



# **City of Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Commision 2024-2025 Annual Report to City Council**

**Chair:** Phillip Hines  
**Date:** August 31, 2025

## **Executive Summary**

The Parks & Recreation Commission (“Commission”) is a volunteer advisory group to City Council, the City Manager, and the Director of Parks & Recreation (“Department”). The Commission serves as a sounding board by holding public meetings and exercising influence throughout the City to improve and expand recreational opportunities. This organization’s volunteers and staff liaison have worked to compile the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Report to City Council, covering the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. In the past fiscal year, the Commission met ten times and served as a civic forum for input, perspectives, and requests from residents and community recreational organizations from across the city.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Parks & Recreation Commission is as follows:

The Commission shall serve as an advisory body of the Virginia Beach City Council for the purposes set forth within the bylaws. The Commission shall serve as a liaison between City Council, the City Manager, the Director of the Department, and the citizens of the City. The Commission shall consult with and advise the City Manager, the Director, and City Council in matters affecting open space, parks and recreation policies, programs, finances, and the acquisitions and disposal of lands and properties related to open space, parks and recreation programs, and to its long-range projected program for open space, parks and recreation.

## Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

City Council did not provide additional duties or responsibilities to the Commission; however, the Commission carried out the requirements of its bylaws, including but not limited to:

- Serving as an advisory body of the Virginia Beach City Council.

Example:

- Rudee Park: Rudee Park is a current Department project set to bring a world-class park to one of the most beautiful and dynamic properties on the East Coast. The Commission has worked alongside the Department through the initial planning phases, including receiving a master plan briefing by the park developer, Dills Architects, and continues to provide ideas and feedback to various elements of the park. Using this knowledge, the Commission plans to draft a letter of support for specific elements of the project in the upcoming year.
- Serving as a liaison between City Council, the City Manager, the Department Director, and the citizens of the City.

Example:

- The Commission has heard from various community groups seeking support and/or direction from the Department and City Council this year. An example is the Great Neck Athletic Association, who presented to the Commission with the request for a letter of support for funding. The Commission provided the letter, and the group recently acquired \$41,400 in funding in the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. The Commission's support helped this city-wide athletic organization achieve its goal of acquiring funding for its operations. The Letter of Support is attached. Other external groups that have presented to the Commission this year include Tidewater Skate Shop, Coastal Virginia Rowing Association, and the Aragona Civic League.
- Consulting with and advising the City Manager, the Director, and City Council in matters affecting open space, parks and recreation policies, programs, finances, and the acquisitions and disposal of lands and properties related to the total community and open space, parks and recreation programs, and to its long-range projected program for open space, parks, and recreation.

Example:

- ITA: The ITA is an area of land that will be mindfully developed to manage the transition between urban and rural areas of the City. The Commission has received reports from internal staff on the potential options for development and drafted a letter of support for including the ITA in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This Letter of Support is attached.

Additionally, the Commission was involved with many other Department initiatives this year, including but not limited to:

- Bow Creek Storm Water Park
- Parks After Dark
- Three Oaks Trail
- Foxfire Trail
- Virginia Beach Trail

## **Membership and Attendance**

Please see the attached documents for Commission membership and attendance information.

- Attendance Reports – 2024 and 2025
- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Volunteer Hours Report

## **Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year**

Raising funds, awareness, and support for a variety of key initiatives:

1. The development and initial execution of the Virginia Beach Trail.
2. The planning and initial development of Rudee Park.
3. Maintenance and replacement, as needed, of trails, equipment, and facilities.
4. Adding additional funding to the CIP to provide additional Parks and other recreational facilities, such as the Centerville Recreation Center.
5. Department staffing.

## **Recommendations to City Council**

1. Strongly recommend that City Council consider a future Bond Referendum and/or increasing Department CIP funding to upgrade existing parks, open parks that have been land-banked for years, and to continue to catch-up on deferred maintenance.
2. Address critical age-related deterioration of the four oldest Recreation Centers.
3. The Commission supports expanded recreational growth (i.e. expanded/improved fields, a cross-country course, BMX facilities, disc golf facilities, etc.) within the Interfacility Traffic Area (ITA).

