

# PRINCE WILLIAM

Parks & Recreation

## Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District  
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, At Large Member  
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District  
Jane Beyer, Vice Chair, Coles District  
Rick Berry, Gainesville District  
Ross W. Snare, IV, Neabsco District  
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District  
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

**March 19, 2025 7:30 PM**

George Hellwig Administrative Bldg. Board Room  
14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA

### Commission Members Present

Rick Berry  
Jane Beyer  
Sharon Richardson  
Vida Carroll  
Brodie Freer  
Oriella Mejia  
Ross Snare

### Staff Present

Seth Hendler-Voss  
Ryan Amato  
Christy Mory  
Veronica Laughman  
Amir Wenrich  
Frances Bridges  
Todd Reid  
John Blevins  
Rob Orrison

### Commission Members Absent

Benita Fitzgerald Mosley

### Guests

### Secretary

Shannon Jaenicke

### Citizens

Larissa Miller

**C**

### all to Order

At 7:30 p.m. Chair Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order and Vida Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### Administrative Items

**RES 25-07** Approve Minutes of February 19, 2025. **APPROVED. (RS: JB, Unanimous, Absent from Meeting BM)**

### Citizens Time

None

### Presentations

#### Science in the Park, and Therapeutic Recreation Programs

Christy Mory and Veronica Laughman presented information on the Science in the Park (SIP) and Therapeutic Recreation (TR) programs. Highlighting the growth and opportunities in each program. [Presentation is available from the Secretary to the Commission]. Ms. Carroll requested a list of the schools served by the SIP program. Mr. Berry inquired about access to the Freedom Center to expand programming, and asked if DPR had any data analysis of other jurisdictions % of parks budgets that goes to TR.



- Neabsco Regional Park Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting/Historic Marker Ceremony April 16 at 1 pm. Commissioners may hear concerns over perceived disruption of a beaver damn at the kayak launch, but the lodge is upstream of the launch, They may also hear concerns over no vehicular access to the launch. At this time there is no funding for vehicular access, access will require portage.
- Staff Picnic will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at Splashdown Waterpark. The rain is May 8.
- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic is April 26 at Cloverdale Park
- April 28<sup>th</sup> there is a Transportation hosted Ribbon Cutting at Long Park for the Intersection improvements
- Free movie nights will be hosted on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Splashdown, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Vets, and June 13<sup>th</sup> at Chinn
- Fridays at 5 will kick off in June.
- The Chris Thom Field Naming Resolution was removed from the April 1 BOCS agenda. The Director will share more information as it is received.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> is the Historic Dumfries Walking Tour
- June 14<sup>th</sup> is the Dumfries Tavern Night

#### Capital Projects

- Forest Greens Golf Clubhouse renovation is under way. Supervisor Bailey would like to add some proffers to the project and expand the project.
- Hellwig Turf project is nearly complete, play on the field will begin early April
- Ned Distiller House vegetation clearing has been completed
- Long Park Lights will be on soon

#### Other updates

- Staff have submitted an application to the NRPA Gold Medal Program.
- We are just 28 lifeguards away from fully staffed for the upcoming pool season.

#### Commissioner's Time

Ms. Carrol	Was sorry to miss the State of the Parks address;
Ms. Beyer	Attended the State of the Parks and enjoyed a great presentation by Seth and facilitation by Chair Freer; she is really looking forward to getting the field naming for Mr. Thom approved and hopes this delay does not impact the planned ceremony on April 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Mr. Berry	Will be attending an upcoming meeting regarding staffing needs for DPR; also was able to attend the State of the Parks, was sorry he had to leave before the Q and A session
Mr.Snare	Mr. Snare continues to meet monthly with Supervisor Angry; he has been enjoying some time in our parks with the nicer weather.
Ms. Mejia	Ms. Mejia attended State of the Parks; she thanked the Director and staff for all of the updates tonight.
Ms. Richardson	Thanked tonight's presenters; she shared appreciation to DPR staff for all of their fantastic work, seen and unseen; she attended State of the Parks and

enjoyed the information tables and presentation, she felt that the audience engagement was very good throughout.

Chair Freer

Attended the State of the Parks, which grows bigger and better each year; he wished the Grounds crews the best of luck as the spring season work is underway; He congratulated staff on their seasonal lifeguard recruiting accomplishments; he attended the recent arts council meeting and shared that they have a lot of good stuff going on and that they are short two appointees ( one from Gainesville district and one from Woodbridge district); he thanked staff and stated that it is a real pleasure to serve on this Commission.

**Closed Session**

None.


