Anne Arundel County's
Historic Beach Resorts
(Late 19th - Early 20th Century)

Report for the Learn S'Mores
History Project

By Mandy Melton, M.A.

Submitted to the Anne Arundel County
Trust for Preservation
2017
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY’S
HISTORIC BEACH DESTINATIONS
(Late 19th to early 20th century)

Report for the Learn S’Mores History Project: A Heritage Research and Public Outreach Initiative, focusing on Anne Arundel County’s early 20th Century Beach Resorts and Communities

by Mandy Melton, M.A.

Submitted to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.

June 2017
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INTRODUCTION

During the early 20th century Anne Arundel County's rural coastline was quickly shifting from an economy focused on agriculture and maritime industries to recreation/leisure-based tourism as once productive farm fields and fishing communities were being replaced by beach-side amusement parks, resorts, and summer communities. This was not a phenomenon unique to the area though; rather, it was a larger trend seen throughout the eastern United States.

In the years leading up to the shift, the nation was experiencing an industrial revolution as a wide range of technological advancements improved infrastructure and transportation throughout the country and facilitated factories and other businesses to increase the quantity and speed of production. Over time, the rapidly growing economy led to steady wage increases as well as reductions in hours worked for the average laborer. The industrial revolution did not only affect the nation’s economy, it led to significant changes in American society and culture, as well. The increasing comfortability and ease of living gave more time to a larger portion of the population to engage in things other than work. For the first time, leisure was something not only afforded to the wealthy, but something obtainable to a larger percentage of the population. As traditional lifestyles shifted, Americans collectively began to reorganize and renegotiate their positions on things like family dynamics/structure, childcare, social roles, relations between economic classes, gender roles, materialism, education, and career paths.

In the midst of redefining what it meant to be an American during the early 20th century, people began to flock to the sea shore to take advantage of their new leisure time. Along Anne Arundel County’s shoreline, a wide variety of beach-side recreation and leisure opportunities emerged including bathing beach parks, amusement parks, and colonies of summer cottages (Figure 1). Although racial and religious persecution ran rampant through the country, it was not only the white majority that participated in beach leisure; minority populations, including African and Jewish Americans, also fought to have their own shore side enclaves, attractions, and communities during this time. The increased demand in beach recreation would have outstanding impacts on Anne Arundel County as its vast undeveloped shoreline became an avenue for immense economic growth and would ultimately reorient its future course. The changes that played out would not only impact the County’s economy but also its coastal and cultural landscape.

This amazing manifestation of beach resort-related development along nearly the entirety of the County’s coastline (see Figure 1) reflects a strong societal response to the nation’s era of modernization but is poorly understood. Unfortunately, as time goes on, the physical remains of this influential beach resort heyday continue to be destroyed by the latest phase of the development-frenzy it initiated. Instead of public facilities though, modern development has focused on more private ‘water-privileged’ communities. Nevertheless, as these former beach havens are razed to make way for new construction, much of their largely undocumented history fades further and further from the local landscape and public memory. In order to combat this, Anne Arundel County set out to gather and document information and oral histories from this bygone era before it is gone for good. This report will detail the findings from its initiative with the project deemed Learn S’Mores History: A Heritage Research and Public Outreach Initiative, Focusing on Anne Arundel County’s early 20th Century Beach Resorts and Communities (Learn S’Mores History project).
Figure 1: Historic beach resorts and communities in Anne Arundel County

Key:
- ◊ = Public beach resort
- ○ = Summer community
PROJECT OVERVIEW & GOALS

The Learn S’mores History project was piloted by the Cultural Resources Division (CRD) of Anne Arundel County’s Office of Planning and Zoning through grant funding provided by the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. This project complimented a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) funded grant project entitled “Before the Bay Bridge: Anne Arundel County’s 20th Century Beach Resorts” (Before the Bay Bridge project) that intended to create and implement several heritage tourism events highlighting the rich and diverse history of the County’s historic beach resorts.

Funding for the Learn S’mores History project was specifically provided to conduct research, documentation, and evaluation of the early 20th century resources in and around historic beach communities and resorts in Anne Arundel County. This research was used to develop and implement the public history events/programs funded by the aforementioned Before the Bay Bridge project and to compile a publically-accessible report that will assist the CRD in future development decisions.

Specific goals of the project included:

- To conduct research to preserve the history of the County’s historic beach resorts;
- To expand public knowledge and appreciation of the significance of the County’s once flourishing 20th century beach resorts and to promote preservation of the remaining resources;
- To reveal and promote discourse into the variable experiences that people of diverse backgrounds had as shifting demographics have nearly erased this compelling history from the minds of current residents;
- To encourage the public to contribute to data collection by gathering public memories and memorabilia pertaining to the historic beach destinations; and
- To contribute to the Before the Bay Bridge project’s public events by providing information for interpretive signs, and informative brochures, as well as assisting with guided park tours and other related activities.

PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

In compliance with the grant agreement, project personnel contributed to the Before the Bay Bridge project interpretive sign and brochure development as well as the public outreach history events which promoted public awareness and preservation of Anne Arundel County’s 20th century beach resort history. Summaries of the events are provided in Appendix A of the report.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research for this project incorporated a review of historic documents and cartographic studies. Considering the scope of this project revolves around early 20th century beach recreation, research was focused on communities and beach resort sites existing prior to 1950. It should be noted, however, that the following narrative is likely not a complete list of all the beach ‘resorts’ that existed. The primary contributing factor is that, to the knowledge of the project personnel, no official records were kept that document the presence of beach resort or related facilities in Anne Arundel County.

As such, the current research focused on media within which advertisements were likely to have been posted to attract patronage. This included but was not limited to historical newspapers (e.g. the Baltimore Sun and Baltimore’s Afro-American newspaper) accessed through the ProQuest online digital library, along with other available print and online newspapers. Government planning documents, community and local historic society websites, and other previously published research was also consulted.
This approach does not guarantee a complete inventory of historic resorts. There are many factors that may have influenced whether or not a particular resort was identified during research, including the facility’s desire to- or ability to- invest in advertising campaigns and whether those advertisements were present in the media reviewed. Depending on how formal a facility was, it may have only been known by word of mouth or was operated and patronized by minority groups that have been historically underrepresented in mainstream media. With that being said, an attempt was made to consult minority media resources including Baltimore’s Afro-American newspaper and by reaching out to local historic societies, independent and academic researchers, and representatives of minority communities.

Although a wide range of maps were consulted, the primary cartographic study utilized a combination of initial plat record dates (from mdlandrec.net and plats.net websites) and property construction dates (from the county’s SDAT GIS data layer) in a GIS mapping database to identify emergent early 20th century beach communities. Both of these resources were utilized in tandem considering initial subdivision/plat records are not necessarily representative of when property sales/development started. As the following sections will show, several of these development endeavors were very slow to start or simply failed all together.

Two early state highway planning survey maps of Anne Arundel County from 1940 and 1950 (see Appendix B; they will be referred to as the ‘1940s Road Map’ and ‘1950s Road Map’ for the remainder of the report) were also used to clarify whether the identified hubs of development activity were related to beach recreation or not. These maps were found during research and happen to chart out the distribution of various building types, public institutions, and other cultural and environmental features. More importantly, for this project, the map depicted ‘summer cottages’ and public beach/swimming areas. Acknowledging that such maps are not always reliable since the cartographer imposes their own inherent biases on the product, attempts were made to validate the map with the documentary research and vice-versa. While in most instances both resources confirmed one another, in others they did not. With that being said, if inconsistencies presented themselves or if insufficient resources were identified, notations were included in the following narrative. In some instances, the authored used her best judgment to decide whether or not to include questionable/unconfirmed sites in the narrative.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report provides a review of the Learn S’Mores History research into Anne Arundel County’s historic 20th century beach ‘resorts’. The primary initiative of the report is to evaluate and provide a summary of the historic beach ‘resort’ or related sites identified during research. Considering that nearly the entire coast of Anne Arundel County was engaged in early 20th century beach leisure economies, there was a lot of similarity between many of the sites. In order to avoid a lengthy repetitive document detailing each and every site, the research data will be presented in a narrative form that is far more cohesive and concise.

The first chapter explores the contextual background of the County’s beach resort era. It will begin with a discussion of the multi-variate beach ‘resort’ iterations that developed in the county and will finish with an overview of the chronological manifestation of the various beach ‘resort’ types. The next chapter will detail the sites identified during research. To effectively present the data, sites were grouped together into separate sections of the chapter (Figure 2). Each section represents a geographical sub-area of the county with concentrations of generally similar beach ‘resort’ phenomenon. Comprehensive summaries were compiled for each distinct sub-area and major sites are further detailed separately within. The final chapter provides a series of recommendations that were formulated based on the data collective whole and will address future planning considerations as well as directives for supplementary research.
Figure 2: Areas discussed in report
The following chapter will discuss contextual background information for the county’s historic beach resorts. Concepts regarding the variety and nature of Anne Arundel County’s beach ‘resorts’ will first be addressed. A chronological overview of the development of the beach resort phenomenon will then be provided.

**TYPES OF BEACH DESTINATIONS**

There is a myriad of ways that Anne Arundel County’s shoreline was utilized for recreation and leisure in the late 19th through the early 20th centuries. Unfortunately, nearly all of the iterations of beach facilities were referred to, historically, under the blanket term ‘resort’. Although the term masks vast differences between each site, these beach destinations can generally be separated into residential or recreation-focused sites; whereas the former incorporates short-term lodging facilities and summer residential colonies and the latter represents amusement parks and public beach bathing facilities. However, this distinction is not always clear-cut as residential communities may have allowed non-residential use of the beach facilities or, alternatively, may have contained amusement amenities that were available only to residents. On the other hand, some sites that would largely be considered more of an amusement park or recreational-focused site would also have hotels, boarding houses, or surrounding residential communities associated with it.

Importantly, it should be noted that the sites that remained open for longer periods of time were not static in what type of facility was in operation. The classification of any particular site changed over the years as amenities were added/removed, as ownership transferred, or as goals of the institution shifted. Although many of the facilities evade clear classification, the following will provide an overview of some of the more common types of beach-facilities that developed in the County.

**Commercial Endeavors:**

One of the more common beach facility types was the rental summer beach cottage. In various instances, anywhere from one to dozens of summer cottages were erected by a property owner solely with the intent to rent them out on short-term bases. Occasionally, these properties would offer an array of amenities to draw patrons including picnic areas, playgrounds, sport fields, pavilions etc. Generally, only renters were allowed to utilize the beaches although that was not always the case considering policing may or may not have always been available.

Similarly, another tactic was to erect a hotel, inn, or boarding house along a shoreline property. In some cases, property owners would turn their own homes into boarding spaces. In an attempt to boost patronage, these property owners would also provide additional attractions like picnic facilities, boats, fishing charter opportunities, and/or sports equipment.

Alternatively, others would obtain property that was turned into a profitable public facility. Some of these ventures were large beach-side amusement parks with roller-coasters and other rides while others were simply bathing beaches or beach recreational areas with less spectacular amusements such as arcades, dance halls, and/or picnic pavilions. Although public in nature, many of these facilities were privately owned and had restrictions on who could be admitted into the park, often based on race or ethnicity.
Privately Owned Properties:

Aside from these business ventures, individuals and families also began to buy their own plots for personal vacation homes. In some cases, they would buy subdivided beach-front lots from the owners of large farms. In other cases, they would acquire them from developers of larger summer communities. Whereas some summer colonies offered private beach privileges with the purchase of a plot of land, others offered a true resort-like experience. The resort-like communities offered an array of beach-related activities including boating, dining halls, community halls where dances, concerts, and other events would be held, along with bowling alleys and sports facilities that were available only to residents.

GENERAL HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF BEACH RECREATION IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

The 19th Century

In the late 19th century, during an era commonly referred to as “the Gilded Age”, Americans were beginning to experience increased economic wealth. Simultaneously, industrialization and advancements in the nation’s infrastructure were also helping to make their lives easier and more comfortable. Emergent middle-class families in urban areas everywhere (including Baltimore and Washington) slowly began to take advantage of their new prosperity and started to cash in their newfound wealth for more leisure time—a luxury once only afforded to the elites.

When Americans were finally able to partake in leisure/recreational activities, they sought such relaxation away from their hectic lives in the city and found refuge in rural areas that were less crowded and more ‘peaceful’. Increasingly more and more people visited Anne Arundel’s coast each year, and as they did, these spaces that were still entrenched in the tobacco and agricultural economies of the past, rapidly responded to the demand and were creatively transformed into profitable tourist destinations. Those operating these new leisure spaces were astute to needs of their patrons and offered all sorts of attractions including anything from beach bathing, picnicking, swimming, boating, crabbing, horse racing, fishing, live music, dancing, plays, and other amusements.

