Isle of Wight County
Parks and Recreation

Parks & Rec
Comprehensive Master
Plan

Community Input Meeting

August 22 and 23, 2023



AGENDA

- Introduction to the Park & Rec Master Plan
- Demographics in Isle of Wight County
- Park & Rec inventory highlights
- Public Survey results
- Key recommendations
- Q&A session

- Attendee input

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Determine existing conditions
- Evaluate community needs
- Align needs with existing resources
- Identify needed improvements
- Prioritize and plan implementation





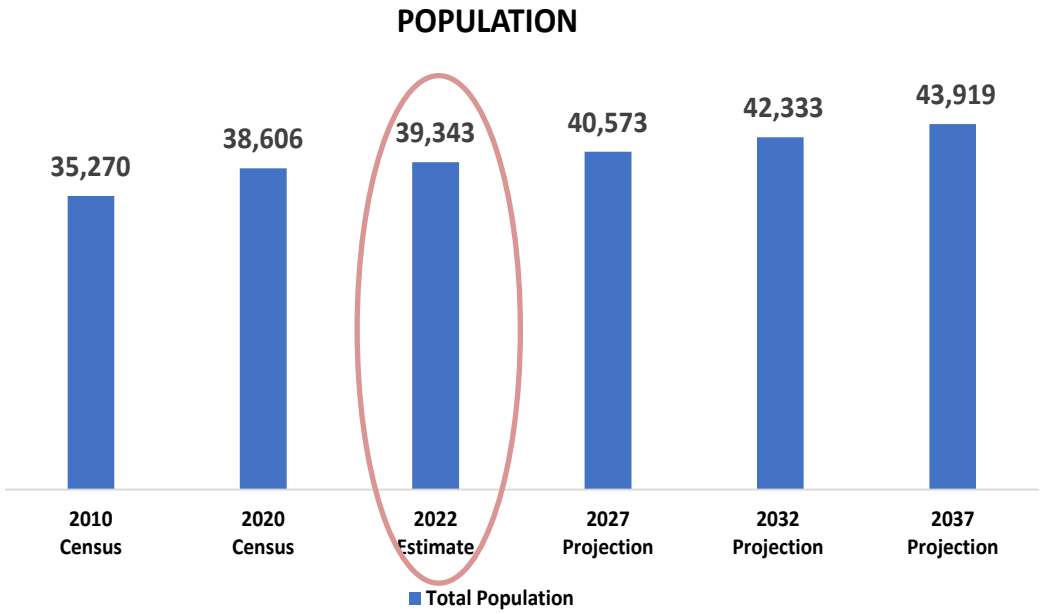


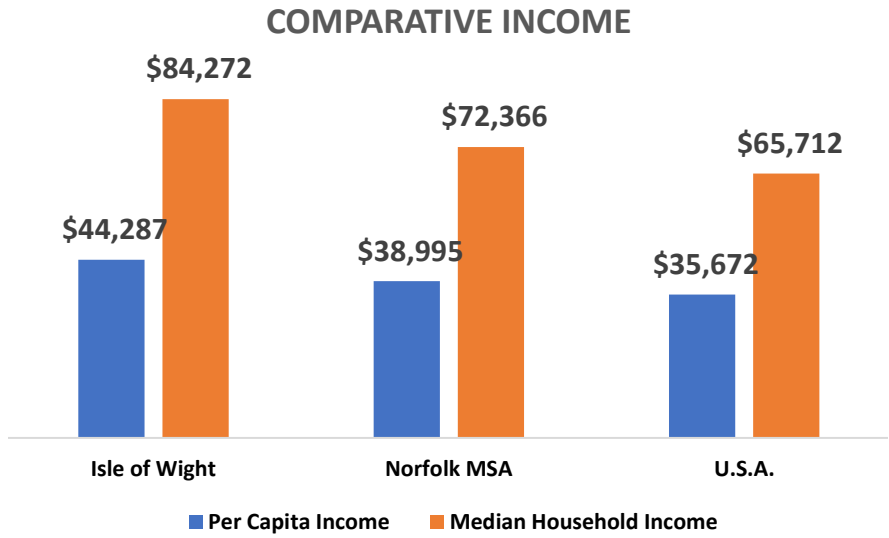
ORGANIZING THE PROCESS

1. ✓ Demographic & trends analysis
2. ✓ Statistically valid public survey (Spring 2022)
3. ✓ Assessment of existing site conditions
4. ✓ Inventory of existing amenities
5. ✓ Recreation program assessment
6. ✓ Operation and maintenance assessment
7. ✓ Needs analysis update
8. **Public input**
9. 10-Year development plan
10. Draft & Final Master Plan reports

