

COUNTY OF WARREN



**County Administrator's Office
Warren County Government Center**

220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 100

Front Royal, Virginia 22630

Telephone: (540) 636-4600

Facsimile: (540) 636-6066

EASTHAM PARK

**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
2014 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

*COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA
JUNE 2, 2014*

COUNTY OF WARREN



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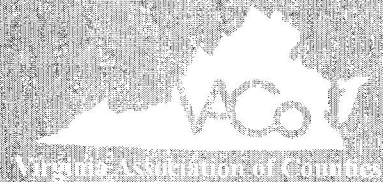
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APPLICATION FORM

*EASTHAM PARK
COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA
JUNE 2, 2014*

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs



2014 Achievement Awards



Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2014.**

Program Information

Locality County of Warren

Program Title Eastham Park

Program Category Parks and Recreation

Contact Information

Name Brandy L. Rosser

Title Grants and Special Projects Coordinator

Department Administration

Complete Mailing Address 220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 100, Front Royal, Virginia 22630

Telephone # (540) 636-4600 Fax # (540) 636-6066

E-mail grantscoord@warrencountyva.net

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name Douglas P. Stanley

Title County Administrator

Signature 

Call for Entries

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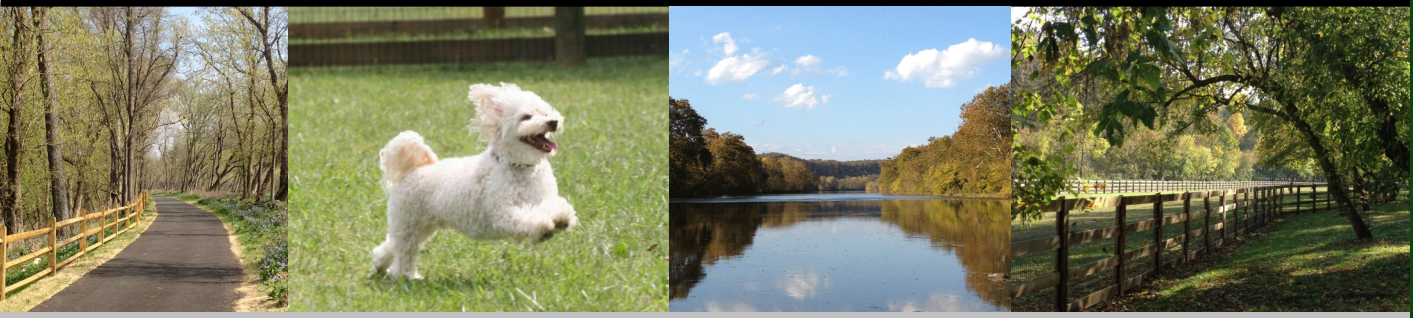
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*EASTHAM PARK
COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA
JUNE 2, 2014*



EASTHAM PARK PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2007, the Warren County completed their Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The development of the Plan involved the participation of Warren County staff, Town of Front Royal staff, community stakeholders, and the citizens of Warren County. While the study identified many of the strengths of our Parks and Recreation Department, it also highlighted the need for several new facilities, the most requested of which were walking and biking trails, multi-use athletic fields, and access to the Shenandoah River for boating and fishing.

Upon completion of the Plan, County staff began to explore grant opportunities and community collaborations to assist in construction of a park that would provide citizens with all of their top requested facilities in one place. In 2004, the Eastham Family donated 15.87 acres along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River for the development of such a park. With a location for the Park secured, plans for Eastham Park began to take shape with the facility including an upgraded Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) boating access facility, upgraded access road (VDOT), Town of Front Royal pocket park, gravel parking area for boaters and park users, three multi-use athletic fields, dog park, outdoor classroom, interpretive signage, and over one-mile of paved trail way. In order to implement the plans, Warren County was successfully awarded the following grants:

Funding Agency	Award Amount	Project Activity
Transportation Enhancement Program	\$118,000	Eastham Trail Phase One
Recreational Access Program	\$250,000	Improvement to Luray Avenue (access road leading to the facility)
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	\$10,000	Stone for the Parking Area
Transportation Enhancement Program	\$243,000	Eastham Trail Phase Two
Front Royal– Warren County Anti-Litter Council	\$4,100	Trash receptacles and pet waste containers
TOTAL	\$625,100	



