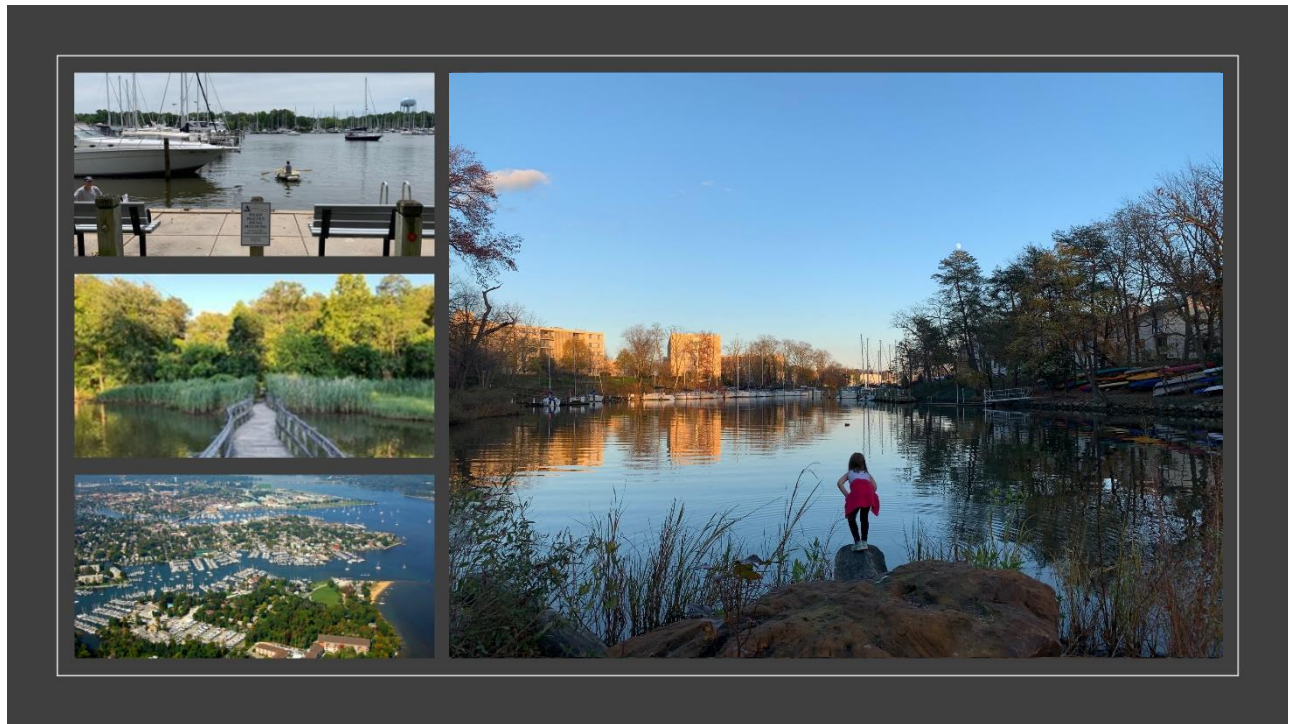


# City of Annapolis: Equitable Public Water Access Plan



Source: City of Annapolis

**August 2025**

**NOTE: ALL RED TEXT REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FROM THE DRAFT PLAN ISSUED ON JUNE 6, 2024**





**Figure 1: Amos Garrett Park**

## Report Notes

The City of Annapolis has partnered with the National Park Service's (NPS) Chesapeake Gateways Office and the United States Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Volpe Center to develop this Equitable Public Water Access Plan.

Through Chesapeake Gateways, the NPS Chesapeake Gateways Office inspires and helps people discover, experience, and connect with the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers, landscapes, and communities across its watershed. We work with people and partners to conserve and steward special places important to communities, visitors and the nation, for this and future generations. Support through this program is typically in the form of collaborative partnerships, technical assistance, and grants. NPS Chesapeake Gateways provides technical assistance through staff expertise to aid the managers and partners of Chesapeake places and programmatic partners in conserving, restoring, interpreting and providing access to cultural, natural and recreational resources within the watershed.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Volpe Center was established within U.S. DOT in 1970 to bring technical capability and a future-oriented outlook to pressing national transportation issues. The DOT Volpe Center provides technical expertise and develops solutions to complex transportation challenges in support of U.S. DOT, other Federal, State, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, private entities, and others. NPS Chesapeake Gateways funds an interagency agreement with the DOT Volpe Center to bring transportation and access expertise and technical assistance to aid Chesapeake places and partners, and through that agreement, the Volpe Center has taken the lead in preparing this report.

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## Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank the numerous organizations and individuals, who graciously provided their time, knowledge, and guidance in the development of this report, including:

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GATEWAYS



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## Glossary of Terms

Following are the definitions of key terms used throughout this document:

**Accessibility:** The design, construction, development, and maintenance of facilities, information and communication technology, programs, and services so that all people, including people with disabilities, can fully and independently use them. Accessibility includes the provision of accommodations and modifications to ensure equal access to employment and participation in activities for people with disabilities, the reduction or elimination of physical and attitudinal barriers to equitable opportunities, a commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities can independently access every outward-facing and internal activity or electronic space, and the pursuit of best practices such as universal design.

**Creekshed:** The area of land which drains into a creek.

**Equitable Public Water Access:** “the fair systematic use and distribution of publicly-owned waterfront areas and resources, for the enjoyment and benefit of residents and visitors, of all communities.”

**Equity:** the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

**Micro-mobility:** Shared or private electric scooters, bikeshare, or other small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances.

**Multi-modal:** Multiple modes of transportation, such as rail, bus, bicycle, and automobile.

**Public Water Access:** The physical access by the general public to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Public water access sites and facilities can provide access from land to water, water to land, as well as providing opportunity for viewing, fishing, swimming, boating or other activities at the water’s edge.

**Public transit:** Publicly owned and operated system for the transportation of persons from one location to another, usually along a fixed route. Includes buses and ferries.

**Resilience:** The capacity of coastal or waterfront communities, infrastructures, and ecosystems to withstand, adapt to, and recover from environmental challenges and disturbances such as flooding, storms, sea level rise, and erosion. It involves the implementation of sustainable practices, robust infrastructure, and adaptive strategies to protect and enhance the functionality and vitality of waterfront areas. This includes measures like building seawalls, restoring wetlands, and developing early warning systems to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the waterfront environment and its associated communities.

**Watershed:** The land area that ultimately drains into a particular waterway.

**Wayfinding:** The process of using signs, symbols, and maps to navigate and move efficiently through transportation networks. This includes clear and intuitive signage in places like airports, train stations, bus terminals, and highways to help travelers find their way, understand routes, and reach their destinations with ease. Effective wayfinding design ensures that information is accessible and understandable, reducing confusion and improving the travel experience.



**Figure 2: Cheston Avenue Park was renovated in 2023 and has become a model for street end parks in Annapolis.**



## Executive Summary

The City of Annapolis, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Office and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Volpe Center, has developed this first ever Annapolis citywide Equitable Public Water Access Plan. The plan is a recommendation borne out of the Maritime Task Force conducted in 2021. The intent of the plan is to identify key actions to establish more equitable public access to the City's waterfront. To achieve this mission, the overall planning effort addresses the following elements:

1. Comprehensive Inventory of All Existing Public Water Access Sites (Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Assessment)
2. Opportunity Sites for New or Improved Public Water Access
3. Goals for Equitable Public Water Access Infrastructure
4. Program and Partnership Initiatives
5. Alternative Mobility Initiatives on Land and Water

The planning process included a variety of public and stakeholder engagement opportunities and data collection and analysis. The City administered a community opinion survey, focus group discussions, and technical stakeholder working group meetings. In addition, the project team conducted a rigorous site inventory of all existing public water access locations in the City, which resulted in a GIS StoryMap, which is an online mapping tool designed to help the public better navigate the City's public water access network.

### **Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Assessment**

The first element above, the [Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Assessment](#) (Inventory Assessment), was conducted as the first phase of this planning effort, and was completed in 2022. The Inventory Assessment offers an overview of the existing 43 public water access sites within Annapolis (does not include Waterworks Park) and includes a detailed analysis of existing conditions including park access, transportation options, community health, and environmental considerations. Key findings reveal an extensive network of water access points managed by various entities across Annapolis and watersheds. However, significant opportunities for improvement exist, particularly in enhancing mobility to and within parks, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all visitors. The Inventory Assessment provides vital information for future decision-making regarding water access management, and was a key reference for this Plan, which comprises the remaining four elements.

### **Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

The City of Annapolis has identified 60 sites for new and improved public water access across eight creeksheds:

- Severn River: 5 new sites
- Weems Creek: 4 new sites and 2 improved sites
- College Creek: 4 new sites and 4 improved sites
- Spa Creek: 3 new sites and 23 improved sites
- Back Creek: 3 new sites and 6 improved sites
- Broad Creek: 2 improved sites
- Church Creek: 2 new sites and 1 improved site
- Crab Creek: 1 new site

The sites include improvements such as new park development, trail establishment (including foot, bike, multiuse, and boardwalk paths), improved water access points, and parking facilities that enhance accessibility.

### **Goals for Equitable Public Water Access Infrastructure**

The City of Annapolis convened an interdisciplinary team of City staff to develop six strategic goals for equitable public water access infrastructure:

- **Goal 1: Accessibility** - Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be improved, programmed or designed to be highly accessible and meet ADA requirements.
- **Goal 2: Community Focus**— Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be welcoming to all and designed as a community amenity which provides safe public access to the waterfront and expands engagement with the water.
- **Goal 3: Connectivity** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be properly signed and physically connected to a multi-modal transportation network that provides bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and boating access with connections wherever and whenever possible to adjacent sites.
- **Goal 4: Resilient Design** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be designed and constructed to be durable, low maintenance, and adapted to anticipated impacts from climate change such as rising sea levels, storm surge, and extreme temperatures.
- **Goal 5: Equity** – Existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities shall be prioritized in communities where public water access has been historically underinvested; in communities where documented gaps exist in the city’s public water access network; and in communities with high concentrations of low-income and/or persons of color to ensure adequate and equitable public access to the water and water-based activities.
- **Goal 6: Policy** – Develop and codify “*Public Waterfront Access*” provisions into city law, regulations, and requirements to clarify and regulate activities at the existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities based on best practices and community values. Policies should address safety, mitigate potential conflicts, and allow for a wide range of uses.

### **Program and Partnership Initiatives**

There are numerous existing programs and partnership opportunities in and around Annapolis to create new public water access opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged communities, activate underutilized sites, and identify shared maintenance opportunities with public/private partners. In particular, strategic partnerships can provide and leverage opportunities for coordination and collaboration, such as for funding, project implementation, programming, and ongoing operations and maintenance. Potential funding partners could include federal partners, such as the NPS Chesapeake Gateways, or State partners, such as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Potential project implementation partners could include county partners such as Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks or Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Potential program partners could include non-profit organizations such as the Annapolis Maritime Museum, Blacks of the Chesapeake, and the Severn River Association, among many others.

## Alternative Mobility Initiatives on Land and Water

Alternative mobility initiatives, both on land and water, play a crucial role in expanding access to the waterfront, with ongoing efforts to improve public transit, strengthen the bike network, and explore micro-mobility options. The City's comprehensive plan, [Annapolis Ahead 2040](#), prioritizes improvements to transit service, as well as bicycle connections to schools and areas with transportation safety concerns. The City has also been actively seeking innovative micro-mobility options, such as through its partnership with Bird to operate a citywide e-bike and e-scooter program and in securing funding and partnerships for a new electric ferry service **to complement the existing water taxi service**.

### Action Plan

The Action Plan, developed concurrently and in alignment with *Annapolis Ahead 2040*, outlines a comprehensive strategy for **new or improved policies, programs, and procedures** promoting equitable public water access. There are 69 actions across the six goal areas, each with an identified responsible department and timeline. The intent of this Action Plan is to provide a detailed guide and roadmap for city officials, community members, and partners, to implement and evaluate water access initiatives that benefit all residents and visitors of Annapolis.



**Figure 3: The current water taxi service provided by Watermark is an important component of Annapolis alternative mobility options.**



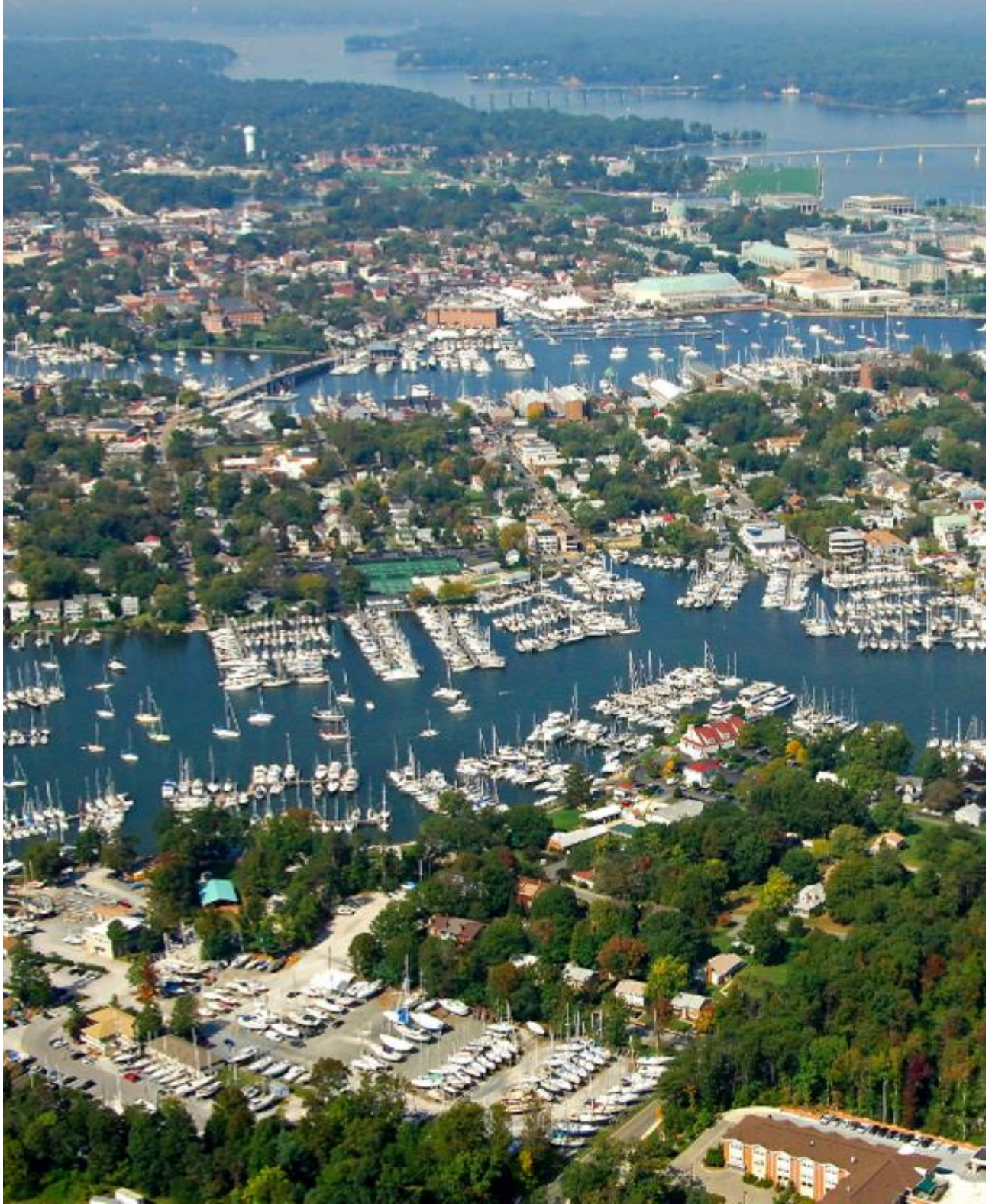


Figure 4: Annapolis has approximately 22 miles of shoreline, but only a small fraction is publicly accessible.

## 1. Introduction

With approximately 22 miles of waterfront along the Chesapeake Bay, the City of Annapolis (the City) is inextricably linked to the Chesapeake Bay, both geographically and culturally. For thousands of years Native American tribes occupied the region, their lifestyles deeply intertwined with the Chesapeake Bay. The location provided access to resources like fish, shellfish, and other marine life, crucial to their diets and economies. In the 1600's, European settlers founded and planned Annapolis as the Capital City, its place on the Chesapeake Bay providing advantages for trade and transportation. The Indigenous populations declined dramatically after the European settlers arrived, devastating the rich pre-colonial cultures and communities of the region. During this time and over the period of the Atlantic Slave Trade, the African American population in Annapolis grew and comprised one-third of the population in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During a time of segregation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Black Americans were prohibited from visiting popular public water access sites along the Chesapeake Bay; in response, they created their own spaces, including several famous Black beach resorts that hosted some of the most prominent musical performers of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. However, the end of segregation, the expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the privatization of the Chesapeake waterfront, and other socioeconomic factors led to the decline of these Black-owned beach resorts. In the later part of the twentieth century, the broader economic transformation of the city's industrial waterfront to a recreational and leisure waterfront and related gentrification of residential areas spurred other changes to public water access, several of which perpetuated longstanding racial inequities. As a result of this difficult and complicated history in how public and private resources are invested, there continue to be persistent inequities to public water access in Annapolis today. In fact, based on the 2020 Census, Annapolis has a higher proportion of minority population than either Anne Arundel County or the State of Maryland and these populations are concentrated predominantly away from the city's waterfront. The city's fast growing population group is the Hispanic/Latino population, a group that on average also has a low rate of personal vehicle ownership which compounds public water access challenges.

In 2021, the Annapolis Maritime Task Force, **in recognizing the multiple social, environmental, and economic benefits of public water access and a public waterfront**, recommended improving public water access throughout the City, and specifically the development of a dedicated Equitable Public Water Access Report and Action Plan (the Public Water Access Plan). The City of Annapolis defines ***Equitable Public Water Access*** as “the fair systematic use and distribution of publicly-owned waterfront areas and resources, for the enjoyment and benefit of residents and visitors, of all communities.” The City partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Gateways to move the recommendation forward. The Equitable Public Water Access Planning process was conducted over two phases: (1) Public Water Access Inventory Assessment and (2) Equitable Public Water Access Plan. During the first phase, a comprehensive inventory of all existing public water access sites was conducted to identify, assess conditions, and map the location of waterfront access sites. The results of this first phase, available on the [City of Annapolis Equitable Public Water Access Plan website](#), includes the Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Summary Report and Needs Assessment (Inventory and Needs Assessment). The rigorous site inventory of all existing public water access locations in the City also resulted in the Annapolis Water Access Parks StoryMap and Collection (the StoryMap), an online mapping tool. The StoryMap is an online mapping tool designed to help the public better navigate the City's public water access network.





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**Figure 5: Annapolis City Dock Area**

The results of Phase two are documented within this Plan. In addition to the Inventory and Needs Assessment, the following key fact-finding initiatives informed the development of this plan:

- Community opinion survey
- Focus group discussions
- Technical stakeholder working group meetings

In addition to these initiatives, this Equitable Public Water Access Plan draws upon the concurrent efforts of the City's adopted comprehensive plan, *Annapolis Ahead 2040*.

### **1.1. Project Purpose**

The purpose of the City's first-ever Equitable Public Water Access Plan is to advance efforts to expand equitable public water access citywide through a strategic set of actionable recommendations. The Equitable Public Water Access Plan lays foundational expectations for improved public water access and establishes an action plan for achieving set goals and strategies. This Equitable Public Water Access Plan includes the following components essential to achieving equitable access to the City's waterfront:

- ***Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access*** – to identify, map, and prioritize future investments.
- ***Goals for Equitable Public Access Infrastructure*** – to clarify and formalize the guidelines for an equitable accessible waterfront including diversity and inclusivity, ADA-compliance, wayfinding signage, and site furnishing amenities to expand access and use.
- ***Program and Partnership Initiatives*** – to create new access opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged communities, activate underutilized sites, and identify shared maintenance opportunities with public/private partners.
- ***Alternative Mobility Initiatives on Land and Water*** – to expand the ways that we get to and from the waterfront and leverage efficiencies provided by new technology.