The earliest beach recreational areas generally developed around existing shipping ports/landings that local farmers had been using for decades to import/export goods. The Fair Haven Hotel, for example, was a popular resort that developed out of an old home near a shipping wharf, and was in operation as early as the 1830’s. The facility’s proprietor was George Weems, who also owned the Weems Steamboat line which serviced the Fair Haven steamboat landing. The economic potential of using one’s home as a boarding house caught on in other areas of the county by the late 1800’s including most notably in Shady Side. In fact, so many resorts opened up here that a reporter claimed that Shady Side’s sole purpose for existing was for the summer pleasure of Baltimore and Washington (Emery and Hughes 2004: Sec.8, p.12).
Figure 3: Transportation Routes ca.1920 (Excerpt from Map of Maryland Showing Highways, Steam and Electric Railways, and Steamboat Lines, Maryland Geological Survey, 1920, Courtesy Library of Congress)
There were also a few large beach amusement parks that developed in the late 1800’s. One of the largest was the Bay Ridge Resort near Annapolis. This location boasted roller coasters and various other carnival-like amusements. Several other smaller amusement parks and resorts were present at this time including Round Bay on the Severn and Fairview Beach on Rock Creek.

At this time, transportation to these recreational areas was almost solely dependent on steamboats since land routes were not well established in the rural portions of Anne Arundel (see Figure 3). With that being the case, the quantity of steamboat companies and wharves increased tremendously during the turn of the century as owners began to take advantage of increased travel. Many companies advertised trips to Anne Arundel’s shores as daily ‘excursions’ which were offered more frequently as time progressed. Although railroad travel was also an option, the only resort that was directly serviced by such means was Bay Ridge. Eventually, the establishment of the Baltimore Annapolis Short Line Railroad (ca. 1887) permitted additional access to locations along the north bank of the Severn River.

**The 20th Century**

By the 20th century an even larger portion of society was able to partake in leisure time and recreational activities. With increased demand came a rise in supply. Beach-side recreational areas and resorts diversified and became available in even more portions of the county.

Within the first few decades of the century, many of the burgeoning resorts were simply bathing beaches with picnic groves and rental bungalows (e.g. Outing Park, Magothy Beach) although various beach side amusement parks also arose including Colonial Beach, Browns Grove, and Beverly Beach which offered an array of amusements like kiddie rides, arcades, watersports, and/or slot machines. County residents also continued to prosper on the seasonal influx of visitors by operating hotels or boarding spaces from their personal homes during the summer months. A 1917 *Baltimore Sun* article, ‘Annapolis and Vicinity has Romance and Charm’, states that along the South, West, and Rhode Rivers, “nearly every family…who has a residence of any size converts it into a summer boarding house during the months of June, July, and August, and for years they have reaped a harvest”.

With the rise in popularity, however, the sense of rural solitude that initially attracted city dwellers slowly faded from many of the larger resorts as the number of visitors skyrocketed. Some realtors, land developers, and savvy farmers took note early on and envisioned the economic potential of more secluded summer leisure experiences and began to subdivide large land plots along the shoreline which were rented or sold for the construction of individual summer cottages. Small enclaves of these cottages appear scattered all over the county within the first few decades. By the 1920s, developers were thinking much grander and began drafting plans for summer communities that were exponentially bigger. Some of these, like Woodland Beach (see Figure 4), offered hundreds of lots for sale!

The prosperity and growing demand for summer resorts and colonies incited significant attention during the early 20th century as a great deal of funding was invested to support these hubs of economic growth. Whereas the location of these communities once relied on already established transportation infrastructure, it was during this period when they began to influence and direct the expansion of transportation infrastructure through the county, particularly in regards to land-based routes. In South County for instance, many roads were improved and installed to provide access to some of the more isolated communities (Fairhaven History Project n.d.). Eventually, as land transportation became more efficient and affordable, steamboat lines gradually closed or went out of business.
Beach-side developments slowed down in the 1930s as a result of the economic depression that many Americans were experiencing throughout the country. In many cases, those who had begun investing in community development towards the end of the 1920s were not able to sell lots at the expected price and liquidated their assets for minimal costs.

Nevertheless, interest in beach recreation rose again during the New Deal era and, because supporting infrastructure was already in place this time around, the scale of summer tourism and development was much more dramatic than the initial boom. A Baltimore Sun article from 1939, for instance, reported that Anne Arundel County’s resident population of 64,000 quadrupled over the summer as Baltimoreans and Washingtonians settled into their vacation homes (White 1939). Public beach facilities also multiplied at this time as the same article additionally notes that Anne Arundel had at least seventy-five summer resorts between Furnace Creek and Herring Bay (ibid). This total count was more than any other county in the state and did not even include the private institutions not regulated by the Health Department!

Sales in beach community lots continued to soar (Figure 5). A 1946 Baltimore Sun article reported that many of beach communities (including Round Bay, Severna Park, Wardour, Pendennis Mount, Ferry Farms, Manhattan Beach, Crystal Beach, Edgewater Beach, South River Park, Bay Ridge, Sherwood Forest) had few if any vacancies. This continued and by the mid-20th century, after
heating/cooling systems became more accessible and affordable, summer homes began to transition into year-round residences. The trend towards more of a residential use of Anne Arundel’s shoreline meant that public access was increasingly diminishing. Privatization of the coastline was an early concern for county officials as a 1937 planning document reported that “Between Annapolis and Baltimore, out of a total of 139 miles, there are similarly only four miles of bay shore and 13 miles on estuaries [that exhibit little to no development or subdivision activity]… that there are still several miles of shore undeveloped is no reason for delaying acquisition of areas for public use” (Maryland State Planning Commission 1937: 36-37). Despite the initiatives to preserve portions of the coast for public access (which eventually led to the state’s acquisition of Sandy Point State Park) the allure of having one’s own personal chunk of beach continued to reduce resort patrons and put stress on park owners.

Several events occurred in the 1950s and 1960s that ultimately led to the closing of many beach resorts. The first was the opening of the Bay Bridge in 1952 which permitted easier access to Ocean City, a large and well-established vacation attraction. The handful of resorts that were able to remain in business after the bridge’s opening were generally those that supplemented the money lost from the decline in beach patronage with other attractions such as gambling and amusement park rides. By the 1960s however, another event, the outlawing of slot machines in the County, served to strip the former option away from the resorts. The final blow resulted from repercussions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which banned public institutions from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In the years that followed, various resorts that refused to integrate were forced to close either by court order or from public pressure. Interestingly though, even minority owned and operated resorts were negatively impacted following the ruling since the minorities that they predominately serviced were now able to patronize generally nicer resort areas that were once off limits. Such resorts like the African-American owned Beachwood Park experienced such a significant decline in patronage that they could not remain open.

Beach Leisure Opportunities for Minorities

Importantly, while many recreational areas were advertised publicly, there were generally unspoken restrictions on who would actually be allowed entrance. In some instances, resorts would explicitly state demographic restrictions in advertisements but this was not the norm (see Figure 6). Generally, signs would be posted outside of the resort’s entrance or an individual at the front would police patrons (Figure 7).

![Figure 6: Baltimore Sun advertisement stating ‘Gentiles Only’ (June 28, 1923: p. 22)](image)

In Anne Arundel County, the majority of resorts only offered admission to whites although, in numerous cases, would serve “gentiles” only. In a few instances, more inclusive resorts had periods of time where they allowed minorities although criticism from white patrons generally overturned such decisions or deterred minorities from entering.

Exclusivity went both ways, though, as the few formal minority resorts identified during this project also tended to have restrictive clauses allowing only patrons of color and or only those of the higher class. Nevertheless, formal minority resorts were not abundant in the county and as a result of limited opportunities and access, alternative and sometimes informal means of beach-side leisure were sought. The social on-goings section of Baltimore’s Afro-American newspaper, for instance, indicates
that many families would host parties at their residences or would rent beach cottages for outings. Additionally, references for larger resort-like sites also emerged for very short periods of time which likely tells to their informal nature.

Nevertheless, the context of minority beach-side leisure experience in the late 19th-early 20th century was incredibly different from the experiences of the white majority. Because minority beach-use was not only restricted but at times deliberately deterred, establishment of any sort of long-term institution was difficult. Those determined to partake in such activities had to be flexible and opportunistic. As a result of the limited access and their generally opportunistic and informal nature, sites of minority beach-leisure are underrepresented in the following narrative.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of Facility*</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Owner/operator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walkers Pavilion</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>ca. 1860</td>
<td></td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Samuel Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood’s Park</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1890s</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>John T. Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acton Park</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1880s</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Samuel G. Acton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements and lodging</td>
<td>1880s?</td>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Captain William Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Ridge</td>
<td>Beach park with lodging</td>
<td>1880s?</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>John Boyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locust Grove</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1880s?</td>
<td>At least 1916</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Captain Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements and lodging</td>
<td>ca. 1899</td>
<td>at least 1980s</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>John Fait, William L. Hartman, Mickey and Ruth Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outing Park</td>
<td>Possible beach park</td>
<td>1910's</td>
<td></td>
<td>North Co.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewpoint Hotel &amp; Resort</td>
<td>Beach park and lodging</td>
<td>1910's</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>North Co.</td>
<td>Edward Simons; Mrs. Geo. Hoffman; William Jefferson (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Grove</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1910s</td>
<td></td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Beach</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park (African American)</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td></td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Robert Goodlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements and lodging</td>
<td>ca.1889</td>
<td>ca. 1930?</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>George E. Efford and Capt. Octorus Hudson; James Marsh (hotel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Grove Beach (Heintzeman's)</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements and possible lodging</td>
<td>1930s/ hotel:1912</td>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Charles H. Heintzeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements and lodging</td>
<td>1900s</td>
<td></td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Capt. G. Taylor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown’s Grove</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park (African American)</td>
<td>ca. 1912</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Capt. George Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sander’s Park</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>ca. 1930</td>
<td>ca. 1950</td>
<td>North Co.</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Sanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Smallwood</td>
<td>Beach park (interracial/segregated)</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Originally: Baltimore City; Today: Anne Arundel County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalina Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1940s</td>
<td></td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Grantlins family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Owners/Managers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasadena Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1940s?</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Robert C. Meyer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Ralph P. Milburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurtz Pleasure Beach</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td>Gustav and Samuel Kurtz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinehurst Area</td>
<td>Beach park reported on the 1940s Road Map</td>
<td>1940s?</td>
<td>North co.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Shore Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>ca. 1880s</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td>Hiram Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beachwood Park</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park (interracial/ African American)</td>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td>Folger McKinsey (?), Charles F. Henderson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arundel Beach on the Magothy</td>
<td>Possible public access beach park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magothy Beach</td>
<td>Possible public access beach park</td>
<td>ca. 1900</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Beach</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td>James E. Donnelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mago Vista Beach</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td>Robert Crisp Benson &amp; Benson Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan Beach Area</td>
<td>Area with several beach-side lodging resorts</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>Magothy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Point State Park</td>
<td>Beach park (interracial/segregated)</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Broadneck</td>
<td>State of Maryland</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Round Bay</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements (interracial)</td>
<td>1880s</td>
<td>Severn</td>
<td>Mr. J. Wilson Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severn Bridge Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1930s?</td>
<td>Severn</td>
<td>Severn Bridge Beach Club</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Herald Harbor</td>
<td>Summer colony with public access beach areas</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Severn</td>
<td>Washington Herald Newspaper</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Ridge Resort</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement park with lodging</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>James Vansant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carr's and Sparrow's Beach</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement parks (African American)</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>Elizabeth Carr Smith and Mary Florence Carr Sparrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horn Point Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>ca.1919</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>M.P. Gonnson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis Roads Beach Club</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
<td>Rella Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South River Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1920s?</td>
<td>South R.</td>
<td>1930 Manager: Joseph A. Walker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgewater Beach</td>
<td>Beach park</td>
<td>1920s?</td>
<td>South R.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Haven area</td>
<td>Beach park reported on the 1940s Road Map</td>
<td>1940s?</td>
<td>South R.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beach Park</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beach Park with Lodging</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beach Park with Amusements</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beach-side Amusement Park</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly &amp; Triton</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>South Co</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaches</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayo Beach Club</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Mayo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>present</td>
<td>Mayo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Mayo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shady Side Resorts/</td>
<td>Various beach parks</td>
<td>Late 1800's</td>
<td>South Co</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boarding Houses</td>
<td>with lodging</td>
<td>Mid-late 20th century</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Galesville Beach</td>
<td>Beach-side amusement</td>
<td>ca. 1886</td>
<td>South Co</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>park with lodging</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captain Edward J. Wheatley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(interracial)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Masonic</td>
<td>Beach club with lodging</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>South Co</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing &amp; Country</td>
<td></td>
<td>1980s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>National Masonic Lodge #12 of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington, D.C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Haven Hotel</td>
<td>Beach park with lodging</td>
<td>Mid 1900s</td>
<td>South Co</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Resort</td>
<td></td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>George Weems &amp; Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Haven</td>
<td>Beach park with amusements</td>
<td>ca. 1947</td>
<td>South Co</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and lodging</td>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>Joseph R. Rose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions:**
- **Beach Park:** site offering very passive use (generally beach bathing and picnicking only);
- **Beach Park with Lodging:** Beach park with hotel, rental cottage, camp grounds, or other short-term lodging facility features;
- **Beach Park with Amusements:** Beach park with additional amenities including live music/dancing (frequently), gaming facilities, other recreational facilities & may offer a few kiddie rides;
- **Beach-side Amusement Park:** site oriented more towards amusement rides and/or with large scale entertainment in addition to offering beach-related recreation.
RESULTS: SITES IDENTIFIED

The following will provide a detailed discussion of each sub-area of the County in order to efficiently cover the dozens of resorts represented along Anne Arundel County’s vast landscape.

