

Wormley Creek Landing Facility Enhancements: Accessibility for All York County Parks and Recreation

Abstract of Program

York County Parks and Recreation wanted to add facility enhancements at our existing Wormley Creek Landing site to allow water access for all. The improvements were added on the opposite of the boat ramp than the existing fishing pier. We wanted to improve this facility and applied for funding from Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) through their Recreational and Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB) grant funding program. We obtained partial funding to assist us with our improvements. Between VMRC funds and the County, we were able to build a boardwalk, floating dock, and canoe/kayak launch that were ADA accessible as well as make improvements to the parking lot. These enhancements were opened to the public in May of 2019. This project extended public access to Wormley Creek which connects to the York River and is adjacent to The Chesapeake Bay from this York County location. The floating dock and launch improves the efficiency, capacity, and accessibility of this facility especially for kayak and canoe launches.

Problem/Need for the Program

York County's proximity to the York River and Chesapeake Bay makes fishing and boating popular activities. However, in York County's case, proximity does not necessarily address access needs. Most of the County's shoreline is in federal or private ownership. Therefore, there is a shortage of facilities that provide public access to the water. The County has over 200 miles of shoreline but very limited public access. This area is the only direct access to the York River in York County for 21 miles. In addition, there was a need for a dedicated canoe/kayak launch in York County slightly separate from boat ramp and fishing piers for practical reasons. Therefore, we wanted to enhance this existing area to give access to all.

Description of Program

York County Parks and Recreation's Wormley Creek Landing facility enhancements improved access to water for all. The improvements included adding a boardwalk, floating dock, and canoe/kayak launch that provided accessibly for disabled water enthusiasts. It meets ADA requirements as well as

provides social equity with no fees being charged for the public to use this facility. In addition, parking lot and landscaping improvements were made as part of this project. This project was a joint financial effort between York County and Virginia Resource Marine Commission.

York County goals and objectives of these enhancements included obtaining additional funding, maximizing the site potential, eliminating any safety concerns, improving capacity and efficiency of the boat launch facility, and completing construction by spring of 2019. To obtain additional funding, the Parks and Recreation office staff applied for funding through VMRC Recreation and Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB) grant funding program. Here is a project timeline:

- We submitted the initial application by April 15, 2017.
- A presentation was conducted in front of the RFAB in May of 2017. Due to their limited funding, they asked all those who presented to attempt to revise their project and/or costs. Therefore, a revision of the site plan and estimated costs were completed while still allowing us to accomplish the enhancements indicated in this report.
- A second presentation was completed in July of 2017 and we were notified in October of that year that RFAB approved \$95,830 of funding for our project. During the grant funding application process, we began the permit approval process. No permit was needed from York County Wetlands Board and this was confirmed in a letter in June of 2017.
- Formal written notification of our project intentions was made to residents in the surrounding area in June of 2017.
- The Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) issued its permit in September of 2017.
- US Army Corp of Engineers provided their approval in November of 2017.
- A resolution to the Board of Supervisors was approved on December 2017.
- In January of 2018, the services of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB) firm were obtained for a formal site plan for the project. VHB formal site plan had revisions to the project. Therefore, Public Works and the Parks and Recreation divisions met to address how to accomplish these revisions.
- In February of 2019 the new cost estimates were received. Development Services of York County provided formal feedback in February to VHB to their revised site plan and they were informed they would now need a storm water design due to revisions.
- The contract from VMRC was received on April 13, 2018 and signed by both agencies within the week. Progress reports were due to VMRC May 1, 2018, August 1, 2018, November 1, 2018, and March 1, 2019 with a final report and project completion done by June 1, 2019.
- Meetings in May 2019 occurred with Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and VHB to discuss storm water matters which resulted in another revised site plan from VHB in May. In June of 2018, these revised site plans were approved by all parties including those who permitted the original plans.
- Bids and quotes were delayed until fall due to a “black out period” in the summer because of the implementation of a new financial software program by York County. All bid packets were sent

out by September of 2018. The exception was EZ dock portion of the projection. No bid for this portion was needed due to a national contract that already existed.

- Pre-construction meetings began in December of 2018 including both Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments. Mobilization of the project commenced in January of 2019 including material and equipment were moved to the site.