## 1.2. Advancing Regional Goals

While this Plan is focused exclusively on addressing needs within Annapolis, its goals are consistent with those of Anne Arundel County, the State of Maryland, as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program which advances restoration and protection of the broader Chesapeake Bay watershed. A defining feature of Maryland's portion of that watershed is the very limited amount of public waterfront, with only approximately 2% of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay shoreline being publicly owned. Within Anne Arundel County, only approximately 1% of the County's 533 mile shoreline is publicly accessible. With these facts in mind, and a recognition of the numerous benefits provided by public water access, leadership at all levels of government have prioritized an expanded public waterfront, and one that is more equitable and accessible. Anne Arundel County made this a focus in their most recent Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (2022) and through a variety of capital projects. The State of Maryland General Assembly has approved bills in recent years focused on major investment in State Parks and watershed restoration and funded a wide array of grant programs aimed at shoreline improvements. Most recently, this focus can be found in the Draft Revised Chesapeake Bay Agreement released by the Chesapeake Bay Program in 2025 which includes the goal of adding 100 new public water access locations within the watershed by 2040.

## 1.3. Overview of Study Area

Situated between the Severn and South Rivers, the City of Annapolis incorporates 8.3 square miles (7.1 square miles of land area; 1.2 square miles of water) and over 17 miles of waterfront on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (Figure 3). With a diverse population of approximately 40,000 people, Annapolis is conveniently located 27 miles east of Washington D.C. and 27 miles south of Baltimore.

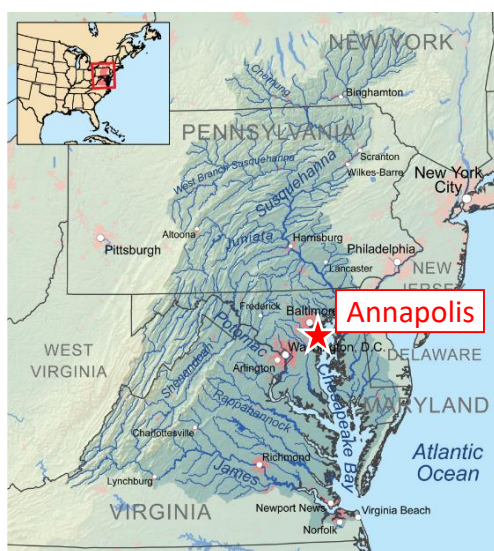
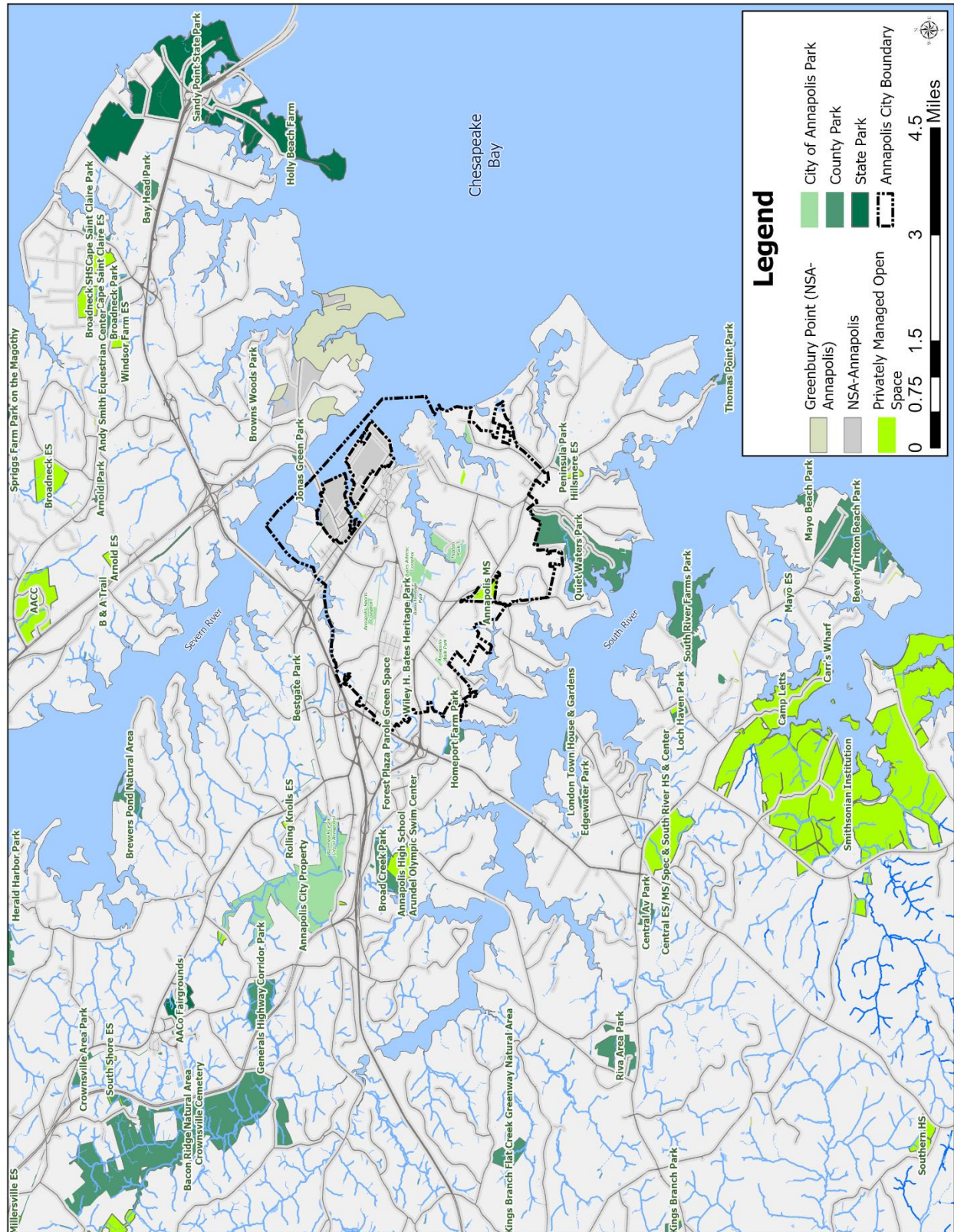


Figure 6: City of Annapolis within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Source: Kmusser



**Figure 7: Annapolis' regional context within Anne Arundel County includes other public water access opportunities but many of the same challenges facing the city.**

The City is accessible by an evolving multimodal transportation network that includes highways, public transportation, micro-transit, and water taxis. Annapolis is connected to the broader regional area by highway system that includes Interstate 97, Maryland Routes 2 and 450, and U.S. Routes 50/ 301, which run concurrently through the area as a freeway. This freeway directly connects to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, immediately to the northeast, providing access to Maryland's Eastern Shore and Delaware.

Several transit operations also service Annapolis. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) provides daily service from Annapolis to Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and other employment centers. Locally, Annapolis Department of Transportation (ADOT) provides public transit service within the City of Annapolis and some surrounding Anne Arundel County areas in coordination with Anne Arundel County transit services. The service maintains several regular fixed routes, shuttles, and complementary ADA-compliant paratransit services.

Some of the other transportation options include micro-mobility, or lightweight vehicles that may be borrowed or rented, and water taxi service. In 2022, the City launched a micro-mobility program with a fleet of dockless e-bikes and e-scooters operated by Bird, an international micro-mobility service provider. Although limited in scope to 150 vehicles, the program has been successful and expanded into adjacent areas of Anne Arundel County in 2023. In addition, water taxi services are provided on Spa Creek and Back Creek by Watermark, an Annapolis-based company, which operates a fleet of small passenger vessels from City Dock and private marinas to navigable destinations around the Annapolis waterfront. Water taxis are available on-demand every 20-30 minutes seasonally from May to mid-October, seven days a week.

The City of Annapolis and other partners are also looking to revive the role that the Chesapeake Bay historically provided in moving people and commerce across the State through the implementation of a regional electric ferry service. In 2023, a five-county tourism consortium spearheaded by Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) began accepting proposals to determine the feasibility of initiating the sustainable passenger ferry service to connect key Maryland destinations along the Chesapeake Bay, including those in Annapolis.

## **1.4. Demographic Trends**

The City's adopted comprehensive plan, *Annapolis Ahead 2040*, provides a thorough analysis of current demographic trends and found that the city's two fastest growing population groups between 2010 and 2021 are persons aged 65 and over and the population which identifies as Hispanic/Latino. *Annapolis Ahead 2040* also assessed the citywide population based on the Centers for Disease Control social vulnerability criteria, which aggregates fifteen different socio-economic factors, and found communities within the city at higher rates of social vulnerability more concentrated along the Forest Drive corridor and farther away from available public water access.

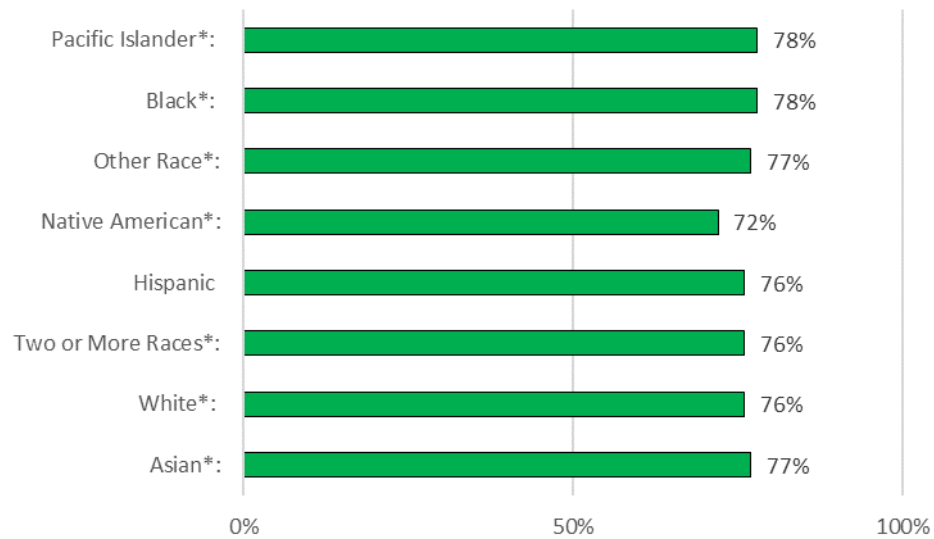
A recent survey conducted by the Trust for Public Land, which determines a city's ParkServe rating, analyzed 14 measures across five categories: acreage, investment, amenities, access, and equity. The study indicates that in terms of access, the city of Annapolis' parks provide access to 77% of residents living within a 10-minute walk. The next four figures break down Annapolis' demographic composition by race/ethnicity and income/poverty (Table 1); park access by the percentage of the population within a 10-minute walk, considering race/ethnicity (Figure 5), age (Figure 6), and income (Figure 7).



Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Percentage
White	60.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino	17.9%
Black or African American	22.2%
Asian	2.4%
Two or More Races	4.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	54.4%
Income & Poverty	
Median household income*	\$92,026
Per capita income in past 12 months*	\$52,106
Persons in poverty, percent	9.2%

**Table 1: City of Annapolis Demographics**

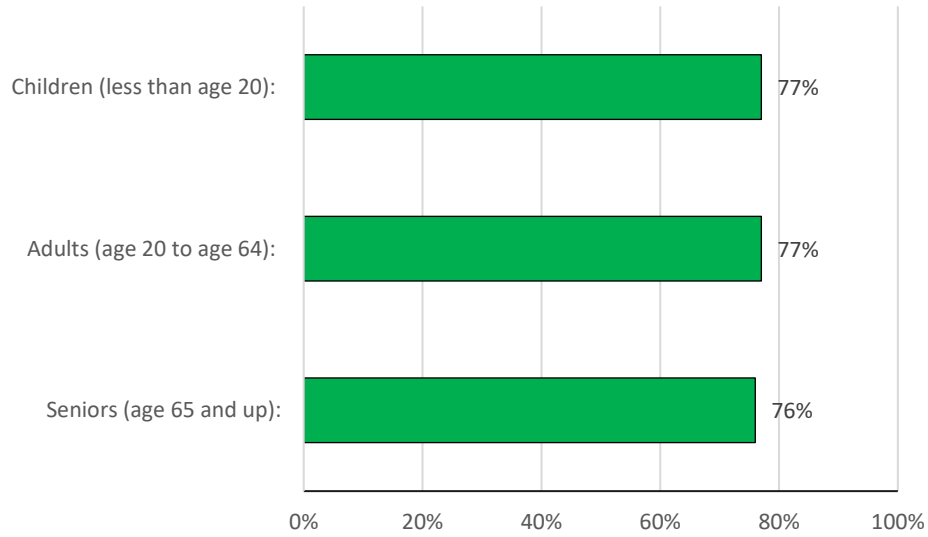
Source: Census Population Estimate, July 1, 2022



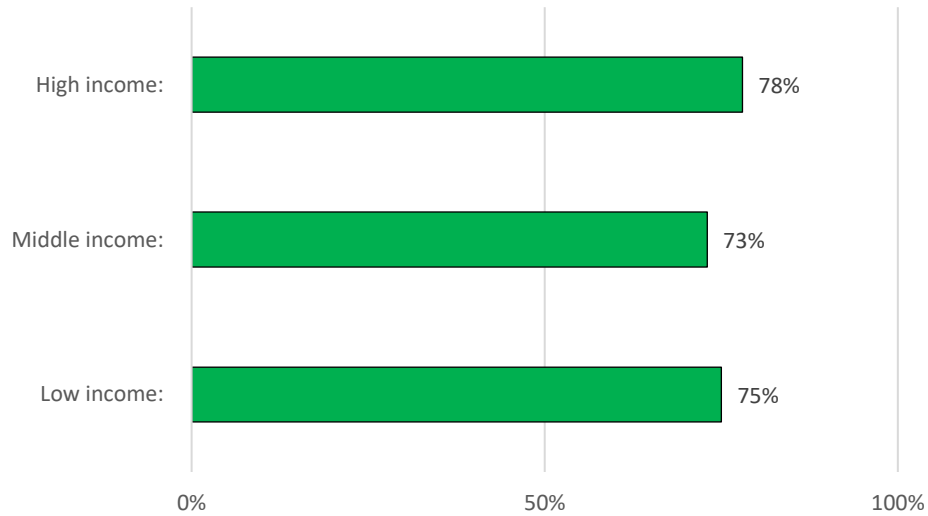
**Figure 8: Annapolis Populations within a 10-Minute Walk of a Park Divided by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Trust for Public Land. "Annapolis, MD." Accessed June 6, 2024. <https://www.tpl.org/city/annapolis-maryland>.





**Figure 9: Annapolis Populations within a 10-Minute Walk of a Park Divided by Age Groups<sup>2</sup>**



**Figure 10: Annapolis Populations within a 10-Minute Walk of a Park Divided by Income<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Trust for Public Land. "Annapolis, MD." Accessed June 6, 2024. <https://www.tpl.org/city/annapolis-maryland>.

<sup>3</sup> Trust for Public Land. "Annapolis, MD." Accessed June 6, 2024. <https://www.tpl.org/city/annapolis-maryland>.

## 1.5. *Public and Stakeholder Engagement*

To inform the planning and development of the Equitable Public Water Access Plan, a public and stakeholder engagement strategy was developed to consider the opinions and assess the needs of residents. This engagement strategy consisted of administering a dedicated project website, a community opinion survey, recruiting Public Water Access Ambassadors, and facilitating three stakeholder focus group discussions. In addition, City of Annapolis planning staff included various civic associations and the City's Boards and Commissions by sharing the project at community events, forums, and regular meetings to increase public awareness. As a result, the established engagement process was successful in accomplishing the following:

- Identifying key stakeholders, agencies and business owners
- Providing transparency in the development process to the public about any public water access planning activities or events.
- Providing clear and accurate information to encourage informed public participation and feedback.
- Offering diverse opportunities for traditionally underserved communities to provide input into the overall process.
- Providing multiple means through which the public and stakeholders could access information and learn about the Equitable Public Water Access Plan.

### *Project Website*

Beginning with the public kickoff of the planning process, City staff have maintained a dedicated project website to share information about the planning goals, the planning process, project background, upcoming events and past presentations, drafts of the plan, links to submit formal comments, and a comment log. Of the 355 formal comments received in response to the June 2024 Draft Plan, 255 comments were received through the comment link on the project website. City staff also shared a comment log on the website of all comments received with notes when comments led to plan revisions.

### *Community Opinion Survey*

The community opinion survey was created to help gauge community residents' thoughts on water access, their relationships with existing waterfront parks, existing barriers to water access, and to get a sense of the improvements they would like addressed. At the beginning of May, the survey was launched in both English and Spanish with notices sent to Annapolis City Council members, neighborhood associations, and several of the City's Board and Commissions. Signs and posters with a QR code pointing to the survey were distributed around Annapolis, including at waterfront parks, on the city buses and bus shelters, at libraries, and at the City's recreation centers. There were 509 respondents to the survey. The results of this survey are presented in the Inventory and Needs Assessment and have been incorporated within this Plan.

### *Annapolis Public Water Access Focus Groups*

The City of Annapolis held three focus groups that brought together 45 stakeholders from various communities, organizations, and businesses representing the diverse population of Annapolis, including: environmental advocates, recreation advocates, community advocates, minority-owned business advocates, small businesses, and longtime waterfront park stewards. The focus groups were scheduled during the existing conditions analysis phase of the project on the following dates:

- Focus Group 1 was conducted on August 18, 2022.
- Focus Group 2 was conducted on November 16, 2022.
- Focus Group 3 was conducted on February 15, 2023.

The primary objective of each focus group was to discuss and receive feedback on the existing conditions of water access sites, and how to best communicate the need for improved and expanded water access. As a result, information was gathered that assisted the planning team in identifying potential priority sites, and partnership and programming opportunities. Focus Group summaries may be found in *Appendix D*.

### *Public Comment Period*

The Draft Plan was released in June 2024 which commenced a two month formal public comment period. During the comment period, City staff promoted the Draft Plan via numerous e-blasts, direct messages to elected officials and civic associations, and printed flyers at key public locations. Printed review copies of the Draft Plan were also placed at the city's two libraries, two recreation centers, and City Hall. City staff also hosted three public events—including two in-person events at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center and one virtual event-- to share the Draft Plan and collect input. These events were extremely well-attended with 130 participants at the two in-person events. Residents and other stakeholders ultimately submitted 355 comments, with the majority being submitted via the project website. More than 51% of the comments led to plan revisions. City staff hosted two additional public meetings at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center in November 2024 to share the proposed revisions to the Draft Plan.

## *1.6. Common Misconceptions about Public Water Access*

In developing this Plan, project team members solicited input from a wide array of residents and other stakeholders. While the majority of public comments provided constructive input or support for the Plan, some comments revealed an opposition to improved or expanded public water access based on misconceptions about the impact to the city's neighborhoods. These misconceptions ranged from concerns about increased traffic, crime, and trash and were frequently based on inaccurate information or perceived impacts not grounded in fact.

Annapolis is fortunate to have substantial historic precedent and experience expanding public water access which can help correct these misconceptions. Much of Annapolis' current network of public water access sites has been in existence for nearly forty years, with the majority of sites located in the Downtown, Murray Hill, and Eastport neighborhoods. With the exception of a few larger parks such as Susan Campbell Park, Truxtun Park, and Ellen Moyer Park, nearly all of the city's public water access sites are modest street-end parks with no parking or facilities. They are intentionally designed to be low-maintenance neighborhood parks best accessed on foot or bike. For these reasons, they are not destination parks that draw visitors from farther distances nor do visitors tend to linger very long. However, these modest pocket parks have added considerable value to their neighborhoods; they have increased property values; they have been adopted and stewarded by neighbors; they have enhanced neighborhood character and community cohesion; and they have led to no documented increase in traffic, crime, trash, or other safety concerns.

## 2. Public Water Access – Existing Conditions

The first phase of this planning effort resulted in an Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Summary Report and Needs Assessment (Inventory and Needs Assessment), which summarizes existing conditions and provides a comprehensive assessment of the 43 existing public water access sites (does not include Waterworks Park), including sites owned by the City and those owned or managed by other public or private organizations. The inventory effort included:

- Preliminary collection of existing information on water access sites from web-based research;
- Field survey of sites to fill in gaps and confirm inventory; and
- Collection of overlay data on park access, transportation and mobility options/routes, community health, socioeconomic vulnerability (CDC Social Vulnerability Index, EJ Screen), heat islands and air quality, coastal flooding and water quality.