NORTH COUNTY/ PATAPSCO RIVER

The North County area incorporates Anne Arundel County’s northern Chesapeake Bay coastline and the Patapsco River tributaries (see Figure 2). The following discussion divided the area into three sub areas including: the Curtis Creek/Marley Creek area, the Stony Creek and Rock Creek Area, and finally the area from Fort Smallwood to the northern boundary of Gibson Island.

AREA BACKGROUND

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Anne Arundel’s North County area was primarily engaged in agricultural practices or natural resource extraction industries. A major industrial pursuit was the Curtis Creek Iron Furnace (aka Curtis Creek Iron Works, Curtis Creek Mining Furnace and Manufacturing Company, Marley Furnace) which exploited the area’s rich iron ore outcrops. In the late 1800s, upon the construction of railroads through the area, large industrial suburban communities developed bringing large groups of people into the area (e.g. Glen Burnie). Over time (ca.1918), a portion of northern Anne Arundel County (mainly around the Curtis Bay Area: South Baltimore/Brooklyn) was annexed to Baltimore City for industrial/factory building development (e.g. Coast Guard Station, Consolidated Gas and Electric Company, B&O Railroad, Davidson Chemical Company; see Solley School 1952:6). Although this displaced beach recreational areas, the increase in job opportunities brought more and more people to the surrounding area.

OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN NORTH COUNTY

The northern boundary of the county experienced a great deal of beach recreational activity throughout time due largely to its close vicinity to Baltimore. Starting in the late 19th century, shore property owners took advantage of Baltimorean desires to escape the city life and transformed their shipping ports into bathing areas/picnic groves with hotels and boarding houses. Activity was significantly bolstered after 1883 when the Stoney Creek and Rock Creek Steamship Companies were established to service the area (Pasadena SAP 2004:12; Lake Shore SAP 2004:12).

During the late 19th century, the Stoney Creek area, which was known as a ‘fisherman's paradise’ (Heiss 1952), held a majority of the earliest resorts. An 1887 Baltimore Sun article records four public resorts in the area including Stony Beach, Chestnut Grove, Locust Grove, and Stony Ridge (“Stony Creek Opening” 1887); however, it appears that Chestnut Grove may not have been within Anne Arundel County. Rock Creek also held the popular Fairview Resort and in the Curtis Creek area was Acton Park and Flood’s Amusement Park.

By the dawn of the 20th century, The Baltimore Sun reported that there was “about five miles of continuous pleasure shores around [Baltimore]—nearly a thousand in all” (“Pleasure Seekers A-Plenty” 1909). Stony Creek was called an excursion resort ‘mecca’ for Baltimoreans during the summer months with its various yacht clubs and picnic beaches, a few hotels, restaurants, and cottages (“Stony Creak Near” 1918). Rock Creek as well had become “pre-eminently a picnic and excursion shore” with numerous hotels and boarding houses where many people vacationed—taking advantage of the
‘excellent’ beach bathing and fine boating, fishing and crabbing (“Rock Creek Resorts” 1918). In regards to Curtis Creek, the efforts to build an industrialized hub by the South Baltimore Harbor and Improvement Company, ultimately razed all of the former summer cottages but led to the establishment of hundreds of clubhouses that would be used by workers during the summer months (“Boom in Anne Arundel” 1906).

Major beach destinations that appeared in the early 20th century included Altoona Beach, Summit Grove, and Beauty Beach (African American) on Stony Creek; Cottage Grove Beach, and Browns Grove (African American) on Rock Creek; and further east was Fort Smallwood, Kurtz Pleasure Beach, Pasadena Beach, and Alpine Beach. The 1940s Road Map also indicates that a public beach was located near Pinehurst although no reference was identified for this location.

In addition to the beach resorts, by the 1920s large sections of this area were being developed into summer colonies (“Carvel Beach Announced” 1923; “Nearby Shores Developing Anew this Season” 1923). Initially this development focused in the Rock Creek and Stony Creek area with large communities like Riviera Beach, Green Haven, and Orchard Beach. Around the 1940s development in the Marley Creek/Curtis Creek area picked up with the large community developments of Shoreland, Margate, and Marley Park Beach. In the southern portion of this area development remained slow and steady throughout the early 20th century.

Although most of the resorts and communities were restricted and advertised to gentiles only (e.g. Riviera Beach, see Fuggetta 1979), this area also contained numerous African American beach resorts including Browns Grove and Beauty Beach.

North County beach resorts are displayed in Figure 8 and the beach communities are shown in Figure 9.
Figure 8: Public Beach Facility Sites in North County Area (locations of Stony Ridge & Summit Grove unknown)
As discussed above, a large portion of the Curtis Bay area was annexed to Baltimore City around 1918. Although no longer part of Anne Arundel County, this area was a major hub of beach recreation activity in the early late 19th and early 20th century, due largely to its close vicinity to Baltimore City. With that being said, a few of the major destinations are briefly discussed below.

**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**

The *Baltimore Sun* reported in 1906 that the northern portions of these creeks were covered with hundreds of clubhouses erected by private organizations for summer use (“Boom in Anne Arundel” 1906). This area was also well known early on for its excellent fishing opportunities and much of the coast was advertised as ‘fishing shores’ (e.g. Point Pleasant, see “$1,200 Ground Rent Sold” 1911). Additionally, several public beach facilities (all of which are in the annexed portions of the county) were also present including Walker’s Pavilion, Acton Park, and Flood’s Park.
WALKER’S PAVILION

Walker’s Pavilion, operated by Samuel Walker, was a picnic and bathing beach park at the mouth of Curtis Creek in what is now South Baltimore. It was in operation by 1860 and remained so until at least 1878. The park had swings, eating and dancing saloons, and ‘every convenience for ladies and children’ (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1872).

ACTON PARK & WALNUT SPRING HOTEL

Acton Park and the Walnut Spring Hotel, both in Brooklyn, were of the most well-known resorts in the area. Acton Park, owned by Samuel Acton, was a beach resort and picnic park with entertainment pavilions, a gambling house, and other amusements (The Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Historical Committee 1976:30). It was open from the 1880s to ca. 1910 (“Picnics and Excursions” 1887).

The Walnut Spring Hotel was built in 1841 and served as a hotel, boarding house, and a meeting place for politicians (The Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Historical Committee 1976:30). It was initially operated by Mr. McPherson and had a variety of amenities including a raised bandstand above a circular dance floor and a theater where movies would be shown (ibid: 30, 106).

FLOOD’S AMUSEMENT PARK

John T. Flood was proprietor of Flood’s Park (a.k.a. Jack Flood’s Park) which was open from the 1890s to 1917. It is located at the south end of what is now known as the Curtis Bay area in an annexed portion of Anne Arundel County. It had a small hotel, a beer garden, picnic groves, a theater, and dance hall (Jones 1989). Flood’s Park was well known for its burlesque shows and its beer garden but was also notorious for barroom brawls, raids, and ignoring the city’s “no alcohol on Sunday” rule (Jones 1989, The Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Historical Committee 1976:210). As a result of the Prohibition Movement, the park was closed and torn down in 1917 after the area began to witness significant industrial development.
EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:

Following the annexation and boost in industrial development in the area, the resulting increase in job opportunities led to a great population increase. By the 1920s these new residents began to establish various summer beach colonies nearby and, after World War II, many of these communities transitioned into year-round residences (Solley School 1952). A few of the early beach communities in the area are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Beach Communities in the Curtis & Marley Creek Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Marley Park Beach</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 2, p.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shoreland</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 2, p.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Point Pleasant</td>
<td>1925 (Land Records WMB21, p.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Margate</td>
<td>1930 (Plat Bk. 7, p.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hammarlee</td>
<td>1948 (Plat Bk. 21, p.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The shorelines of Stoney Creek and Rock Creek were similarly very popular summer destinations in the early 20th century. The area’s popularity is however rooted in the late 19th century when excursion steamboats would transport folks to the numerous ports for organized events at picnic groves and beach parks.

**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**
Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries Stony Creek and Rock Creek were popular summer excursion destinations with numerous picnic groves, hotels, boarding houses, rental cottage, restaurants, and clubhouses along the shoreline (“Pleasure for Vacationists at Beautiful Stony Creek” 1919).

**ON STONY CREEK**

**STONY BEACH**
Stony Beach, located at the entrance of Stony Creek, was in operation as early as 1887 when it was called the “Stony Beach Fishing Shore and Summer Resort”; and Captain William Johnson was the proprietor (“Stony Beach” 1887; “Stoney Beach Hotel Burned” 1915). There was a Stony Beach Hotel in the area along with a pavilion, and wharf. The hotel was burnt down and rebuilt at least twice. In 1937, the hotel was used as a night club (“Life Savings Burn Up in County Blaze” 1937).

**STONY RIDGE**
References for Stony Ridge as a public excursion and fishing resort appear as early as 1887 when it was operated by John Boyd (“Stony Creek Opening” 1887). The property, which had picnic groves, a cottage, and a wharf, was put up for sale by 1896 (“Mortgagee’s Sale...” 1896).

**LOCUST GROVE**
Locust Grove was a public beach park open as early as 1887 when it was operated by Captain Robinson (“Stony Creek Opening” 1887). A 1916 real estate advertisement indicates that the public park was still open at that time (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1916).

**ALTONA/ALTOONA BEACH**

John Fait operated the Altona Summer Resort/Hotel as early as 1899 (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1899). In 1903 the *Baltimore Sun* contained a public auction advertisement for the resort which included a substantially built hotel, with an artesian well, parlor and dining room, swings, carousels, and “other equipment usually found at suburban resorts adjacent to the water” (Auction Sale 1903). The Faits appear to have kept running the property for a while longer as indicated by a 1909 *Baltimore Sun* advertisement that stated the Faits were the proprietors; although by 1913/1914 John Fait is referred to in a court case as the ex-resort owner (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1909; “To Grand Jury Today” 1913). In 1915 the Altona Beach Hotel was reported as being operated by William L. Hartman (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1915). In 1920 advertisements for a “new Altona Beach” excursion appeared (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1920).

In the late 20th century, the public beach park (under the new spelling: ‘Altoona Beach’) was operated by Mickey and Ruth Bell. The grounds contained picnic groves, a sliding board, diving
platform, game room, and a snack bar (Devera 1981). The resort appears to have stayed in business through at least the 1980s.

**OUTING PARK**

In the 1910’s, excursion steamboats were running frequently to Outing Park, in the area now known as Green Haven (a summer community). While advertisements for the area primarily promoted the area as a private summer colony, some indications suggest it may have been used as a beach park.

**VIEWPOINT HOTEL/RESORT**

Viewpoint Hotel/Resort was in operation, minimally, from the mid-1910s to the 1920s. Various proprietors were referenced in the *Baltimore Sun*: Edward Simons in 1914, Mrs. Geo. Hoffman in 1916, and in 1925 William Jefferson was possibly the proprietor (“Simons Caught After Chase” 1914; Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1916b; “Plans to Move Dry Agents to Custom House” 1925).

The hotel had a track record for conducting illegal business. Simons was arrested in 1914 for illegally registering people at hotel and in 1925 a raid revealed that alcohol was being sold on the premises.

**SUMMIT GROVE (SHORE)**

Summit Grove was another popular summer excursion area where folks would plan outings (‘In and About Town’ 1916). Heiss (1952) also reported that Summit Grove was a ‘rendezvous for powerboat enthusiasts’ in the early 20th century. The location of this resort, based on Heiss’ account is somewhere between the old Stony Creek bridge and Altoona Beach.

