

## **Ranking Water Access Improvements For Discussion 12/14/2016**

The Water Access Commission makes recommendations to the County Executive. The Commission should have a means for evaluating which access improvement projects to recommend.

The Commission can establish various criteria for differentiating among projects. Prospective projects can be evaluated and scored against these criteria to help it arrive at recommendations.

This paper identifies a number of criteria that can be adopted for use in differentiating projects.

### **Criterion:**

Location - The County Executive indicates it is desirable to have access points on both sides of major water ways in the County. Major waterways shall include:

- West/Rhode River
- South River
- Severn River
- Magothy River
- Patapsco River (AA portion of AA side)
- Patuxent River (AA side)
- AA shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay

Points shall be awarded to projects that meet this mandate. If there are already other access points on the waterway, fewer points awarded. Proximity to other access points will be considered.

Estimated utilization - The Commission will award points based on the number of people it expects will utilize a site. The higher the expected utilization, the more points will be awarded. This will require the Commission to obtain or form estimates of utilization. Utilization of other existing sites may inform the estimates. The Commission may look to utilization statistics in other jurisdictions if such are relevant.

Activities - Access sites may be used for activities such as launching boats from trailers, launching ,Àúcar-top,Àù watercraft, swimming, wildlife viewing, fishing, and dog-walking. The Commission will assign scores for activities that reflect the demand for sites capable of hosting activities and the present and planned supply of locations that support an activity.

Difficulty - This is a catch all criterion to serve as a proxy for cost, political difficulty, environmental and other factors.