

2019 PAB Annual Report
Town of Centreville Park Advisory Board

Introduction

This annual report of the Town of Centreville Park Advisory Board (PAB) reviews its endeavors for the calendar year 2019. It lists the year's accomplishments, pending items, and future goals.

Millstream Park

The environmental and recreational riches of Millstream Park are now more easily available for use following the completion of infrastructure work on Liberty and Commerce Streets. Water at the pavilion is soon to be reconnected to the new water main, and grading will take place from the entrance to the playground area. Millstream Park, a walking and playing resource, awaits you every day.

Millstream Park's two observation decks are revitalized in large part because of Ms. Priscilla Mileski's persistence, after she identified damage to the decks. Living Ecosystems, the contractor, did a very fine job of repairing the decks and railings by midyear. The Board also received a budget estimate for redecking the Wharf finger piers and boardwalk. In addition, Ms. Mileski, in cooperation with Ms. Carol D'Agostino, created a press release and emails, which were sent to encourage the Centreville community to help name the observation decks. The names chosen were Captain's Walk and Goose Landing. Name signs were purchased and installed to mark the entrance to the observation decks. Nature is waiting to be observed and appreciated.

The Town of Centreville celebrated National Arbor Day, April 26, 2019, by planting one white oak and two river birch trees on Millstream Trail near Creamery Lane. Grateful recognition is extended to the following people: The Centreville Town Council, Town staff, members of the PAB, Department of Public Works for their labor to prepare for and follow up on the newly planted trees; Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for presenting knowledge, tree seedlings, and Smokey Bear packets to Centreville Elementary School (CES) students; and to enthusiastic CES students eager to learn and participate. The Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of Centreville the 2019 Tree City USA Certificate.

Ms. Mileski noted that the informational display cases at the Parks were empty and not being utilized. After she contacted the National Park Trust and other Chesapeake Bay programs, she selected materials and pamphlets they offered and filled the cases. Information about the bay, native plants and animals, trails, along with cards which provide statistics and facts now enrich your visit. This information will be updated as new information and updates become available.

Centreville Wharf Parks

WOW! What a wonderful Wharf Park. Work progressed steadily throughout the year funded by grant money. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playgrounds grant of \$198,430 was for Wharf Park playground improvements and equipment. The \$85,000 grant from the Waterway Improvement Fund was used for installation of water and electric to the town owned boat slips at the Centreville Wharf.

The busy year included completing ground work and grass seeding, determining the layout of the playground, installing a new water main, a new dockside water hydrant and two yard water hydrants, installing electrical availability, and construction of the playground. Power towers will be installed in 2020 to allow access to water and power at each boat slip. Unity Landscaping Inc. completed landscaping with trees and shrubs, through funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, which awarded \$30,000 for Critical Areas Planting at the Wharf Park. Plantings were done in compliance with the approved Centreville Wharf Parks' Master Plan. The Wharf Park area also benefited by our partnering with the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage to erect a new osprey nesting pole by the Wharf Park and replacing the old one across the creek. The Wharf Park, a valuable resource, is being praised and used for all its assets: playground; boardwalk; boat, kayak, and canoe launch; fishing pier; bird watching; photographic opportunities; historical site; picnics; restroom facilities; sitting quietly with nature; entertainment, and much more. The Centreville Movie Night, Shore Shakespeare Event, and Fishing Derby were well attended and heartily enjoyed. Look forward to future enjoyment as the Centreville Wharf Park continues to grow as a family and community center for activities. Future Wharf grants sought will be for a band shell/multiuse pavilion, picnic shelters, and control of phragmites.

Pocket Parks

The two "Pop Taylor Park" signs, recognizing the legacy of Dr. William Leon Taylor, will be installed on the pergola in 2020. The PAB decided that the cost to install electricity here was not feasible and solar lights should be considered.

Tree Board

The PAB Tree Board met for its annual meeting in February. The Tree Board will continue to advise and monitor the implementation of the tree canopy code. This will be updated in 2020, in conjunction with Washington College, using light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology for the tree canopy layer (mapping and statistics), and for impervious surface mapping.

Landscape Agreement

Southeast Creek Lawn and Landscape was awarded the 2019-2020 Park Landscape Agreement and are satisfactorily providing park maintenance and landscaping. Mr. Mike Whitehill asked Town Council to include the Centreville Wharf Park in the Parks Landscape Agreement.

Christmas Celebration

The PAB extends special thanks and appreciation to all Centreville residents, volunteers, businesses, the QAC Legacy Foundation, Town Staff, and Public Works Department personnel who contributed to Centreville's Christmas decorating and traditional tree lighting ceremony. Mr. Rich Ryan, with assistance from Ms. Katie Cook, coordinated the highly creative Christmas tree contest. Twelve trees along Lawyer's Row and one inside Town Hall again made Centreville glow with the Holiday Spirit. The PAB discussed allowing adults to participate in the Christmas tree contest next year.

Calendar of Events

The PAB appreciates the calendar of events that is compiled monthly and keeps us up to date with Town, County, and other group events.

Miscellaneous Business

PAB officers elected in May: Mr. Mike Whitehill, Chair; Ms. Priscilla Mileski, Vice Chair; and Ms. Sandy Simpson, Secretary. The PAB appreciates and will miss the input from members Mr. William Joiner and Mr. Robert Ryan, who resigned from the PAB this year. We also value the insights we will gain from our new PAB members Mrs. Katie Cook and Ms. Shelby Brown.

The PAB will address the possibility of installing fitness stations and chess tables at Park locations.

Recommendations and Goals to Improve Park Advisory Board Service

1. Create an outreach program to the Centreville community to obtain ideas regarding long-term plans and park improvements. Stress the need for community participation to help maintain park property and to help raise funds for park equipment and park activities. Establish a committee to plan public events to support our parks.
2. Coordinate with Town Council and the Planning Committee to receive information regarding new plans and whether said plans comply with the Tree Canopy Ordinance.
3. Prioritize PAB budget items, fundraising projects, and spending. Factor in cost of new items, maintenance required, and manpower hours needed. Establish a PAB Planner to incorporate and set a timeline for new and ongoing projects.
4. Communicate with Centreville Public Works Department about PAB projects it needs help with each year.
5. Coordinate with the Main Street Manager concerning PAB projects for assistance to best utilize resources to find people to volunteer and to help find funding for our projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Simpson, Secretary

PAB members and staff

Mike Whitehill, Chair

Priscilla Mileski, Vice Chair

Sandy Simpson, Secretary

Rich Ryan, Member

Katie Cook, Member

Shelby Brown, Member

Jim Beauchamp, Council President Ex officio

Steve Walls, Town Manager