The Inventory and Needs Assessment identified that although the City of Annapolis and its partner agencies operate an extensive system of water access points, there are a variety of system-wide needs. For example, there are opportunities to improve access to and within parks through better transit options, bicycle/pedestrian connections, and consistent wayfinding signage. Expanding micro-mobility options, such as bike share, and water-based transit, such as water taxi and ferry systems, could enhance connectivity to public water access sites. While some sites are currently accessible by water taxi, signage is often lacking to indicate that this service is available. Without alternative transportation options, visitors often must rely on personal vehicles, which may not be possible for populations that cannot drive or do not have access to a personal vehicle. In addition, many public water access sites do not have sufficient parking to accommodate visitors arriving by personal vehicle. Within existing parking areas, there are also opportunities to increase ADA-accessible parking and provide electric vehicle charging stations.

The Inventory and Needs Assessment also identified opportunities to provide more welcoming, inclusive infrastructure and amenities, beginning with consistent signage at all public water access locations. Additionally, there are opportunities for more accessible routes, infrastructure and amenities and parking. *Appendix A: Water Access Site Existing Conditions and Disrepair Index Table* summarizes and ranks the condition of each of the water access sites.



## 2.1. Public Water Access Success Stories

This Plan expands on decades of work by countless individuals to expand public water access in Annapolis. Perhaps no one deserves more credit than former Mayor Ellen Moyer who first launched an initiative to create the city's street-end park program in the 1960's while her late husband Roger 'Pip' Moyer served as Mayor of Annapolis. She continued to advocate for street-end parks and public water access through her work as an Alderperson and ultimately as Mayor from 2001 through 2009.

While every existing public water access location in Annapolis is a success in some way, below is a sampling of these sites which provide precedent and inspiration for what can be achieved to improve public access to the City's waterfront.

- *Susan Campbell Park*

Originally established in 1969 as part of a revitalization of the City Dock, Susan Campbell Park is the City's most visible waterfront park and civic space on Spa Creek. The park serves as both an informal place for strolling, gathering, and relaxation, as well as the site for numerous festivals throughout the year including the U.S. Sailboat Show and Kunte Kinte Heritage Festival. Improvements to the park are a major focus of the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization project, the largest public project in the City's history.

- *Robert H. Eades Park*

Formerly known as College Creek Park, Robert H. Eades Park is at the headwaters of College Creek and was dedicated in 2021 to a community activist in the Historic Old Fourth Ward who cared deeply for children. The park is one of only two public waterfront parks on College Creek and is being renovated in 2025 with an iconic public art work honoring the park's namesake.

- *Tolson Street Park*

One of Annapolis' newest street-end parks, Tolson Street Park was dedicated as a City park in 2024 following many years as an informal park stewarded by community volunteers. The park is distinguished from the City's other street-end parks by its dense forest canopy and natural surface trail leading to a healthy marsh on Weems Creek, and one of only two City parks on Weems Creek.

- *Elktonia / Carr's Beach*

Permanently protected in 2022, Elktonia/Carr's Beach represents both the City's first park fronting the Chesapeake Bay and preservation of the last remnant of the historically significant Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches. Between the 1930's and 1970's, "the beaches", as they were known, were a major entertainment mecca for Black beachgoers not allowed at the area's other beaches which were mostly racially segregated. Over the decades, the venue hosted a remarkable roster of American music legends drawing visitors to Annapolis from far and wide to see the likes of Muddy Waters, Otis Redding, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, Stevie Wonder, James Brown, and many more. Establishment of this park was a major victory for public water access, cultural preservation, and ecological restoration.



Figure 11: Plaque celebrating Ellen O. Moyer at Horn Point Park



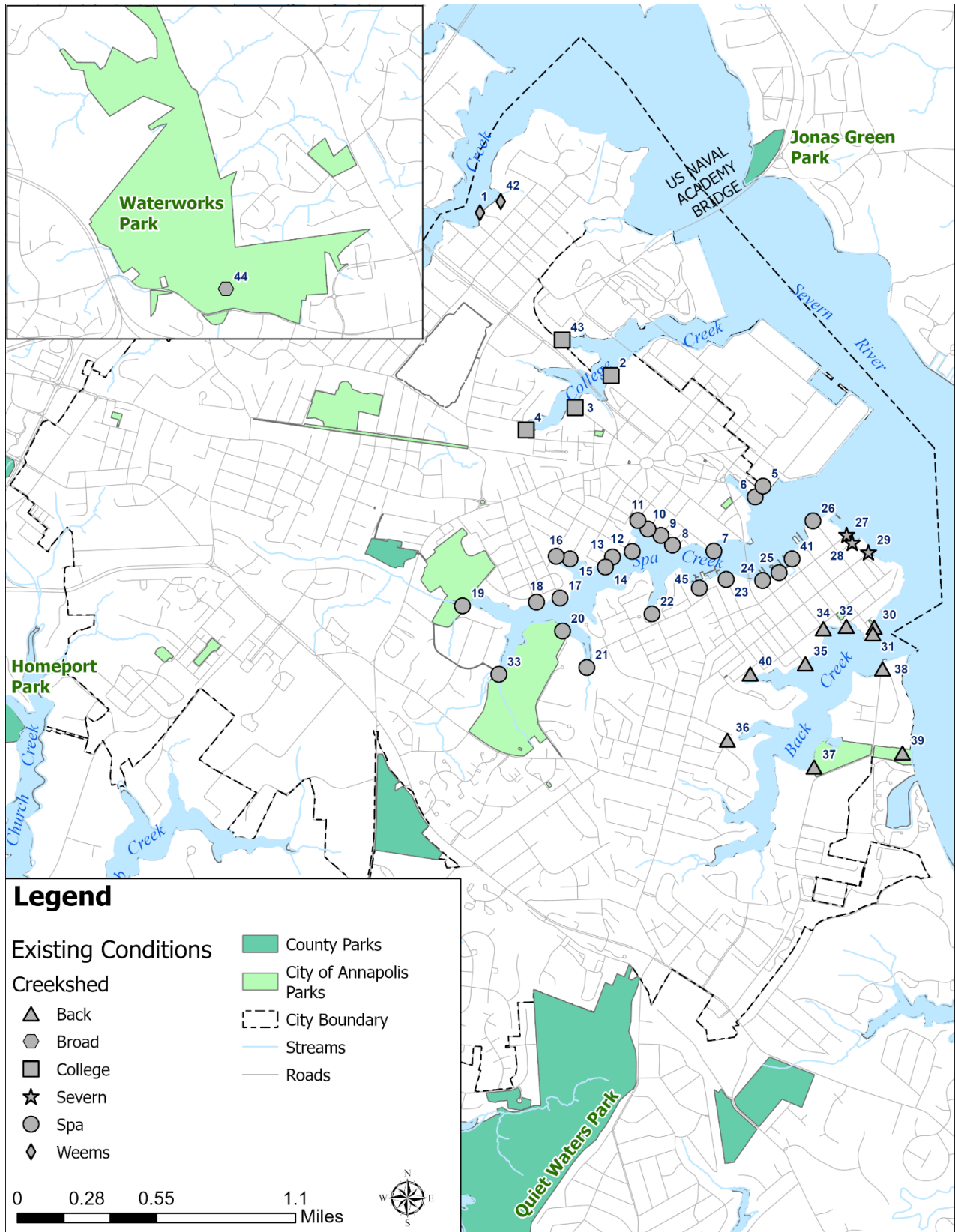


Figure 12: Existing Public Water Access Sites

Map #	Water Access Site Name	Map #	Water Access Site Name
1	Tucker Street Park	24	Fifth Street Park
2	St. John's College Waterfront	25	Leon Wolfe Park
3	Northwest Street Park	26	Einhart-Russell Park
4	Robert H. Eades Park	27	Severn Avenue Park
5	Commodore John Barry Park	28	Jeremy's Way Park
6	CityDock/Susan Campbell Park	29	Horn Point Park
7	Shipwright Street Park	30	Captain Herbe Sadler Park
8	Revell Street Park	31	Dick Simms Park
9	Market Street Park	32	Third Street Park (Back Creek)
10	Conduit Street Park	33	Truxtun Park Pedestrian Bridge
11	Acton Cove Park	34	George Washington Davis Park
12	Southgate Avenue Park	35	Sixth Street Park
13	Taney Avenue Park	36	St. Luke's Nature Park
14	Cheston Avenue Park	37	Ellen O. Moyer Park at Back Creek
15	Thompson Street Park	38	Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (C.R.A.B.)
16	Lafayette Avenue Park	39	Elktonia / Carr's Beach
17	Barbara Neustadt Park	40	Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access
18	Amos Garrett Park	41	Third Street Park (Spa Creek)
19	Chesapeake Children's Museum	42	Tolson Street Park
20	Truxtun Park Boat Ramp	43	Gateway Park
21	Hawkins Cove Park	44	Waterworks Park
22	Wells Cove Public Water Access	45	South Annapolis Yacht Center
23	Burnside Park		





Figure 13: Northwest Street Park



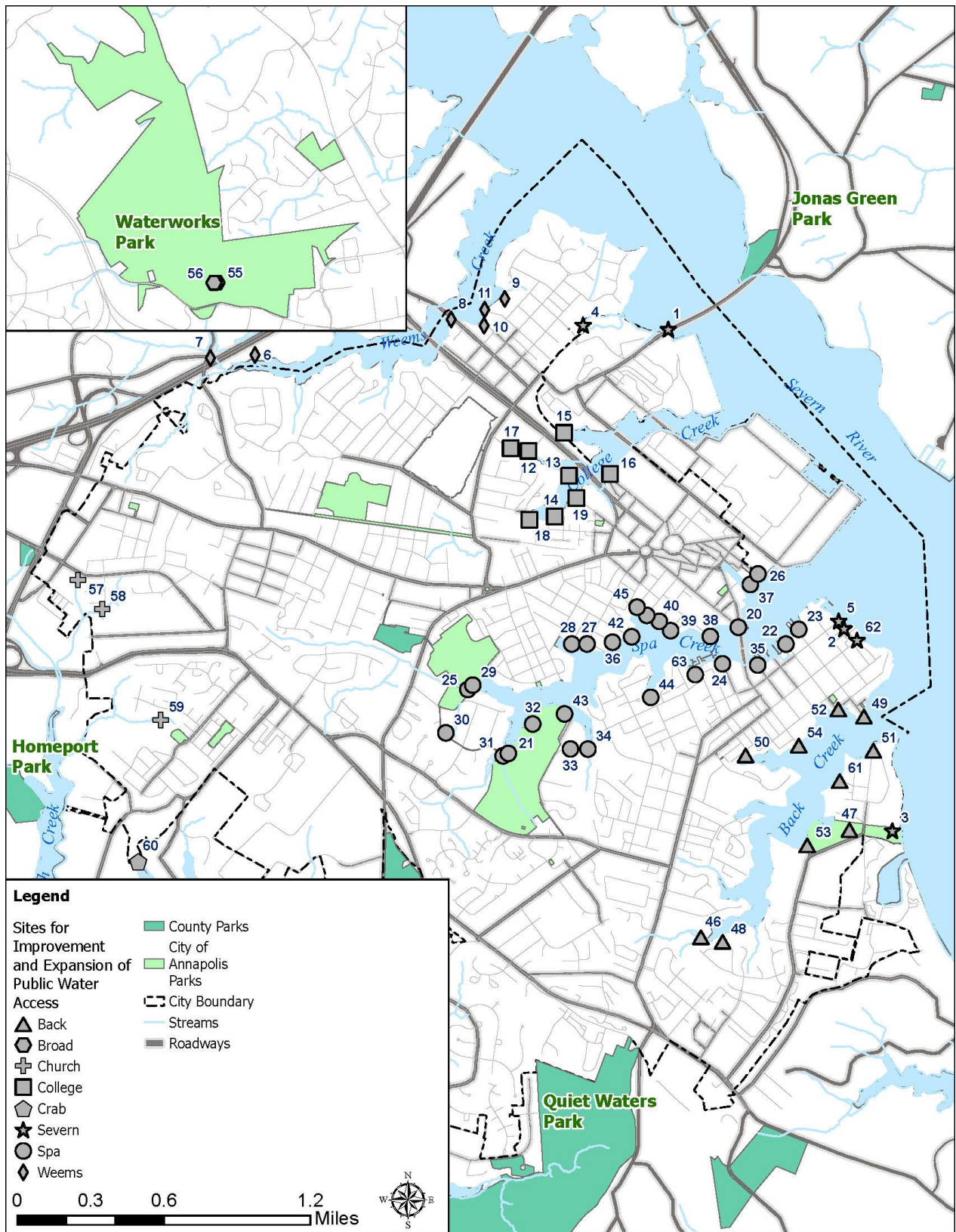
### 3. Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access

The City of Annapolis has identified opportunity sites for new and improved public water access to bolster public accessibility to the Annapolis waterfront. The opportunities include improvements such as new park development, trail establishment (including foot, bike, multiuse, and boardwalk paths), improved amenities at existing water access locations, and parking facilities that enhance accessibility. Figure 11 provides a map of all sites where opportunities are identified, which are summarized by creekshed in the sub-sections that follow. **Among the recommended opportunities, approximately half are improvements to existing public water access sites. Moreover, many of recommendations for improvements to existing sites or investments in new sites are already underway through the City's Capital Improvement Program which includes twenty-six of the recommended projects in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.**

Appendix A provides a comprehensive list of the new or enhanced public water access sites currently in a planning or design phase by the City of Annapolis.



**Figure 14: A recent improvement to Ellen O. Moyer Park completed by the Annapolis Maritime Museum**



Map #	Water Access Site Name	Map #	Water Access Site Name
1	MD 450 Bike-Ped Trail	33	Hawkins Cove Trail
2	Jeremy's Way Park	34	Hawkins Cove Park
3	Elktonia / Carr's Beach	35	Fifth Street Park
4	B & A Railroad Trail	36	Taney Avenue Park
5	Severn Avenue Park	37	City Dock / Susan Campbell Park
6	Weems Creek Trail	38	Shipwright Street Park
7	Admiral Drive Trailhead at Cowhide Branch	39	Revell Street Park
8	Ridgely Avenue Bridge Public Water Access	40	Market Street Park
9	Tolson Street Park	41	Conduit Street Park
10	Annapolis Street Park / Weems Creek Overlook	42	Southgate Avenue Park
11	Tucker Street Park	43	Truxtun Park Boat Ramp
12	Trail at DNR Offices	44	Wells Cove Public Water Access
13	Trail at Adams Elementary	45	Acton Cove Park
14	Trail at HACA property	46	SPCA Natural Area
15	Gateway Park	47	Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park – Storage Lot
16	College Creek Connector Trail	48	Windwhisper Nature Park
17	Herbert M. Sachs Drive complete street	49	Dick Simms Park
18	Robert H. Eades Park (formerly College Creek Park)	50	Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access
19	Northwest Street Park	51	Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating
20	Duke of Gloucester Street Park	52	Third Street Park (Back Creek)
21	Truxtun Park Boathouse	53	Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park
22	Third Street Park (Spa Creek)	54	Sixth Street Park
23	Second Street Park (Spa Creek)	55	Waterworks Park - Adaptive Re-Use
24	Burnside Park	56	Waterworks Park - Paddle Rental
25	Chesapeake Children's Museum	57	Church Creek Trail
26	Commodore John Barry Park	58	Church Creek Nature Park
27	Franklin Street Park	59	Bywater Park - Church Creek Trail
28	Thompson Street Park	60	Crab Creek Public Water Access
29	Spa Creek Trail Public Water Access Site	61	Awald Street-end
30	Spa Creek Trail	62	Horn Point Park
31	Truxtun Park Pedestrian Bridge	63	South Annapolis Yacht Center
32	Truxtun Park Natural Area Restoration		



### 3.1. Severn River Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on the Severn River are summarized in Table 2. Five new sites have been identified for this watershed. Short-term priorities include the MD 450 Bike Ped Trail, Jeremy's Way Park, and Elktonia/Carrs Beach.

**Table 2: Severn River Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
1	MD 450 Bike-Ped Trail	Work with NSA-Annapolis, MDOT/SHA, Anne Arundel County, and Bike AAA to complete the planned bike/ped trail along MD-450.	SHORT	DESIGN	NSA-Annapolis MDOT/SHA	NSA-Annapolis. Anne Arundel County. MDOT/SHA Bike AAA
2	Jeremy's Way Park	Dedicate street-end at Jeremy's Way as a small City-managed Park on the Severn River, including new signage and bulkhead improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
3	Elktonia/Carr's Beach	Advance the design process for the planned Elktonia/Carr's Beach park which will include new site amenities, beach restoration and replenishment, natural resource management, a visitor center and other historical exhibits, and connections to Ellen Moyer Park.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	Blacks of the Chesapeake, NPS, Anne Arundel County, Resilience Authority, Annapolis Maritime Museum
4	B & A Railroad Trail	Create a public trail on the former B&A Railroad corridor, <b>restore the ecological health of Shady Lake, and provide a new public water access site accessible from Shiley Park.</b>	LONG	PLANNING	Wardour Improvement Association	West Annapolis Civic Association
5	Severn Avenue Park	Add shade trees and explore feasibility of paddle access and/or dinghy docking improvements.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
62	Horn Point Park	<b>Add improved signage to clarify allowed uses at the park and explore the feasibility of installing kayak/paddleboard racks as part of a coordinated citywide program.</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	<b>City of Annapolis</b>	<b>Eastport Civic Association</b>



Figure 16: Elktonia / Carr's Beach

### 3.2. Weems Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Weems Creek are summarized in Table 3. Four new sites for park development have been identified as well as improvements to two existing sites. Short-term priorities include improvements to Tolson Street Park, Tucker Street Park, and a new street end overlook where Annapolis Street meets Weems Creek.

**Table 3: Weems Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
6	Weems Creek Trail	Work with Maryland Environmental Trust to explore the establishment of natural surface trails within existing conservation area along Weems Creek with multiple access points including a primary trailhead on Admiral Drive at Jennifer Road.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Maryland Environmental Trust	Maryland Environmental Trust
7	Admiral Drive Trailhead at Cowhide Branch	Work with Anne Arundel County to establish a trailhead with parking where Admiral Drive meets Jennifer Road for access to Weems Creek, the South Shore Trail, and future nature trails within adjacent conservation area.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County, Maryland Environmental Trust
8	Ridgely Avenue Bridge Public Water Access	Explore better use of existing MDOT/SHA easement at Weems Creek bridge for paddle access to Weems Creek.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	MDOT/SHA	MDOT/SHA
10	Annapolis Street Park, Weems	Dedicate street end of Annapolis Street as a small City-managed park with overlook, new signage, seating, and plantings.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association

	Creek Overlook					
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
9	Tolson Street Park	Advance the planned improvements for Tolson Street Park which include <b>trail realignment and improved surfacing, stormwater management, habitat protection and restoration, partial ADA-compliant access, new seating areas, and a marsh walkway.</b>	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association
11	Tucker Street Park	Implement the planned improvements <b>which include a more resilient boat ramp, a floating pier, and an improved system for enforcing trailered boat registrations.</b>	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association



**Figure 17: Tucker Street Park**





**Figure 18: Community meeting to discuss improvements at Tolson Street Park**



**Figure 19: Community meeting to discuss improvements at Northwest Street Park**



### 3.3. College Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on College Creek are summarized in Table 4. Four new sites have been identified as well as improvements to four existing sites. Short-term priorities include the College Creek Connector Trail, Gateway Park, Robert H. Eades Park, and Northwest Street Park.