Below is an abbreviated construction timeline/log:

- Jan. 7, 2019: Surveyors were also on site and set up elevation markings, project barriers, and saw cut limitations per the drawings. Signage for closure of the site was visible.
- Jan. 8, 2019: Barges were removed from material area and put into the water and joined together.
- Jan. 10, 2019: Silt fence installation commenced. Saw cutting of the existing asphalt for the handicap spaces was completed. Piles were delivered and Earley Marine is awaiting permits to start driving the piles. Excavator was loaded on to the barges for the pile driving procedure.
- Jan. 14-22, 2019: Permit achieved and piles for boardwalk/fishing pier to the canoe/kayak launch were put into place and passed the assessment test on 22nd.
- Jan. 28, 2019: The floating dock from EZ-Dock was transferred to its location on the drawings. Constructing of the floating dock has started with the pile driving and small parts of the floating dock were being assembled accordingly. Large work container was transferred to the site.
- Jan. 30, 2019: Floating dock was finished and fully furnished. While the lumber delivery is still behind and should be on site by Friday. Repairs to the silt fence were made as well as a previously trenched area for the silt fence was put in properly.
- Feb. 1, 2019: Lumber was delivered
- Feb. 5, 2019: The final four pilings were driven to their locations per the drawings. Light pole should be moved soon, still awaiting permit.
- Feb. 6-11, 2019: Pile caps for the 3x10 piles were installed with piles being cut to match height per contract plans.
- Feb. 13-15, 2019: 2x8 double outside stringers were installed along the length of the pier (every 7.5'). Woodlife Coppercoat, which is a multi -purpose, EPA-registered, insecticidal wood preservative was installed on the notched piles.
- Feb. 19, 2019: All galvanized angle brackets were installed. 1-1/4" x 5-1/2" Timbertech Docksider decking was delivered on site and partially installed. A few 6x6 handrail posts were installed on the right side of the pier with every other post bolted to the piles.
- Feb. 26-28, 2019: 98% of the 6x6 posts were installed to their locations per the contract documents with 99% of the Timbertech Docksider decking installed. Along the right side of the pier the railing caps (2X10) and top railings (2x4) were installed with stainless steel screws.
- March 4, 2019: All 6x6 post were installed as well as the decking. On each side of the pier, the hand rail's inside top and bottom 2x4 were installed and will be sanded to look continuous. 85% of the outside (water side) railings have been installed on the pier along with 50% of the pickets.
- March 6-11, 2019: Hole dug and framing for the 6" concrete pad and concrete landing pad connection to the dock was started. 95% of the pickets and railings for both sides of the

handrails have been installed and properly fastened. 100% completion of handrails won't be complete till gangway is on site and installed.

- March 21, 2019: Gangway was finally delivered onsite but missing piece. RFAB approved grant extension from March 31 to April 30, 2019.
- March 26, 2019: The pier is 100% completed. All forming for concrete pad and landing pad has been installed with crush and run laid. Light pole has been removed to await inspection for new location.
- March 27, 2019: Gangway was installed properly and to the contract plans. All crush and run for the concrete pad and sidewalk were installed.
- March 28, 2019: Concrete landing pad and pad were installed to the contract plans. EZ Dock is being repositioned to fit the length of the gangway properly. Conduit for new light pole location was run from junction box to location of new light pole. Concrete was poured for the new light pole and is awaiting inspection for final connection.
- March 29, 2019: Grant RF18-11 Amendment 1 was signed by all appropriate authorities.
- April 1, 2019: Saw cut portion of asphalt is being removed. Crush and run was laid down where existing asphalt was for the new asphalt. Expansion joint "filler" was installed in the expansion joint.
- April 4, 2019: Light pole was properly connected and moved to the new location. 2" Section of asphalt was laid, with no milling occurring, just overlay. The 2x4 top and back railing on pier in bad condition are being re-done with brand new 2x4 top and bottom railing, installed to the contract plans.
- April 9, 2019: Top soil was laid down in areas of disturbance. Handicap signage foundation and post was installed according to the contract plans. Awaiting final inspection for the permits.
- April 18-24, 2019: Project is 100% complete. All permits have passed with fire and site compliance. Fire inspection passed. Damage to the boat ramp was found and needed to be fixed as soon as possible.

