:

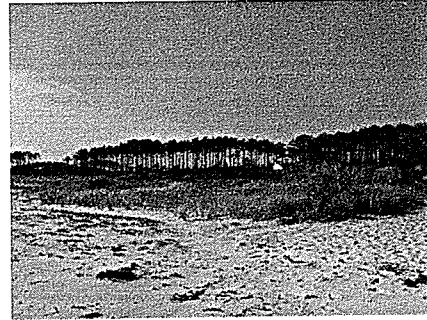
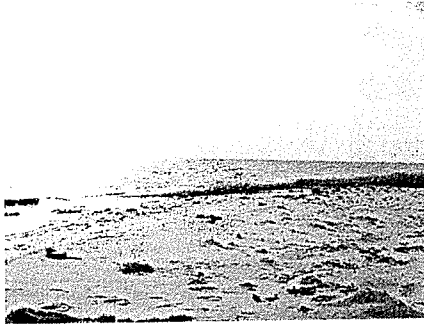
Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings

Potential Improvements: Clean the bottom by removing stumps. Offshore channel dredging to pump sand on the beach. Signs, Parking, lighting, picnic benches, waste receptacle

Comments: Mosquitos. Marlbank along the waters edge of the beach and submerged stumps make swimming very dangerous. Offshore barriers are in place to decrease erosion.



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Haven Public Beach

Map #: 27-7-1,2,3

Waterway: Chesapeake Bay

Zoned: C

Location: #10

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Take Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd) until it becomes Rt 642, (Fitchetts Wharf Rd) bear right onto Rt 643 (Haven Beach Rd), follow Rt 643 to end of state maintained road, bear right onto dirt road and follow to the end, this site is on the right.

Signs to Site: None

Location of Signs: None

Wording of Signs: None

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use:

Improvements: None

Facilities: long sandy beach, parking on side for about 5 vehicles, no
Turn around

Handicap Accessibility:

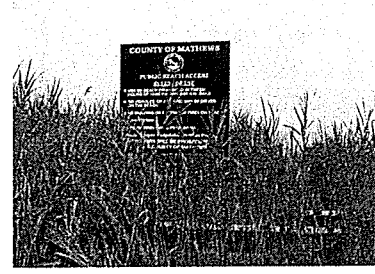
Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings

Potential Improvements: Clean the bottom by removing stumps. Offshore channel dredging to pump sand on the beach. Signs, Parking, lighting, picnic benches, waste receptacle

Comments: Posted private land on southside of beach. Mosquitos. Marlbank along the waters edge of the beach and submerged stumps make swimming very dangerous. Offshore barriers are in place to decrease erosion



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Old "Aaron's Beach"

Map #: 27-6-1,2

Waterway: Chesapeake Bay

Zoned: C

Location: #11

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Take Rt 198 (Buckley Hall Rd) until it becomes Rt 642 (Fitchetts Wharf Rd), bear right onto Rt 643 (Haven Beach Rd) , follow Rt 643 to end of state maintained road, bear right onto dirt road and follow to Rt 645 (Aarons Beach Road) past Ocean Products, follow to end.

Signs to Site: None
Location of Signs: Adequate
Wording of Signs: Clear

Ownership: County **Maintained By:** County
Improvements: None, beach restoration application awaiting
 Approval/funding

Current Use: beach, launch canoes, fishing

Facilities: parking for vehicles, no turn around for trailers
Handicap Accessibility: None

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings
Potential Improvements: Add parking area. Offshore dredging to pump sand on beach.
 Signs, parking, lighting, picnic benches, waste receptacles.

Comments: This beach is good for fishing, sunbathing & launching of kayaks and canoes. Old marlbanks line the beach at waters edge, making it dangerous for swimmers.

Beach access has been blocked to vehicles. This is Good. Private land (beach) north of access road has been posted with no trespassing signs.



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Town Point Landing

Map #: 29-A-201

Waterway: Put-In-Creek

Zoned: B1

Location: #12

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), turn onto Rt. 615 (Town Point Landing), to end

Signs to Site: 1 State sign regarding use

Location of Signs: Int Rt 14 & Rt 615

Wording of Signs: Public Landing

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: boat launch, fishing

Improvements: concrete boat ramp, pier

Facilities: boat ramp, small pier, parking for vehicles and boat trailers

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings

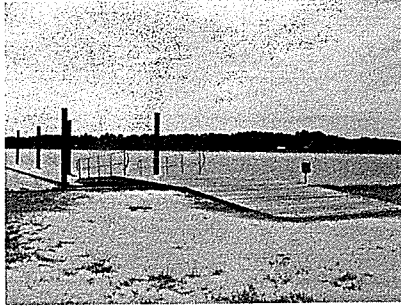
Potential Improvements: Parking, fishing pier, lighting, picnic benches, waste receptacles.