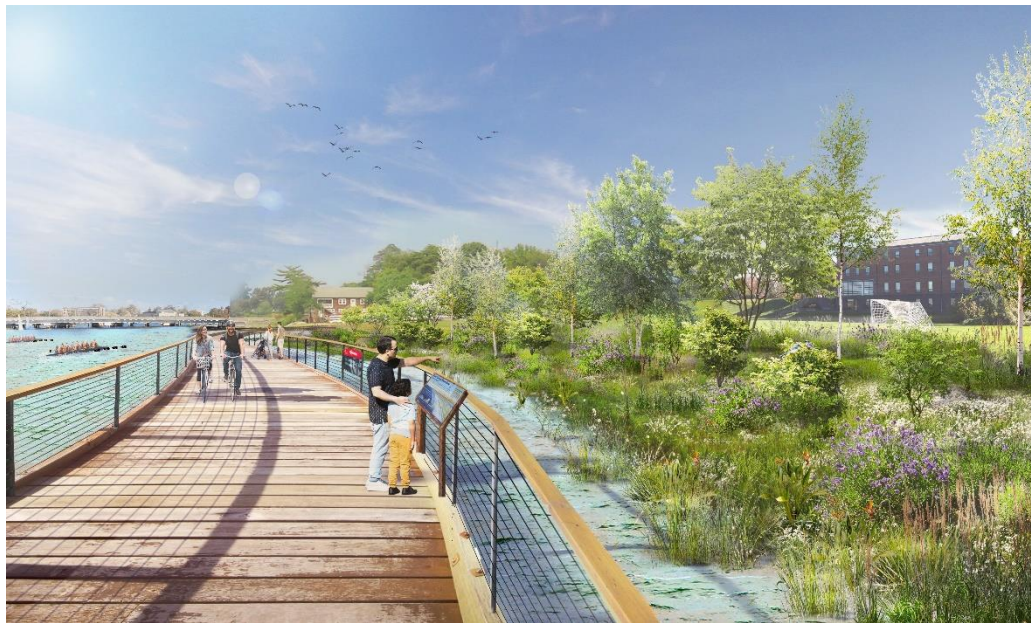
**Table 4: College Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
12	Trail at DNR Offices	Work with Maryland DNR to create a public trail leading to College Creek <b>from the DNR Tawes State Office Building and a trailhead near the dedicated public parking area.</b>	MEDIUM	PLANNING	DNR	DNR
13	Trail at Adams Elementary	Work with Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) to create a public trail along College Creek at Adams Elementary connecting to Robert H. Eades Park, Maryland DNR, and Calvary United Methodist Church, with a trailhead and public parking when school is not in session.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	AACPS	AACPS, Anne Arundel County, <b>DNR</b>
14	Trail at HACA property	Work with Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) to create a waterfront park at its underutilized property along College Creek for passive use and a connection to the planned boardwalk trail.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	DNR, HACA	HACA
16	College Creek Connector Trail	Complete the planned College Creek Connector trail from King George Street to Calvert Street.	SHORT	PLANNING	DNR, St. John's College, HACA, MDOT/SHA	St. John's College, HACA, St. Anne's Parish
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
15	Gateway Park	Work with Anne Arundel County, MD DGS, MDOT/SHA, and NSA-Annapolis to advance the vision of a nature park with new trails and paddle access.	SHORT	PLANNING	MDOT/SHA, MD DGS, NSA-Annapolis	Anne Arundel County, NSA-Annapolis, MD DGS, MDOT/SHA
17	Herbert M. Sachs Drive complete street	Work with Maryland DNR on bike and pedestrian improvements to Herbert M. Sachs Drive to provide a trail connection and facilitate access to College Creek.	LONG	PLANNING	DNR	DNR
18	Robert H. Eades Park (formerly College Creek Park)	Advance the planned Phase 2 improvements for Robert H. Eades Park which include a park expansion, improved paddle access, living shoreline, dredging, and trail connection to Adams Elementary.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis, HACA, BGE, AACPS	HACA, BGE, AACPS

19	Northwest Street Park	Advance the planned improvements to Northwest Street Park which include access to College Creek, a floating dock, and a connection to the planned College Creek Connector trail.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
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**Figure 20: Gateway Park site**



**Figure 21: Rendering of College Creek Connector Trail Site**





**Figure 22: 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park**



**Figure 23: Shipwright Street Park**

### 3.4. Spa Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Spa Creek are summarized in Table 5. Three new sites have been identified as well as improvements to 23 existing sites. Short-term priorities include City Dock / Susan Campbell Park, Duke of Gloucester Street Park, Truxtun Park Boathouse, Commodore John Barry Park, Franklin Street Park, Thompson Street Park, Spa Creek Trail improvements, Truxtun Park Pedestrian Bridge, Hawkins Cove Park, Wells Cove Public Water Access, and Fifth Street Park.

**Table 5: Spa Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
20	Duke of Gloucester Street Park	Advance the planned new street end park and paddle launch where Duke of Gloucester Street meets the Spa Creek Bridge.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	St. Mary's Parish
21	Truxtun Park Boathouse	Renovate the existing boathouse facility on Pumphouse Road for paddle craft storage and a paddle rental concession. As part of this project, add a new floating dock for paddle access.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
23	Second Street Park (Spa Creek)	Formalize the end of Second Street at Spa Creek as a City-managed park including signage and a floating dock.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
22	Third Street Park (Spa Creek)	Formalize the end of Third Street at Spa Creek as a City-managed Park including signage and a floating dock.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
24	Burnside Park	Renovate existing park to repair bulkhead and add floating dock for paddle access.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
25	Chesapeake Children's Museum	Improve existing trail to Spa Creek for ADA accessibility, add wayfinding signage from Spa Creek Trail, <b>add floating dock for paddle access, and expand planting throughout the site.</b>	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Chesapeake Children's Museum
26	Commodore John Barry Park	Advance the planned improvements to Commodore Barry Park as part of the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization project which include a landing for a planned electric ferry and paddle craft storage. Work with NSA-Annapolis to create a trail connection from the City Dock	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	NSA-Annapolis



#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
		walkway to the existing esplanade along Spa Creek waterfront of the Naval Academy.				
27	Franklin Street Spa Creek Park	Dedicate the street end of Franklin Street as a small City-managed park with overlook to Spa Creek including new signage, bench, and a coordinated stormwater management improvement along the steep slope to the creek.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
28	Thompson Street Park	Advance planned improvements including new signage, repaired pier, and bulkhead improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
29	Spa Creek Trail Public Water Access Site	Work with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to create a public trail extension and paddle launch to Spa Creek from the existing Spa Creek Trail at Bates Middle School and Bates Athletic Complex.	LONG	PLANNING	AACPS	AACPS, DNR
30	Spa Creek Trail	Add new wayfinding signage along the Spa Creek Trail as part of citywide trail signage improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
31	Truxtun Park Pedestrian Bridge	Replace the footbridge over the headwaters to Spa Creek and provide ADA-compliant access from Silopanna Road. Coordinate this project with the planned re-use of the Truxtun Park boathouse, a new paddle launch facility, and upgrades to the sewer pipe below the bridge as needed.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	
32	Truxtun Park Natural Area Restoration	Advance planned restoration of Truxtun Park shoreline and natural surface trails to stabilize slopes and reduce erosion.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	M.O.R.E., Spa Creek Conservancy
33	Hawkins Cove Trail	Formalize the existing natural surface trail connection between Truxtun Park and Hawkins Cove with a new boardwalk trail and improved wayfinding signage.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	HACA
34	Hawkins Cove Park	Advance the planned improvements to Hawkins Cove Park, which include a living shoreline, paddle access, seating, nature play, and	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis, HACA	HACA, Spa Creek Conservancy

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
		improved trail connections to Truxtun Park and adjacent communities. Ensure that the park improvements are coordinated with the revitalization of Harbour House and Eastport Terrace communities.				
35	Fifth Street Park	Advance the planned improvements to the Fifth Street Park which include a landing for the planned electric ferry.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	Annapolis City Marina
36	Taney Avenue Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
37	City Dock / Susan Campbell Park	Complete the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization Project including plans for the Maritime Welcome Center and adaptive re-use of the historic Burtis House.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	City Dock Action Committee, NSA-Annapolis
38	Shipwright Street Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
39	Revell Street Park	Add park signage, seating, and a floating pier, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
40	Market Street Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
41	Conduit Street Park	Add park signage, seating, and a floating pier, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
42	Southgate Avenue Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
43	Truxtun Park Boat Ramp	Update water access signage to clarify that the creek is safe for paddle recreation. Advance the planned improvements to the parking area on Truxtun	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
		Park Road to better accommodate vehicles.				
44	Wells Cove Public Water Access	Advance the planned improvements to Wells Cove Public Water Access, which include new signage, seating, trail surfacing, tree removal and pruning and access to a floating dock.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	Friends of Wells Cove
45	Acton Cove Park	Replace bulkhead and boardwalk, and explore feasibility of expanding floating dock area.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Acton Landing Condo Association
63	South Annapolis Yacht Center	Install signage at pedestrian gate which clarifies public access to water taxi service..	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	SAYC	SAYC, Watermark

### 3.5. Back Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Back Creek are summarized in Table 6. Three new sites have been identified as well as improvements to six existing sites. Short-term priorities include making improvements to Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access, Dick Simms Park, Sixth Street Park, Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park, and C.R.A.B., and establishing the Windwhisper Nature Park.

**Table 6: Back Creek Opportunity Sites for New and Improved Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
46	SPCA Natural Area	Work with the SPCA to create a formalized public water access park on Back Creek with wayfinding signage from Bay Ridge Avenue and a trail connection to Georgetown East Elementary.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	SPCA AACPS	SPCA, AACPS
47	Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park – Storage Lot	As part of the Elktonia/Carr's Beach design process, explore the feasibility of a parking facility adjacent to Ellen Moyer Park that could serve both parks.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum
48	Windwhisper Lane Nature Park	Work with the Windwhisper Lane community to dedicate a new City-managed Park at the existing informal water access location on Windwhisper Lane.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	
61	Awald Street Park	Explore the feasibility of creating a dedicated street-end park at Back Creek with improved stormwater management features, seating, and paddle access.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	

Improved Public Water Access Sites						
49	Dick Simms Park	Advance the resilience improvements planned at Dick Simms Park and the surrounding area where chronic flooding has limited use of the park.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum
50	Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access	Improve public water access at the existing street end easement of Bill Jones Alley with new signage, seating, and a floating dock.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	N/A
51	Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (C.R.A.B.) Facility	Work with C.R.A.B. to ensure that the site features more prominent entry signage clarifying the mission of the organization and its facility, and off-season hours for public use.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	C.R.A.B.
52	Third Street Park (Back Creek)	Explore feasibility of adding a floating dock for paddle access and/or small craft docking.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	N/A
53	Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park	Work with the Annapolis Maritime Museum (AMM) to ensure that the existing paddle launch location is accessible and well-maintained, and restore the former paddle rental concession to be managed by AMM or another entity.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum
54	Sixth Street Park	Complete the planned improvements which include a floating dock with ramp access.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	





**Figure 24: Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access Site**



**Figure 25: Windwhisper Lane Nature Park Site**





**Figure 26: SPCA Nature Park Site**



**Figure 27: The paddle launch at Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park**

### 3.6. Broad Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Broad Creek are summarized in 7. Although Broad Creek is beyond the city limits, the City-owned Waterworks Park encompasses a large portion of the creek including a reservoir. Though not a tidal waterway, the creek offers a unique recreational opportunity and substantial opportunities for improvement. Short-term priorities include activating the park's underutilized historic structures for programming that will complement park use and a paddle rental concession at the reservoir.

**Table 7: Broad Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
55	Waterworks Park – Adaptive Re-Use of Historic Structures	Work with a private development partner to activate the park's existing historic structures with new used that will complement the park and expand public use.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel County, M.O.R.E.
56	Waterworks Park – Paddle Rental	Establish a paddle rental concession at the park reservoir with the necessary infrastructure needed for it to be successful.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel County



**Figure 28: Waterworks Park Site**



### 3.7. Church Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Church Creek are summarized in 8. Two new sites have been identified as well as improvements to one existing site.

**Table 8: Church Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
57	Church Creek Trail	Explore feasibility of a public trail and water access to Church Creek as part of or connecting from the planned Parole Place development.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County	Parole Place, Arundel Rivers Federation, Anne Arundel County
58	Church Creek Nature Park	Explore feasibility of a public trail network connecting from the existing service road behind the Allen Apartments to Neal Farm Drive and the planned Parole Place development	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Arundel Rivers Federation
Improved Public Water Access Sites						
59	Bywater Park-Church Creek Trail	Explore feasibility of a public trail and water access to Church Creek from Bywater Park	LONG	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Boys & Girls Club

### 3.8. Crab Creek Sites

Sites for improvement and expansion of public water access on Crab Creek are summarized in 9. One new site has been identified.

**Table 9: Crab Creek Sites for Improvement and Expansion of Public Water Access**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
60	Crab Creek Water Access Point	Ensure that existing public water access to Crab Creek at the Kingsport community is clarified and publicly accessible. Work with Kingsport of Annapolis Community Association.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Kingsport of Annapolis Community Association, Annapolis Conservancy Board



**Figure 29: Church Creek Nature Park Site**



**Figure 30: Bywater Park - Church Creek Trail Site**

### 3.9. Privately-Owned Site Considerations

This plan looks at least twenty years into the future and envisions a city where equitable public water access for all residents is a defining feature. To realize this vision, the Plan identifies some sites that are currently privately-owned, and not publicly accessible, **where an opportunity may exist for future public access. This might happen through redevelopment, a property sale, or an easement agreement which provides benefits to the current property owner—such as financial compensation, reduced liability, improved maintenance, etc.— in exchange for public access. In fact, this is precisely how Annapolis’ current network of public water access sites was created over time. Very few of the City’s current parks originated as public land.**

Inclusion of the few specific privately-owned sites in the Plan is based on the following criteria:

- The site is located in an area with limited public water access.
- The site’s proximity to existing public waterfront could foster a connection to expand public water access.
- There is feasibility of integration with the City’s park system.

**To be clear: this Plan is neither recommending nor suggesting that the City attempt to take control of private property through eminent domain.** Rather, the Plan encourages both City officials and property owners to become more proactive in expanding public water access through mutually beneficial agreements. This plan also acknowledges that the circumstances of properties may change dramatically over time and there is value in planning for future opportunities that may present themselves. That said, predicting the future of the city’s waterfront is challenging. **The Annapolis waterfront today is quite different than what it was even a generation ago.** There are examples of both private sites that were formerly public, and public sites that were formerly private. This Plan positions the City to be able to expand the public water access network if and when there is an interest by private property owners to convert private water access sites to public, given that circumstances consistently and continuously change. It is understood that any change in the status of these privately-owned sites must be initiated by the owner, not the City, and the ultimate decision on whether to make a site accessible to the public resides with the current property owner.

See Figure 23 for a map of these privately-owned sites and Table 10 below for a summary of the site opportunities.

**Table 10: Privately-Owned Opportunity Sites**

#	Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations
New Public Water Access Sites						
1	Wardour Drive Water Access Site	Work with Wardour Improvement Association to explore the feasibility of making existing private waterfront park on the Severn River in the Wardour community publicly accessible.	LONG	PLANNING	Wardour Improvement Association	Wardour Improvement Association



4	Hoffman Park	Work with the Parkwood Community Association to explore the feasibility of making the existing private Hoffman Park at the end of Springdale Avenue publicly accessible.	LONG	PLANNING	Parkwood Civic Association	Parkwood Civic Association
5	Nautilus Point-St. Luke's Trail Connection	Work with the ownership of Nautilus Point to explore the feasibility of creating an extension of the existing private waterfront esplanade as a public trail connecting to the existing St. Luke's Nature Park.	LONG	PLANNING	Nautilus Point	Nautilus Point St. Luke's Church
6	Nautilus Point Esplanade	Work with the ownership of Nautilus Point to explore the feasibility of making the existing private esplanade public accessible.	LONG	PLANNING	Nautilus Point	Nautilus Point
7	Naval Academy Spa Creek Esplanade	Work with the U.S. Naval Academy and NSA-Annapolis to explore the feasibility of connecting the existing esplanade on Spa Creek adjacent to the USNA Visitor Center to Susan Campbell Park.	SHORT	PLANNING	U.S. Naval Academy NSA-Annapolis	U.S. Naval Academy NSA-Annapolis
8	Calvary United Methodist Church	Work with Calvary United Methodist Church to create a public trail along College Creek connecting to the planned Gateway Park, Maryland DNR offices, and Adams Elementary.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Calvary United Methodist Church/DNR	Calvary United Methodist Church/DNR
9	Janice Drive Water Access Site	Work with Green Acres Improvement Association to explore the feasibility of making the existing private park on Janice Drive publicly accessible.	LONG	PLANNING	Green Acres Improvement Association	Green Acres Improvement Association
10	Spa Cove Apartments Waterfront	Work with the owners of Spa Cove Apartments to create a new boardwalk trail connecting the future Hawkins Cove Park with Truxtun Park.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Spa Cove Apartments	Spa Cove Apartments

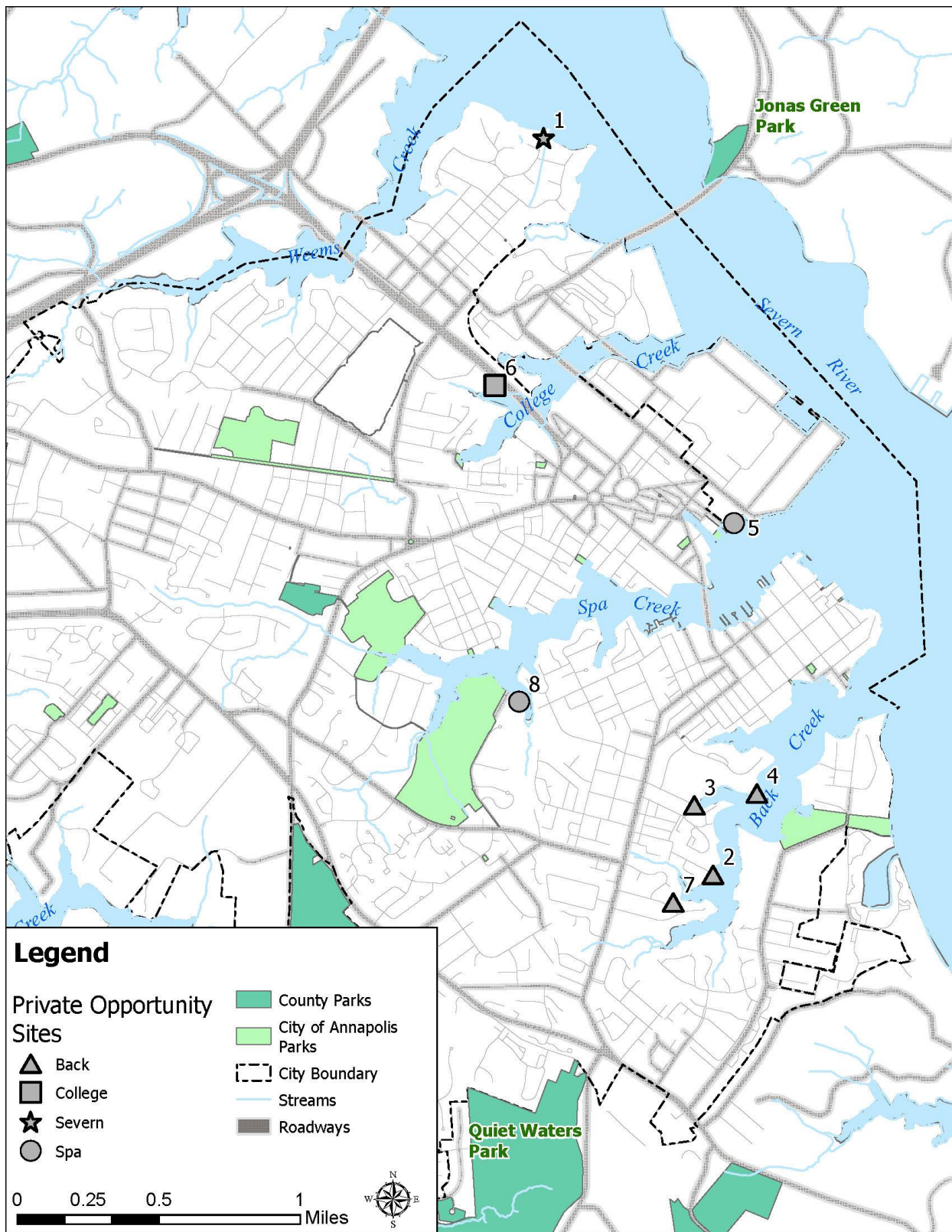


Figure 31: Privately-Owned Sites where an opportunity may exist for future public water access

Map #	Water Access Site Name
1	Wardour Drive Water Access Site
2	Hoffman Park
3	Nautilus Point - St. Luke's Trail Connection
4	Nautilus Point Esplanade
5	Naval Academy Spa Creek Esplanade
6	Calvary United Methodist Church - College Creek Trail
7	Janice Drive Water Access Site
8	Spa Cove Apartments Waterfront



Image: Transwestern Real Estate Services

**Figure 32: Nautilus Point on Back Creek already supports some public water access activities such as paddle rentals, charter boats, and a boat club, but the promenade is not currently public waterfront. (Image Source: Transwestern Real estate Services)**



## 4. Goals for Equitable Public Water Access

Providing equitable public water access does not just begin with addressing physical barriers. It entails the examination of how to reinvest in marginalized and disinvested communities, and reconnecting these communities to economic, social, environmental, and cultural assets. It also requires government agencies, businesses, service organizations, and communities to strategically work together in more collaborative and holistic ways to advance community-centered waterfront activities, programs and infrastructure.