EASTHAM PARK PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To maximize the effectiveness of the grant funding awarded, County staff collaborated with VDOT, DGIF, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Town of Front Royal, Warren County Dog Park Association, Front Royal-Warren County Anti-Litter Council, Front Royal Grotto, Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal Soccer Association, and Front Royal-Warren County Tree Stewards during the development of the Park. Our project partners brought with them an array of knowledge and experience and were catalysts in helping staff raise the remaining funding necessary to construct the facility. As a product of these efforts, Warren County and its partners were able complete the project in 2013 and provide the community with the following:

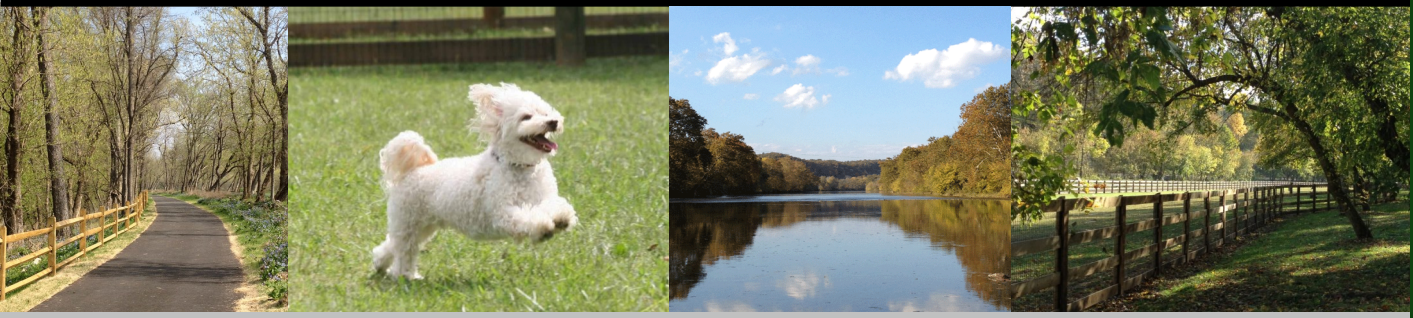
- **Improvements to Luray Avenue:** Through a \$250,000 grant from VDOT's Recreational Access Program, Warren County was able to widen the existing roadway that leads to the facility in order to allow pedestrians to safely navigate the roadside. No matching funds were required for this grant.
- **Upgrades to Existing Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Public Boating Access Facility:** DGIF upgraded the existing boating access facility at the end of Luray Avenue that provides users with shoreline access to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. No local funding was required for this project.
- **Parking Area:** Through a \$10,000 grant from DGIF, Warren County was able to purchase the gravel needed to construct a public parking area near the boating facility for users of both the boat launch and other Park facilities. Adequate space for boat trailers was included, along with lighting. Warren County provided funding for all project costs that exceeded \$10,000.
- **Town of Front Royal Pocket Park:** Located at the beginning of the Eastham Park Trail is a Town of Front Royal pocket park. The facility includes picnic tables, a shade structure, grills, a drinking



EASTHAM PARK PROJECT DESCRIPTION

fountain, sitting areas, and amazing views of the Shenandoah River and surrounding mountains. The Town of Front Royal invested approximately \$20,000 for this project.

- **Multi-Use Athletic Fields:** Parks and Recreation staff constructed three multi-use athletic fields adjacent to the parking area. The fields are suitable for activities such as soccer, football, rugby, and lacrosse. Warren County utilized our Parks and Recreation staff for the construction of the fields. Soccer goals were donated by the Front Royal Soccer Association.
- **Eastham Trail Phase One:** Eastham trail is a shared-use, non-motorized trail way that begins at the public parking lot located off of Luray Avenue and travels 0.51 miles along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Users can enjoy breathtaking views of the River and mountains as you travel along an old road bed that was used for transportation by Native Americans and early colonial settlers. Staff worked with the Warren Heritage Society on the development of interpretive signage educating users about the Battle of Front Royal and former transportation uses of the Shenandoah River. Matching funds for this project were provided by the Warren County Board of Supervisors and through in-kind work completed by our Parks and Recreation staff.
- **Eastham Trail Phase Two:** Takes users under the Norfolk Southern Railway track and travels 0.51 miles past Skyline High School ending at Skyline Vista Drive. Users pass several rock outcroppings and cave openings as the travel the trail way, along with an outdoor classroom and stage area that seats approximately 30 people. Staff worked with a local caving group, Front Royal Grotto, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation on the development of interpretive signage educating users about caves, sinkholes, and Madison Cave isopods. Matching funds for this project were provided by the Warren County Board of Supervisors and through in-kind work completed by our Parks and Recreation staff.