Comments:

A-12



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: William's Wharf Landing

Map #: 29-A-221, 222

Waterway: East River

Zoned: B1

Location: #13

Plat Available: Yes

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), turn onto Rt 614 (Williams Wharf Rd), go to end

Signs to Site: No

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County/State/Federal

Maintained By: C/S/F

Current Use: crew team, local fishermen, boaters

Improvements: floating concrete pier, long fishing pier

Facilities: plenty of parking for vehicles and boat trailers, car-top launch area for non-powered boats, long pier for fishing "designated fishing area", other state/federal buildings

Handicap Accessibility: Yes, floating concrete pier

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: single family dwellings, 2 vacant buildings

Potential Improvements: Lighting, picnic benches, waste receptacles

Comments:

A-13



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Winter Haven Landing
(Old Mill Landing)
Waterway: Winter Harbor

Map #: 36-A-21A

Zoned: B1

Location: #14

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), turn onto Rt. 611 (Tabernacle Rd), R on Rt 611 (Garden Creek Rd), continue on Rt 611 (Old Mill Landing) to Int 609 (Bethel Beach Rd), remain on Old Mill Landing Rd and go to end

Signs to Site: 1 County of Mathews Sign

Location of Signs: @ site

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: local fishermen permanently moored boats, sunken boats, crab pots

Improvements: pier

Facilities: small pier, unimproved boat ramp, small turn around parking for 1 boat trailer

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-family dwellings

Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, boat ramp, lighting.

Comments: Also a sign that says Virginia Public Landing, State Owned.

Property, Department of Transportation

Dock appears in good shape. Limited parking for six or fewer vehicles. "Unimproved ramp" is an erroneous designation for an access through the marsh grass that would mire an unsuspecting visitor in a muddy morass of pain and frustration.



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Winter Harbor Haven

Map #: 36-A-148

**Waterway: Winter Harbor
Bay access**

Zoned: B1

Location: #15

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), L on 608 (Hamburg Rd), at sharp turn to right remain on 608 (Potato Neck Rd) to end

Signs to Site: County of Mathews Sign

Location of Signs: @ site

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: fishing pier, boat launch

Improvements: pier, gravel parking

Facilities: parking @ end for vehicles, turn around area at end, (adjacent private marina with ramp area for launching and boat slips)

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: summer cottages, marina, shop

Potential Improvements: Designate county-owned area. Signs, parking, boat ramp, lighting, picnic bench, waste receptacle.

Comments: Dredging being done at private marina

Dock appears in good shape. The shell ramp on the eastern side of the dock is routinely used for shallow draft boat launching. Parking area for six or more vehicles is in good condition.

A-15



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Horn Harbor Lndg
(Not a landing)

Waterway: Horn Harbor

Location: #16

Map #: 40-A-88

Zoned: B1

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), L on Rt 608 (Hamburg Rd) remain on Rt. 608 (Potato Neck Rd), L on Rt. 649 (Peary Rd), L on Rt 698 (Capt Genes Rd) to end

Signs to Site: None

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use:

Improvements: None

Facilities: canoe launch, small turnaround, parking for few cars

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family Dwellings

Potential Improvements: Signs, Parking, fishing pier, lighting.

Comments: Nature Area – rezone to “C”. Old derelict wooden barge remains a dangerous obstacle. An earthen ramp is used to launch jon boats and kayaks. Parking is significantly limited to three or fewer vehicles. A-16



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Davis Creek Landing

Map #: 43-A-36

Waterway: Davis Creek

Zoned: B1

Location: #17

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), turn onto Rt. 600 (Circle Drive), L on Rt. 689 (Davis Creek Rd), go to end

Signs to Site: None

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: pier

Improvements: Large pier, ramp to pier, limited gravel parking area

Facilities: small area to launch canoe, pier with 2 walkways, parking for Cars (adjacent marina with slips and boat ramp)

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: SF dwellings & Marina

Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, lighting, picnic bench, waste receptacle.

Comments: "County of Mathews" Sign posted Nice pier

A-17



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: Doctor's Creek Landing

Map #: 42-5-4B

Waterway: Doctors Creek

Zoned: B1 "C" ??

Location: #18

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), turn onto Rt. 602 (Sand Bank Rd) , L on 691 (Heath Rd), R on Rt. 699 (Doctors Creek Rd) to end

Signs to Site: None

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use:

Improvements: None

Facilities: Small area to launch canoes, limited parking

Handicap Accessibility:

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single Family dwellings

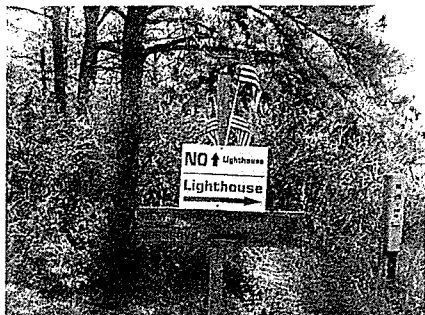
Potential Improvements: Signs, parking, lighting, picnic bench.

Comments: Another wilderness spot

A-18



Mathews County Statewater Access Information Sheet



Site Name: New Point Comfort

Map #: 45-A-2 & 3

Waterway: Chesapeake

Zoned: C

Location: #19

Plat Available: No

Directions to Site: Rt 14 (New Point Comfort Hwy), L on 600 (Lighthouse Rd) to end

Signs to Site: 3

Location of Signs:

Wording of Signs:

Ownership: County

Maintained By: County

Current Use: Tourists & locals

Improvements: pier, signage

Facilities: On-street parking, turn around area for vehicles, long pier with four historical boards

Handicap Accessibility: yes

Neighborhood Zoning & Development: Single-family dwellings and Conservation areas

Potential Improvements: Signs, lighting, waste receptacle.

Comments: Note sign just before turning into observation area ---

**Directions were misleading; therefore resident posted this sign. County
Should provide better directions at that intersection.**