**BEAUTY BEACH**

Beauty Beach, an African American amusement park on Stoney Creek, was opened by Robert Goodlow around 1914 and had carousels, merry-go-round swings, row boats, steam launch, photograph gallery, shooting gallery, baseball diamonds, ‘the largest dance pavilion in Maryland’ (at the time) and a hotel (Beauty Beach Advertisement 1914). Visitation to the park was made via the Charles H. Werner Steamer ran by Henry T. Tyler.

Notably, the only references identified for Beauty Beach were a few stray advertisements in the 1914 series of Baltimore’s *Afro-American* newspaper.

**ON ROCK CREEK**

**FAIRVIEW BEACH**

‘Fairview Summer Resort’ was advertised as a fishing shore in the *Baltimore Sun* as early as 1889 (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1889) and was accessed via the Steamer George W. Johnson. A local historian reported that ‘Fairview Beach’, located at the mouth of Rock Creek, was founded by George E. Efford and Capt. Octorus Hudson around 1892 (Burgess 1949).

The operation was initially small, beginning with a hotel (built by James Marsh) that offered accommodations only to smaller family groups (Burgess 1949). By 1919, however, Fairview
held several hotels and many boarding houses for visitors seeking to take advantage of the area’s ‘excellent’ opportunities for fishing and crabbing as well as boating and beach bathing ("Rock Creek" 1919). The resort remained open well into the 20th century (Figure 11) and had various attractions including a merry-go-round, a bowling alley, and a penny arcade ("2 Buildings Burned at Fairview Beach” 1931).

![Figure 11: Baltimore Sun Advertisement for Fairview Beach and Fort Smallwood (June 24, 1934; p.63)](image)

**COTTAGE GROVE BEACH**

Cottage Grove Beach, also known as Heintzman’s Cottage Grove Beach, was a public beach amusement park located near Riviera Beach. It opened around the 1930s and closed in the late 1960s (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1966, 1947).

The original owner, Charles H. Heintzman, was a Councilman ("Mr. Heintzman entertains Club" 1915) and prior to the property’s use as a public beach resort, reportedly rented rooms in his home at Cottage Grove Farm as early as 1912 (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1912).

The resort boasted beach bathing, large picnic groves, dining/catering facilities, a cocktail lounge, pavilions, kiddie rides, bath houses, baseball fields, a Ferris wheel, a carousel, a miniature railroad, slot machines, and pony rides (Riviera Beach School 1956). In 1959, it was advertised as “Maryland’s finest, most complete amusement park and bathing beach...perfect for industrial outings, company, club, and church groups”; containing space for up to 5,000 people (Cottage Grove Advertisement 1959).

**COLONIAL BEACH**

Colonial Beach, along Rock Creek, was a popular beach excursion area in operation during the early 1900s (Pasadena SAP 2004: 12). Various Baltimore Sun articles report group outings for games and amusements ("Germans Begin Session” 1906).

A 1907 Baltimore Sun advertisement for the ‘Colonial Beach Hotel’ advertised it as an ‘ideal modern hotel’ with fine boating, bathing, fishing, and crabbing. The proprietor at the time was Capt. G. Taylor.

**BROWNS GROVE**

Browns Grove was an African American waterfront resort at the end of Colony Road on Rock Creek (Carr 2012). The park was owned by a prosperous black entrepreneur, Captain George Brown, who also owned and ran the steamboat line (the Avalon, Starlight, and Newbill; see
Figure 12) that serviced the area (Carr 2012). Brown bought the property in 1912 (Peters 1981). It had concession stands, bathhouse, picnic grove, merry-go-round, roller coaster ride, midway, dancing pavilion (Carr 2012). In 1938, a fire burned down the entire resort.

![Image of steamboats](image.jpg)

**Figure 12: Captain George Brown's Steamboats Avalon, and Starlight**

**Sanders Park**

Sanders Park, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, held rental summer cottages with a bathing beach, picnic areas, and a tavern/grocery store nearby. It was in operation from at least the later 1930s and into 1950s; although the Jacobsville Elementary School *Discovering Our School Community* report from 1952 indicates that the park was at that time 70 years old (which would mean it was in operation since the 1880s. In 1959, the area was bought for the construction of a marina (“Marina is planned” 1959).

**Other Locations**

- *Unnamed African American resort on Rock Creek*: A 1907 *Baltimore Sun* article (“Three More Negroes Caught” 1907) reports a ‘negro resort’ on Rock Creek that predates Brown’s Grove. No other sources for this resort were identified during research.
- *Unnamed African American resort amusement park on Bodkin Creek*: A 1927 *Baltimore Sun* article (“Pig Farm Will Become Negro Amusement Park” 1927) reports a ‘Negro
Amusement Park’ was being planned on an old piggery farm at Bodkin creek. Unfortunately, no other sources were identified for this park.

**BOARDING HOUSES/HOTELS**

- *Water Oak Point Hotel (Rock Creek)* An ad selling private beachfront home lots at Water Oak Point indicates that the area had a steamboat wharf and a hotel (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1917)
- *Hotel Anchor Inn (Rock Creek)* (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1934)
- *Rock Point House on Chesapeake Bay* was a boarding house owned by Mrs. O. Tilghman Davidson (Rock Point House Advertisement 1934)
- *Archaeological Remains of a Hotel Site (18AN1207):* A recent archaeological survey identified subsurface evidence of a hotel from ca. 1880s.

**EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES**

Most of the early beach communities developed around the late 19th century excursion ports along Rock and Stoney Creeks. By the 1920s, the trend greatly picked up and over ten new communities began development. The following table presents some of these early summer colonies:
Table 3: Beach Communities in the Stoney and Rock Creek Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/ Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Green Haven (aka. Outing Park)</td>
<td>1910 (Plat Bk. 12, p.31-32); (Plat Bk. 15, p.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Viewpoint Park</td>
<td>1911 (Plat Bk. 13, p.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Locust Grove</td>
<td>1915 (Plat Bk. 13, p.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Water Oak Point</td>
<td>1916 (Plat Bk. 14, p.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>1920 (Plat Bk. 15, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Riviera Beach (formerly known as Kreb's)</td>
<td>1921-1923 (Plat Bk. 15, p.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Greenland Beach</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 2, p.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Carvel Beach</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orchard Beach</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Beauty Beach</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Beach</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Rockview Beach</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>High Point (at Green Haven)</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk. 4, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Brightwaters</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk. 4, p.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Clearwater Beach</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk. 2, p.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Old Glory Beach</td>
<td>1928 (Plat Bk. 5, p.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sunset Beach</td>
<td>1929 (Plat Bk. 6, p.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Rock Hills</td>
<td>1933 (Plat Bk. 9, p.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Powhatan Beach</td>
<td>1934 (Plat Bk. 9, p.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lombardree Beach</td>
<td>1937 (Plat Bk. 10, p.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Altoona Beach</td>
<td>1939 or 1941 (Plat Bk. 17, p.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Rockwood Beach (Rockwood Farm)</td>
<td>1947/1955 (Plat Bk. 26, p.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Cottage Grove</td>
<td>1949 (Plat Bk. 22, p.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stone Haven</td>
<td>1949 (Plat Bk. 21, p.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Silver Sands</td>
<td>1949 (Plat Bk. 21, p.36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The area from Ft. Smallwood to Gibson Island was utilized for beach recreation primarily after 1930, following the improvement of land transportation routes into the area.

**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**

Most of the public beach facilities in this area appear after 1930, although it is possible that some of the community beaches were once open to the public. The public facilities identified include Fort Smallwood Park, Kurtz’s Pleasure Beach, Alpine Beach, Catalina Beach, Maryland Beach, and Pasadena Beach.

**FORT SMALLWOOD PARK**

Fort Smallwood Park is a public beach park that opened in 1929 and is still in operation. The former military installation was acquired by Baltimore City in 1927 for $50,000 with plans to give the park “a 150-foot pier, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a children’s playground, a bathhouse complex and 300 picnic tables” (Carr 2012c). Interestingly, although it was a government owned park, the operators refused to admit African Americans on a regular basis until the 1950s when a court ordered injunction required the park to desegregate and to provide bathing facilities for non-whites (Carr 2012c, “10 ask Court to End Bias” 1952).

![Fort Smallwood Concession Stand](image)

**CATALINA BEACH**

Catalina Beach, which once was directly adjacent to Fort Smallwood, was a public beach area that also had rental cottages and beach/picnic areas. It was in operation during the 1940s and advertised free outdoor dancing, ‘amusement of all kinds’, and crab feasts every day (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1941).

**MARYLAND BEACH**

Maryland Beach, at the mouth of Bodkin Creek, was a public beach and picnic area that was open from, minimally, the 1940s to 1978 (Fuggetta 1979b; Lake Shore SAP 2004: 12). It was operated by the Grantlins family (“Oil Spillage is Protested” 1947).
PASADENA BEACH

Pasadena Beach was a public beach and recreational area that was in operation by the 1940s ("Oil Spillage is Protested" 1947). By 1979 it was used largely for boating and only weekend swimming (Fugetta 1979b).

Leon’s Beach Grove was a resort with beach houses and a bar at Pasadena Beach ("Baker and Beach Manager” 1967).

ALPINE BEACH

Alpine Beach was a public beach area and picnic grove utilized as early as the 1930s and was in operation into the 1950s (“All-Day Picnic Planned” 1933, Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1950; “Oil Spillage is Protested” 1947; Lake Shore SAP 2004: 12). The Sunset Knoll Hotel was also advertised as being nearby (Sunset Knoll Hotel Advertisement 1949).

KURTZ PLEASURE BEACH

Kurtz Pleasure Beach opened as a public beach destination in 1933 by Gustav and Samuel Kurtz (Fuggetta 1979b; Carr 2012b). They were first generation Austrian brothers that owned bakery businesses in Baltimore (Carr 2012b). The resort had 750 picnic tables, pavilions, bathing beaches, an octagonal dance hall, and nickel slots (Thompson 2013). Although no longer a public resor, the glass dance hall and other buildings on the property are still rented out today for private events (Carr 2012b).

EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES

Plats for summer communities appeared in this area after 1920 but development did not pick up until after 1930. Most of these communities were relatively small, although several large neighborhoods also appeared. The following table lists the early 20th century communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/ Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Paradise Beach</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk. 15, p.12-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Arcadia on the Chesapeake</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 2, p.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Pinehurst on the Bay</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 15, p.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Forest Glen</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 4, p.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Venice on the Bay</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk. 1, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Green Gables</td>
<td>1930 (Plat Bk.7, p.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Bodkin Plains</td>
<td>1934 (Plat Bk. 9, p.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Bayside Beach</td>
<td>1934 (Plat Bk. 9, p.44; Plat Bk.10, p.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Lakeshore Park</td>
<td>1935 (Plat Bk. 9, p.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Ventnor</td>
<td>1937 (Plat Bk. 10, p.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Poplar Ridge</td>
<td>1942 (Plat Bk. 17, p.48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Belhaven Beach</td>
<td>1944 (Plat Bk. 18, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Bahama View/Beach</td>
<td>1952 (Plat Bk. 23, p.34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MAGOthy RIVER**

This area encompasses the entire north bank of the Magothy River and most of the upper south bank to Deep Creek (see Figure 2).

**AREA BACKGROUND**

For much of the Magothy River area’s history, the landscape was entrenched in agricultural pursuits. In the early 20th century, a 1902 *Baltimore Sun* article reported that although there was no steamboat regularly servicing the Magothy River that it was “the greatest truck river in Maryland” (Thomas 1902).

**OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA**

Beach recreation along the Magothy River did not really appear until the 20th century. One of the few indications of earlier use includes an 1880 *Baltimore Sun* article that recorded the presence of ‘Lakeshore Beach’ with 4th of July attractions (“The Nation’s Birthday” 1880). By 1908, after the Annapolis Shortline railroad was made electric, large portions of the Magothy near Jones Station and Robinson Station were being purchased for summer residence development (“To Build on Magothy” 1908; Maryland Beach: “On Magothy River” 1908). Although the south shore received much more attention due to the ease of access via the railways, land on the north shore was also being obtained in hopes that roads and other transportation routes would be improved in the future (“Beauty on the Rivers” 1910; “Dividing Magothy Tract” 1910).

During the 1920s, development really picked up as more communities were platted and established. Beach recreational facilities also started to appear, including Mago Vista Park which attracted numerous community development plans in its vicinity. Later, in 1930s, Magothy Park Beach (African American), and Crystal Beach opened and by the 1950s Beachwood Park (interracial) was fully operational. In some areas like Manhattan Beach ca.1920s, inns were opened to cater to out of town short-term visitors.

The area’s beach resorts and communities are presented in Figure 14.