### 4.1. *What is Equitable Public Water Access?*

**Equity** can be defined as “the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, based on race, gender, ability, income, ethnicity, immigration status, age, religion, sexual orientation, and more.”<sup>4</sup>

Due to historical disinvestment of resources and neglect in primarily low-income communities and communities of color within the City of Annapolis, inequities in public water access exist. These inequities prevent these communities from enjoying the use of Annapolis’ waterfront and extensive system of public waterfront access sites. To address current inequities, the City of Annapolis, through this plan, is working to ensure that its waterfront (e.g., parks, public docking facilities, access easements, waterways, trails) and water-based activities are equitably accessible and available to all residents.

### 4.2. *Advancing Equitable Public Water Access*

The City of Annapolis and its numerous waterways and shorelines are abundant with opportunities to provide waterfront recreation and health benefits for residents. With an extensive waterfront but limited public water access, the City of Annapolis spearheaded this initiative to identify and develop action plans for city-owned sites and other publicly-accessible sites to be transformed into more inviting and accessible waterfront spaces, especially for marginalized communities that would benefit the most.

To advance equitable public water access, the City of Annapolis is committed to eliminating barriers and inequities that are by-products of historic land use policies and practices that included residential segregation through deed restrictions, and racist planning decisions through redlining, urban renewal, systematic disinvestment, and exclusionary zoning, that have often excluded marginalized communities. As equity entails multiple strategies to ensure equitable public water access, the City of Annapolis will implement the following goals:

- **Goal 1: Accessibility** - Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be improved, programmed, or designed to be highly accessible and meet ADA requirements.

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<sup>4</sup>Riggs and Schoder, [Urban Land Institute: 10 Principles for Enhancing Equitable Access to Parks](#), 10<sup>5</sup> “2040 Comprehensive Plan.” *2040 Comprehensive Plan | Annapolis, MD*, Dec. 2023, [www.annapolis.gov/1446/2040-Comprehensive-Plan](http://www.annapolis.gov/1446/2040-Comprehensive-Plan).

- **Goal 2: Community Focus**— Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be welcoming to all and designed as a community amenity which provides safe public access to the waterfront and expands engagement with the water.
- **Goal 3: Connectivity** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be properly signed and physically connected to a multi-modal transportation network that provides bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and boating access with connections wherever and whenever possible to adjacent sites.
- **Goal 4: Resilient Design** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be designed and constructed to be durable, low maintenance, and adapted to anticipated impacts from climate change such as rising sea levels, storm surge, and extreme temperatures.
- **Goal 5: Equity** – Existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities shall be prioritized in communities where public water access has been historically underinvested; in communities where documented gaps exist in the city’s public water access network; and in communities with high concentrations of low-income and/or persons of color to ensure adequate and equitable public access to the water and water-based activities.
- **Goal 6: Policy** – Develop and codify “*Public Waterfront Access*” provisions into city law, regulations, and requirements to clarify and regulate activities at the existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities based on best practices and community values. Policies should address safety, mitigate potential conflicts, and allow for a wide range of uses.

These goals were developed with an interdisciplinary team of City staff and were informed by best practices from across the country.

## 5. Program and Partnership Initiatives

Strong program and partnership initiatives are required for activating equitable public water access in Annapolis. These initiatives create continuous opportunities for ideas and values to be exchanged, expand the population of water users, leverages resources, and build a community of support. Fostering relationships based on shared goals deepens trust as well, allowing multiple stakeholders to maintain strong ties to specific sites and continue to advance equitable public water access in coordination with others. These partnerships can also directly influence park conditions, as the public water access sites will require evolving levels and types of maintenance and support, some of which are best provided by community partners .

### 5.1. Program Opportunities

The City of Annapolis continues to seek program opportunities that contribute to enhancing and expanding equitable public water access throughout the city. Examples of existing program opportunities are summarized below in alphabetical order by category; note that this list is not intended to be exhaustive and does not include all existing program opportunities.

#### *Current Public Programs*

- **Annapolis Police Department Fishing Camps** – In partnership with Anglers Sport Center, the Annapolis Police Department offers fishing camps every summer that teach youth how to fish and enable opportunities for participants to build relationships with officers.
- **Annapolis Recreation & Parks Summer Camps** – The Annapolis Recreation & Parks Department offers a wide variety of summer camps, including water-based recreation camps. These are divided by age and focus on building teamwork and social skills for youth.
- **Anne Arundel County Department of Health (Sun and Water Safety)** – The Anne Arundel County Department of Health provides water safety resources, including CPR classes and swimming lessons for youth and adults.
- **Anne Arundel Swim Lessons** – Anne Arundel County offers swim lessons for different age groups at Arundel Olympic Swim Center and North Arundel Aquatic Center. **Navy MWR Kids Fishing Clinic** – Sponsored by Anglers Sport Center, this clinic teaches children key fishing tools and techniques. It also provides live bait and fishing rods and is free for children and parents

#### *Non-Profit Organizations*

- **Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC)** – Although Annapolis Yacht Club is primarily a membership-based organization, it does offer adult and youth sailing classes and adult power boating classes for non-members. The club also maintains a charitable foundation that donates to a variety of water-based recreation programs and maritime organizations.
- **Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (C.R.A.B.)** – C.R.A.B. manages a new public boating center at a City-owned property on Back Creek with a mission to provide sailing programs to people with disabilities, recovering military, and youth from underserved communities.



- **Eastport Yacht Club (EYC)**– Although the Eastport Yacht Club is primarily a membership-based organization, it does offer sailing classes for adults and youth of all skill levels and adult powerboat classes for non-members.
- **Lifeguard Training in Maryland** – The American Red Cross facilitates lifeguard training opportunities in its Lifeguard and Aquatics programs. The organization also offers classes as well as specialized training in waterpark and shallow water lifeguarding.
- **Livewater Foundation** – Livewater Foundation is a dedicated group of paddle enthusiasts who are passionate about giving back to the community by facilitating watersports programs and waterway stewardship programs.
- **Severn Sailing Association** – Although Severn Sailing Association is primarily a membership-based organization, it does offer sailing classes for youth and an accessible high school sailing program.

### *Businesses*

- **Anglers Sport Center Combos for Kids** – Though the local Anglers Sport Center, Combos for Kids is a program that provides fishing opportunities for children and their families.
- **Annapolis Canoe & Kayak** – This paddle rental and sales business is located on Spa Creek near Third Street.
- **Annapolis Harbor Boat Rental (Seasonal)** – This seasonal paddle rental business is located on Spa Creek near Einhardt Russell Street End Park.
- **Annapolis Sailing School** – Annapolis Sailing School offers sailing classes for adults and youth at all skill levels.
- **Annapolis School of Seamanship (ASOS) partnership with the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water** – This partnership offers courses on evenings and weekends for beginner, experienced, and women boaters. The courses offered cover topics such as docking, open water vessel management, advanced maneuvering, and women in boating.
- **Capital SUP** – This local paddle rental and tour outfitter offers a variety of paddle programs for all ages and skill levels.
- **Safety First Swimming** – Safety First Swimming is a local swimming school that offers both youth and adult lesson opportunities.

## 5.2. Partnership Opportunities

Strategic partnership can provide and leverage opportunities for coordination and collaboration, such as for funding, project implementation, programming, and ongoing operations and maintenance.

### *Potential Funding Partners*

- **Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT)** – CBT offers a variety of relevant grant programs that focus on three main objectives: environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement. CBT also administers the City Watershed Restoration Fund grant program.
- **Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area** – This is a regional funding organization established by the State of Maryland and focused on preservation and cultural programs in the Annapolis area. It is also a potential partner on expanded public water access, trail, programming, and education initiatives.
- **Chesapeake Watershed Investments for landscape Defense (WILD)** – The Chesapeake WILD grants program is delivered in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) protects federally listed and at-risk species by improving ecological connectivity and habitat conditions.
- **Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County** – This is a non-profit organization in the Annapolis area which aims to inspire and promote charitable giving in Anne Arundel County by connecting people who care with causes that matter. The organization currently advises many funders with interest in the environment and social equity, and other causes which intersect with the goals of this Plan.
- **Department of Defense – REPI and DCIP Programs**
  - **Readiness and Environmental protection Integration Program (REPI)** – The REPI supports cost-sharing agreements between Military Services and other entities that address environmental issues and increase resilience to climate change. Local governments and private conservation organizations are among those who are eligible for these agreements.
  - **Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)** – The DCIP supports community infrastructure projects that benefit military installations.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (CCGP)** – The program will award roughly \$2 billion in project funding for projects that provide meaningful improvements to the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. For local park and recreation entities to be eligible, they must submit their application jointly with a Community-Based Non-Profit Organization (CBO) – defined by EPA as any organization that is not organized for profit and operates primarily to provide benefits in the public interest.
- **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** – The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is a major funding and technical assistance agency for improved and expanded public water access initiatives. It is a current partner on public water access improvements. The agency

owns property on College creek and is a major funder of improvements to public water access. This is a potential partner on trail initiatives near offices.

- **Community Parks & Playgrounds Program** – This program provides grants to local governments.
- **Greenspace Equity Program** – The Greenspace Equity Program was established in 2023 to provide grants for enhancing the public health and livability of overburdened and underserved communities by implementing projects to preserve, create, and improve public greenspace in these communities.
- **Waterways Improvement Fund**-- Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) provides financial support to local governments in the form of grants and/or loans for a wide variety of capital projects and services for the boating public.
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)** – NFWF is the nation's largest private conservation organization and works on behalf of federal agencies to administer environmental grant programs including the Small Watershed Grants Program and Chesapeake WILD Program
- **National Park Service (NPS)** – The National Park Service provides major land conservation, programming, technical assistance, and is a funding agency. The NPS Chesapeake Gateways is a current partner on expanded public water access, trail, programming, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Small Watershed Grants Program (SWG)** – The SWG Program is delivered in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Chesapeake Bay Program. It supports community-based restoration and protection of Chesapeake Bay Watershed ecosystems.
- **The Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**-- innovative organization that was established in 2022 to finance and develop resiliency projects on behalf of the city of Annapolis.
- **USDOT / Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – TAP and RTP Programs**
  - **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** – The State of Maryland's TAP funding comes from the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside of the FHWA's Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBGP). Its purpose is to award grant funding to transportation-related community projects that enhance mobility, accessibility, cultural/historical significance, the environment, and aesthetics.
  - **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** – The RTP provides funds to states to develop recreational trail facilities, which applies to both land and water-based systems as well as both motorized and non-motorized uses. This program is administered by the MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA).

### *Potential Project Implementation Partners*

- **Acton Landing Community Association** – This neighborhood group represents residents living near Acton Cove Park and is a current partner on the maintenance of that park. In addition to regular upkeep of the planting beds, the group has also helped raise funding for projects including a recent grant from State of Maryland which helped address a major drainage problem at the park.
- **Annapolis Conservancy Board** – This volunteer board was established by the City of Annapolis to pursue conservation easement opportunities and help manage easements. As part of the Draft Comprehensive Plan Annapolis Ahead 2040, the Board helped develop a Greenway Map identifying potential conservation opportunities which overlap with many of the public water access opportunities in this Plan.
- **Admiral Heights Improvement Association** – This association represents the Admiral Heights community of West Annapolis and manages multiple private HOA water access sites. There is a potential partnership opportunity on expanding public water access on Weems Creek.
- **Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS)** – AACPS owns and operates all public schools in the Annapolis area including Bates Middle School located on Spa Creek, Adams Elementary on College Creek, and Georgetown East Elementary on Back Creek. All of these schools are potential partners on public water access improvements and stewardship initiatives.
- **Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) - Adams Elementary** – Partner on expanded public water access adjacent to Robert Eades Park including trail initiatives.
- **Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks** – The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks is the manager of multiple public water access sites as well as major partner on park and trail development for improved and expanded public water access.
- **Art in Public Spaces Commission** – administers a dedicated annual budget for arts programming, and regularly funds programming and public artworks at parks along the waterfront.
- **Calvary Methodist Church** – This church owns property on College Creek and is a potential partner on trail initiatives to connect to new and existing parks along the creek.
- **Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA)** – The HACA is the owner of three multifamily public housing developments on College Creek including Morris Blum Senior Apartments, Obery Courts, and Bloomsbury Square. It is a current partner on expanded public water access at Robert Eades Park and at the Bloomsbury Square community. It is also a future partner on new public water access at Bertina Nick Way. It is the owner of a large multifamily public housing community on Spa Creek at Hawkins Cove and a current partner on Hawkins Cove restoration and public water access improvements.
- **Kingsport Community Association** – This association represents the Kingsport community along Forest Drive which manages a private water access site on Church Creek and is a potential partner on expanded public water access.



- **Maryland Environmental Trust** (large conservation area at Admiral Drive) – The Maryland Environmental Trust manages a large conservation tract on Weems Creek and is a potential partner on future trail initiative and water access from the conservation tract.
- **Maryland Reentry Resource Center** – This non-profit organization aims to reduce recidivism in Maryland by empowering formerly-incarcerated citizens through access to meaningful employment opportunities, nature-inspired programming, and hands-on training in environmental stewardship. The organization is a current partner on many waterfront park projects in and around Annapolis through its Chesapeake Bay Restoration Workforce Initiative.
- **Nautilus Point** – Nautilus Point is the owner of a large multifamily development on Back Creek and leases space to the Capital SUP paddle rental business. It is a potential partner on expanded public water access and trail initiatives.
- **Naval Support Activity – Annapolis (NSA-A)** – This is a major property owner in the Annapolis area and current partner on public water access, trail, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)** – The SPCA owns a large property on Back Creek with wooded trails and is a potential partner on expanded public water access and trail initiatives.
- **St. Anne's Parish** – St. Anne's Parish owns a major historic cemetery on College Creek and adjacent to Northwest Street Park and is a current partner on trail initiatives.
- **St. John's College** – This college is located on College Creek with an extensive informal public open space and living shoreline and is a current partner on public water access and trail initiatives.
- **St. Luke's Church** – This church owns and manages a large public nature park on Back Creek and is a current partner on trail and stewardship initiatives.
- **Wardour Improvement Association** – This association represents the Wardour community of West Annapolis and manages multiple private HOA water access sites. There is a potential partnership opportunity on expanding public water access on Weems Creek or the Severn River, and a potential trail initiative along the former railroad corridor through the neighborhood.
- **Watermark** – This locally-owned tour company provides a wide range of programs that connect people to the water in and around Annapolis, and is a current partner in providing water taxi service to all of the City's waterfront parks on Spa Creek and Back Creek and many other destinations; providing youth programs such as field trips and summer camps; and public cruises which help introduce both visitors and residents to key sites on the waterfront.

#### *Potential Program Partners*

- **Annapolis Canoe & Kayak** – This paddle rental and sales business is located on Spa Creek near Third Street.
- **Annapolis Harbor Boat Rental (Seasonal)** – This seasonal paddle rental business is located on Spa Creek near Einhardt Russell Street End Park.

- **Annapolis Sailing School** – This is a for-profit sailing school and club on Back Creek and is a potential partner on public water access programs and events.
- **Annapolis Maritime Museum** – This museum manages public education facilities at two City-owned properties on Back Creek, and an historic sailboat. It is the current partner in public water access programs, events, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Boys & Girls Club** – This is a nonprofit youth recreation organization located at the Bywater Mutual Homes near Forest Drive and is a potential partner on programming initiatives
- **Blacks of the Chesapeake** – This is a nonprofit advocacy, preservation, and educational programming organization focusing on Black history and culture on the Chesapeake Bay. It is a current partner in educational programs and preservation initiatives.
- **Capital SUP** - Capital SUP is a paddle rental and tour outfitter with locations at Quiet Waters Park (Harness Creek) and Nautilus Point (Spa Creek).
- **Chesapeake Children’s Museum** – This museum manages a large City-owned property at the headwaters of Spa Creek which includes a wooded trail network along the creek and activity spaces along the creek. It programs events on the Creek and is a potential partner on public water access improvements.
- **Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (C.R.A.B.)** – C.R.A.B. manages a new public boating center at a City-owned property on Back Creek with a mission to provide sailing programs to people with disabilities, recovering military, and youth from underserved communities.
- **Livewater Foundation** – Livewater Foundation is a dedicated group of paddle enthusiasts who are passionate about giving back to the community by facilitating watersports programs and waterway stewardship programs.
- **Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts** – This community art center is located near the creek and adjacent to Bates Middle School and is a potential partner on public water access improvements, programs, events, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Watermark** – This locally-owned tour company provides a wide range of programs that connect people to the water in and around Annapolis, and is a current partner in providing water taxi service to all of the City’s waterfront parks on Spa Creek and Back Creek and many other destinations; providing youth programs such as field trips and summer camps; and public cruises which help introduce both visitors and residents to key sites on the waterfront.

#### *Potential Operation and Maintenance Partners*

- **Acton Landing Community Association** – This neighborhood group represents residents living near Acton Cove Park and is a current partner on the maintenance of that park. In addition to regular upkeep of the planting beds, the group has also helped raise funding for projects including a recent grant from State of Maryland which helped address a major drainage problem at the park.

- **Annapolis Canoe & Kayak** – This paddle rental and sales business is located on Spa Creek near Third Street.
- **Annapolis Conservancy Board** – This volunteer board within the City of Annapolis Government assists with land acquisition for conservation and management of conversation easements. It is a current partner on expanded public water access, trail, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Annapolis Harbor Boat Rental (Seasonal)** – This seasonal paddle rental business is located on Spa Creek near Einhardt Russell Street End Park.
- **Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy** – This is a major environmental advocacy and technical assistance organization working throughout the county. It is a current partner in restoration and stewardship initiatives.
- **Arundel Rivers Federation** – This is a large regional environmental organization for the South River watershed and is a current partner of numerous restoration and stewardship initiatives.
- **Capital SUP** - Capital SUP is a paddle rental and tour outfitter with locations at Quiet Waters Park (Harness Creek) and Nautilus Point (Spa Creek).
- **Chesapeake Conservancy** – The Chesapeake Conservancy is a major land conservation, advocacy, and technical assistance organization that is a current partner on expanded public water access, trail, and stewardship initiatives.
- **Eastport Civic Association** – This major advocate for improved and expanded public water access is a current partner on stewardship initiatives.
- **Maryland Reentry Resource Center** – This non-profit organization aims to reduce recidivism in Maryland by empowering formerly-incarcerated citizens through access to meaningful employment opportunities, nature-inspired programming, and hands-on training in environmental stewardship. The organization is a current partner on many waterfront park projects in and around Annapolis through its Chesapeake Bay Restoration Workforce Initiative.
- **Murray Hill Residents Association** – This association represents the Murray Hill community near downtown Annapolis and is a current partner on stewardship initiatives.
- **Nature Sacred** – This Annapolis-based park foundation works nationally and is a past and current partner on public water access improvements and stewardship initiatives.
- **Save Our Trees** – This is a tree preservation volunteer organization and is a current partner on stewardship and restoration.
- **Severn River Association** – This major environmental advocacy and technical assistance organization focuses on the Severn River Watershed and is a current partner on restoration and stewardship initiatives.
- **Spa Creek Conservancy** – This is a current partner on restoration and stewardship initiatives at multiple sites on Spa Creek.