This project was a collaborated effort between Virginia Marine Resource Commission, VHB, and Parks and Recreation as well as Public Works of County of York. With the enhancements completed, Wormley Creek Landing area was re-opened to the public on May 1, 2019.

Cost of the Program

The final total cost of the project was \$191,817.80 including site plans. The cost to VHB was \$16,970 for site plans including revisions. The EZ floating dock and canoe/kayak launch was purchased for \$25,847.80 utilizing a national contract-NJPA 030117-LTS, which saves us direct costs in purchasing items directly as well as saving indirect costs involved with a bid process. For other items involved in the construction project costs (\$149,000) rather than a specific long list of each and every item, the costs were summarized into categories for simplicity. Below is a summary of the cost break down for this project:

Description	Cost by categories
Site plans	\$ 16, 970

Floating EZ Dock and canoe/kayak launch	\$ 25,847.80
Mobilization	\$ 14,900
Erosion & Sediment Control	\$ 4, 500
Clearing & Demolition	\$ 3, 500
Parking Lot Improvements	\$ 8, 500
Driver Timber Piles	\$ 59,800
Timber Pier Framing and Decking	\$ 28,000
Install Floating Deck	\$ 9,600
Install Aluminum Gangway	\$ 20,200

There are technically no increased hours for our payroll due to position involved in writing the grant as well as meetings for the presentation for the grants is an exempt employee (non-hourly). Any meetings held with departmental staff during the site plan revisions and construction process were held during their normal working and budgeted hours for the County. Wormley Creek Landing is open and free to the public so it does not require payroll costs on a daily basis.

Results/Success of the Program

Overall this project has been a successful venture. York County was able to obtain a portion of the funding from Virginia Resource Marine Commission to help offset the County’s costs of the additional enhancements at Wormley Creek Landing, which made the project possible. It was a good example of a County utilizing NJPA contract to save direct costs as well as saving time that would have been involved in bidding process for the EZ Dock system. It was a great collaboration of several departments within York County as well. The most important priority was obtained, which was water access for all. This allows inclusive opportunities for those with disabilities and those that do not have disabilities to recreate together. There is no fee for the public to use this facility and/or the enhancements at this facility. The project was complete in May of 2019. Overall the project has been well received by the public. Here is just one of several compliments we have received from the public: “Bonnie, I am a 15 year resident of York County. I do a lot of kayaking with my family and I am impressed with the design and quality of the kayak launch that was recently installed at Wormley Creek. You and your office should be commended for your efforts to bring this to fruition. This is exactly the kinds of things that make people want to move to York County. This launch will receive much use by my family and many others. Keep up the good work, Jay Kashin”