**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**

**LAKE SHORE BEACH**

Lake Shore Beach, also known earlier as Magothy Heights, was established as early as 1880 (Lake Shore SAP 2004: 12). Excursions were often available to the area via the Steamer T.V. Arrowsmith. The beach advertised bathing, boating, picnicking, and fishing (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1880; “The Nation’s Birthday” 1880) and eventually transitioned into summer colonies in the late 1920s (Green 1953).
FIGURE 14: BEACH RESORTS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE MAGOTHY RIVER AREA (SEE TABLES BELOW FOR KEY)
BEACHWOOD (GROVE) PARK

Hiram Smith, the founder of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Baltimore, opened Beachwood Park between 1943 and 1948 and ran it until its closure in 1960. Beachwood Park was promoted as “Maryland’s finest interracial beach and amusement park” (Gardner 2011). Attractions included a bathing beach and diving platform, boating and water swimming opportunities, a merry-go-round, a pavilion, a Ferris wheel, arcade, slot machines and other gambling opportunities, a family playground, and picnic groves (ibid.; Smith 1949). Many famous artists came to perform at the dance pavilion including James Brown and Ike and Tina Turner (Powder 2002).

The park was one of the only beach areas where folks of all colors were able to congregate together, though the majority of patrons on any day were African American (Gardner 2011). Although, being a primarily African American beach area in a relatively white dominated part of town, Smith encountered much resistance and negative attention from the surrounding neighborhoods. Shortly after opening, legal suits were filed against the park by locals who reported that the sale went against the land covenants that barred non-whites from obtaining land. The court ultimately ruled in Smith’s favor and he kept the land. Interestingly, Smith’s son observed that the park did very well up until desegregation simply because African Americans suddenly had many more beach opportunities (ibid.). By 1963, Hiram Smith had fallen ill and was unable to keep up on mortgage payments which led to the property into foreclosure (Powder 2002).

![Beechwood Park Advertisement](image)

**FIGURE 15: BALTIMORE AFRO AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT FOR BEECHWOOD (BEACHWOOD) PARK (JULY 16, 1949; P.9)**

MAGOThy BEACH

Magothy Beach, located on the south shore of the Magothy is referenced several times in the *Baltimore Sun* during the first decade of the 1900s, prior to the development of the community (“Personal” 1900). Considering this area was not developed as a summer colony until the 1920s, it is possible these references are in regards to publicly accessible beaches in the area. This may be further supported by the Magothy River Association which states there was a bathing beach, Magothy Beach, “on the south shore of Old Man Creek near its mouth” (MRA n.d.).
CRYSTAL BEACH

Crystal Beach, operated by James E. Donnelly, was a bathing beach and amusement resort that was in operation from the late 1920s to the 1950s (Lutz 2009:32). The beach had a variety of amusements including bowling, billiards, sport fields (baseball), beach bathing, boating, a restaurant, music entertainment, a boardwalk, dancing, and a 5,000-patron pavilion (Lutz 2009:32; Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1932, 1933).

FIGURE 16: CRYSTAL BEACH (ANN ARUNDELL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MAGO VISTA BEACH

Mago Vista Beach was developed as a beach amusement park by the Benson family in 1928 and was in operation until 1964 (Lutz 2009:27). The beach park’s amenities included a ballroom/dance pavilion, an open-air dining hall, a swimming pier, high dives and water slides, canoes, a ball ground, seesaw swings, the ‘Little Dipper’ roller-coaster which went out over the river (Figure 17), a carousel, and a miniature kiddie train called the Toonerville Trolley (Crispino 2013; Lutz 2009).

For much of its history, Mago Vista Beach was a public beach resort, although signs posted on the entrance broadcasted that access was limited to “Gentiles Only” (Crispino 2013). Over time the Bensons and their park received increasing amount of public criticism and protests, that they were forced to turn the park into a private operation and renamed it “Mago Vista Beach Club” (Crispino 2013).
ARUNDEL BEACH ON THE MAGOTHY

The Arundel Beach property, originally owned by Folger McKinsey, was a popular summer recreational area on the Magothy used for swimming, picnics, and dancing (Lutz 2009: 25). By 1910 it was purchased by Charles F. Henderson of Baltimore. Henderson built a ‘boulevard’ on the beach from end to end (“On Anne Arundel’s Waters 1912). Soon after, plans were made to turn the area into a summer colony.

MANHATTAN BEACH

Manhattan Beach was established as early as 1920s. During this time, numerous summer resorts were established in the area including The Harvest Inn (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1927) and the Pendleberg Summer Resort at Manhattan Beach which was reported to have a mansion, pavilion and bathing accommodations (“Real Estate Deals and Building News” 1930). One instance was also reported of a club organization buying property to build a clubhouse and member summer cottages for summer recreational purposes (“Doctors Buy Beach Resort” 1920).

OTHER BEACH ATTRACTIONS

- **Wildwood Beach**: In 1915, *Baltimore Sun* advertisements were put out for Wildwood Beach on Long Point attracting “permanent home places, shores, and summer outing camps for the ‘better class’ of people and family use” (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1915c). The developers (Wildwood Beach Company) planned to build a summer hotel, amusement park, casino, yacht club, pavilions, and cottages (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1915c). However, this development doesn’t seem to have come to fruition.
**Dutch Ship/ Dobbins Island & The Floating Hotel Matilda:** This island was advertised as a popular picnic/bathing area throughout the early 20th century. Although in 1885 the *Baltimore Sun* advertised a colored excursion to the ‘Floating Hotel Matilda’ which was anchored off the island. Amusements included large saloons, skating rink, bathing, fishing, and crabbing (*Baltimore Sun Advertisements* 1885).

**CAMPS**

- **Camp Mil-Bur:** Camp Mil-Bur, at the end of Cornfield Creek, was a military style camp for inner city boys during the 1920s and later, a ‘farm harvest camp’ for women in the 1940s (MRA 2016). It had four large dormitories, a recreation hall, bathing beach, community dining hall (“*Anne Arundel Camp to Open for Women Farm Helpers*” 1943).
- **Camp Whippoorwill:** Camp Whippoorwill, on Cockey Creek, was a Girl Scout Camp that formed in 1928. It is known for having a large totem pole visible from the creek (Carr 2012d; Bildahl n.d.).
- **The Grachur Club:** The Grachur Club (next to Camp Whippoorwill) was founded in 1912 by Grace United Methodist Church of Baltimore to provide moral training for teenage boys (Bildahl n.d.; Lutz 2009:26).

**BOARDING HOUSES/HOTELS**

- **Deer Park Farm:** Deer Park Farm was a boarding house in the Lake Shore area that was operated by Mrs. W.E. Sadtler as early as 1911 (*Baltimore Sun Advertisements* 1911).
- **JOHN S.C. BENDT’S** boarding house in the Earleigh Heights area (*Baltimore Sun Advertisements* 1923).

**EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES**

While several summer colonies were planned early in the 1900s, over a dozen began development in the 1920s. The following table is a list of some of the early 20th century communities:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/ Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Cypress Creek</td>
<td>1907 (Plat Bk. 11, p.45-46); (Land Records GW54, p.255); (Land Record GW59, p.453)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cape Sable</td>
<td>1909 (Plat Bk. 27, p.19; Plat Bk.11, p.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Boulevard Park</td>
<td>1914 (Plat Bk. 13, p.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Arundel Beach/ Arundel Beach on the Magothy</td>
<td>Surveyed 1910/1911; plat map drawn 1915 and recorded ca. 1917 (Plat Bk. 14, p.40; Plat Bk.12, p.33) (see: Plat Bk. 16, p.30 from 1963)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ferry Point</td>
<td>1920 (Land Rec.WNW17, p.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Cressston Park</td>
<td>1920 (Plat Bk. 15, p.35-36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Shore Acres &amp; Derschinger Property, (aka Cedar Point)</td>
<td>1920 (Plat Bk. 15, p.49; Plat Bk. 10, p.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Manhattan Beach</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk. 15, p.28-29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Riverdale</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk. 15, p.20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gibson Island</td>
<td>1922-1927 (Plat Bk. 4, p.45-49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Beachwood Forest</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk. 2, p.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunset Knoll</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 3, p.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Magothy Beach</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Long Point</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chelsea Beach</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk. 4, p.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Indian Village on the Magothy</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk. 1, p.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sillery Bay Beach</td>
<td>1930 (Plat Bk. 7, p.16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Brookfield on the Magothy</td>
<td>1931 (Plat Bk. 8, p.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Belvedere Beach</td>
<td>1933 (Plat Bk. 9, p.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North Shore</td>
<td>1933 (Plat Bk. 9, p.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Royal Beach</td>
<td>1937 (Plat Bk. 10, p.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Magothy Shores</td>
<td>1938 (Plat Bk. 10, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Broadwater Beach</td>
<td>1939 (unrecorded plat; Broadwater Inc. acquired property in 1939; see Land Rec JHH 204, p.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tree Tops/Sylvan View</td>
<td>1947 (Plat Bk. 20, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Magothy Manor</td>
<td>1948 (Plat Bk. 21, p.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Country Life Manor</td>
<td>1948 (Plat Bk. 21, p.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GIBSON ISLAND

Stuart Symington acquired Gibson Island in 1921 to establish a private summer community where “‘attractive persons of moderate means’ could enjoy summer activities such as golf, sailing, swimming, and tennis” (Marsh 1998a). Lot ownership was offered through invitation only and was explicitly withheld from Jewish and African Americans. It was designed by the famous landscape designers/architects, the Olmstead Brothers, and over time became a renowned sailing institution that hosted national regattas.

MAGOTHY PARK BEACH

Magothy Park Beach is located near Lake Waterford at the river’s head. It was advertised in Baltimore’s Afro-American newspaper as being developed for African American summer cottages in 1933 (Afro-American Advertisements: 1933). Prior to this development, various references to the area are made in the early 1930s indicating its use for public purposes including for baptisms and camps (“Man Loses Life in Creek” 1931; Matthews 1930; Garrett 1931).
SEVERN RIVER & BROADNECK PENINSULA

This area encompasses the Severn River’s entire north bank and most of the south bank (excluding Annapolis) as well as the lower Broadneck Peninsula. The latter will be discussed separately below, after the overview.

AREA BACKGROUND

This area held the earliest European settlement in Anne Arundel County known as Providence (ca. 1649). During the 18th and 19th centuries the area continued to support agricultural industries including tobacco plantations and, later, truck farming.

OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA

The Severn River and lower Broadneck Peninsula areas do not appear to have been significant summer recreational destinations early on. Only one resort was identified as being operational in the late 19th century and was surprisingly an interracial beach (Round Bay). In the early 20th century, the only references for public beach facilities within this area included the Severn Bridge Beach which opened in 1929 (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1929), Herald Harbor (ca. 1920s), and Sandy Point State Park which opened in the late 1940s. The 1940s Road Map however indicates another public beach in the area of Carrollton Manor (which may indicate that the community offered public beach use) and the 1950s Road Map shows a public beach on the north bank at the mouth of Mill Creek. Boarding houses and hotels were also not frequently advertised for this area in the media reviewed for this project.

With that being said, a 1910 Baltimore Sun article, “Beauty on the Rivers”, documents a decent amount of large wealthy shore summer properties scattered along the river at the time particularly around Round Bay. Notably, there were also quite a few youth summer camps established along the river thought the early 20th century. Of the more well-known institutions were Camp Linstead and Camp Wawanaissa.

Although public facilities were generally few and far between, beach community development was abundant along the Severn River particularly after 1910 when transportation was improved throughout the area. The extent of this development is emphasized in a 1913 Baltimore Sun article that states “where a decade ago there was nothing but farm land, forest….and comparatively inaccessible cheap ground, there is now a chain of developments...” (“Cruising up the Severn Estuary” 1913). Some of the earliest large communities include Sherwood Forest, Epping Forest, and Herald Harbor. While Arden-on-the-Severn was also planned early, around 1911, it did not witness much development until the 1950s since it became a hub for mining operations from 1910s - 1920s (AOTS n.d.).

The area’s beach resorts and summer communities are presented in Figure 18.
Figure 18: Beach Resorts and Communities in the Severn River & Lower Broadneck Area (see tables below for key)
**LOWER BROADNECK PENINSULA**

Beach recreation on the Broadneck Peninsula was limited for a long time until transportation improved in the area. Communities of summer cottages do not appear until the 1920s and, even then, community growth was rather slow and didn't really pick up until after the Bay Bridge was built in 1952. The later developments concentrated near Cape St. Claire and upper Mill Creek, and to a lesser degree along White Hall Creek.

**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**

Public beach facilities were not common for this area of Anne Arundel County. The only beach attraction identified was Sandy Point State Park.

**SANDY POINT STATE PARK**

Sandy Point State Park opened in 1952 as a racially segregated beach. It was formerly a landing for the Chesapeake Bay Ferry System that transported people to Kent Island. By 1955, the park was ordered by the Supreme Court to integrate its beach facilities.

