

**Application Form**

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. Deadline: June 1, 2010.

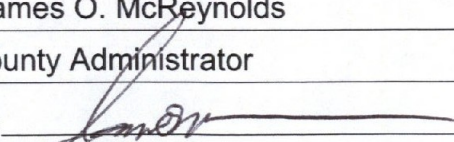
**Program Information**

Locality York County, Virginia  
Program Title Bats, Balls and a BMP: An Intergovernmental Project Produces Regional Benefits  
Program Category Regional Collaboration  
Population Category 50,001 to 100,000

**Contact Information**

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**Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer**

Name James O. McReynolds  
Title County Administrator  
Signature\* 

\*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.

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**Call for Entries**

# 2010 VACo Achievement Awards

Bats, Balls and a BMP:  
An Intergovernmental Project Produces  
Regional Benefits

Anne B. Smith, Director  
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***Bats, Balls, and a BMP: An Intergovernmental  
Project Produces Regional Benefits  
Department of Community Services  
York County, Virginia***

**Nomination Summary for 2010 VACo Achievement Award**

**1. Overview**

Discussions between York County and Newport News Waterworks (NNWW) officials to identify a potential site to develop an athletic field complex began in 1999. NNWW, which is owned by the City of Newport News, is one of the largest landowners in the County and provides water for a multi-jurisdictional region of over 400,000 people. In addition to its sizable land holdings, some parcels were ideally located to the population base needing to be served by the additional fields. Because of these factors, NNWW was invited and agreed to partner with York on this project.

As planning progressed, a scenario emerged for partnering in the construction of a regional Best Management Practices (BMP) to treat stormwater runoff from a 60-acre watershed in York County that was part of a water quality protection study previously adopted by NNWW. Although the proposed BMP was not on the property being developed for the sports complex, its adjacent location to the project and regional water quality benefits more than justified its construction.

Upon their completion in early 2009, the York County Sports Complex and regional BMP were the result of outstanding intergovernmental cooperation that benefitted both localities and the region as well.

## **2. The Problem, Challenge or Situation**

York County's population boomed in the 1990's. The population grew at an average of 2.9% a year, ending the decade with just under 60,000 people. With this growth came construction of new schools, additional needs for public safety and utility services, and increased demands for more recreational and park facilities. The most pressing recreational need was providing as many as 17 additional athletic fields.

Acquiring property that would be suitable for this type of development in York County is a challenging task. Over 45% of the land in the County is owned by federal and other local governmental agencies. Federal holdings include the National Park Service, and the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. In addition, the adjacent cities of Newport News and Williamsburg both own watershed property within the County. Complicating the situation even further is that much of the remaining land area for consideration has significant development constraints. Consequently, searching for enough developable property in a location that can best serve the population was a complicated process.

### **3. How the Program Was Carried Out**

York County and the City of Newport News are no strangers when it comes to working together on issues that have mutual and/or regional interests. The York County Sports Complex and regional BMP project represents the most recent example of what can be accomplished when an intergovernmental process is utilized to meet goals that are commonly shared.

An earlier example of this cooperative relationship occurred when NNWW asked York County to work with them to develop a Watershed Management and Protection Area Overlay Ordinance that would ensure protection of watersheds surrounding existing or potential public water supply reservoirs. County officials took responsive action and adopted an Ordinance. And most recently, when York County asked NNWW to consider use of some of their property in the County for the possible development of a sports complex and to become a partner in the planning process, NNWW came to the table with an open mind, good ideas, and a willingness to help.

The primary goal of the project was to secure enough property to construct a sports complex with as many as 17 athletic fields. However, as negotiations for use of NNWW land progressed, Waterworks officials asked if York County, as part of the land deal, would consider constructing an important regional BMP that was included in their comprehensive water quality protection plan. With the proposed regional BMP located just across the street from the sports complex site, cost savings would be realized because several smaller BMP's were already

included in the complex's construction plans to treat site runoff into the reservoir. With the close proximity of the regional BMP site to the complex, adding it as part of the project would save money over constructing it as a stand alone project at a later time.