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Population of 39,343
- Steady population growth (+9.4% last 10 years, +7.6% next 10 years)
- Older population, and getting older (those aged 55+ projected to increase from 38% to 44% of the population)
- Median and per capita household income are above regional and national averages
- Slightly diversifying population





COUNTY PARK LAND

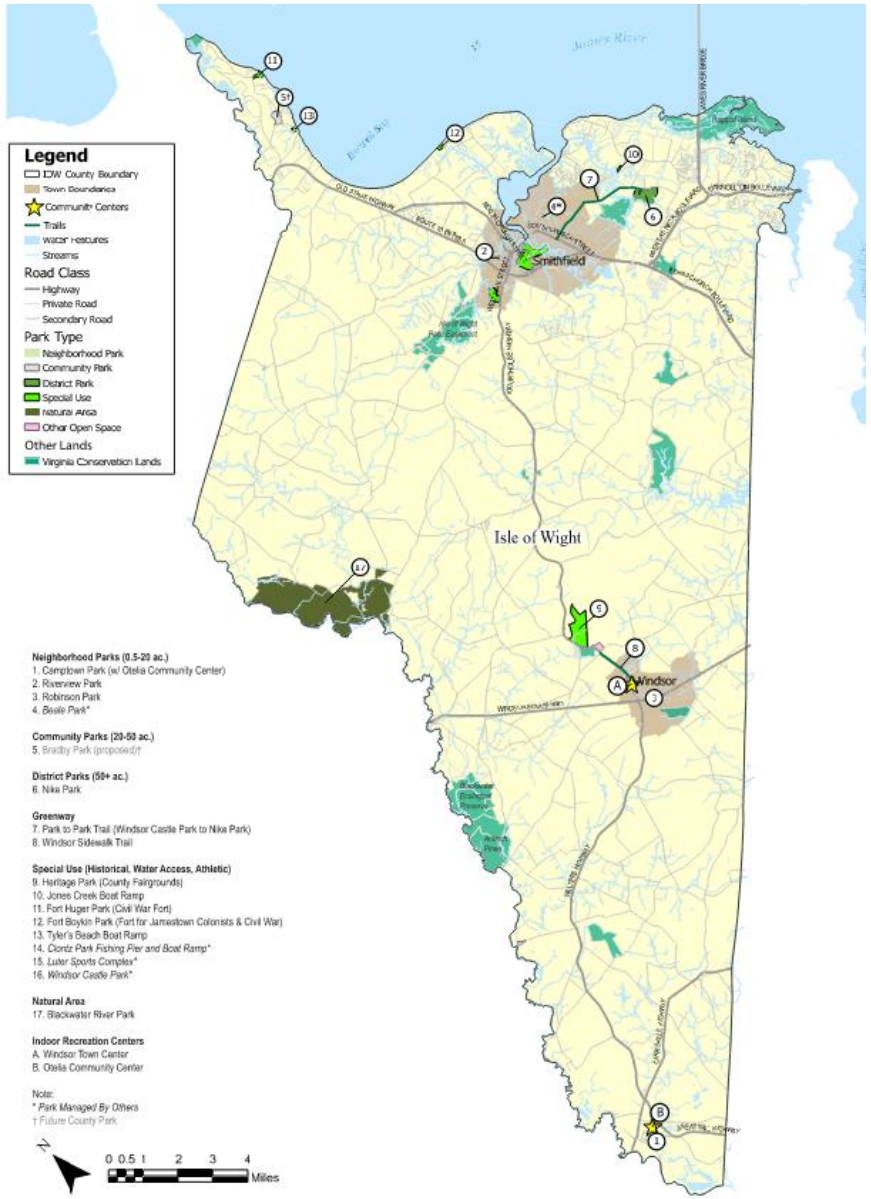
2,899 acres of County park land, which includes…

499 acres of developed park land,

2,343 acres of Natural Area, and

50 acres of undeveloped park land.