**BOARDING HOUSES/HOTELS**

The Log Inn was the only popular boarding house and rest stop at the mouth of the Magothy on the Chesapeake Bay. It was built by William T. Emory and was in operation from 1913 to 1954 (Johnson 2016).

**EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:**

Beach communities were slow to develop in the area due to limited access. A few of the earliest platted communities are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tydings on the Bay (Podickery Point)</td>
<td>1920 (Plat Bk. 15, p.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bay Head</td>
<td>1921 (Land Rec. WNW 54, p.312)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pleasant Plains</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Whitehall Beach</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk.1, p.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hidden Point (Mill Creek)</td>
<td>1946 (Plat Bk.19, p.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Beechwood on the Burley</td>
<td>1947 (Plat Bk.20, p.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Beacon Hill</td>
<td>1946 (Plat Bk.19, p.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cape St. Claire</td>
<td>1949 (Plat Bk. 21, p.39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 6: BEACH COMMUNITIES IN THE LOWER BROADNECK PENINSULA AREA**
NORTHERN ANnapolis Neck AND UPPER SEVERn RIVER

The shoreline of the Severn River during the 20th century did not experience many established beach facilities for the public but it did house numerous private beach communities, some of which opened their gates to public recreation for varying periods of time.

BEECH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS

While the Severn River held numerous summer camps along its shoreline, only two public beach facilities were identified from the late 19th and early 20th centuries: Round Bay and the Severn Bridge Beach.

ROUND BAY

Round Bay was a public beach resort established in the late 1880s and continued until 1910 when it was sold for development. It appears to have been an interracial beach resort that was very popular with the African American community. The Baltimore Afro-American newspaper even called it “The Great Colored Excursion Resort” (Afro-American Advertisements 1904). The resort had a waterfront hotel, boardwalk, dance pavilion, and bathhouse and was accessed from a station on a spur line of the B & A Railroad (Severna Park SAP 2002:11). The proprietor of the resort in 1902 was Mr. J. Wilson Brown who was also the proprietor of the Short Line Railroad (“Out Only Summer Resort” 1902). Round Bay held annual ‘Athletic Carnivals’ involving foot races, diving contest, and other sport games (Afro-American Advertisements 1902).

In 1904, Jim Crow laws caused segregation of railroad cars. This caused a great deal of embarrassment and harassment for African Americans attempting to visit the resort and eventually led to a significant decrease in patronage (“About the City” 1904). By 1906, the Railroad Company managed to integrate the railcars again (“Excursions to Round Bay” 1906) but by 1911 the property was bought by developers for the construction of a large summer colony for whites.

Figure 19: Baltimore Afro-American newspaper advertisement for Round Bay resort (July 9, 1904; p.5)
SEVERN BRIDGE BEACH

The Severn Bridge Beach was located at the north bank of the Severn either at Jonas Green Park or nearby. This location boasted opportunities for golfing, boating, fishing, dining, and dancing and also often held carnivals and pageants (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1930).

CAMPS

- **Gordonia Hobonin Camp (Zionist Youth Camp)** was a Jewish youth summer camp near Jones Station that may have opened its doors to African American youth (“Jewish Society Hears Dr. Dubois” 1940; “Old Hebrew Rite Given by Children” 1940).
- **Camp Linstead on the Severn** was a Boy Scout summer camp from 1918-1944
- **Camp Wawanaissa** was a summer camp for the Baltimore Camp Fire Girls (Wagner 1938)
- **Camp Charm** was a summer camp that was advertised in 1931 (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1931)

HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES

- **Round Bay Hotel** offered room and board to African American patrons at Round Bay (Afro-American Advertisement 1902b)
- **Round Bay Inn**; proprietor was Mrs. W.H. Hanson (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1911b)
- **Severn Hotel at Round Bay** (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1913b).

OTHER POSSIBLE PUBLIC-ACCESS BEACHES

- **Whitney’s Landing**: A Baltimore Sun article (“Two Men Drown in Swimming; Bodies Found” 1935) indicates that a public beach was possibly in the location of Whitney’s Landing around 1935 when after a series of youth drownings, the coroner stressed that the beach hire trained life guards.
- **Ulrich’s Shore**: A Baltimore Sun article indicates that beach-goers often frequented Ulrich’s Shore on the Severn River (“Three Drown With Return of Warm Spell” 1931)

EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:

While most of the summer colonies along the Severn River were advertised as strictly private institutions, a few, including Herald Harbor, did appear to permit non-residential beach use, at least early on. Moreover, several of these communities were very large developments that contained elaborate amusements within their boundaries. Some of the larger community resorts will be discussed below while others are presented in Table 7.
### Table 7: Beach Communities in the Northern Annapolis Neck and Upper Severn River Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Namana on the Severn &amp; Ferry Farms</td>
<td>1909 (Plat Bk. 11, p.39); Ferry Farms addition: 1927 (MSA C0130-34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Round Bay on the Severn</td>
<td>1911 (Plat Bk. 12, p.19-21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Arden on the Severn ( &amp; Sunrise Beach at --)</td>
<td>1911 (Plat Bk. 12, p. 50; Plat Bk. 13, p. 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sherwood Forest</td>
<td>1913 (Crownsville SAP 2000:14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Whitneys Landing</td>
<td>1919 (Plat Bk.16, p.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Severn Heights</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk.15, p.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pines on the Severn</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk. 15 p.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Herald Harbor</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk.3, p.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Briar Cliff on the Severn</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk. 4, p.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Epping Forest</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk.1, p.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Palisades on the Severn</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk.1, p.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ashby</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk.1, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Holly Point</td>
<td>1927 (Land Record: FSR 15, p.449)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Severn Grove</td>
<td>1932 (Plat Bk.8, p.41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Carrollton Manor</td>
<td>1933 (Plat Bk.9, p.23-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pendennis Mount</td>
<td>1939 (Plat Bk. 11, p.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Linstead on the Severn</td>
<td>1944 (Plat Bk.18, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lindamoor on the Severn</td>
<td>1947 (Plat Bk.2, p.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sherwood Forest**

Sherwood Forest was established in 1913 as a community summer resort (Crownsville SAP 2000:14). It is made up of various small neighborhoods with names influenced by the story of *Robin Hood*. The community was primarily a summer colony and even by 1989, only about half of the homes were winterized (Fielding 1989). It was initially conceived of as a Chautauqua-type summer arts colony (it was going to be called Chautauqua-on-the-Severn) with religious overtones (Fielding 1989). It was a rather successful endeavor from the beginning—attracting dozens of families. Over time, amenities incorporated into the community included a golf course, club house with a casino and dance area, dining halls, silent films, boating, sailing, swimming, tennis, bowling, lacrosse, baseball, archery, boat slips, post office, and horseback riding (“Sherwood Forest Along the Severn” 1929; “Sherwood Forest is Particularly Inviting” 1921).
There was a hotel in the area, Sherwood Forest Lodge, offering bathing, boating, golf, tennis, and horseback riding (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1946).

**HERALD HARBOR**

Herald Harbor was a large residential summer resort (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1924) that was established in 1924 by several affiliates of the *Washington Herald Newspaper*. Although now restricted for residents only, the beaches were once open to the public (see Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1952; Kaltenbach 1985) and were notably more accepting of Jewish families than other resorts (Lefkowitz n.d.). The resort would host various events at the beach including boat regattas, boxing matches, and beauty contests (“Herald Harbor to Have Motor Boat Regatta” 1928, Kaltenbach 1985). Non-resident beach goers likely resided at one of the varying boarding places like the ‘Severn River Health Resort’ at Herald Harbor which had rooms and space for tents (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1935). During its heyday, Herald Harbor had a carousel, slot machines, a clubhouse, and dancing events (Kaltenbach 1985).

**ROUND BAY COMMUNITY & THE ROUND BAY WATER CARNIVAL**

The Round Bay Community was established in 1911 in the location of the old Round Bay beach resort. The community often held beach dances with live bands performing at the community pavilion. The community also hosted the annual Round Bay Water Carnival during which numerous Severn River communities were invited to compete in a wide range of land and water sports and other activities. Interestingly, the festivities seemed to have roots in the original Round Bay ‘Athletic Carnival’ that began in the early 1900s.
ANAPOLIS AREA

This area encompasses the lower portions of the Annapolis Neck.

AREA BACKGROUND

Annapolis was settled in the 1660s and within 30 years it had become Maryland’s capital. It served initially as a market center for tobacco and crop farms that dotted the adjacent landscape.

OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA

Numerous beach destinations are present in the Annapolis area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The earliest and largest resort was the Bay Ridge Beach Resort on the outer Annapolis Neck which opened around 1880. Not long after its opening, after he had been refused entry to Bay Ridge, Charles Douglass opened the exclusive African American Highland Beach resort nearby. In the decades that would follow, Highland Beach’s symbol of resistance attracted many more African American communities and beach resorts in the area.

Figure 20: Beach Resorts and Communities in the Annapolis Area (See tables below for key)
Bay Ridge, known as the ‘Queen Resort of the Chesapeake’ was developed by James Vansant as a grand Victorian summer resort that opened in 1879 (Bay Ridge Community n.d.). In its heyday, thousands of visitors flooded the park. Initially, visitors came by steamboat but by 1886, a direct railroad line was installed to the resort from Annapolis. The 150-acre property held a large hotel as well as concert pavilions, dining and dancing areas, games, amusement rides, picnic groves, and a trolley ride.

The resort was continually plagued by financial problems and eventually closed in 1903. The Bay Ridge Hotel appears to have operated until 1915 when it and much of the old resort was destroyed by a fire (Marsh 1998b). By the 1920s the Bay Ridge Realty Company had begun developing the property into a ‘desirable and high class’ summer resort (ibid).

CARR’S AND SPARROW’S BEACH

Carr’s and Sparrows Beaches were popular African American beach parks in operation from about 1929 to 1974. Carr’s Beach was established in 1929 by Elizabeth Carr Smith and a year or two later her sister, Mary Florence Carr Sparrow, opened Sparrows Beach (Bay Weekly n.d.). Prior to the establishment of the beach parks, the Carr and Sparrows family ran boarding houses in the area as early as 1928 (Kahrl 2013:345).
After Elizabeth Carr’s death in 1948, William L. Adams (a.k.a ‘Little Willie’), Baltimore’s infamous black businessman and numbers operator, took control of Carr’s Beach and transformed the resort into an even more wildly popular and prosperous entertainment and recreational venue (Figure 22). He added a midway, a large concert pavilion, and the Club Bengazi nightclub (ibid: 346).

The parks offered an array of activities and events including swimming, dancing, concerts, picnic groves, a Ferris wheel, ball fields, and annual festivals with dance contests (Williams n.d., Sparrows Beach Advertisement 1939; see Figure 23). Notably, Carr’s Beach was incorporated into the ‘Chitlin’ Circuit’ which brought famous black jazz and soul musicians to perform on the weekends including Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, James Brown, Fats Domino, Little Richard, and Aretha Franklin just to name a few!
HORN POINT BEACH

Horn Point Beach was a public beach and picnic grove that was in operation from as early as 1919 to at least the 1930s. It was originally owned by M.P. Gonnson until 1924 when it was sold to Linwood L. Clark (“Real Estate Deals and Building News” 1924). The 1953 Eastport Elementary School Discovering Our School Community report indicates that the park had eroded by that time.

ANNAPOLIS ROADS BEACH CLUB

The Annapolis Roads Beach Club, owned by Rella Armstrong, was built in 1928. The property was initially intended to be a hotel but by the end of construction the owners chose to market it as a beach club. The club’s main building was a truly unique multi-tiered structure that stood out among the area’s waterways. It housed a restaurant, snack bar, and other recreational amenities (Gibb 2012). The club also boasted a golf course, picnicking and beach bathing facilities. The landscape and architectural designs were directed by the Olmstead Brothers and Percival Gallagher.

Club membership was heavily restricted and barred Jewish and African Americans. The initiation fees and dues were reportedly ‘snobbishly high’ and only those in the highest rungs of society were allowed admittance while “scores of such low fellows as US senators and diplomats were turned away” (Washington Daily News June 13, 1946 cited by Gibb 2012).

A private summer community was established around the club early on in order to support funding for the club. The Great Depression however crumbled the complex’s financial support and Rella’s company foreclosed. After years of being leased and a change in ownership, the beach resort’s historic club house saw moments of revival, until 1953 when it was destroyed by fire (Gibb 2012).