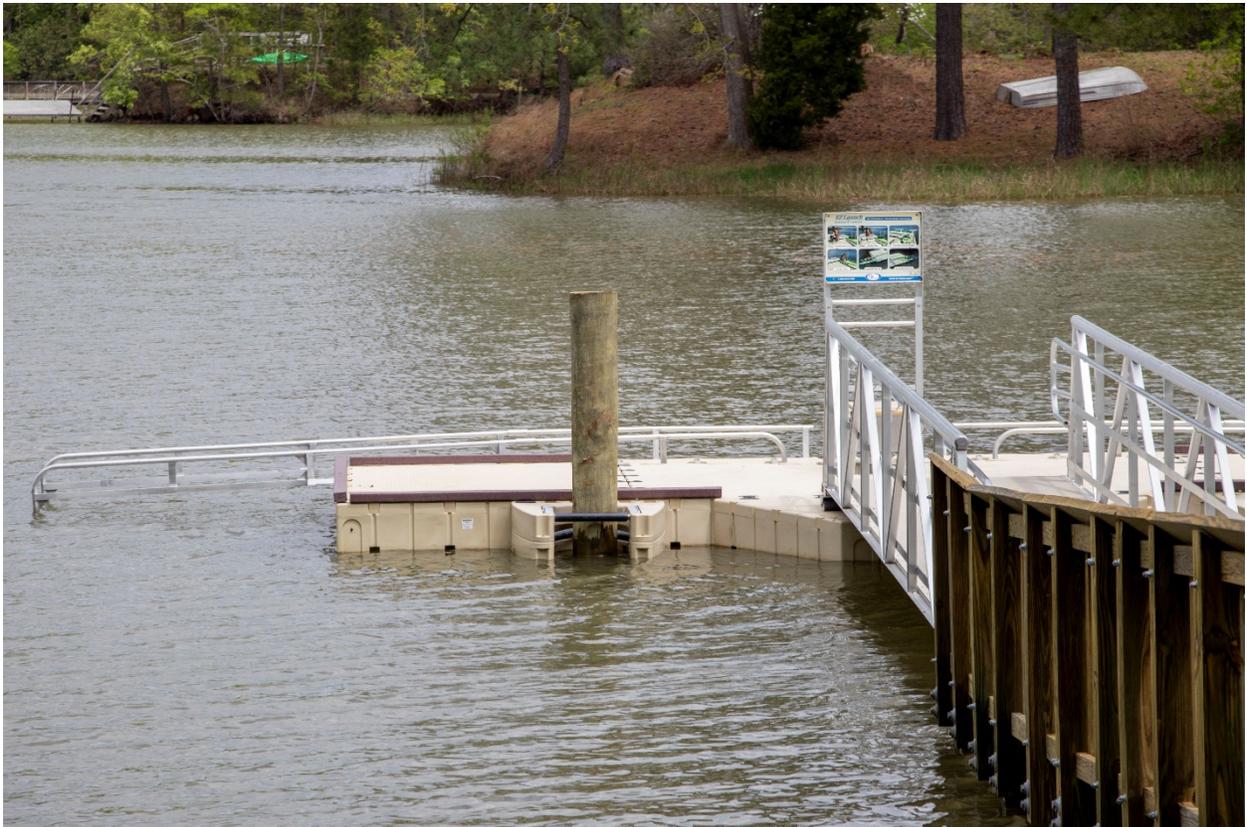
Worthiness of the Award

York County is surrounded by beautiful water but has limited access for the public due to majority of shoreline in federal or private ownership. County staff had the vision to take an existing area with just a

dirt parking area, a concrete boat ramp, and a fishing pier and saw the opportunity to maximize this site potential. Therefore, utilizing what the County has and minimizing costs that would result in more opportunity for a larger portion of the public to have access to the water. Due to limited access to water for the public, there is a large amount of boat traffic at boat ramps making it challenging for

canoe/kayaks to launch at existing boat ramps. The addition of this boardwalk/fishing pier is large enough for those in wheelchairs and those that have apparatus for their disability to utilize it. In addition, the floating dock is well suited for the rise and fall of the water levels in Wormley Creek and provides plenty of space for wheelchair to maneuver on it. County of York choosing EZ Dock system was the key to allowing greater stability for all abilities to have access to canoe/kayak launch. The EZ Dock transfer system and ADA accessible rails make it possible for all abilities. County of York does not charge for use of this facility by the public. National Parks and Recreation Association has three pillars: Health and Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity. Most projects might match one of these pillars but this project involves all three pillars. It involves the Health and Wellness Pillar by providing the affordable and accessible solution to sedentary lifestyle by providing the access for all to canoe/kayak. It involves the Conservation pillar by connecting people to nature. And last but not least, it involves the social equity. True to the very philosophy of public parks and recreation is the idea that all people – no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability have access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great. We were fortunate to have media coverage from ABC 13 News 6pm on May 8, 2019 on this project as well as on 13NewsNOW website. Parks and Recreation truly build communities – communities for all.





EZ Launch FOR KAYAKS & CANOES

ACCESSIBLE TRANSFER SYSTEM



Transfer/Sit On



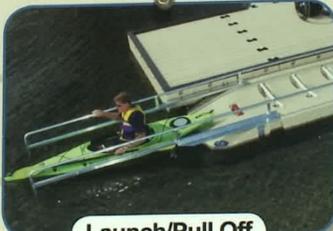
Slide Over



Pull Out Correct Height



Lower Into



Launch/Pull Off



Re-Enter/Pull On