255 acres of additional park land in Smithfield



COUNTY PARK & RECREATION SITES

14 Parks, Historical Sites, Greenways, and Special Use Facilities

2 Community/Recreation Centers

1 Senior Center

11 miles of trails and greenways

2,849 acres of County park land open to the public, including…

2,343 acres of Natural Area

255 acres of additional park land in Smithfield







ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PARK AMENITIES

- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Rectangular fields
- Diamond fields
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Skate Park
- Fishing
- Beaches
- Boat ramps
- Canoe/kayak launches
- Hiking/walking trails
- Greenway trail
- Mountain biking trails
- *ATV trail (coming soon)*
- Fairgrounds
- Preserved natural area













ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Youth sports programs
- Adult sports programs
- Senior fitness & wellness classes
- Adult wellness classes
- Youth arts and crafts
- Swim lessons
- Before/After school care
- Summer camp
- Senior special events and trips
- Community special events
- Therapeutic recreation








PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

A public survey was conducted in the Spring of 2022. A randomized sampling of households were contacted, and 353 completed surveys were collected. The results are statistically significant and representative.

75% **of respondents have visited Isle of Wight County Parks in the last two years.**

39% **of respondents said that their perception of the value of parks and rec has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic.**

20% **of households have at least one member who participated in a County rec program in the last two years.**

45% **of respondents said that funding to parks and recreation should be increased.**

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

TOP 5 FACILITY NEEDS

- Beaches
- Walking & biking trails
- Outdoor performance space
- Fitness & exercise facilities
- Indoor walking track

TOP 5 FACILITES VALUED

- Walking & biking trails
- Beaches
- Fishing piers
- Fitness & exercise facilities
- Outdoor performance space