OTHER

- **Venice Beach Hotel**: An African American operated hotel was available at Venice Beach (Taylor 1952).
- **Ware’s Hotel**: Established in the early 1920s by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ware, Ware’s Hotel was an African American hotel located at Highland Beach (Nelson, Langston, and Pinson 2008). After a fire destroyed the building, it was rebuilt in 1931 and stayed in operation under various different names until it transitioned into a private residence in the 1980’s.
- **Bowen Guest House**: a boarding house within Highland Beach that opened in 1902. In 1926 it transitioned into the ‘Annozene’s Tea Room’ (Nelson, Langston, and Pinson 2008).
- **Edgewood Road Boarding Houses**: On the road heading to Carr’s and Sparrows Beach, various other summer boarding locations popped up including Minnie’s Inn and the Dew Drop Inn (Nelson, Langston, and Pinson 2008:109).

CAMPS

EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:

Beach cottages begin to appear in the area in the late 19th century with the establishment of Bay Ridge Resort. Over time, as more and more recreational beaches appear, other summer colonies also developed in the vicinity.

**TABLE 8: BEACH COMMUNITIES IN THE ANNAPOLIS AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/ Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Arundel on the Bay</td>
<td>1890 (Land Record: SH 37, p.509)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Highland Beach</td>
<td>1893 (Land Record: SH43, p.349)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bay Ridge</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Annapolis Roads</td>
<td>1928 (Plat Bk. 6, p.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Venice Beach</td>
<td>1929 (Plat Bk. 7, p.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bay Highlands</td>
<td>1935 (Plat Bk. 9, p.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elktonia Beach</td>
<td>1944 (Kahrl 2013:335)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oyster Harbor</td>
<td>1950 (Plat Bk. 22, p.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHLAND BEACH AND SURROUNDING AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Highland Beach, a summer colony for wealthy African American individuals and families, was established in 1893 by Charles Douglass, son of the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Prior to his acquisition, the land had been a farm operated since before the Civil War by one of the few free black land holding families, the Brashears (Nelson, Langston, and Pinson 2008). Douglass is reported to have gained interest in the property after having to board with the Brashears following an incident where he had been refused entry at the nearby Bay Ridge Resort (ibid.). It was envisioned as a haven where blacks could relax and escape the repression of segregation and its strategic location adjacent to Bay Ridge was a symbol of resistance.

The community was slow to grow initially but between 1910 and 1930 there was a significant boom. In the midst of the community’s growth, in 1922, the town was incorporated—becoming the state’s first African American municipality. In the decades that would follow, this significant and early achievement of Douglass would come to foster the formation of a large African American summer enclave in the surrounding area.

The governing officials of this prominent town were, however, not immune to their own inherent social bias. As other African-American communities began to pop up in the surrounding area, the town started to institute more exclusive covenants on who could utilize the beach facilities in an attempt to uphold its higher-class ambiance. For several years in the late 1920s tensions ran rampant between Highland Beach and the adjacent Venice Beach (founded in 1919 by Mr. O.T. Taylor) which was also predominately African American. The conflict received significant media attention and the town was criticized for things like installing a fence to keep out non-residents (“Where Barbed-Wire Fence Started Miniature War Among
Chesapeake Bay Summer Colonists” 1929) and for hiring a white officer to guard the entrance (“Highland Beach, Md., Remains Private” 1930; also, see Kahrl 2016).

Nevertheless, the dispute eventually seemed to fizzle and various other African American communities sprung up in the vicinity including Elktonia Beach, Bay Highlands, Oyster Harbor, and around 1950 lots in the Arundel on the Bay were sold to African Americans (Taylor 1952; Kahrl 2013). Although some lots from these communities remained under ownership of the decedents of the early African American property owners, the area’s demographic is today predominately white.

**Figure 24: Highland Beach Community**
UPPER SOUTH RIVER

This area incorporates the South River’s entire north bank and the upper portion of the south bank down to Edgewater (see Figure 2).

AREA BACKGROUND

This area experienced a great deal of activity during the 17th century due largely to the presence of London Town, a significant port and tobacco trading center that held the County seat from 1684-1695. By 1747, the town was undergoing a steady decline after the Maryland General Assembly voted to remove it from the list of designated tobacco ports and by the end of the Revolutionary War it was nearly completely abandoned. Nevertheless, throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the area remained entrenched in agricultural and maritime pursuits.

OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA

Recreational use of the area does not appear until after 1910 when several land owners begin to advertise their homes as boarding houses during the summer months. Although present, these endeavors were few and far between. Development continued to be thwarted even into the 1920s as exemplified by a 1924 Baltimore Sun article which describes the river as an undeveloped haven ‘away from the madding crowds’ (‘Finds Haven on South River’1924).

The “haven” would not remain so for much longer as developers appear to have descended upon the area in full force over the next few years and by 1930, the river was known as a popular summer resort area (“South River Lies within Easy Reach of Baltimore”’ 1930). Construction of several summer colonies had initiated and others were in the planning stages. One community, Woodland Beach, was massive and offered over a thousand lots for sale. Having been started amidst the Great Depression era, there was a desperate need to sell the lots since they were being offered for the low price of $93 with a subscription to The Washington Post!

These large-scale developments concentrated along the river’s southern shore since the north shore did not present ideal circumstances due to its steep topography and limited transportation routes. The 1940s and 1950s Road Map indicates that a handful of summer cottages were erected along the inner tributaries of the river, though.

Aside from the beach communities which were likely available to non-residents either prior to development or periodically afterwards, very few public beach attractions were offered on the South River. Based on the advertisements in the media reviewed for this project, there were at least two around Edgewater (Edgewater Beach and South River Beach) although the 1940s Road Map also indicated that there was a beach facility near South Haven.

Although public beaches were few and far between (see Figure 25), there are numerous camp establishments on the South River in the early 20th century. These included Camp Conoy, Camp Woodlands, Camp Pawtinika, and the St Vincent de Paul camp.
**BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS**

**SOUTH RIVER BEACH**

South River Beach, along Marlboro Blvd. in Edgewater, was a public beach and picnic area in operation by the late 1920s and appears to have stayed open into the late 1930s (“Bay Resorts are Ready” 1937). The facility advertised picnic groves, a dining room, crabbing, fishing, row boats, and beach bathing (South River Beach advertisement 1930).

**EDGEWATER BEACH**

Edgewater Beach was a camp or public beach facility during the 1920s. A *Baltimore Sun* article indicates that the facility offered camping/picnic groves, horseshoes, beach bathing, and boating (“Hopkins Gridmen Enjoy New Camp” 1924).

**SOUTH HAVEN**

The area around South Haven was identified on the 1940s Road Map as being a public swimming facility although no supporting evidence was recovered from the other media reviewed for this project. The initial plans made in 1927 for the South Haven community itself indicated that it was meant to be a country club and private residential community although the...
project was canceled during the Great Depression (Henry 1976). Before the operation was closed down however, the developers were able to add a tennis court, docks, and bathing beach facilities to the area which may have been used by the public later on.

**BOARDING HOUSES/ HOTELS**

- *The White House Hotel* (White House Farm) at River View (“Two Girls Drowned” 1912; Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1920b)
- *South River Hotel*; Proprietor: C.W. Gould (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1913)
- *South River Inn*; Proprietor: H.M. Love. (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1925)
- *Casa Del Rio Inn* at Edgewater (Casa Del Rio Inn Advertisement 1929).
- *Riverside Boarding House*: a boarding house near Arundel on the Bay advertised in the Baltimore *Afro American* newspaper in 1924; Proprietor: Mrs. Petty B. Gross

**CAMPS**

- *Camp Pawatinika & St. Vincent de Paul Camp*: This site was initially the location of Camp Pawatinika, a YWCA summer camp for girls but was transferred in 1949 to the Catholic Charity Fund Inc. which established the St. Vincent de Paul Camp as a summer camp for poor black children of Baltimore (“Catholic Unit Buys Camp for Poor Children” 1949; “Y. W. C. A. Camp Is Vacation Haven For Girls” 1928; “Catholic Unit Buys Camp for Poor Children” 1949).
- *Camp Conoy*: Boys YMCA Camp (early 1900s to 1931)
- *Camp Woodlands*: Girl Scouts of American Camp
- *Wild Rose Shores Summer Camp/School*: Youth summer camp (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1935)
- *Camp Keewadin*: youth camp (“Boy Scout News” 1919)
EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:
Most of the early 20th century summer communities were platted in the 1920s. The following is a table of the area’s primary residential summer communities.

**TABLE 9: BEACH COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTH RIVER AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/ Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Edgewater</td>
<td>1911 (Plat Bk. 12, p.40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Edgewater Beach/ Sunny Section</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.39) 1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>South River Park</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.31); (Land Records FSR 75, p.58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oak Bluff</td>
<td>1925 (Plat Bk.1, p.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pine Whiff Beach</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk.1, p.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>South River Heights</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk.1, p.31).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Southaven Country Club and Resort/ South Haven</td>
<td>1927 (Plat Bk.5, p.32) 1936 (Plat Bk.10, p.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wild Rose Shores</td>
<td>1928 (Plat Bk.5, p.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sylvan Shores</td>
<td>1930 (Plat Bk.7, p.28-29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Woodland Beach/ Londontown</td>
<td>1931 (Plat Bk.8, p.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Glen Isle</td>
<td>1933 (Plat Bk.9, p.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Southdown Shores</td>
<td>1940 (Plat Bk.17, p.17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cape St. John</td>
<td>1948 (Plat Bk.21, p.15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RHODE RIVER AND MAYO PENINSULA

This area encompasses the Mayo peninsula and the Rhode River area (see Figure 2).

AREA BACKGROUND

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Mayo Peninsula contained several communities of watermen/oystermen and sailors and supported a prosperous agricultural and truck farming/canning industry (Edgewater/Mayo SAP 2002:6).

OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA

The earliest use of the area for summer recreation is indicated by various hotels and boarding houses that were present in the area by the early 1900s. Over time, with the rising demand for shore property, local watermen and farmers began to sell their waterfront lots and by the 1920s, large portions of the Mayo peninsula shoreline were carved up and platted into dozens of summer communities. Beverly Beach and Selby-on-the-Bay were among the largest planned communities. Although some communities were profitable early on, lot sales for most communities appear to have been rather slow until after the 1950s. In order to combat minimal sales, realtors crafted various advertising schemes like the ‘Lunch and Lecture’ seminars that were held at Selby-on-the-Bay (“History of Selby on the Bay” n.d.). This method was used to lure prospective buyers to the property with the hopes that a pleasant experience and the beautiful view of the bay would seduce them to finalize the deal.

Several well-known recreational beaches also developed within the Mayo Peninsula during the early 20th century. The first was the Beverly Beach Club which opened in the 1920s. Over time, the owner of this very successful endeavor acquired several adjacent coastal properties to form what would become the Beverly-Triton Beach Club. In the 1940s, Mayo Beach Park opened up nearby as a family-oriented beach bathing facility.

Most of the community developments and probably all of the beach clubs in the area barred African Americans from patronizing or owning lots; and in the case of Beverly Beach, only gentiles were allowed admittance. While in other portions of the county various alternative opportunities were developed by local African American residents, no evidence of African American beach recreation was identified for this area.

The area’s beach resorts and communities are presented in Figure 26.

BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS

MAYO BEACH CLUB

Mayo Beach Club was purchased in 1939 by the Trabing family. It was advertised as a family beach resort for swimming, fishing/crabbing, slot machine gambling, and picnicking and also had concession stands, arcade, playground, dancing, and a pier (Baltimore Sun Advertisement 1967; “History of Selby on the Bay” n.d.).
FIGURE 26: BEACH RESORTS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE MAYO PENINSULA AREA (SEE TABLES BELOW FOR KEY)

BEVERLY & TRITON BEACHES

Beverly Beach was acquired by Raymond and Edgar Kalb and their sister Ester Hancock (as Beverly Beach Development Co.) in 1925 and was turned into a private beach resort with a substantial summer residential community. The residential area was quite successful and saw steady development after its establishment. Beverly Beach contained a variety of amusements including big band music at the bandstand, concession stands, beach swimming, bath-houses, arcades and amusement rides, and, perhaps the most significant draw, the gambling house which contained over 100 slot machines by 1943 (John E. Harms, Jr. & Associates Inc. 2000:25).

In 1941 Kalb gained ownership of what would become Triton Beach on a property just north of Beverly Beach (Land Records: JHH 244 F. 406). This lot was formerly known as Ford’s Beach or Ford’s Camp and was used for farming and passive recreation, picnicking, and beach bathing (Cox 2007: 154; John E. Harms, Jr. & Associates Inc. 2000:25). This beach remained a separate entity from Beverly Beach until 1956 when Kalb was able to acquire the property in between the
two (Land Records: GTC 1019 F.214). It wasn’t until the acquisition of all three properties that the whole area became known as Beverly-Triton Beach.