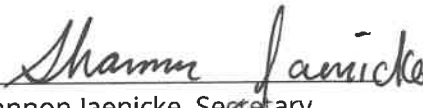
**Adjournment**

**RES 25-09**

Motion to Adjourn at 9:30 pm. **APPROVED (RS,VC, Unanimous, Absent from Meeting BM)**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on April 16, 2025, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes **APPROVED** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on April 16, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brodie Freer, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Hendler-Voss, Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

**MOTION: SNARE**

**March 19, 2025  
Regular Meeting  
Res. No. 25-08**

**SECOND: RICHARDSON**

**RE: ADOPT FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION VALUES**

**ACTION: APPROVED**

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to advise the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) and Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) on matters relating to the provision of parks and recreation services to the residents of Prince William County; and

**WHEREAS**, to accomplish their mission the Commission must work closely the BOCS, DPRT and citizens of the community to understand and interpret their needs and desires relating to parks and recreation services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Commission has developed Values to maximize effectiveness through increased communication, advocacy and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, all members of the Parks and Recreation Commission had the opportunity to share in the development of the Annual Goals; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Values.

Attachment: Values

**Votes:**

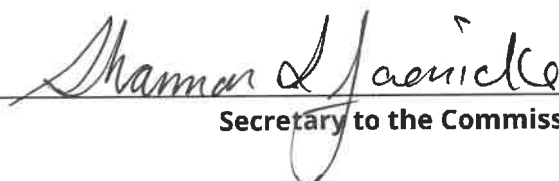
**Ayes: BERRY, BEYER, CARROLL, FREER, MEJIA, RICHARDSON, SNARE**

**Nays: NONE**

**Absent from Vote: NONE**

**Absent from Meeting: MOSLEY**

**ATTEST:**



**Secretary to the Commission**

## **FY 25/26 Parks and Recreation Commission Values**

#1 Participate and engage in as many DPR functions as time allows. Including but not limited to: masterplan reviews, budget meetings, ground breakings, ribbon cuttings, dedications, fundraisers, events, public meetings, and Supervisor work sessions in promotion of the Department.

#2 Support, encourage and promote funding for the Department.

#3 Have face to face communication with the constituents of our County, Supervisors, other Commissioners and Department staff throughout the year.

#4 In collaboration with the DPR, each commissioner shall perform outreach within their individual networks to advance the interests of Prince William County Parks and Recreation, Historic Preservation and Tourism.

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
—Parks, Recreation & Tourism

**Parks and Recreation  
Commission**

**SIGN-IN SHEET**

March 19, 2025

**Please Print Name / Address / Phone Number/ Email**

Place a check mark beside your name if you wish to address the Commission. Please limit your comment to 3 minutes when speaking on your own behalf or 5 minutes if speaking on behalf of a group.

Name	Address	Phone #	Email
Larissa Miller	- Arts Council Board	member	

# Program Spotlight:

Science in the Park & Therapeutic Recreation



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# Science in the Park

Utilizing County Parks for Environmental  
Education

Presenter

Christy Mory- Environmental Programs Manager

# Science in the Park- Who Are We

- ▶ Science in the Park is a nature-based education program that uses county parks as outdoor classrooms.
- ▶ Lessons encourage inquiry-based learning; allowing students to make observations, ask questions, and become scientists for the day.
- ▶ Each lesson was written to reinforce key concepts and vocabulary and align with Virginia's Standards of Learning