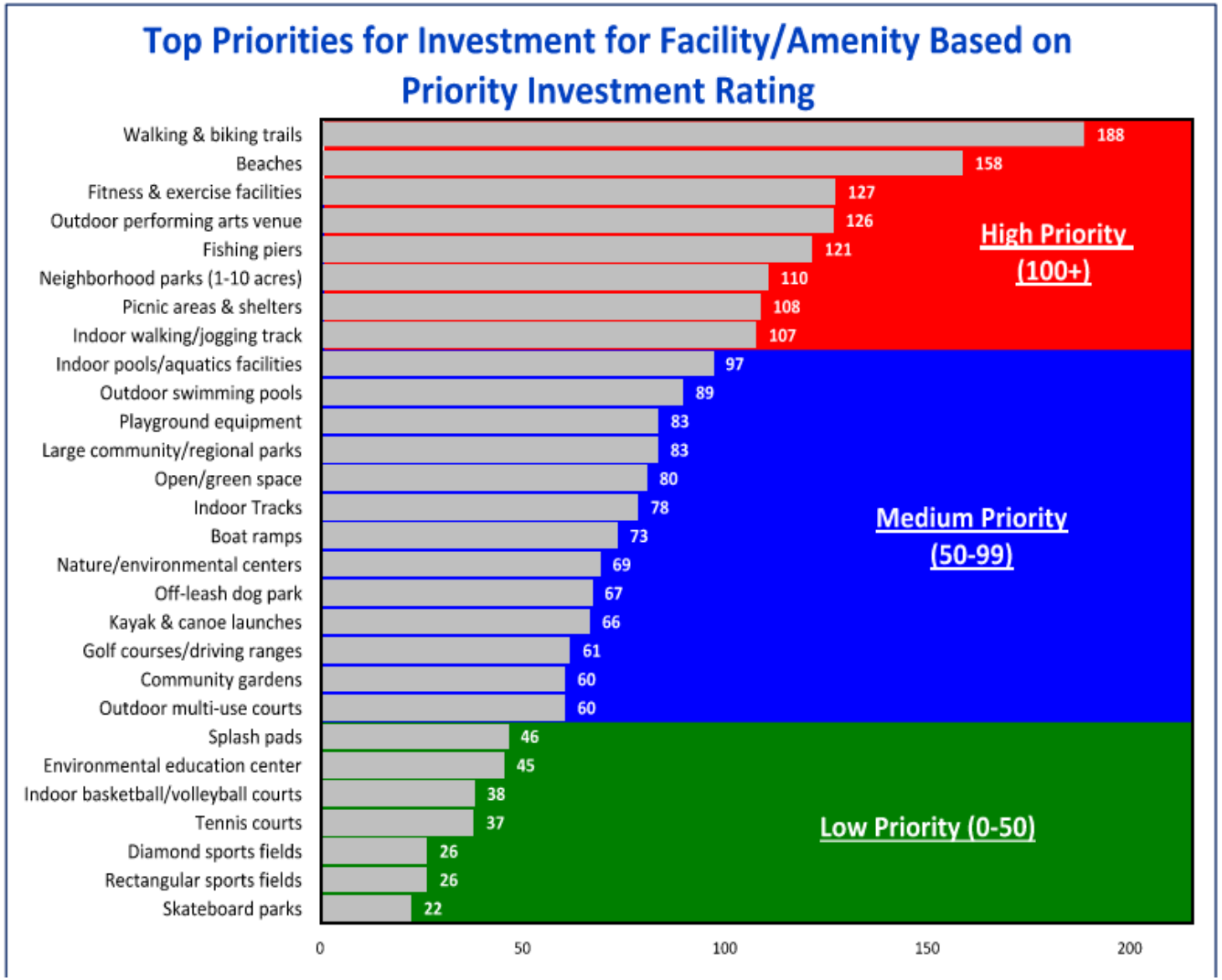
TOP 5 PROGRAM NEEDS

- Adult fitness & wellness
- Exercise classes
- Community special events
- Senior health & wellness
- Senior educational programs

TOP 5 PROGRAMS VALUED

- Adult fitness & wellness
- Community special events
- Exercise classes
- Senior health & wellness
- Historic park programs

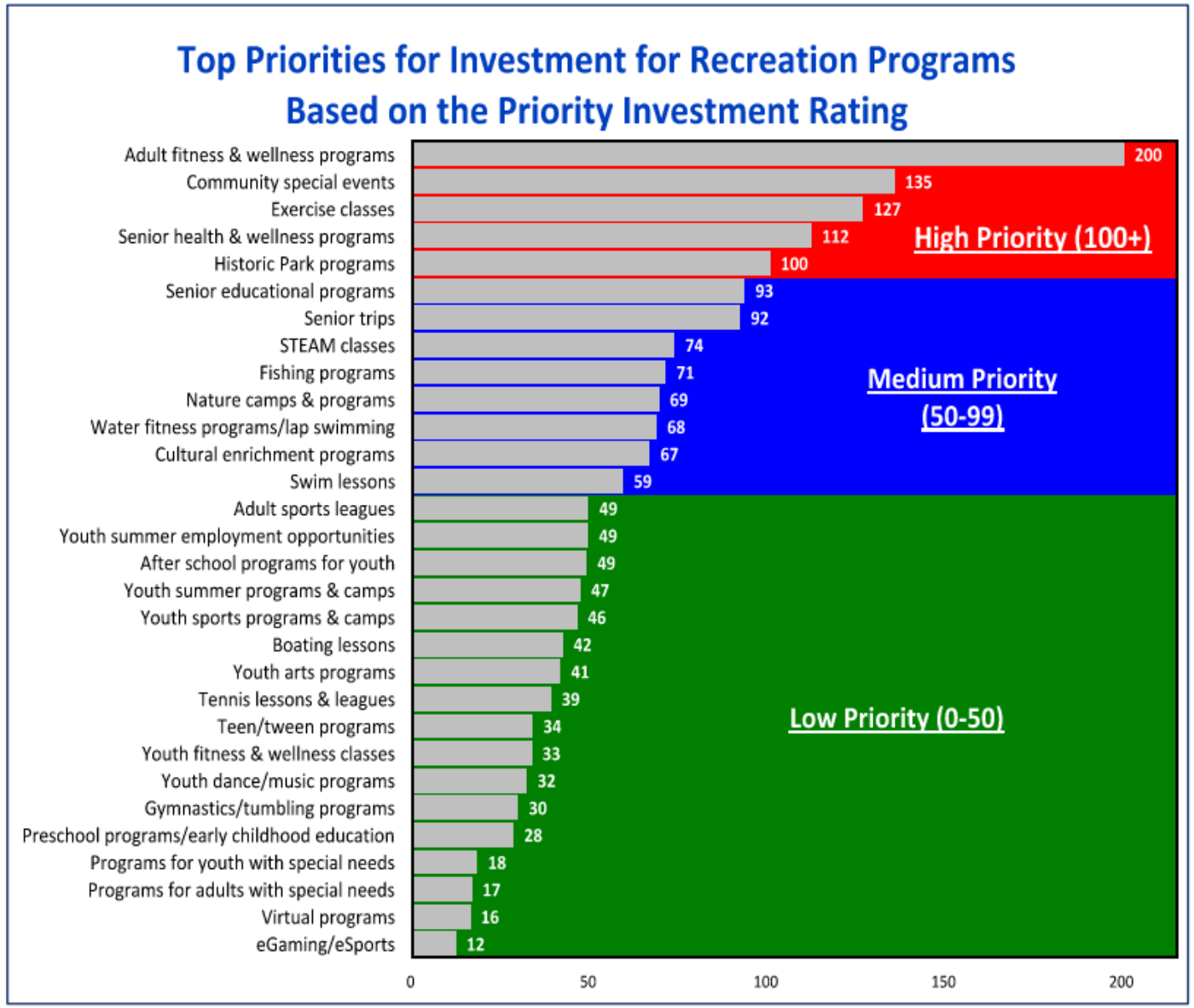
PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS



TOP PRIORITY FACILITIES

- Walking & biking trails
- Beaches
- Fitness & exercise facilities
- Outdoor performance space
- Fishing piers
- Neighborhood parks
- Picnic areas and shelters
- Indoor walking track

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS



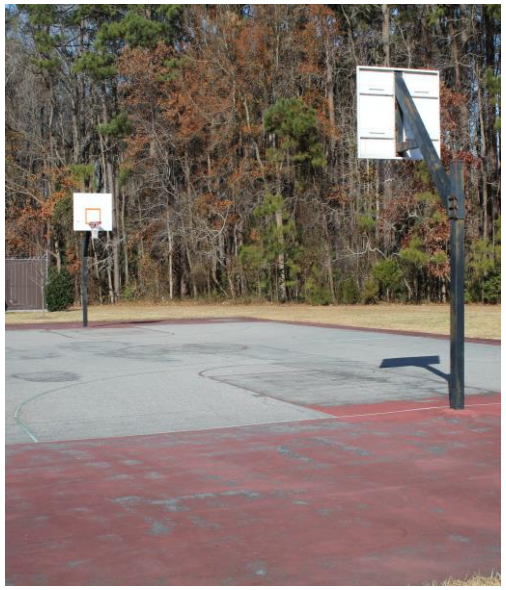
TOP PRIORITY PROGRAMS

- Adult fitness & wellness
- Community special events
- Exercise classes
- Senior health & wellness
- Historic park programs

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

EXISTING PARKS/FACILITIES

- Repair and improve existing facilities
- Add trails and improve connectivity
- Diversify recreation at historic and special use sites
- Invest in Camptown Park
- Convert Windsor Sidewalk Trail to a shared use path and extend to Windsor Elementary School
- Develop Heritage Park as regional District-level park
- Renovate Otelia Community Center