- **Ward One Residents Association** – This association represents Downtown Annapolis residents and is an advocate for improved and expanded public water access. It is a current partner on stewardship initiatives.
- **Watermark** – This locally-owned tour company provides a wide range of programs that connect people to the water in and around Annapolis, and is a current partner in providing water taxi service to all of the City’s waterfront parks on Spa Creek and Back Creek and many other destinations; providing youth programs such as field trips and summer camps; and public cruises which help introduce both visitors and residents to key sites on the waterfront.
- **West Annapolis Civic Association** – This association represents the West Annapolis community and is an advocate for improved and expanded public water access and is a current partner on park stewardship.



**Figure 33: Watermark is a locally-owned tour company and important community partner through its youth programs, public cruises, and water taxi service. (Source: Watermark)**





**Figure 34: Annapolis' Micro-mobility Program which includes dockless e-scooters and e-bikes is a major component of the City's alternative mobility approach.**

## 6. Alternative Mobility Initiatives on Land and Water

### 6.1. *What is Alternative Mobility?*

Building and maintaining a high quality waterfront park system is meaningless if the parks are not highly accessible. Thus, mobility options connecting to the parks are critically important to ensuring success. As a city located on a peninsula with minimal space to expand roadways or parking options, one of Annapolis' only tools to improving mobility is reducing personal vehicle dependency, particularly for short trips. Moreover, very few of the city's existing water access sites offer dedicated parking areas. The City is therefore committed to providing multiple safe and comfortable transportation options for those who live in, work in, or visit the City, especially when it comes to visiting the waterfront. This approach can be considered promoting "*alternative mobility*."

Common *alternative mobility* initiatives include improving sidewalk conditions, expanding bike networks, increasing public transit service, and providing more places to tie up a small boat at no cost. Alternative mobility options on the water could also include increasing access to water taxi services, developing a paddle share program, or establishing a fixed route passenger ferry service.

For the most part, Annapolis' waterfront park system is designed to be accessed via alternative mobility options such as walking or biking. Annapolis has very few parks of the size, amenities, and varied attractions to be destination parks worth driving to by car from farther distances. City Dock/Susan Campbell Park, Truxtun Park, and Ellen Moyer Park qualify as the City's only large destination parks worthy of a day trip from outside the Annapolis area. Elktonia/Carr's Beach will also qualify as a destination park when complete. By comparison, the rest of the City's parks are small pocket parks embedded in neighborhoods with no dedicated parking and few modern amenities. In most cases, the only attraction is the access to the water itself. Although this Plan provides many recommendations for improving these parks, they will in most cases remain constrained by their limited size and location with no additional parking. While a primary goal of this Plan is to expand use of these parks and access to them, they will continue to be primarily accessed by foot, bike, boat, or nearby transit which naturally limits any potential for added traffic.

### 6.2. *Existing Alternative Mobility Efforts*

The City of Annapolis has several ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing the number of transportation options available to residents and visitors. In the City's adopted comprehensive plan *Annapolis Ahead 2040*, this includes goals to "shift the mix of mobility investments towards public transit, micro-mobility/ride hailing, and active modes" as well as "build a policy environment in Annapolis that is mode-neutral." General transportation improvements throughout the City will generate public water access benefits by increasing the number of ways that individuals can reach the waterfront.

#### ***Improving Public Transit***

*Annapolis Ahead 2040* also prioritizes improvements to transit service, including access and reliability. These improvements will make it easier for the public, particularly those who do not have access to a personal vehicle, to reach the waterfront. Moreover, the improvements will relieve parking pressure at water access locations with limited parking options. Recommended transit actions described in the draft plan include implementing a no-fare pilot program to encourage ridership, reimagining the Annapolis



Transit route network, providing more frequent and on-demand service, and connecting Annapolis Transit to regional transit options.

### ***Strengthening the Bike Network***

*Annapolis Ahead 2040* also puts significant emphasis on creating a safe and connected bike network, which is important for expanding access to the waterfront. Like transit, making it safer and more comfortable for individuals to bike to more places can yield access benefits for those without a personal vehicle. Investing in bike infrastructure is also an investment in low- or no-emission transportation options, which is in line with the City's vision to be an "Adaptive City" that is committed to environmental sustainability. Recommended actions outlined in *Annapolis Ahead 2040* include prioritizing bike connections to schools as well as locations where the highest number of traffic fatalities and injuries currently happen. The City will also ensure that all approved bike facility recommendations are budgeted and implemented within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for general roadway improvements.

### ***Expanding Micro-mobility/Ride hailing Opportunities***

The City of Annapolis has committed to expanding micro-mobility and ride hailing options throughout its neighborhoods. Existing options include micro-transit, bike-share, ridesharing services, and water taxis, with paddle-share, car-share, fixed route passenger ferries, and an integrated mobility application proposed for the future. This work will be carried out through collaborative efforts between the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Annapolis Department of Transportation.

In 2022, the City contracted with the micro-mobility company Bird to operate a citywide e-bike and e-scooter pilot program. The program has been successful based on data that demonstrates thousands of miles traveled and hundreds of trips by commuters to jobs. Programs such as this are expected to grow in the future, which will provide new ways for residents and visitors to access the waterfront.

## ***6.3. Opportunities to Expand Alternative Mobility***

As discussed earlier in this Plan, the City of Annapolis hosted three focus groups between August 2022 and February 2023 as part of the planning process for this document. The results of the focus group discussions informed alternative mobility opportunities in the City, which are described in more detail in the sub-sections that follow.

### ***Safety Measures***

Focus group participants suggested a need for additional safety measures that would improve the experience of pedestrians and cyclists. Safety measures such as expanding the network of protected bike lanes and making improvements to sidewalk infrastructure, particularly where gaps exist or obstructions block access, will make it easier for residents and visitors to access the waterfront without a personal vehicle.

### ***Information Sharing***

Focus group members provided ideas about how the City could improve information sharing about current water access sites and site conditions. For example, some proposed sharing information through a mobile application of water access points. Others also noted that designated community walks to available sites or site "advertisements" could provide improved wayfinding directions to several sites. These directions could highlight access using different

modes of transportation and could be included on a website, in an app, and/or in a printed brochure with directions.

### *Wayfinding Signage*

Consistent and clear wayfinding signage is an important site component that helps visitors and residents find their way to water access sites *and* understand the activities available there, such as fishing, paddling, picnicking, etc. As identified by the focus groups, signage is also an opportunity to share the history and cultural significance of selected sites. For example, one individual remarked that the Inner West Street corridor in particular helps people find the waterfront via signage. Some also pointed to the waterfront towns in North Carolina's Outer Banks as a model for signage and wayfinding.

### *Bike and Scooter Share Program*

Focus group participants noted that bike and scooter share program may make it easier for residents and visitors without access to personal transportation to travel to the waterfront. The City of Annapolis has initiated this effort in the past through a contract with Bird. This e-bike and e-scooter share effort has led to hundreds of trips across the City. Bird also offers a "Community Pricing" equity access program that provides a 50% discount per ride to qualifying individual with low incomes, veterans, senior citizens, students, teachers, and community organizations. This program is currently underutilized in Annapolis and could be more widely promoted to increase e-bike and e-scooter use.

### *Increase Available Waterfront Trails*

Focus group participants stated that the City should attempt to increase the quantity of waterfront available to the public. With limitations on available public land, public access to the waterfront could be dramatically expanded by increasing the number of trails along. Boardwalk trails would provide new transportation options combined recreation amenities and new opportunities to engage with natural resources.

### *Paddle Trails*

Annapolis currently has no designated paddle trails despite an extensive waterway network and numerous locations for connections to landside destinations. Promoting paddle trails on the city's creeks will not necessarily address alternative mobility as much as recreation opportunities but could clarify areas for safer paddling where conflicts with larger vessels are minimized.

### *Small Area Planning Opportunities*

New small area planning efforts are needed to advance connectivity, alternative mobility, and improved water access in specific areas of the city. College Creek is a priority for this where a master plan for parks and trails is critically needed given a high percentage of public land and institutional properties but minimal public water access.

### *Repair and Enhance Boat Docking, Launching, and Mooring*

Repairing and enhancing public docks, boat launches, and public mooring buoys will make it easier for residents and visitors to use a range of watercraft including kayaks, canoes,

paddleboards, dingys ,and small sail boats. This includes increasing the number of docks and public boat launches in places where there are gaps in these resources, and designing them for multiple watercraft. The city also maintains 76 public mooring buoys within city waterways, the majority of which are reserved for transient use. To ensure that these are accessible to residents, in addition to visiting boaters, it is important that policies are in place ensure fees are equitable and there is an adequate supply of buoys available to local boaters.

#### *Paddleshare Program*

Developing a paddleshare program would make it easier for residents and visitors to explore the waterways given the cost of buying a personal paddelcraft is often out of reach for residents and challenging to get paddlecraft to a launch without a personal vehicle . Focus group participants noted that a paddleshare program used to exist at the Watergate Apartments, Truxtun Park, and Sixth Street. Providing paddlecraft racks at public water access locations is another program that would aid residents to get on the water more easily.

#### *Water Taxi Access*

Focus group participants stated that water taxi access could be improved by subsidizing fares for residents. High costs aimed at the tourist market were said to be a current barrier to use. While the City's planned Electric Ferry Pilot Program would offer subsidized fixed route service between Eastport and Annapolis, the water taxis service a larger area. Another important facet of improving water taxi use is adequate signage at water taxi stops. The Inventory and Needs Assessment Report found that most locations serviced by the water taxis lacked any signage for the service, which inevitably limits access.



## 7. Action Plan



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**Figure 35: Annapolis Maritime Museum Boardwalk on Back Creek**

This Public Water Access *Action Plan* advances the City of Annapolis' commitment to equitable water access as part of its vision of "...[Being] a more equitable, healthy, and resilient city."<sup>5</sup> This Action plan further the goals established in the Draft Comprehensive Plan *Annapolis Ahead 2040* by providing a more detailed guide to achieving equitable public water access. This Action Plan is intended to be utilized as a resource for not only City staff and elected officials, but also community members, institutional partners, and other key decision makers.

With a focus on equity, this Action Plan provides a path for how the City of Annapolis may implement and evaluate its public water access work to benefit all Annapolis residents and visitors. This plan lays out six strategic goals, and the associated actions required to achieve them in the coming years.

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<sup>5</sup> "2040 Comprehensive Plan." *2040 Comprehensive Plan | Annapolis, MD*, Dec. 2023, [www.annapolis.gov/1446/2040-Comprehensive-Plan](http://www.annapolis.gov/1446/2040-Comprehensive-Plan).

## 7.1. OVERVIEW OF GOAL AREAS

The Action plan establishes six goals to advance equitable public water access in the City of Annapolis. The goals were developed with an interdisciplinary team of City staff and were informed by best practices from across the country. Each goal includes specific phased actions to guide progress in developing public water access. Table 7 below provides an overview of the six overarching goals, which were also discussed above in Section 4: Goals for Equitable Public Water Access.

**Table 7: Annapolis Public Water Access Goals**

Goal 1	Accessibility	Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be improved, programmed or designed to be as universally accessible as possible and meet specific ADA requirements wherever practical.
Goal 2	Community-Focused	Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be welcoming to all and designed as a community amenity which provides safe public access to the waterfront and expands engagement with the water.
Goal 3	Connectivity	Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be properly signed and physically connected to a multi-modal transportation network that provides bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and boating access with connections wherever and whenever possible to adjacent sites.
Goal 4	Resilient Design	Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be designed and constructed to be durable, low maintenance, and adapted to anticipated impacts from climate change such as rising sea levels, storm surge, and extreme temperatures.
Goal 5	Equity	Existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities shall be prioritized in communities where public water access has been historically underinvested; in communities where documented gaps exist in the city's public water access network; and in communities with high concentrations of low-income and/or persons of color to ensure adequate and equitable public access to the water and water-based activities.
Goal 6	Policy	Develop and codify " <i>Public Water Access</i> " provisions into city law, regulations, and requirements to clarify and regulate activities at the existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities based on best practices and community values. Policies should address safety, mitigate potential conflicts, and allow for a wide range of uses.

## 7.2. Actions

This section presents the actions developed to guide the City of Annapolis toward equitable public water access. Actions were drafted through a workshop format in coordination with an action planning team comprised of staff from many City departments who delved into the specific nuances and context of providing equitable public water access in Annapolis. The primary objective was for the action planning team to gather insights that would directly inform the development of this Action Plan, delineating the next steps towards enhancing public water access across the city.

The workshop's outcomes were structured to establish a solid foundation for action planning. Through the workshop, the action planning team began by reviewing and discussing established goals pertinent to equitable public water access, drawing from sources such as the Draft Comprehensive Plan *Annapolis Ahead 2040* and recommendations outlined in the Annapolis Public Water Access Inventory Summary Report and Needs Assessment. The primary outcome was the identification and prioritization of actionable steps to be included in this Action Plan. Additionally, critical considerations such as partnership engagement, funding requirements, and data analysis needs were addressed to ensure the successful implementation of prioritized actions.

Through a robust dialogue and collaborative effort, the action planning team set the stage for tangible progress towards achieving equitable public water access in Annapolis. Plan actions are organized by goal and presented in the following tables.



**Figure 36: Public mooring field on Spa Creek**

**GOAL 1: Accessibility** - Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be improved, programmed, or designed to be as universally accessible as possible and meet specific ADA requirements wherever practical.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Strategically improve water access locations where opportunities exist for expanded access using floating docks, ramps, and beach access. Improvements should consider the needs of visitors arriving from both land and water as well as ADA compliance.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Community Support Permitting, Staffing,		Site access from both land and water
2	Retrofit all existing floating docks to include step-downs, grab bars, or ramps to improve vessel access and dedicate annual capital funds toward these improvements.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing, Permitting		Increased accessibility for all watercraft users
3	Identify and improve key locations for full ADA access to ensure sites are compliant.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Permitting, Staffing		Comprehensive ADA-accessible system
4	Build accessibility information for each site into the online mapping tool so users will be able to make informed choices about the sites that will meet their access needs.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		Information available on a digital format
5	Work with Maryland DNR to establish a 'free-fishing zone' where a fishing license is not needed and coordinate signage with other fishing rules and information.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Permitting	Maryland DNR	Increased fishing opportunities for the public
6	Dedicate at least one ADA-compliant parking space at each public water access location.	Public Works, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM	Permitting, Adequate space for parking		Guaranteed parking for persons with disabilities at water access sites



7	Ensure that all previously established public water access easements are enforced and clearly signed to indicate allowed public use.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		Clear and consistent signage, improved maintenance
8	As part of a coordinated citywide program, add kayak/paddleboard racks at parks where space is available based on findings of the City's pilot program.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, staffing		Greater access to and expansion of paddle recreation
9	Add an urban park ranger to the staff of the Department of Recreation & Parks who can be based at Waterworks Park.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding		Expansion of nature-based programs and education
10	Identify a suitable site for building a public boat ramp on Back Creek which has the second most public water access among the city's creeks but currently no public ramp.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding		Greater access and opportunities for recreational and small-scale commercial boating and fishing
11	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations are designed to be accessible to persons over age 65 who may be more mobility challenged.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbomaster	SHORT	Funding	AARP	Improved access for a greater diversity of residents and visitors

**GOAL 2: Community-Focused** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be welcoming to all and designed as a community amenity which provides safe public access to the waterfront and expands engagement with the water.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Evaluate sites in which swimming can be permitted based on consistently safe water quality and limited hazards.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	SHORT		Anne Arundel County Health Department, Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks, Spa Creek Conservancy	Safe swimming areas open to the public
2	Update signage at all parks to be welcoming, consistent in appearance, with current information about permitted activities, and where relevant, interpretive information on historic, cultural, or ecological assets.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Staffing		Clear and Consistent Signage, Comprehensive system-wide wayfinding
3	Partner with Anne Arundel County Health Department, Spa Creek Conservancy, and/or other organizations to conduct regular water testing in all creeks and maintain publicly accessible water quality data.	Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Funding, Staffing	Anne Arundel County Health Department, Spa Creek Conservancy	Current and timely public information to inform safer use of water
4	Advance the conversion of stormwater access easements to community pocket parks in coordination with the Department of Public Works and	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Permitting, Survey Information City Council legislation	Severn River Association	More water access points

	Department of Recreation & Parks.					
5	Explore partnerships with local environmental and recreation non-profit organizations for new or expanded programs to connect people with the water, particularly opportunities for youth.	Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing	Severn River Association; Spa Creek Conservancy, Arundel Rivers Federation, Livewater Foundation, Marshall	Increased programming opportunities, particularly for youth
6	Ensure that City of Annapolis consistently offers water access summer camps that include fishing and paddleboarding either at Truxtun Park or an alternate location.	Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing	Severn River Association; Spa Creek Conservancy; Livewater Foundation; Capital SUP	Increased programming opportunities, particularly for youth
7	Create a clear policy related to grilling at public water access locations including dedicated locations and safety precautions. Ensure that new signage communicates the policy.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT			Safer use of parks, Clear and consistent signage, reduction in conflicts between users
8	Partner with Maryland DNR and other local organizations to expand oyster habitats in designated areas, and support for community-based oyster gardening programs.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting	Maryland DNR	Improved water quality, habitat creation

9	Develop a City-sponsored 'adopt a street end park' program to formalize and encourage more community stewardship.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM	Staffing, City Council legislation		Increased community stewardship
10	Continue to mitigate conflicts and improve safety between paddlers and motorized vessels through education and signage.	Harbormaster, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM			Improved safety for all water users, Clear and consistent signage
11	Partner with all waterfront property owners and stakeholders on College Creek to create a shared vision for improved public water access, recreation, and environmental enhancement.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Coordination with diverse stakeholders, Community support	Anne Arundel County, HACA, St. Johns College, Maryland DNR, USNA, NSA-Annapolis	Shared vision for equitable investments
12	Develop a community boathouse facility in a suitable location to provide public water access, boating programs, boat rentals, among other possible amenities.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Location Identification		Expanded programming opportunities and activities
13	Improve lighting infrastructure where needed for safety such as parking lots, along paths or trails, and on docks/piers.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting, Community support		Improved safety



**GOAL 3: Connectivity** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be properly signed and physically connected to a multi-modal transportation network that provides bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and boating access with connections wherever and whenever possible to adjacent sites.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Remove outdated existing signage and install clear and consistent wayfinding signage to all public water access locations, from land and water, and particularly from the City's bicycle network.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Permitting		Clear and consistent signage, Contribution to the city's identity; more distributed use of sites; economic development, tourism
2	Update the current version of the GIS StoryMap for public water access (the online mapping tool) to include information on nearby amenities and services (e.g., public transit or paddle rental service) for each site.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing	Volpe Center	More comprehensive public information, economic development, tourism
3	Coordinate with the City's water taxi vendor to expand services and improve visibility of water taxi signage at stops. Consider the development and future launch of an app for this service in coordination with Annapolis Transit and micro-mobility options.	Annapolis Department of Transportation, Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Bulkhead/Infrastructure Upgrades, Dredging	Watermark	Increased water-based transportation; reduction in personal vehicle trips
4	Promote the City's e-scooter and e-bike share program as a way to improve	Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM		Bird	Expansion of multi-modal connections and incentives to utilize alternative modes of

	access to the waterfront including dedicated stations at major public water access sites.					transportation; reduction in personal vehicle trips
5	Partner with Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County(VAAAC) to increase advertisement of multimodal transportation services (e.g., transit, taxis) to encourage visitors to use services to visit public water access locations.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Staffing	VAAAC, Anne Arundel County	Increased usage of the alternative modes of transportation; reduction in personal vehicle trips
6	Develop a system of paddle trails connecting various existing and planned public water access locations and ensure that they are included as part of new wayfinding signage and online information.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation and Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing, Coordination with other jurisdictions	Annapolis Maritime Museum	Tourism; Economic development
7	Implement the planned vision for the zero-emission passenger ferry service to connect Downtown to Eastport.	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Staffing, Funding, Permitting	Annapolis City Marina	Increased use of water-based transportation; tourism; reduction in personal vehicle trips
8	Expand on the planned downtown to Eastport ferry and the existing water taxi service to include fixed route passenger ferries connecting to other major destinations both within Annapolis and	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM-LONG	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Coordination with other jurisdictions	VAAC, Anne Arundel County	Expansion of alternative mobility options, Comprehensive ferry system; reduction in personal vehicle trips

	beyond the city limits.					
9	Connect existing and newly designated water access sites to create linear parks, trails, and promenades along the city's waterways	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Staffing , Funding, Permitting	Public and Private property owners	Economic development, tourism, expanded mobility options
10	Ensure that every public water access site is accessible via a clear ADA-compliant sidewalk and ensure that parked vehicles do not inhibit access.	Public Works	SHORT	Funding, Staffing		ADA compliance, pedestrian connectivity to the waterfront. equitable mobility
11	Coordinate future public transit services to better serve waterfront areas through smaller vehicles and on-demand service.	Transportation, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding		Transit access, equitable mobility