# Program Highlights

## Science in the Park

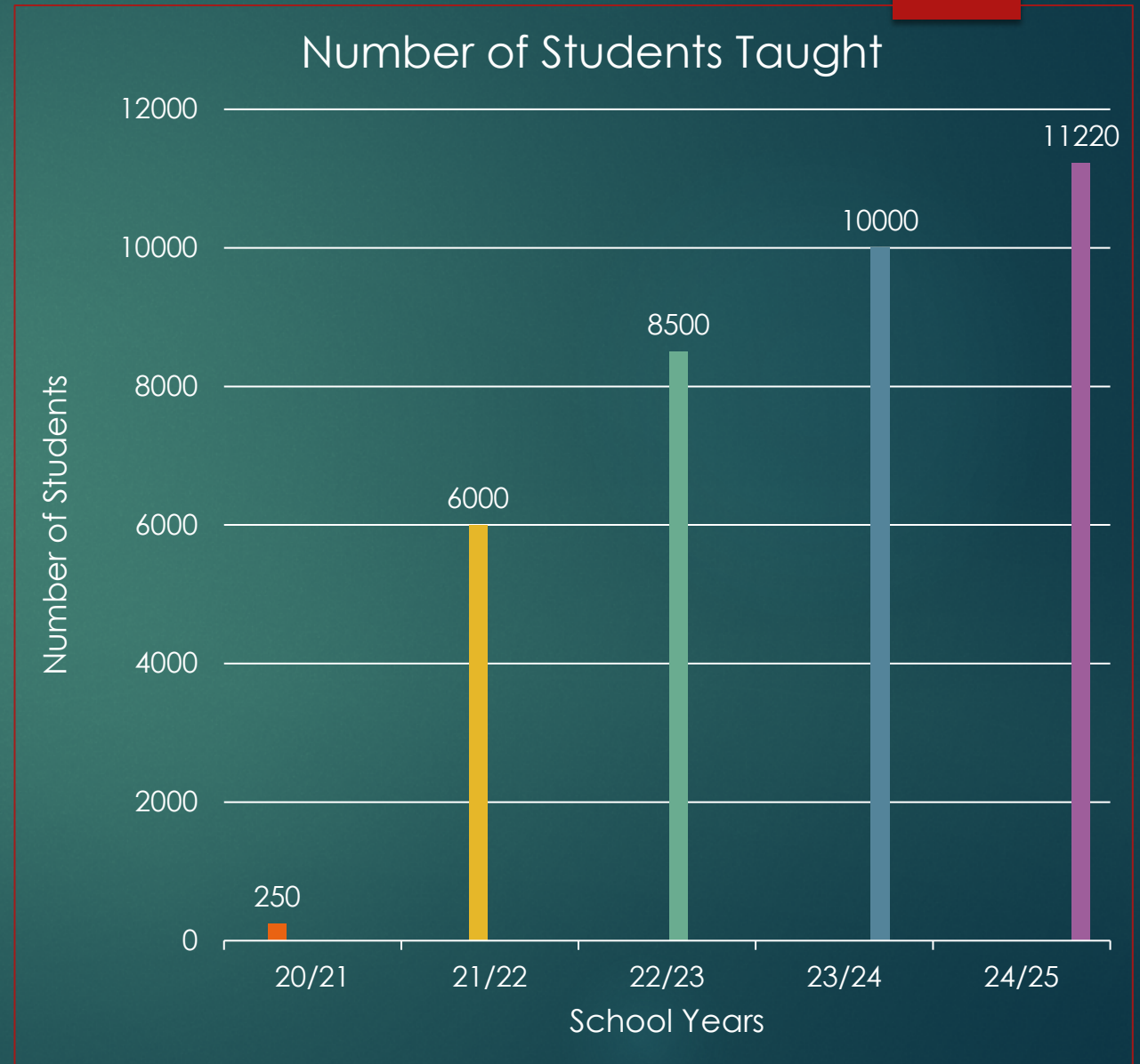
- ▶ 2024 - Our Biggest Year! 10,075 students
- ▶ 2025- Even Bigger! 11,025 Students anticipated

## Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)

- ▶ 2024-Number of Students seen: 799
- ▶ 2025- 1838 students anticipated.
- ▶ 143% increase


## SIP-Special Education

- ▶ 2024- 758 Students
- ▶ 2025-835 Students Anticipated
- ▶ 10% increase



# What Teachers are Saying

- ▶ “The instructors made this experience fun and educational. We love Science in the Park”  
- Old Bridge Elementary
- ▶ “This fieldtrip is a yearly event. I’ve already registered for Spring 2026!”  
-Lakeridge Elementary
- ▶ From registering to coming on the fieldtrip, this experience has been amazing. We’ll be back  
– Reagan Middle School



**SCIENCE**  
IN THE  
**PARKS**

PRINCE WILLIAM  
Parks & Recreation

# Funding the Fun

- ▶ Science in the Park materials and equipment are largely grant funded
- ▶ Over 6,200 Title 1 students grant funded in 2024-2025 School Year
- ▶ MWEE and SPED programs expanded

## THANK YOU!

- ▶ Hylton Foundation
- ▶ PWC Parks Foundation
- ▶ White House Farm Foundation
- ▶ Fairfax County Water Grant



# Challenges-Goals

## Challenges

- ▶ Staff retention
- ▶ Limited to 3 locations- One west end, two east end
- ▶ Limited equipment and space to expand

## Goals

- ▶ Expand MWEE and SPED programs
- ▶ Increase community programs in conservation and stewardship
- ▶ Create a “Teaching Garden”



# Questions

Christy Mory-  
[Cmory@pwcgov.org](mailto:Cmory@pwcgov.org)