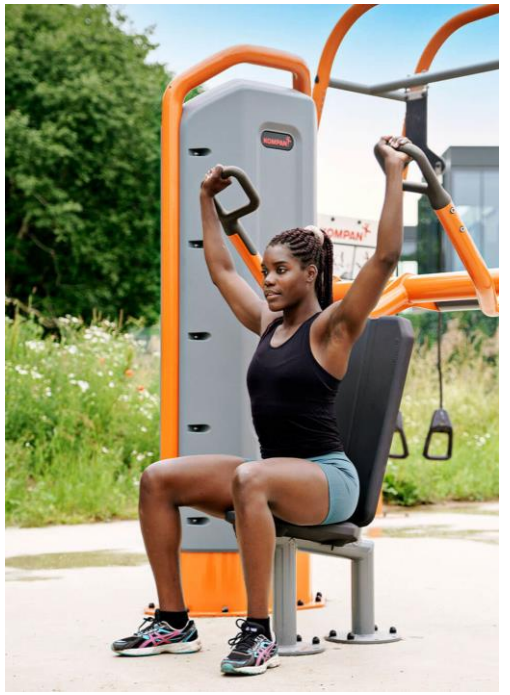


KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

NEW PARKS/FACILITIES

- Add more water access sites (fishing, boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, beach)
- Construct additional playgrounds and picnic areas
- Develop blueway trail network
- Construct an amphitheater
- Construct outdoor fitness facilities
- Construct a sprayground
- Develop additional local neighborhood parks
- Construct a new recreation center.







KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

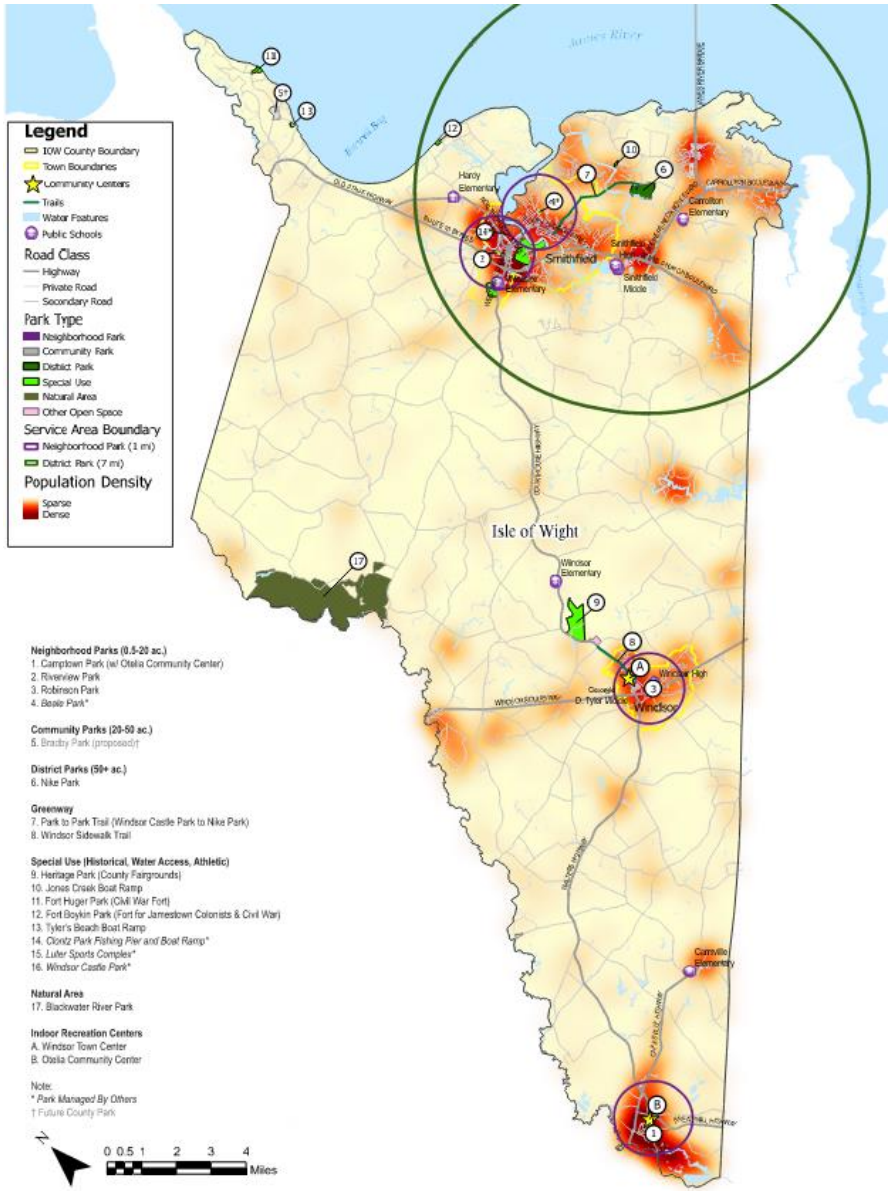
- Expand programming opportunities for those aged 55+, in a variety of subcategories
- Continue to support and expand Therapeutic Recreation programs
- Improve strategy for public feedback
- Expand adult fitness & wellness and exercise classes
- Expand community special events
- Implement historic interpretation program