**GOAL 4: Resilient Design** – Each existing and newly designated water access site or facility shall be designed and constructed to be durable, low maintenance, and adapted to anticipated impacts from climate change such as rising sea levels, storm surge, and extreme temperatures.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Identify sites where trash and recycling bins should be located.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding,		Cleaner parks, less trash in waterways
2	Continue to identify design opportunities for public water access sites that balance a high level of climate resilience with minimal maintenance, while providing unconditional public access.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing Permitting,	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Increased resilience to the effects of climate change, most notably sea level rise; Increased life cycle of facilities
3	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations explore potential stormwater management opportunities to improve water quality.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Permitting	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Severn River Association, Spa Creek Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy	Improved water quality; reduced erosion; Increased resilience to the effects of climate change
4	Continue to coordinate with the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to help fund public water access improvements that also provide resilience benefits.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks, City Manager	SHORT	Funding, Permitting	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Improved water quality; reduced erosion; Increased resilience to the effects of climate change
5	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations are designed to withstand or adapt to the impacts of chronic flooding and storm surge.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Durability, Reduced maintenance



6	Integrate habitat restoration as part of public water access improvements particularly on sites with existing natural shorelines, forested uplands, and where living shorelines are feasible.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, maintenance	Severn River Association, Arundel Rivers Federation, Spa Creek Conservancy, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy	Improved biodiversity, heat island mitigation, flood and storm surge mitigation
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**GOAL 5: Equity** – Existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities shall be prioritized in communities where public water access has been historically underinvested; in communities where documented gaps exist in the city’s public water access network; and in communities with high concentrations of low-income and/or persons of color to ensure adequate and equitable public access to the water and water-based activities.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Prioritize funding and development of new public water access sites and improvements to existing sites in areas documented as gaps in the public water access network, and in communities of high social vulnerability as documented in the City’s Draft Comprehensive Plan, <i>Annapolis Ahead 2040</i> .	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works	SHORT	Funding, Permitting, Staffing	HACA	Equitable distribution of funded projects that focus on public water access
2	Identify new public water access sites, easement opportunities, and access improvements to existing water access sites in the Parole area, especially along creeks within the South River watershed.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT-MEDIUM-LONG	Funding, Permitting, Community Support	Anne Arundel County, Arundel Rivers Federation	Expansion of access points in the South River watershed
3	Coordinate with Anne Arundel County on expanded public water access along Weems Creek, particularly where Admiral Drive meets Jennifer Road at the creek headwaters.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works	MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting, Staffing	Maryland Environmental Trust, Anne Arundel County, Severn River Association	Expanded access to Weems Creek and other natural resources
4	Promote environmental justice by coordinating efforts with nonprofit environmental organizations on watershed restoration projects in communities of high social vulnerability as documented in the City’s Draft Comprehensive Plan, <i>Annapolis Ahead 2040</i> .	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding	Anne Arundel County, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Nature Sacred, Save Our Trees, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, Severn River	Co-benefits of equitable public water access and ecological restoration

					Association, Arundel Rivers Federation	
5	Work with Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to include Environmental Justice criteria in the application process for Watershed Restoration Fund projects.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding,	Anne Arundel County, Chesapeake Bay Trust	Co-benefits of equitable public water access and ecological restoration
6	Expand recreation opportunities and public water access to Waterworks Park including new youth programs and activation of the underutilized historic structures.	Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Public Works	SHORT	Staffing, Funding, City Council legislation,	Anne Arundel County	Expansion of park use and outdoor educational programming, economic development
7	Based on the results of the Department of Public Works stormwater outfall assessment, identify projects which can improve water quality while expanding public water access.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting,	Severn River Association, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, Arundel Rivers Federation	Expansion of public water access with water quality benefits

**GOAL 6: Policy** - Develop and codify “*Public Water Access*” provisions into city law, regulations, and requirements to clarify and regulate activities at the existing and newly designated water access sites or facilities based on best practices and community values. Policies should address safety, mitigate potential conflicts, and allow for a wide range of uses.

	Action	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Required Resources	Partners	Outcomes
1	Ensure that city policies regulating <b>public</b> moorings and <b>public boat slips</b> are designed for residents as much as visitors in regard to cost and access.	Harbormaster, City Manager	SHORT	Funding, City Council legislation		Expansion of boating access for residents
2	Work with Anne Arundel County to amend the current MOU for the joint management of Weems Creek, specifically in regard to the moorings which are a hazard to boaters.	Harbormaster, City Manager	SHORT	Funding,	Anne Arundel County	Safer conditions for boaters
3	Establish an MOU with NSA-Annapolis for the joint management of College Creek.	Harbormaster, City Manager, Planning & Zoning; Public Works	SHORT	Funding	NSA – Annapolis	Improved management of College Creek
4	Explore the addition of CCTV as a security measure at specific public water access sites as needed, in coordination with Annapolis Police Department and neighbors.	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Police Department, Recreation & Parks, Information Technology	MEDIUM	Permitting, Funding	HACA	Enhancements in safety and security
5	<b>Amend the City’s zoning regulations to require public</b>	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation, Community support		Inclusion of public water access in City development regulations



	water access at all future multifamily residential, commercial, and mixed use development projects within the city.					
6	Amend the City's regulations for changes to the harbor lines to require public water access at all properties seeking to further encroach on the public waterways.	Planning & Zoning, Harbormaster	SHORT	City Council legislation, Community support		Inclusion of public water access in City development regulations
7	Amend the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance for Recreation Facilities to require public water access improvements for all projects within the Critical Area.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation		Inclusion of public water access in City development regulations
8	Amend the City's subdivision requirements to require all public access easements to the waterfront to have standard park signage and furnishings and maintained by the City's Department of Recreation & Parks.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	City Council legislation ,		More consistent standards for management of public water access locations, Clear and consistent signage
9	Explore the adoption of a comprehensive public waterfront	Planning & Zoning	SHORT-MEDIUM	City Council legislation		Co-benefits of improved resilience, equitable public water

	ordinance similar to the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act which sets guidelines for development in the tidal zone that preserve and expand public water access.					access, and natural resource protection
10	Mandate that all development plans submitted for approval by the Planning Commission, which include public water access improvements provide clear annotation on plans of the proposed improvements as part of their submission requirements. All improvements should be negotiated and confirmed with the property owner/developer prior to approval to ensure clear outcomes that benefit the public.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation		Inclusion of public water access in City development regulations
11	Mandate the inclusion of public water access as a required criterion for future watershed restoration grant program awards.	Mayor's Office, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	SHORT		Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County	More water access points

12	Ensure that all existing and newly designated water access sites managed by the City have clear title and deeds which confirm the public's right to access both land and water.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Office of Law, City Manager	SHORT	Staffing		Conflict mitigation, Clear and consistent signage
13	Establish standards for future lease agreements of City-owned waterfront land to ensure adequate public water access is prioritized.	Planning & Zoning, Office of Law, City Manager	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		Expanded public water access, consistency in policy guidance
14	Ensure that maintenance of the City's waterfront parks is adequately funded in the City's annual budget.	City Council, City Manager, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, City Council legislation		Consistent level of service, Improved safety
15	Ensure that all City parks and dedicated conservation easements are re-zoned for the City's existing Open Space district.	Planning & Zoning, City Council	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		Consistent and coherent land use policy
16	Amend City policy to slightly increase permitted dinghy size allowed to tie up at City parks to help alleviate overcrowding at City Dock.	Planning & Zoning, City Council	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		Expanded docking access for small watercraft
17	Establish a City fund or foundation for park investments	Recreation & Parks, City Council, Finance	MEDIUM	Staffing, City Council legislation,	Private Donors / Philanthropic community	Increased funding for public water access

	that can leverage private donations.			Private Donors		investments, Increased stewardship
18	Establish a publicly accessible online dashboard tool for tracking public water access performance metrics.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Staffing		Increased community information and awareness
19	Clarify fishing, swimming, and grilling rules to be included on standard signage at all sites where appropriate.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		Clear and consistent policies, Mitigate potential conflicts of use
20	Clarify a policy for trash and recycling receptacles at waterfront parks which can guide improvements to all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Staffing		Clear and consistent policies, Reduction in litter, Mitigate potential nuisances
21	Clarify the City's parking enforcement policies at parks where parking is regulated.	Transportation, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing, Coordination with Parking management company	Parking management company	Clear and consistent policies, Improved access, Mitigate potential conflicts



## 8. Implementation

This plan includes 132 recommendations addressing both physical improvements, new or improved programs, and policy changes. The following section is intended to consolidate and summarize these recommendations and clarify how they will be implemented over time.

### 8.1. Implementation Strategies

#### *Public Private People Partnerships (PPPPs)*

Implementing the recommendations for physical improvements to new or existing public access locations will require the participation of multiple stakeholders to be successful. The concept of Public Private People Partnerships reinforces the importance and value of integrating community partnerships into all projects and leveraging opportunities for shared resources. While the City of Annapolis may lead the majority of the projects, its resources and capacity can be augmented through support from community advocates; community associations; recreation and environmental organizations; agencies at the county, state, and federal government; property owners and property managers; and companies whose work and mission aligns with the goal of achieving a truly equitable public water access network.

#### *Capital Improvement Program (CIP)*

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which sets budgets each year for priority capital projects, is the primary means of funding the recommendations in this Plan. The CIP is also a reflection of the City's values as it determines which projects are most important to fund, and City Charter requires that it be updated and adopted by the City Council each year. In recent years, the CIP has included more funding for public water access citywide than at any other point in the City's history. In the most recent adopted budget for fiscal year 2026, twenty six of the recommended projects in this Plan are already funded. In the coming years, implementation will rely on this continued level of support for public water access in the CIP.

#### *Policy Changes*

Many of the recommendations in this Plan involve updating official City policies related to improving public water access or the policies of City Departments which implement or maintain public water access such as Planning & Zoning, Public Works, and Recreation & Parks. Any changes to citywide policies must be adopted by the Annapolis City Council through legislation. The policies of the individual departments which generally relate to standard operating procedures are set by the director of the department in coordination with senior staff.

### *Lease and Easement Agreements*

Several of the City's existing public water access locations are managed by private organizations through unique lease or easement agreements with the City and this mechanism will continue to be an important tool for expanding public water access. Ellen Moyer Park, Herbe Sadler Park, and Dick Simms Park are all managed by the Annapolis Maritime Museum through a lease agreement. The Chesapeake Children's Museum on Spa Creek and the C.R.A.B. facility on Back Creek also operate on City-owned land through unique lease agreements. St. Luke's Nature Park, Wells Cove Public Water Access, Bill Jones Public Water Access are managed through unique easement agreements which allow for privately-owned land to be made available for public use and benefit. A variety of the Plan's recommended sites for new or improved public water access will rely on some form of lease or easement agreement. While each agreement must be tailored to the specific circumstances of its site, understanding how each site can best serve the public interest is critical to ensuring that the ultimate agreement allows for sufficient public use and benefit. Over time, communities evolve and public interests change. In some cases, this will warrant the periodic review and updating of agreements to ensure they continue to meet their intent.

### *Site Management and Maintenance*

Ensuring that all existing, improved, and future public water access sites are efficiently managed and maintained is of critical importance as the quality of public access ultimately relies on safe, accessible, and functional waterfront spaces. This Plan provides a variety of recommendations aimed at optimizing management and maintenance including opportunities for improved coordination, adequate budgeting and staffing, stewardship support from community partners, and updated policies and procedures.

### *Performance Metrics*

Ultimately, the success of this Plan will depend on the degree to which it is implemented. The best way to track and measure implementation is through a set of clear performance metrics that will allow City officials, residents, and other stakeholders to see implementation progress through the same lens. The metrics should be tracked annually and made available through a publicly accessible dashboard on the City's website. The following is a set of possible metrics to be considered by City staff when setting up the dashboard:

- Total number of public water access locations citywide and by creek
- Total length of public shoreline
- Percentage of total shoreline that is public
- Capital funding for public water access improvements
- Number of new policies adopted
- Total number of locations within the prior year which received improved signage
- Total number of locations which are connected by ADA-compliant sidewalk

## 8.2. *Implementation Prioritization*

Prioritization for implementing the Plan’s recommendations is based on the following criteria, which are listed in order of importance:

1. Equity

Will the recommendation improve water access for a community which has been historically marginalized and disconnected from the waterfront?

2. Water Access Gaps

Will the recommendation address a documented gap in the City’s public water access network?

3. Timing

Is the implementation of the recommendation contingent upon time-sensitive factors such as a grant deadline or coordination with a related project?

4. Cost

What is the level of cost to implement the recommendation and is it already budgeted? In the following Prioritization Matrix, cost is estimated for each recommendation based on anticipated level of capital resources needed for implementation. Generally a cost represented by “\$” requires only existing staff time and coordination. A cost represented by “\$\$” requires a moderate level of capital investment, and a cost represented by “\$\$\$” requires a high level of capital investment including potentially resources from County, State, Federal or private sources.

5. Partnerships

Is there a partnership in place with a local organization which can help implement the recommendation in a timely and cost-effective way and/or aid with ongoing maintenance when complete?

### 8.3. Prioritization Matrix

SHORT-TERM PRIORITY						
PROGRAM AND POLICY ACTIONS						
Action Type	Action	Responsible Departments	Priority	Required Resources	Partners	Level of Cost
Accessibility Action 1	Strategically improve water access locations where opportunities exist for expanded access using floating docks, ramps, and beach access. Improvements should consider the needs of visitors arriving from both land and water as well as ADA compliance.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Community Support Permitting, Staffing,		\$\$\$
Accessibility Action 2	Retrofit all existing floating docks to include step-downs, grab bars, or ramps to improve vessel access and dedicate annual capital funds toward these improvements.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing, Permitting		\$\$\$
Accessibility Action 3	Identify and improve key locations for full ADA access to ensure sites are compliant.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Permitting, Staffing		\$\$\$
Accessibility Action 4	Build accessibility information for each site into the online mapping tool so users will be able to make informed choices about the sites that will meet their access needs.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		\$
Accessibility Action 5	Work with Maryland DNR to establish a 'free-fishing zone' where a fishing license is not needed and coordinate signage with other fishing rules and information.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Permitting	Maryland DNR	\$
Accessibility Action 7	Ensure that all previously established public water access easements are enforced and clearly signed to indicate allowed public use.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		\$\$
Accessibility Action 9	Add an urban park ranger to the staff of the Department of Recreation & Parks who can be based at Waterworks Park.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding		\$\$



Accessibility Action 11	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations are designed to be accessible to persons over age 65 who may be more mobility challenged.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Funding	AARP	\$
Community-Focused Action 1	Evaluate sites in which swimming can be permitted based on consistently safe water quality and limited hazards.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	SHORT		Anne Arundel County Health Dept., Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks, Spa Creek Conservancy	\$
Community-Focused Action 2	Update signage at all parks to be welcoming, consistent in appearance, with current information about permitted activities, and where relevant, interpretive information on historic, cultural, or ecological assets.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Staffing		\$\$\$
Community-Focused Action 3	Partner with Anne Arundel County Health Department, Spa Creek Conservancy, and/or other organizations to conduct regular water testing in all creeks and maintain publicly accessible water quality data.	Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Funding, Staffing	Anne Arundel County Health Dept., Spa Creek Conservancy	\$
Community-Focused Action 7	Create a clear policy related to grilling at public water access locations including dedicated locations and safety precautions. Ensure that new signage communicates the policy.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT			\$
Community-Focused Action 11	Partner with all waterfront property owners and stakeholders on College Creek to create a shared vision for improved public water access, recreation, and environmental enhancement.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Coordination with diverse stakeholders, Community support	Anne Arundel County, HACA, St. Johns College, Maryland DNR, USNA, NSA-Annapolis	\$
Connectivity Action 1	Remove outdated existing signage and install clear and consistent wayfinding signage to all public water access locations, from land and water, and particularly from the City's bicycle network.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Permitting		\$\$\$
Connectivity Action 2	Update the current version of the GIS StoryMap for public water access (the online mapping tool) to include information on distance to all	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing	Volpe Center	\$

	amenities and services (e.g., public transit or grocery stores) for each site.					
Connectivity Action 5	Partner with Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) to increase advertisement of multimodal transportation services (e.g., transit, taxis) to encourage visitors to use services to visit public water access locations.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding, Staffing	VAAAC, Anne Arundel County	\$
Connectivity Action 7	Implement the planned vision for the zero-emission passenger ferry service to connect Downtown to Eastport.	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Staffing, Funding, Permitting	Annapolis City Marina	\$\$\$
Connectivity Action 9	Connect existing and newly designated water access sites to create linear parks, trails, and promenades along the city's waterways	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	SHORT	Staffing, Funding, Permitting	Public and Private property owners	\$\$\$
Connectivity Action 10	Ensure that every public water access site is accessible via a clear ADA-compliant sidewalk and ensure that parked vehicles do not inhibit access.	Public Works	SHORT	Funding, Staffing		\$\$\$
Connectivity Action 11	Coordinate future public transit services to better serve waterfront areas through smaller vehicles and on-demand service.	Transportation, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Funding		\$\$\$
Resilient Design Action 1	Identify sites where trash and recycling bins should be located.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding		\$
Resilient Design Action 3	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations explore potential stormwater management opportunities to improve water quality and reduce the severity of flooding impacts.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, Permitting	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Severn River Association, Spa Creek Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy	\$

Resilient Design Action 4	Continue to coordinate with the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to help fund public water access improvements that also provide resilience benefits.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks, City Manager	SHORT	Funding, Permitting	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	\$
Resilient Design Action 5	Ensure that all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations are designed to withstand or adapt to the impacts of chronic flooding and storm surge.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding		\$\$
Resilient Design Action 6	Integrate habitat restoration as part of public water access improvements particularly on sites with existing natural shorelines, forested uplands, and where living shorelines are feasible.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, maintenance	Severn River Association, Arundel Rivers Federation, Spa Creek Conservancy, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy	\$\$
Equity Action 1	Prioritize funding and development of new public water access sites and improvements to existing sites in areas documented as gaps in the public water access network, and in communities of high social vulnerability as documented in the City's Draft Comprehensive Plan, <i>Annapolis Ahead 2040</i> .	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works	SHORT	Funding, Permitting, Staffing	HACA	\$\$\$
Equity Action 2	Identify new public water access sites, easement opportunities, and access improvements to existing water access sites in the Parole area, especially along creeks within the South River watershed.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT-MEDIUM-LONG	Funding, Permitting, Community Support	Anne Arundel County, Arundel Rivers Federation	\$
Equity Action 4	Promote environmental justice by coordinating efforts with nonprofit environmental organizations on watershed restoration projects in communities of high social vulnerability as documented in the City's Draft Comprehensive Plan, <i>Annapolis Ahead 2040</i> .	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding	Anne Arundel County, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Nature Sacred, Save Our Trees, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, Severn River Association, Arundel Rivers Federation	\$

