

VRPS NORTHERN SERVICE AREA

September 9th 2025 – Virtual Meeting

Attendance

NSA Board:

Julie Kagler – Chair
Emma Charles –
Communication Chair
Shauna Manovich –
Recorder

Members:

Tommy Cureton
Alexandra Talbot
Elizabeth Brand
Michelle
Jeremy Payne
Sarah Oberther
Kelly Koernig

Lauren Kruck
Craig Makufka
Rylie Jeppson
Katie MacCammon
Bob Williams
Luca Twohie
Sandi Dallhoff

Minutes

• Chairperson's Report:

- Looking for 1 person to join the board for 2026 great opportunity from networking, building leadership skills, and a resume addition.
- A reminder from Derrick Cowles to sign up for the disc golf tournament at the conference if you haven't already.
- VRPS conference on Oct. 27th, Taylor room at 4:30pm NSA meet up/social. This event is prior to the SA/SRG Social at 5:00pm at the hotel courtyard.

• VRPS Board Liaison – Steve Torpy

- Conference registration is open - the education schedule is available on the website. 339 current registrations, last year there was 503, last time in Roanoke 330, please register if you have not done so
- The Director's Forum at conference will be Tuesday, October 28, the same day as our exhibits and awards ceremony. The topic is surviving difficult local politics. If your director can't make the whole event, they can register for one day for Tuesday.
- The 2026 Virginia Parks and Recreation Directors Conference will be held March 26-27, 2026 in Staunton, VA at the historic Hotel 24 South. Next year's event will use the same formula of peer-driven discussion and problem-solving that was popular this year combined with the feel of a true retreat for just a day! Directors are encouraged to bring a deputy or AD, there will be space for discreet conversations.
- 2026 should have an active legislative session with a planned outdoor recreation day at the Capitol being planned, a funding bill to pass, our legislative agenda to support (attached), and a new governor to meet and work with on Play All Day VA and more. Does anyone want to join our advocacy committee or help with any of these initiatives?

- Finally, please share our consideration of a new tiered membership system where directors will be able to choose how many staff they would like to cover for membership. Please note that they will be able to make this decision based on the level of staff engagement and what their budget can support, not as a straight calculation of size like NRPA. This should provide easier billing and the likelihood of new member benefits for agency members, including potentially education for park board/volunteer members, potential access to a limited amount of location-based reporting, and more.

• **Communications Chair Report (Emma Charles)**

- Register for the Fall Workshop at Ashburn Recreation and Community Center October 7th.
- Register at <https://vrps.memberclicks.net/2025-nsa-fall>

• **Resource & Specialty Group Reports:**

o **Aquatics**

- AFO (online class) 10/24 and 10/25 – information on resource group page on VRPS site.
- Resource Group update/roundtable – 10/8 at 12:00pm both on Microsoft teams. Contact Michael Suggs at msuggs@pwcgov.org

o **Park Operations**

- Virtual roundtable 9/24 at 11am topic – Natural Resource Management.
- Contact alister.perkinson@jamescitycountyva.gov

o **Senior Resource Group**

- In person Fall training at Natural Chimneys Park – 9/10 at 11am

o **Special Events and Marketing**

- Contact Rebecca Johnson rjohnson@hopewellva.gov

o **Therapeutic Recreation**

- Next meeting – Tuesday 9/30 at 11:00am. Topic: Creating TR from Scratch
- Contact Tracy Newsom tracy.newsom@jamescitycountyva.gov

o **Health and Wellness**

o **Outdoor Recreation**

- Next meeting on Thursday 10/9 at 10:30am. Roundtable discussion: Moving programs indoors for the winter. Contact Hannah Lagana-bellh@colonialheightsva.gov

o **YoPro – Young Professional Network**

- Contact Katie MacCammon Kmaccammon@fairfaxva.gov.
- Sign Up for the mentorship program as a mentee [HERE](#)

o **Camp Coalition**

Contact Katie MacCammon Kmaccammon@fairfax.gov

NRPA Conference – VRPS GroupMe Sign-up

If you are interested in connecting with other VRPS Members at NRPA Conference [sign up to this GroupMe](#).

• Around the Room – Updates from Jurisdictions – Summer Recap

Loudoun County PRCS– Loudoun Count Kids Fest was the largest to date at approx. 9,000 attendees. Strategic Plan is at 65% activation and now looking into the next iteration. Rec Centers have been updating operational practices and membership to better support the needs of their partons and facilities including Ashburn Recreation and Community Center coming on line and membership structures changing. Policies involving staff workload are now being reviewed by Labor Relations since the county general workforce has been unionized as of July 2025.

Town of Warrenton – Undergoing Master Plan process with approx. a week left in the public survey phase. Contractor being used is Kimley-Horn. The remaining balance of the ARPA funds were used on playground revitalization with positive community reception. Many special events in lieu of summer camps including Warrenton Town Limits Festival.

Fairfax City – Winding down from summer camp and will cap of the warm weather with a Taylor Swift cover band, Creul Summer, for [Rock the Block on Sept. 26th](#)

Fairfax County (Therapeutic Rec) – Great success with 6 weeks of summer camp for both age groups 5-12 and 13-22, previously expanded from 3 weeks for each group. Looking closely at resources needed to sustain programs, training, staffing, funding etc. Beyond the Bell program adapted to decrease waitlist size and staffing ratios.

Prince William – New, Kid-Designed, Community-Built Playground at Fairmont Park in Manassas created in collaboration with PWC Parks and Recreation, Amazon Web and KABOOM! Playground will serve approx.. 1300 kids. It is part of Prince William County Parks and Recreation's commitment to increasing park access and quality, ensuring that all kids have a safe and engaging park within a ten-minute walk or bike ride from their homes. [*Source from PWCVA.gov*](#)

Town of Herndon –the Bear Marketing Campaign to Community Ambassador featured on [Page 23 VRPS Magazine](#). Elden also has [free coloring pages](#) provided by the dept and a hashtag to share the fun **#ExploreWithElden** as part of the campaign. A new town hall style music festival was added to the offerings this summer as well as a Camp on the Go program to reach underserved parts of the community. All have received positive reviews and community feedback.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 7th at 10:00aam
Ashburn Recreation and Community Center