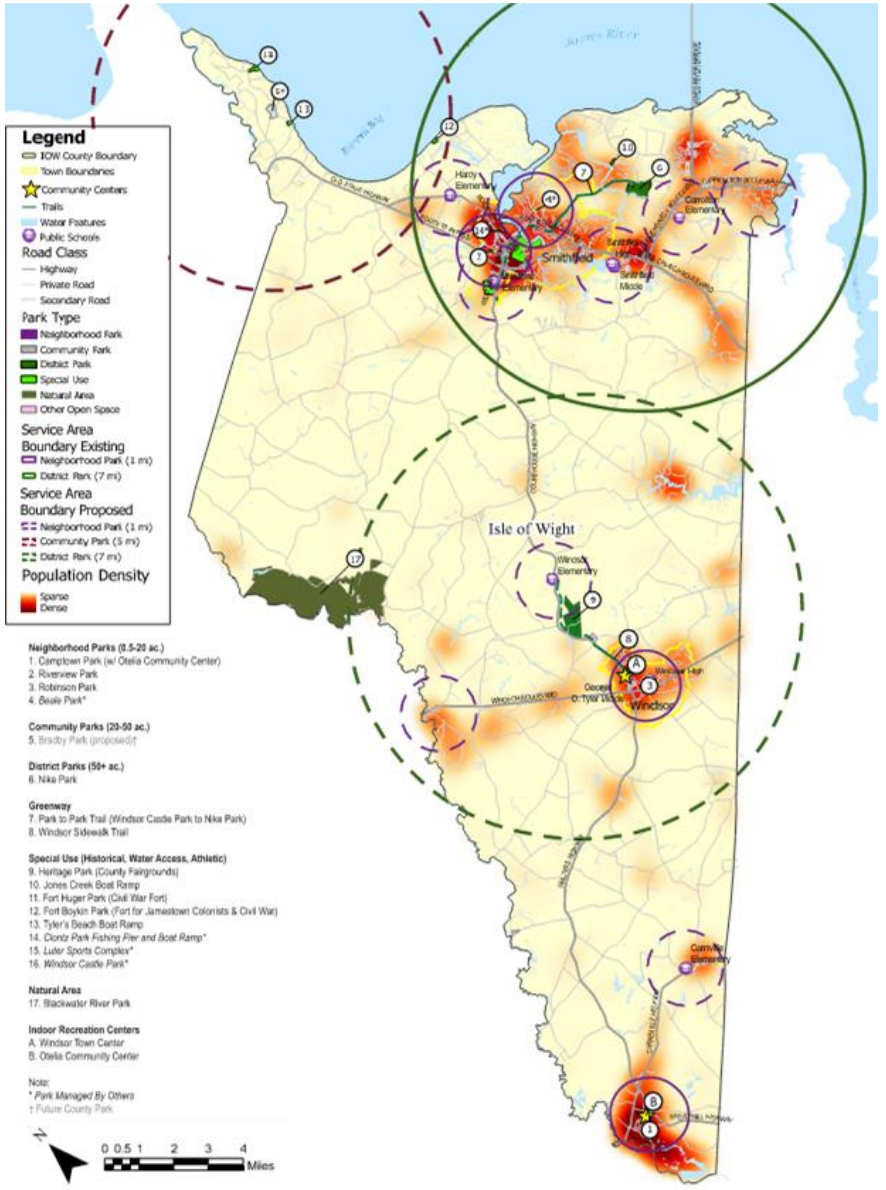






EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM







QUESTIONS?

If you have any additional questions or comments after the meeting, please contact Michael Frickanisce at mfrickanisce@isleofwightus.net