The regional BMP was important to NNWW to intercept stormwater from a 60-acre watershed that had both commercial and residential development that flows into the drinking water reservoir nearby. Not only was runoff uncontrolled but it was also untreated before entering the reservoir. The regional BMP would capture the volume of stormwater flow while retaining stream base flow, and also function as a natural system for removing non-source pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorous, lead and zinc before entering the reservoir.

#### **4. Financing and Staffing**

Both County and City officials were in favor of the proposed land deal – the County would develop the sports complex and the regional BMP; in return, the City would lease to the County the approximately 180 acres needed to develop the complex, regional BMP and a required permanent conservation easement, and NNWW would use the land lease revenue to supplement funding for future water quality improvement projects.

#### **Cost of the Program**

##### Capital Costs:

The total cost of the Sports Complex and regional BMP project was just under \$18.9 million dollars.

Operating Costs:

Park Operations/Concessions: \$492,000

Projected Revenue (Field Rentals/Concessions): \$346,300

Estimated Net Cost of Park Operations: \$145,700

Maintenance Operations: \$493,000

It should be noted that this project involved a number of technology applications including CAD, GIS, GPS, internet, various databases, and creation of a website. Security technology included motion activated cameras and a burglar alarm system that produces both an audible alarm and notification to the 911 Emergency Communications Center. In addition, laser grading technology during construction ensured high precision grading needed for athletic fields. Field lighting for sports play utilized an innovative reflector technology to minimize spill light and control glare. The lighting system also features a web-based program for scheduling light use with an automated on/off control system to enable energy efficient use of field lighting. Finally, the field irrigation system is a remotely controlled telephone-radio system which provides state-of-the-art energy management capability.

**5. Results of the Program**

The County's *Athletic Field Needs Analysis through 2015 Report* indicated that the inventory of athletic fields needed to be increased by a total of 17 fields or 26%. The York County Sports Complex addressed a major portion of these needs by adding 13 fields or 20% to the inventory.

Results of the increase in field availability include:

- a. Teams, programs and age-groups previously unable to be accommodated now have access to fields;
- b. Leagues can schedule a sufficient amount of practices and games for their teams;
- c. Activities can be scheduled at age-appropriate times;
- d. Design of a multi-field complex created a revenue generation opportunity from concession sales and field rentals which helps offset some operating costs;
- e. Use is spread out more evenly throughout all the fields in the County, thereby reducing the number of fields with the severest impacts from overuse of turf grass;
- f. Lighting all 13 fields maximizes their use. A special note is made of the significant increase in accessibility to fields after daylight hours for fall season sports, since the fall season has less daylight to work with than in the spring.

Important water quality improvement efforts have also resulted. Previously uncontrolled and untreated runoff from a 60-acre watershed area with commercial and residential development is now being controlled and treated before entering the reservoir.



## **7. How the Program Fulfilled the Awards Criteria**

This nomination is worthy of an award because it meets several of the award criteria. Those specific criteria are:

### ***Offers an innovative solution to a problem, situation or delivery of services:***

The expansion of needed recreational facilities to fill gaps in the availability of parks and recreational services to County residents was a recognized issue in the County. But finding a suitable location in the County near high population and transportation areas was very difficult. The ability to partner with the City of Newport News to utilize their ideally located watershed property situated next to the main transportation artery in the midst of the most populated area of the County was an innovative and ideal solution to this issue.

New revenue sources were created from field rentals which help to defray operating costs for the sports complex. In addition, land lease revenues provide a new source of funds for the City of Newport News that will help cover expenditures for future water quality improvement projects.

### ***Promote intergovernmental cooperation and/or cooperation with local, state and federal entities and/or a private enterprise in addressing a problem or situation:***

The partnership between NNWW and York County to address issues of regional significance exemplifies an outstanding intergovernmental cooperation and coordination process.