Ryan Amato-  
[RAmato@pwcgov.org](mailto:RAmato@pwcgov.org)





# Therapeutic Recreation

ADA Compliance, Adapted Programs, and  
Inclusion

Presenter

Veronica Laughman- ADA Coordinator



# Current Operations

## ADA Compliance

- ▶ Field and address ADA grievances (11 in 2024)
- ▶ Program Access (52 req. outside of summer camp)
- ▶ Playground and Park compliance review

## Partnerships/Collabs

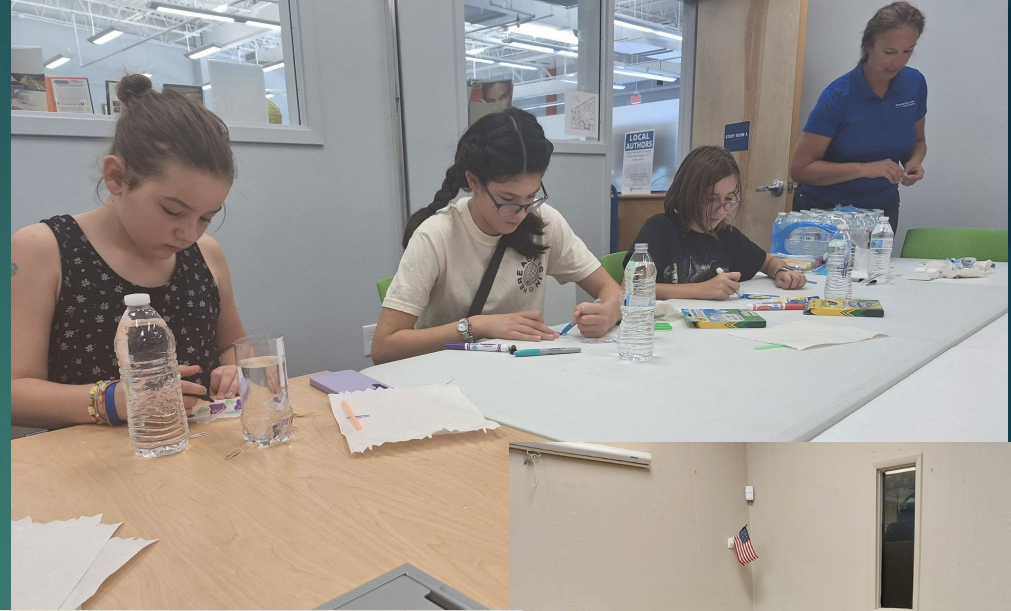
- ▶ Tween Stem Program/PWCPL
- ▶ Human Rights Division
- ▶ I Can Swim
- ▶ Adapted Yoga (2026)

## Adapted Programs

- ▶ Camp in a Box (Spring/Winter)
- ▶ Adapted Kayaking
- ▶ Adapted Swimming
- ▶ Adapted Cooking
- ▶ Adapted Soccer
- ▶ Therapeutic Art
- ▶ Miracle League (Sports Div)
- ▶ Adapted Dance (Dance Prog)
- ▶ Healthy Kids Club