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- Warren County Dog Park: The Dog Park is an off-leash facility that is open to the public and free of charge. Two fenced in areas are available for use; a 0.90 acres space for smaller, timid or older pets, and a 1.90 acre space that allows larger dogs plenty of room to run. Benches, trash receptacles and a drinking fountain for both owners and pets are available at the facility. Funding for this project was provided by the Warren County Dog Park Association, Warren County Board of Supervisors, and through in-kind work completed by our Parks and Recreation staff.

Warren County is proud that our staff took the lead on the innovative partnership that allowed for the construction of Eastham Park. We feel that we have provided our citizens with a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities that they will be able to utilize for many years to come. We hope that this project can serve as model for other localities facing similar circumstances and allow them to see what can be accomplished when you are open to collaborations involving local, state, and federal entities, along with a variety of non-profit and community organizations.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

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Upon completion of the Plan, County staff began to explore grant opportunities and community collaborations to assist in the funding and construction of Eastham Park. The proposed facility would include an upgraded Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) boating access facility, upgraded access road (VDOT), Town of Front Royal pocket park, gravel parking area for boaters and park users, three multi-use athletic fields, dog park, outdoor classroom, interpretive signage, and over one-mile of paved trailway. Over the last seven years, Warren County has been successful in obtaining over \$625,000 in local, state, and federal grant funding for Eastham Park and has collaborated with VDOT, DGIF, the Town of Front Royal, the Warren County Dog Park Association, the Front Royal-Warren County Anti-Litter Council, Front Royal Grotto, and the Front Royal-Warren County Tree Stewards. As a product of these efforts, Eastham Park and all of its amenities were opened up to the citizen of Warren County and the surrounding areas in the fall of 2013.

The innovative thinking of the Warren County resulted in the construction of a much needed facility that will serve our community for many years to come. Warren County is extremely proud that our staff took the lead on this partnership. We hope that this project can serve as model for other localities facing similar circumstances and allow them to see what can be accomplished when you are open to collaborations involving local, state, and federal entities, along with a variety of non-profit and community organizations.

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PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS

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EASTHAM PARK PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



DGIF Public Boating Access Facility



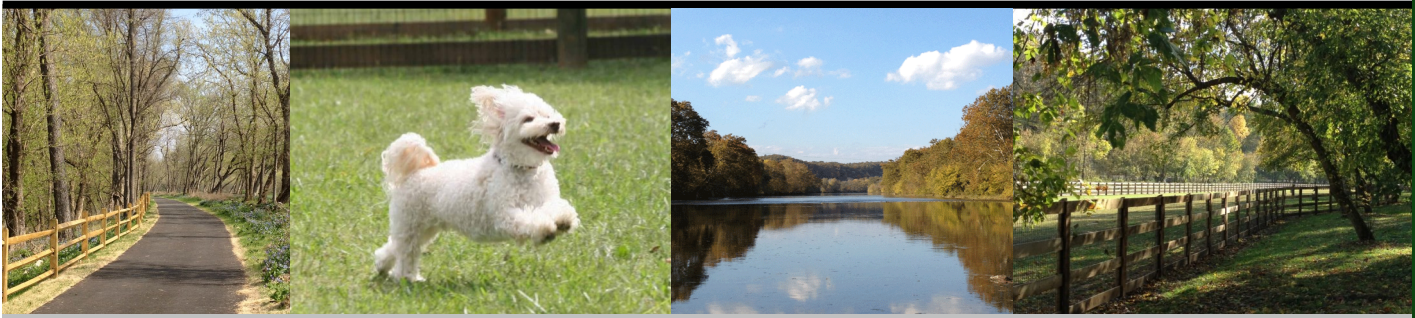
Public Parking Area



Town of Front Royal Pocket Park



Multi-Use Playing Fields



EASTHAM PARK PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Eastham Trail Phase One



Eastham Trail Phase Two Outdoor Classroom



Eastham Trail Phase Two Rock Outcroppings



Warren County Dog Park



EASTHAM PARK PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Interpretive Signage Along the Trail



View of the Shenandoah River from the Park