## Closing

The Parks & Recreation Commission will continue to serve as a strategic advisory resource to the Parks & Recreation Department throughout the year, while facilitating the exchange of key concepts and ideas between the Department, City Council, and community member stakeholders.

Should you have any questions or desire a formal City Council briefing from our agency, please contact Chair Phillip Hines at [philliphines@gmail.com](mailto:philliphines@gmail.com) and Staff Liaison Taryn Buckley-Thiel at [tbuckleythiel@vbgov.com](mailto:tbuckleythiel@vbgov.com).



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

2154 Landstown Road |  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Bobby Dyer  
The Honorable Members of City Council  
Building 1, City Hall  
2401 Courthouse Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

**Re: Letter of Support: Virginia Beach Youth Tackle Football**

Dear Mayor Dyer and City Council Members:

The Parks and Recreation Commission is writing to express our strong support for the Virginia Beach Youth Tackle Football League—a vital and inclusive program that serves young men and women throughout our community. This league operates as a true recreational outlet, welcoming participants from across the city regardless of skill level or prior experience, promoting equity and inclusivity in youth sports. With no tryouts required, every child is guaranteed a place on a roster, ensuring accessibility and opportunity for all.

The physical, emotional, and social benefits of youth tackle football are well-documented and contribute positively to the overall well-being of our participants. The league currently engages over 500 players from neighborhoods spanning Bayside to Great Neck and the Courthouse area. Moreover, it is a testament to community dedication and volunteerism, as it is entirely volunteer-run—often by individuals who continue to serve long after their own children have aged out of the program.

Recognizing the value and impact of this program, the Parks and Recreation Commission respectfully recommends that City Council allocate \$60,000 to the Virginia Beach Youth Tackle Football League for the FY 25/26 Budget Cycle. These funds would help offset essential expenses, enabling the league to continue offering valuable opportunities to our youth.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and your unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Virginia Beach

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Phil Hines

Chair

Parks & Recreation Commission

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

**Parks &  
Recreation**

2154 Landstown Road |  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

November 11, 2024

The Honorable Mayor Bobby Dyer  
The Honorable Members of City Council  
Building 1, City Hall  
2401 Courthouse Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

**Re: Letter of Endorsement: Parks and Recreation - ITA Master Plan**

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**Dear Mayor Dyer and City Council Members:**

The ITA Master Plan has been discussed at the last two Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) meetings and has the full support of the P&R Commission to adopt the plan update that was presented October 1, 2024 to City Council.

Sports tourism and ecotourism can be a major driver of new economic development for our city. This is an opportunity to do something special not only for the residents of Virginia Beach, but also create new sources of revenue to the city.

We respectfully ask that you consider the following:

1. Include the ITA Master Plan Update in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update.
2. Support low-cost projects from the ITA Master Plan Update such as tree planting, cross country running/biking trails, and more.
3. Begin funding the ITA Master Plan Update as a new project in the FY 2026 CIP budget.

Sincerely,

 *Phil Hines*

Phil Hines  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

# City of Virginia Beach

## Parks & Recreation Commission

### 2024 Attendance Record

#### Members Attendance

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 4 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sep 5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
Altman, Larry	8/31/2027										P	P	E	2/3
Edwards, Daniel	3/31/2026	P	A	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	E	P	9/11
Hines, Phillip	2/28/2026	P	P	E	P	P	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	9/11
Johnston, Sebastian	6/30/2025	P	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	P	P	E	P	9/11
Lankford, Barrett	6/30/2025									P	P	P	P	4/4
Messer, Ben	8/31/2026						P	X	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Mills Jr., Clinton	8/31/2025	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	11/11
Monaco, Joseph	8/31/2024	P	E	P/V	A	P	P	X-R						4/6
Moran, Kathryn	8/31/2026	P	P	P	A	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	10/11
Payne, Myra	8/31/2026	E	A	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	A	8/11
Rockefeller, Stephen	2/28/2026	P	E	P	P	P	E	X	P	P	P	P	P	9/11
Tierney, Hugh	8/31/2024	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					7/7
Towler, Eugene	8/31/2026	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	11/11
Weiner, David	2/28/2026	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	E	P	P	P	10/11
Wiggins, Debbie	2/28/2026	P	P	P	P	E	P	X	P	P/V	P	P	P	10/11
Zelinski, Quinn	7/31/2024	P	P	P	P	P	E	X						5/6



Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 4 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sep 5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/total number of appointed members		12/13	9/13	12/13	11/13	12/13	10/14	X	12/12	11/12	13/13	11/13	11/13	

### City Council Liaisons/Department Staff Liaisons

Name	Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 4 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sep 5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
Wooten, Sabrina		P		P			X	P		P			4
Buckley-Thiel, Taryn	P	P	P		P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	10

**Key:** Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Canceled (C)

**City Council and staff liaisons** should be marked either P or P/V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank

**If commissioners participate** P/V, it must be annotated in the minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or staff liaisons.

**Meetings lacking a quorum of members attending in person** should be designated with an asterisk (\*)

**City of Virginia Beach  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
2025 Attendance Record**

**Members Attendance**

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
Altman, Larry	8/31/2027	C	P	A	P	P	A	X	A					3/6
Amerine, Alexander	6/30/2026	C						X	P					1/1
Edwards, Daniel	3/31/2026	C	P	P	P/V	P	P	X	P					6/6
Hines, Phillip	2/28/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6/6
Johnston, Sebastian	6/30/2025	C	P	E	P	P	P	X						4/5
Lankford, Barrett	6/30/2026	C	P	P	P	P	A	X	A					4/6
Messer, Ben	8/31/2026	C	P	P	E	P	P	X	P					5/6
Mills Jr., Clinton	8/31/2025	C	P	P	P	E	P	X	A					4/6
Moran, Kathryn	8/31/2026	C	P	A	P	P	E	X	P					4/6
Payne, Myra	8/31/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6/6
Rockefeller, Stephen	2/28/2026	C	E	P	A	P	P	X	P					4/6
Towler, Eugene	8/31/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6/6
Weiner, David	2/28/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6/6
Wiggins, Debbie	2/28/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6/6

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
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### City Council Liaisons/Department Staff Liaisons

Name	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Total Present
Jackson-Green, Cal	C	P	P				X						2
Buckley-Thiel, Taryn	C	P	P	P	P	P	X	P					6

**Key:** Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (**A**) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (**E**) Canceled (C)

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## Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Commission Volunteer Monthly Log

Volunteer Resource Manager: Taryn M. Buckley-Thiel

Location/Unit: Parks and Recreation Commission - Year: 2025

- **All New Volunteers/Groups: Address/Phone #/Email/Date of Birth  
Due to your Volgistics Operator by the 4<sup>th</sup> of the next Month**

Volunteer Name   Address	Job Title	Total Service Hours
Larry Altman	Commission Member	20.0 Hours
Edwards, Dan	Vice Chair	64.0 Hours
Hines, Phillip	Chair	97.0 Hours
Jackson-Green, Cal	Council Liaison	8.0 Hours
Johnston, Sebastian	Secretary	15.0 Hours
Lankford, Barrett	Student Member	13.0 Hours
Messer, Ben	Commission Member	19.5 Hours
Mills, Clinton	Commission Member	55.0 Hours
Moran, Kathryn	Commission Member	18.0 Hours
Payne, Myra	Commission Member	18.0 Hours
Rockefeller, Stephen	Commission Member	75.0 Hours
Towler, Eugene	Commission Member	19.0 Hours
Weiner, David	Commission Member	17.0 Hours
Wiggins, Debbie	Commission Member	27.0 Hours
<i>Monaco, Joesph</i>	<i>Previous Commission Member</i>	<i>0.0 Hours</i>

Volunteer Name   Address	Job Title	Total Service Hours
<i><b>Tierney, Hugh</b></i>	<i>Previous Commission Member</i>	<i><b>10.0 Hours</b></i>
<i><b>Wooten, Sabrina</b></i>	<i>Previous Council Liaison</i>	<i><b>4.0 Hours</b></i>
<i><b>Zelinski, Quinn</b></i>	<i>Previous Commission Member</i>	<i><b>0.0 Hours</b></i>

Notes:

Current and *Former* Parks and Recreation Commission Members

**TOTAL: 479.5 Hours**