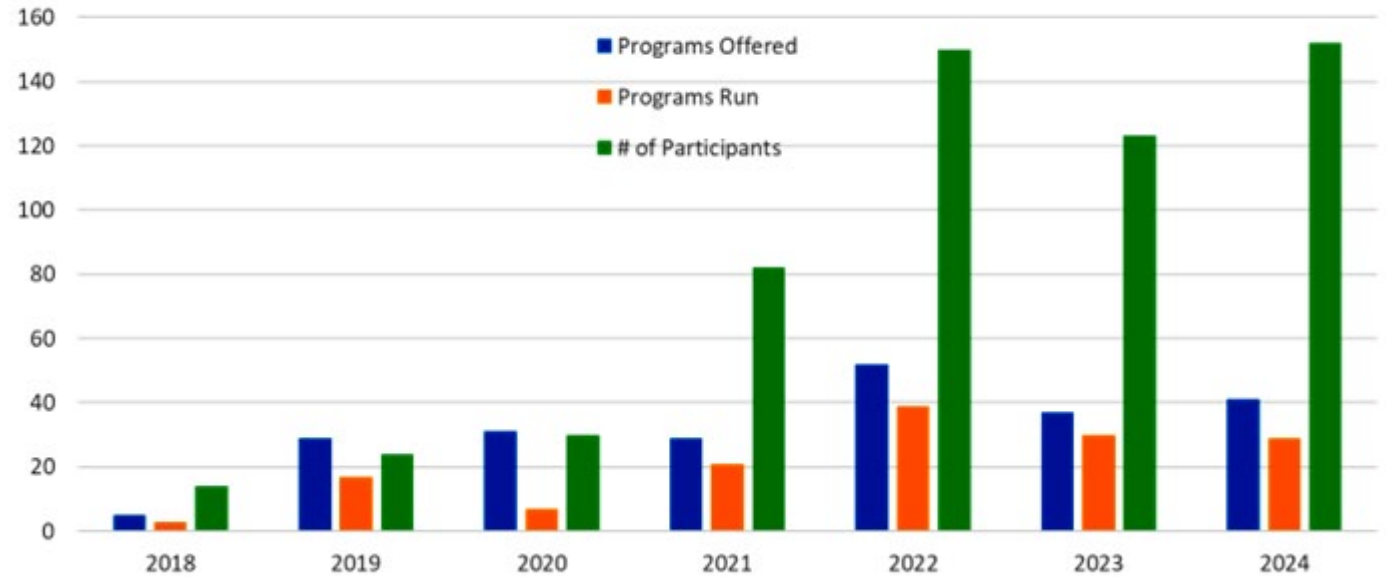
# 2024 Highlights

- ▶ Collaborated with Prince William Public Libraries to offer a Tween Stem Program
- ▶ Hosted 3 successful cooking classes
- ▶ Developed an Adapted Swim program in collaboration with Aquatics to help with swim class readiness
- ▶ Advanced the Adapted Art Program to Therapeutic Art with an Art Therapy Student Instructor
- ▶ Launched adapted soccer program
- ▶ Hosted 4<sup>th</sup> Therapeutic Recreation Intern



# Program Data

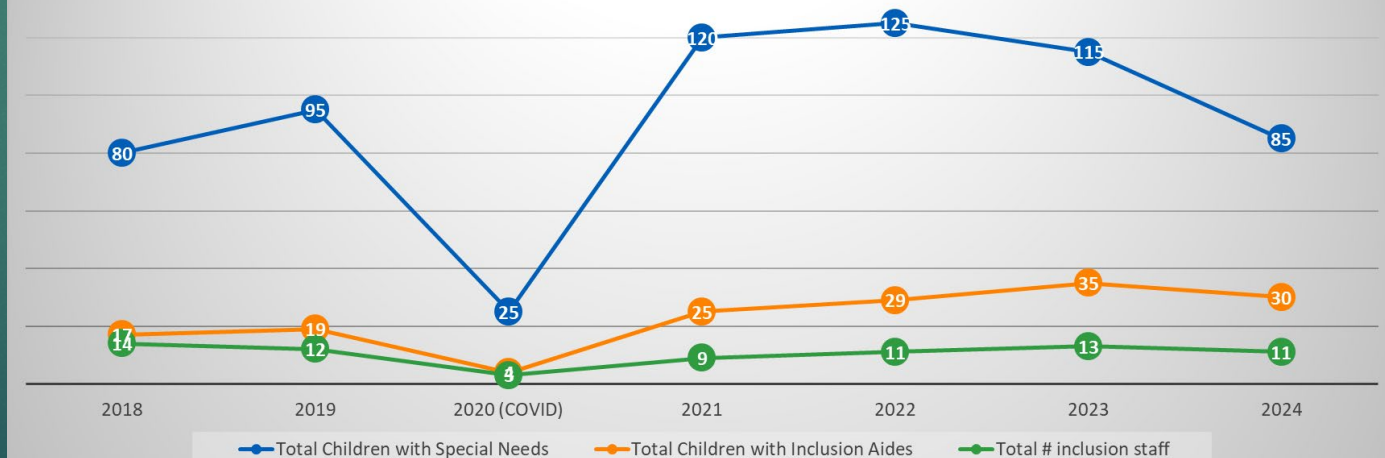
## Adapted Recreation Program Growth



## ADA Inquiries



## Summer Camp Inclusion Program Growth



# Challenges

## Space

- ▶ Hard to find open space
- ▶ Hard to find the type of space needed for therapeutic programming
- ▶ Not a lot of appropriate programming space on the west side of the county

## Staffing

- ▶ Program Instructors with Certification
- ▶ Consistent Hours



# Questions

Veronica Laughman-  
[Vlaughman@pwcgov.org](mailto:Vlaughman@pwcgov.org)

Ryan Amato-  
[RAmato@pwcgov.org](mailto:RAmato@pwcgov.org)