Equity Action 5	Work with Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to include Environmental Justice criteria in the application process for Watershed Restoration Fund projects.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding,	Anne Arundel County, Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$
Equity Action 6	Expand recreation opportunities and public water access to Waterworks Park including new youth programs and activation of the underutilized historic structures.	Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Public Works	SHORT	Staffing, Funding, City Council legislation,	Anne Arundel County	\$\$
Equity Action 7	Based on the results of the Department of Public Works stormwater outfall assessment, identify projects which can improve water quality while expanding public water access.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works	SHORT-MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting,	Severn River Association, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, Arundel Rivers Federation	\$
Policy Action 1	Ensure that city policies regulating <b>public moorings and public boat slips</b> are designed for local residents as much as visitors regarding costs and access.	Harbormaster, City Manager	SHORT	Funding, City Council legislation		\$
Policy Action 2	Work with Anne Arundel County to amend the current MOU for the joint management of Weems Creek, specifically in regard to the moorings which are a hazard to boaters.	Harbormaster, City Manager	SHORT	Funding,	Anne Arundel County	\$
Policy Action 3	Establish an MOU with NSA-Annapolis for the joint management of College Creek.	Harbormaster, City Manager, Planning & Zoning; Public Works	SHORT	Funding	NSA – Annapolis	\$
Policy Action 5	<b>Amend the City's zoning regulations to require public water access at all future multifamily residential, commercial, and mixed use development projects within the city.</b>	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation, Community support		\$
Policy Action 6	Amend the City's regulations for changes to the harbor lines to require public water access at all properties seeking to further encroach on the public waterways.	Planning & Zoning, Harbormaster	SHORT	City Council legislation, Community support		\$
Policy Action 7	Amend the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance for Recreation Facilities to require public water access	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation		\$



	improvements for all projects within the Critical Area.					
Policy Action 8	Amend the City's subdivision requirements to require all public access easements to the waterfront to have standard park signage and furnishings and maintained by the City's Department of Recreation & Parks.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	City Council legislation ,		\$
Policy Action 9	Explore the adoption of a comprehensive public waterfront ordinance similar to the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act which sets guidelines for development in the tidal zone that preserve and expand public water access.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT-MEDIUM	City Council legislation		\$
Policy Action 10	Mandate that all development plans submitted for approval by the Planning Commission, which include public water access improvements provide clear annotation on plans of the proposed improvements as part of their submission requirements. All improvements should be negotiated and confirmed with the property owner/developer prior to approval to ensure clear outcomes that benefit the public.	Planning & Zoning	SHORT	City Council legislation		\$
Policy Action 11	Mandate the inclusion of public water access as a required criterion for future watershed restoration grant program awards.	Mayor's Office, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	SHORT		Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne Arundel County	\$
Policy Action 12	Ensure that all existing and newly designated water access sites managed by the City have clear title and deeds which confirm the public's right to access both land and water.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Office of Law, City Manager	SHORT	Staffing		\$\$
Policy Action 13	Establish standards for future lease agreements of City-owned waterfront land to ensure adequate public water access is prioritized.	Planning & Zoning, Office of Law, City Manager	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		\$
Policy Action 14	Ensure that maintenance of the City's waterfront parks is adequately funded in the City's annual budget.	City Council, City Manager, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Funding, City Council legislation		\$\$\$
Policy Action 15	Ensure that all City parks and dedicated conservation easements	Planning & Zoning, City Council	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		\$

	are re-zoned for the City's existing Open Space district.					
Policy Action 16	Amend City policy to slightly increase permitted dinghy size allowed to tie up at City parks to help alleviate overcrowding at City Dock.	Planning & Zoning, City Council	SHORT	Staffing, City Council legislation		\$
Policy Action 18	Establish a publicly accessible online dashboard tool for tracking public water access performance metrics.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Staffing		\$
Policy Action 19	Clarify fishing, swimming, and grilling rules to be included on standard signage at all sites where appropriate.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing		\$
Policy Action 20	Clarify a policy for trash and recycling receptacles at waterfront parks which can guide improvements to all new public water access locations and improvements to existing locations.	Recreation & Parks	SHORT	Staffing		\$
Policy Action 21	Clarify the City's parking enforcement policies at parks where parking is regulated.	Transportation, Planning & Zoning	SHORT	Staffing, Coordination with parking management company	City of Annapolis parking management company	\$

#### SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partners	Level of Cost
MD-450 Bike-Ped Trail	Work with NSA-Annapolis, MDOT/SHA, Anne Arundel County, and Bike AAA to complete the planned bike/ped trail along MD-450.	SHORT	DESIGN	NSA-Annapolis MDOT/SHA	NSA-Annapolis. Anne Arundel County. MDOT/SHA Bike AAA	\$\$\$
Jeremy's Way Park	Dedicate street-end at Jeremy's Way as a small City-managed Park on the Severn River, including new signage and bulkhead improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Elktonia/Carr's Beach	Advance the design process for the planned Elktonia/Carr's Beach park which will include new site amenities, beach restoration and replenishment, natural resource management, a visitor center and other historical exhibits, and connections to Ellen Moyer Park.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	Blacks of the Chesapeake, NPS, Anne Arundel County, Resilience Authority, Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$\$

Annapolis Street Park, Weems Creek Overlook	Dedicate street end of Annapolis Street as a small City-managed park with overlook, new signage, seating, and plantings.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association	\$
Tolson Street Park	Advance the planned improvements for Tolson Street Park which include <b>trail realignment and improved surfacing, stormwater management, habitat protection and restoration, partial ADA-compliant access, new seating areas, and a marsh walkway.</b>	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association	\$\$
Tucker Street Park	Implement the planned improvements <b>which include a more resilient boat ramp, a floating pier, and an improved system for enforcing trailered boat registrations.</b>	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	West Annapolis Civic Association	\$\$
College Creek Connector Trail	Complete the planned College Creek Connector trail from King George Street to Calvert Street.	SHORT	PLANNING	DNR, St. John's College, HACA MDOT/SHA	St. John's College, HACA, St. Anne's Parish	\$\$\$
Gateway Park	Work with Anne Arundel County, MD DGS, MDOT/SHA, and NSA-Annapolis to advance the vision of a nature park with new trails and paddle access.	SHORT	PLANNING	MDOT/SHA, MD DGS, NSA-Annapolis	Anne Arundel County, NSA-Annapolis, MD DGS, MDOT/SHA	\$\$\$
Robert H. Eades Park (formerly College Creek Park)	Advance the planned Phase 2 improvements for Robert H. Eades Park which include a park expansion, improved paddle access, living shoreline, dredging, and trail connection to Adams Elementary.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis, HACA, BGE, AACPS	HACA, BGE, AACPS	\$\$\$
Northwest Street Park	Advance the planned improvements to Northwest Street Park which include access to College Creek, a floating dock, and a connection to the planned College Creek Connector trail.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Duke of Gloucester Street Park	Advance the planned new street end park and paddle launch where Duke of Gloucester Street meets the Spa Creek Bridge.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	St. Mary's Parish	\$\$
Truxtun Park Boathouse	Renovate the existing boathouse facility on Pumphouse Road for paddle craft storage and a paddle rental concession. As part of this project, add a new floating dock for paddle access.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$

Burnside Park	Renovate existing park to repair bulkhead and add floating dock for paddle access.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Commodore John Barry Park	Advance the planned improvements to Commodore Barry Park as part of the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization project which include a landing for a planned electric ferry and paddle craft storage. Work with NSA-Annapolis to create a trail connection from the City Dock walkway to the existing esplanade along Spa Creek waterfront of the Naval Academy.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	NSA-Annapolis	\$\$\$
Franklin Street Spa Creek Park	Dedicate the street end of Franklin Street as a small City-managed park with overlook to Spa Creek including new signage, bench, and a coordinated stormwater management improvement along the steep slope to the creek.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Thompson Street Park	Advance planned improvements including new signage, repaired pier, and bulkhead improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Spa Creek Trail	Add new wayfinding signage along the Spa Creek Trail as part of citywide trail signage improvements.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Truxtun Park Pedestrian Bridge	Replace the footbridge over the headwaters to Spa Creek and provide ADA-compliant access from Silopanna Road. Coordinate this project with the planned re-use of the Truxtun Park boathouse, <b>a new paddle launch facility, and upgrades to the sewer pipe below the bridge as needed.</b>	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis		\$\$\$
Truxtun Park Natural Area Restoration	Advance planned restoration of Truxtun Park shoreline and natural surface trails to stabilize slopes and reduce erosion.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	M.O.R.E., Spa Creek Conservancy	\$\$\$
Hawkins Cove Trail	Formalize the existing natural surface trail connection between Truxtun Park and Hawkins Cove with a new boardwalk trail and improved wayfinding signage.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	HACA	\$\$\$
Hawkins Cove Park	Advance the planned improvements to Hawkins Cove Park, which include	SHORT	DESIGN			\$\$\$



	a living shoreline, paddle access, seating, nature play, and improved trail connections to Truxtun Park and adjacent communities. Ensure that the park improvements are coordinated with the revitalization of Harbour House and Eastport Terrace communities.			City of Annapolis, HACA	HACA, Spa Creek Conservancy	
Fifth Street Park	Advance the planned improvements to the Fifth Street Park which include a landing for the planned electric ferry.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	Annapolis City Marina	\$\$\$
City Dock / Susan Campbell Park	Complete the City Dock Resilience and Revitalization Project including plans for the Maritime Welcome Center and adaptive re-use of the historic Burtis House.	SHORT	DESIGN	City of Annapolis	City Dock Action Committee, NSA-Annapolis	\$\$\$
Truxtun Park Boat Ramp	Update water access signage to clarify that the creek is safe for paddle recreation. Advance the planned improvements to the parking area on Truxtun Park Road to better accommodate vehicles.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	BGE	\$
Wells Cove Public Water Access	Advance the planned improvements to Wells Cove Public Water Access, which include new signage, seating, trail surfacing, tree removal and pruning and access to a floating dock.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	Friends of Wells Cove	\$\$
Acton Cove Park	Replace bulkhead and boardwalk, and explore feasibility of expanding floating dock area.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Acton Landing Condo Association	\$\$
South Annapolis Yacht Center	Install signage at pedestrian gate which clarifies public access to water taxi service.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	SAYC	SAYC, Watermark	\$
Windwhisper Lane Nature Park	Work with the Windwhisper Lane community to dedicate a new City-managed Park at the existing informal water access location on Windwhisper Lane.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	N/A	\$
Dick Simms Park	Advance the resilience improvements planned at Dick Simms Park and the surrounding area where chronic flooding has limited use of the park.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$\$\$
Bill Jones Alley Public Water Access	Improve public water access at the existing street end easement of Bill Jones Alley with new signage, seating, and a floating dock.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	N/A	\$\$

Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (C.R.A.B.) Facility	Work with C.R.A.B. to ensure that the site features more prominent entry signage clarifying the mission of the organization and its facility, and off-season hours for public use.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	C.R.A.B.	\$
Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park	Work with the Annapolis Maritime Museum (AMM) to ensure that the existing paddle launch location is accessible and well-maintained, and restore the former paddle rental concession to be managed by AMM or another entity.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$
Sixth Street Park	Complete the planned improvements which include a floating dock with ramp access.	SHORT	CONSTRUCTION	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Waterworks Park – Adaptive Re-Use of Historic Structures	Work with a private development partner to activate the park's existing historic structures with new use that will complement the park and expand public use.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel County, M.O.R.E.	\$
Crab Creek Water Access Point	Ensure that existing public water access to Crab Creek at the Kingsport community is clarified and publicly accessible. Work with Kingsport of Annapolis Community Association.	SHORT	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Kingsport of Annapolis Community Association, Annapolis Conservancy Board	\$

MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITY						
PROGRAM AND POLICY ACTIONS						
Action Type	Action	Responsible Departments	Priority	Required Resources	Partners	Level of Cost
Accessibility Action 6	Dedicate at least one ADA-compliant parking space at each public water access location.	Public Works, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM	Permitting, Adequate space for parking		\$
Accessibility Action 8	As part of a coordinated citywide program, add kayak/paddleboard racks at parks where space is available based on findings of the City's pilot program.	Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, staffing		\$\$
Accessibility Action 10	Identify a suitable site for building a public boat ramp on Back Creek which has the second most public	Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding		\$\$\$

	water access among the city's creeks but currently no public ramp.					
Community-Focused Action 4	Advance the conversion of stormwater access easements to community pocket parks in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Department of Recreation & Parks.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Permitting, Survey Information City Council legislation	Severn River Association	\$\$
Community-Focused Action 5	Explore partnerships with local environmental and recreation non-profit organizations for new or expanded programs to connect people with the water, particularly opportunities for youth.	Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing	Severn River Association; Spa Creek Conservancy, Arundel Rivers Federation, Livewater Foundation, Marshall	\$
Community-Focused Action 6	Ensure that City of Annapolis consistently offers water access summer camps that include fishing and paddleboarding either at Truxtun Park or an alternate location.	Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing	Severn River Association; Spa Creek Conservancy; Livewater Foundation; Capital SUP	\$
Community-Focused Action 8	Partner with Maryland DNR and other local organizations to expand oyster habitats in designated areas, and support for community-based oyster gardening programs.	Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting	Maryland DNR	\$
Community-Focused Action 9	Develop a City-sponsored 'adopt a street end park' program to formalize and encourage more community stewardship.	Recreation & Parks, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM	Staffing, City Council legislation		\$
Community-Focused Action 10	Continue to mitigate conflicts and improve safety between paddlers and motorized vessels through education and signage.	Harbormaster, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM			\$
Community-Focused Action 12	Develop a community boathouse facility in a suitable location to provide public water access, boating programs, boat rentals, among other possible amenities.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Location Identification		\$\$\$
Community-Focused Action 13	Improve lighting infrastructure where needed for safety such as parking lots, along paths or trails, and on docks/piers.	Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting, Community support		\$\$
Connectivity Action 3	Coordinate with the City's water taxi vendor to expand services and improve visibility of water taxi signage at stops. Consider the development and future launch of an app for this service in coordination	Annapolis Department of Transportation, Planning & Zoning, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Bulkhead/Infrastructure Upgrades, Dredging	Watermark	\$

	with Annapolis Transit and micro-mobility options.					
Connectivity Action 4	Promote the City's e-scooter and e-bike share program as a way to improve access to the waterfront including dedicated stations at major public water access sites.	Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Planning & Zoning	MEDIUM		Bird	\$
Connectivity Action 6	Develop a system of paddle trails connecting various existing and planned public water access locations and ensure that they are included as part of new wayfinding signage and online information.	Planning & Zoning, Recreation and Parks, Harbormaster	MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing, Coordination with other jurisdictions	Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$
Connectivity Action 8	Expand on the planned downtown to Eastport ferry and the existing water taxi service to include fixed route passenger ferries connecting to other major destinations both within Annapolis and beyond the city limits.	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Department of Transportation, Public Works, Harbormaster	MEDIUM-LONG	Staffing, Funding, Permitting, Coordination with other jurisdictions	VAAC, Anne Arundel County	\$\$\$
Resilient Design Action 8	Continue to identify design opportunities for public water access sites that balance a high level of climate resilience with minimal maintenance, while providing unconditional public access.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recreation & Parks	MEDIUM	Funding, Staffing Permitting,	Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	\$
Equity Action 3	Coordinate with Anne Arundel County on expanded public water access along Weems Creek, particularly where Admiral Drive meets Jennifer Road at the creek headwaters.	Planning & Zoning, Public Works	MEDIUM	Funding, Permitting, Staffing	Maryland Environmental Trust, Anne Arundel County, Severn River Association	\$\$\$
Policy Action 4	Explore the addition of CCTV as a security measure at specific public water access sites as needed, in coordination with Annapolis Police Department and neighbors.	Planning & Zoning, Annapolis Police Department, Recreation & Parks, Information Technology	MEDIUM	Permitting, Funding	HACA	\$\$\$
Policy Action 17	Establish a City fund or foundation for park investments that can leverage private donations.	Recreation & Parks, City Council, Finance	MEDIUM	Staffing, City Council legislation, Private Donors	Private Donors / Philanthropic community	\$

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS						
Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations	Level of Cost
Severn Avenue Park	Add shade trees and explore feasibility of paddle access and/or dinghy docking improvements.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Horn Point Park	Add improved signage to clarify allowed uses at the park and explore the feasibility of installing kayak/paddleboard racks as part of a coordinated citywide program.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Eastport Civic Association	\$
Weems Creek Trail	Work with Maryland Environmental Trust to explore the establishment of natural surface trails within existing conservation area along Weems Creek with multiple access points including a primary trailhead on Admiral Drive at Jennifer Road.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Maryland Environmental Trust	Maryland Environmental Trust	\$\$\$
Admiral Drive Trailhead at Cowhide Branch	Work with Anne Arundel County to establish a trailhead with parking where Admiral Drive meets Jennifer Road for access to Weems Creek, the South Shore Trail, and future nature trails within adjacent conservation area.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County, Maryland Environmental Trust	\$\$\$
Ridgely Avenue Bridge Public Water Access	Explore better use of existing MDOT/SHA easement at Weems Creek bridge for paddle access to Weems Creek.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	MDOT/SHA	MDOT/SHA	\$
Trail at DNR Offices	Work with Maryland DNR to create a public trail leading to College Creek from the DNR Tawes State Office Building and a trailhead near the dedicated public parking area.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	DNR	DNR	\$\$
Trail at Adams Elementary	Work with Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) to create a public trail along College Creek at Adams Elementary connecting to Robert H. Eades Park, Maryland DNR, and Calvary United Methodist Church, with a trailhead and public parking when school is not in session.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	AACPS	AACPS, Anne Arundel County, DNR	\$\$
Trail at HACA property	Work with Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) to create a waterfront park at its underutilized property along College Creek for	MEDIUM	PLANNING	DNR, HACA	HACA	\$\$



	passive use and a connection to the planned boardwalk trail.					
Second Street Park (Spa Creek)	Formalize the end of Second Street at Spa Creek as a City-managed park including signage and a floating dock.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Third Street Park (Spa Creek)	Formalize the end of Third Street at Spa Creek as a City-managed Park including signage and a floating dock.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Chesapeake Children's Museum	Improve existing trail to Spa Creek for ADA accessibility, add wayfinding signage from Spa Creek Trail, <b>add floating dock for paddle access, and expand planting throughout the site.</b>	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Chesapeake Children's Museum	\$\$
Taney Avenue Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Shipwright Street Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Revell Street Park	Add park signage, seating, and a floating pier, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Market Street Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Conduit Street Park	Add park signage, seating, and a floating pier, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Southgate Avenue Park	Add park signage and seating, and explore alterations of the bulkhead to improve accessibility and stormwater management.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
SPCA Natural Area	Work with the SPCA to create a formalized public water access park on Back Creek with wayfinding signage from Bay Ridge Avenue and a trail connection to Georgetown East Elementary.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	SPCA AACPS	SPCA, AACPS	\$

Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park – Storage Lot	As part of the Elktonia/Carr's Beach design process, explore the feasibility of a parking facility adjacent to Ellen Moyer Park that could serve both parks.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$\$\$
Awald Street Park	Explore the feasibility of creating a dedicated street-end park at Back Creek with improved stormwater management features, seating, and paddle access.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis		\$\$
Third Street Park (Back Creek)	Explore feasibility of adding a floating dock for paddle access and/or small craft docking.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	N/A	\$\$
Waterworks Park – Paddle Rental	Establish a paddle rental concession at the park reservoir with the necessary infrastructure needed for it to be successful.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel County	\$\$
Church Creek Trail	Explore feasibility of a public trail and water access to Church Creek as part of or connecting from the planned Parole Place development.	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County	Parole Place, Arundel Rivers Federation, Anne Arundel County	\$\$
Church Creek Nature Park	Explore feasibility of a public trail network connecting from the existing service road behind the Allen Apartments to Neal Farm Drive and the planned Parole Place development	MEDIUM	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Arundel Rivers Federation	\$\$

LONG-TERM PRIORITY						
SITE RECOMMENDATIONS						
Site Name	Recommendation	Priority	Phase	Ownership	Partnership Organizations	Level of Cost
B & A Railroad Trail	Create a public trail on the former B&A Railroad corridor restore the ecological health of Shady Lake, and provide a new public water access site accessible from Shiley Park.	LONG	PLANNING	Wardour Improvement Association	West Annapolis Civic Association	\$\$\$
Herbert M. Sachs Drive complete street	Work with Maryland DNR on bike and pedestrian improvements to Herbert M. Sachs Drive to provide a trail connection and facilitate access to College Creek.	LONG	PLANNING	DNR	DNR	\$\$\$
Spa Creek Trail Public Water Access Site	Work with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to create a public trail extension and paddle launch to Spa Creek from the existing Spa Creek Trail at Bates Middle School and Bates Athletic Complex.	LONG	PLANNING	AACPS	AACPS	\$\$
Bywater Park-Church Creek Trail	Explore feasibility of a public trail and water access to Church Creek from Bywater Park	LONG	PLANNING	City of Annapolis	Boys & Girls Club	\$\$