From the beginning, the residential community and beach club were both explicitly advertised to gentiles only (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1936). Although extreme, such exclusivity was the norm at the time throughout the Mayo Peninsula and for many parts of the county, as well. By the Civil Rights era, however, these questionable business operations were thrown into the spotlight of social criticism. After an incident where Kalb refused park entry for a Chinese family, a 1959 *Baltimore Sun* article criticized Kalb’s defense when he said “we are not anti-Negro; we are not anti-Chinese; we are not anti-Filipino; we are not anti-anything...But we reserve the right to limit our patronage to those we wish to associate with...” (Miller 1959).

For a long time, Kalb was able to circumvent legal accusations of prejudice largely because he operated the properties as a private club. Even after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he continued to ban minorities for several years under this justification. By 1968, however, a lawsuit taken out against the park resulted in a court order to desegregate or to close business for good. Considering the park’s financial situation had been dwindling for years ever since the county banned slot-machine gambling in the early 1960s, Kalb ultimately decided not to desegregate and the park closed in 1968 (Struck 1979).

![Figure 27: Beverly Beach ca. 1940s](image)
Figure 28: Postcard depicting resort buildings at Beverly Beach Club

Figure 29: Triton Beach Postcard (from Digital Commonwealth)
OTHER BEACH AREAS

Numerous other beach areas were likely used early on by travelers. The Selby Bay community website indicates that “the area now known as Selby Beach, was the most popular swimming and picnicking spot around the area in 1920, and was called "The Cedars" because of all of the beautiful cedar trees that scattered the waterfront- it later would be called "Cedar Grove”” (“History of Selby on the Bay” n.d.).

CAMPS

- **Camp Letts**: Camp Letts is a YMCA camp established in 1920 on land donated by John Letts (“History of Selby on the Bay” n.d).
- **Camp Wabana**: Camp Wabana was started in 1942 by the Maryland Avenue Baptist Church as a camping ministry. It is an interdenominational Christian boys and girls summer camp that continues today. (“History of Selby on the Bay” n.d)

BOARDING HOUSES/HOTELS

- **Edimenlo**: Hotel advertised in the *Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1903)
- **Cloverlea Beach Boarding**: Proprietor was Mrs. T.E. Collinson. (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1905)
- **Unnamed Hotel near Carr’s Wharf** (“History of Selby on the Bay” n.d.; “General Historical Facts” n.d.).

EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:

Following the establishment of the beach parks on the peninsula, various large-scale summer communities developed in and around the area. The following table lists these early communities:

**Table 10: Beach Communities in the Rhode River and Mayo Peninsula Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beverley-Triton Beach</td>
<td>1924/1941 (Plat Bk. 6, p.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cloverlea</td>
<td>1926/1929 (Plat Bk. 7, p.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Selby on the Bay</td>
<td>1927/1930 (Plat Bk. 5, p.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Glebe Heights</td>
<td>1932 (Plat Bk. 8, p.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Holly Hill Harbor</td>
<td>Original plat in 1932 as part of Selby on the Bay (Plat Book 9, p.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shoreham Beach</td>
<td>1937 (Plat Bk. 10, p.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Turkey Point</td>
<td>1941/1942 (Plat Bk. 17, p.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>River Club Estates</td>
<td>1941 (Plat Bk. 17, p.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Loch Haven Beach</td>
<td>1946 (Plat Bk. 19, p.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Saunders Point</td>
<td>1949 (Plat Bk. 21, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ponder Cove Beach Club</td>
<td>1951 (Plat Bk. 22, p.11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SOUTH COUNTY**

South County encompasses two areas: in the northern portion is the Shady Side Peninsula and West River area, and to the south is the Deale and Herring Bay area (see Figure 2).

**AREA BACKGROUND**

South County was largely an agricultural area for much of its early history. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the coastal portions of South County became hubs for maritime industry. The rich oyster beds and plentiful bay resources attracted large communities of watermen and oystermen. Many of the creeks were major centers for boat yards, oyster houses, and other maritime-based companies.

**OVERVIEW OF BEACH RECREATION IN AREA**

Steamboat wharves like those at Chalk Point, Shady Side, and Fairhaven were established throughout the 19th century and used for importing and exporting goods. By the dawn of the 20th century, however, these wharves also became a major source of transportation for urban folks seeking country retreat away from the bustling city life. Starting around 1880, property owners around these ports quickly caught onto the economic potential of the burgeoning leisure industry and transitioned pieces of their land into profitable beach destinations. One of the pioneers of this trend was George Weems, owner of the Weems Steamboat Line, who operated a very popular hotel at the Fair Haven Wharf which he also serviced (Deale/Shady Side SAP 2001:17).

Essentially the entire Shady Side peninsula as well had become one of the most well-known summer resort areas in Anne Arundel by the late 19th century (Special Correspondence 1926, Weaver 1986). It consistently held such a large concentration of summer boarding houses throughout the years (see list below) that a local historian, Folger McKinsey, commented that the sole ‘purpose’ of Shady Side was "to furnish Baltimore, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Virginia tourists with a place to fish and swim and keep cool and have fun" (as cited in Emery and Hughes 2004: sec.8 p.12).

For a short time, it appears that Galesville was also a popular resort area around 1886. Surprisingly, both northern Shady Side and Galesville provided quite a number of beach-side leisure and recreational opportunities for both whites and African Americans (see Widdifield 2013 for Shady Side). Moreover, Shady Side also was the home of the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club which opened in the 1920s by middle-class Jewish Washingtonians. While diversity is clearly evidenced in northern Shady Side, it appears to be absent in the southern-most portions of the area in Deale and around Herring Bay where very little evidence for African American recreation was uncovered. Nevertheless, northern Shady Side stands in striking contrast to the other areas of Anne Arundel County making this early hub of diversity unique and significant.

In the early 20th century another wave of beach-related development made its way into the area after the establishment of the Chesapeake Beach and North Beach Resorts just south of the county line in Calvert County. Within a few years, small colonies of beach cottages began to appear nearby and served as residential areas for resort patrons and vacationers. By the 1920s, the colonies spread further north into Anne Arundel County leading to the establishment of North Beach Park and Holland Point. Elsewhere in South County at this time the expansion of interior land routes further north had initiated the development of planned vacation communities including Franklin Manor-on-the-Bay and Cedarhurst-on-the-Bay.
Shady Side continued to be a popular summer resort into the 20th century as evidenced by the observation that “by the end of steamboat excursions in the 1930s, [the Emma Giles] was making five trips per week to Shady Side” whereas in the earlier days it only made two (Deale/Shady Side SAP 2001:18). However, within ten years the 1940s Road Map indicates that of the various earlier beach facilities, Idlewilde was the only remaining public beach in the area.

South County residents early on responded to the increase in recreation in various ways. Some built, repaired, and rented boats; others established restaurants and stores; and later on, (1950s/60s) developed charter fishing companies (NMFS N.D. a). By the 1960s/70s the decline in maritime industries led to the transition of summer communities to full-time residences (NMFS N.D. a).

The area’s beach resorts and summer communities are presented in Figure 30.
SHADY SIDE/WEST RIVER

Shady Side was a very popular summer excursion destination that exhibited a diverse range of boarding houses and hotels ran by whites and African Americans. Over time, however, these resorts slowly gave way to summer colony development when land transportation routes expanded into the area.

BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS

EARLY BOARDING HOUSES/HOTELS:

Dozens of hotels and boarding houses were advertised in the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper in the first decade of the 20th century. Some of the more frequent advertisements (up to ca. 1920) are listed below (Note: name of location is followed by proprietor if named and years within which they were advertised in the aforementioned newspapers):

*In Shady Side:*

- **Rural Home Hotel/ Andrews Hotel** (gentiles only) (Figure 31): Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Nowell owned it from ca.1880’s until 1932 when Mr. and Mrs. Andrews bought it (Shady Side School 1953). It was destroyed by fire in 1986 (Carroll 1978).
- **Shady Side Resort** (1890)
- **Red Top Boarding:** Unknown (1890, 1896) - W.T. Weems (1897, 1899, 1902)
- **St. Clair's On the Bay** Unknown (1895 - 1897)
- **Riverside Cottage on West River** E.L. Hartge (1896, 1897, 1902, 1903); Mrs. George L. Rogers (1911); (E.L Hartge also has unnamed boarding house in an 1890 advertisement)
- **Seashore Home:** Mrs. Caroline Wilkison (1897)
- **New Home:** Unknown (1897); Wm. Wilde (1902)
- **Oriole Boarding House** W.E. Avery (1902)
- **Floral Home** Mrs. W. Wood (1902)
- **Grand View** (1902) B. Allan Owings Jr. (1902); Mrs. William H. Niemeyer (1919)
- **Riverdale** Fritz Witt (1902)
- **Idlewild on the Bay** Unknown (1907); Mrs. A.E. Nowell; (1915, 1919, 1923)
- **Bay View Inn** (1920s) in Cedarhurst -on-the-bay (Figure 31)

*In Galesville/ Galloway/ Cumberstone Area:*

- **Galesville Beach** Thomas R. Skinner (1902)
- **Herman House at Galesville Beach**- Mrs. Fannie Owings (1890, 1896)
- **Arlington** Unknown (1890)
- **Riverview** Chas. A. Hartge (1896, 1902, 1903, 1907); John F. Hazard (1897)
- **Mapleton** (1902)- C.E. Leatherbury (1903, 1907)
- **The Galloway House** W.M.Smith (1902)
- **Hazelwood** Mrs. J.F. Hazard (1919)
- **People Choice on West River Boarding** Mrs. J.F.Popham (1902)
- **West River Cottage** Geo. H. Placide (1919)
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESORTS

Differing from other locations in the project area, Shady Side appears to have had a significant number of African American owned and patronized boarding houses and hotels in the early 20th century. Baltimore’s Afro-American newspaper advertised the following locations: (Note: name of location is followed by proprietor if named and years within which they were advertised in the aforementioned newspapers).

- **The Shady Rest Boarding House**: (Widdifield 2013: Chapter 5).
- **Chesapeake View Hotel** - Mrs. M. Matthews and Mrs. H.A. Dennis (1902-1903)
- **Shady Side View Boarding House** ran by Mrs. Carrie Prann (1908, 1911)
- **The Dennis House** ran by Mrs. Joshua M. Dennis (1911, 1914-1916),
- **Prann’s Grove** Unknown (1927)
- **Malvan’s Beach** Unknown (1949)
- **Paradise Manor** Unknown (1949)

GALESVILLE BEACH

As early as 1886, Galesville Beach was advertised as an interracial summer amusement resort. One article in Baltimore’s Afro American newspaper (“Galesville Was a Leading Pleasure Park” 1925) states that the park was owned by Captain Edward J. Wheatley and that it had flying horses, swings, dining room, along with a slew of boarding houses with picnic areas, bathing areas, and other amenities (Scarborough 1952; Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1891).

NATIONAL MASONIC FISHING AND COUNTRY CLUB

In the 1920s, after being denied access to various other beach resorts because of their religious affiliation, a group of Jewish Masons from Washington, DC purchased this property so that they could enjoy the recreational activities offered by the Chesapeake Bay. The club members expended the extant structure providing space for a meeting room, a kitchen, dormitories, and several bedrooms. The descendants of this group retained the property until the late 1980s when
the founders of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society purchased it to create the Captain Avery Museum (Emery and Hughes 2004).

**CAMPS**

- *Kamp Kahlert*: early 1900s Ladies camp for the Washington DC YMCA

**EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:**

As land transportation to Shady Side improved over time, more and smaller developments began to appear along the shoreline (see Table 11).

**COLUMBIA BEACH**

Columbia Beach is a private summer community called the ‘gem of the Chesapeake’ that was established in 1940 by professional African Americans from DC and Baltimore who wanted to seclusion from the rampant racial tensions plaguing their urban residential neighborhoods (CBCIA 2015). Many of the community’s streets were named after prominent African Americans including Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Booker T. Washington, and Jackie Robinson. The community was popular from its initial establishment. By 1941, a total of 22 homes had either been built or were being built in the community and in 2003, there were approximately 170 standing single family homes (ibid.). The community boasts various amenities including a community boat ramp, fishing pier, picnic area, large beach areas, a basketball/tennis court, and a playground.

Soon after its development, the community formed the Columbia Beach Boat Club which hosted annual regattas. These annual events turned into a large festival where parades, award ceremonies, and the Miss Columbia Beach Pageant were conducted (Columbia Beach Community 1990; see Figure 32).

*Figure 32: Family Photograph at Columbia Beach (Image provided by Columbia Beach Improvement Association)*
TABLE 11: BEACH COMMUNITIES IN THE SHADY SIDE AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Felicity Cove</td>
<td>1919 (Land Record Section 3, p.229; Plat Bk. 4, p.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Idlewilde</td>
<td>1920 (Plat Bk.5, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cedarhurst on the Bay &amp; The Bay View Inn (AA-300)</td>
<td>1921/1922 (Plat Bk. 15, p.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>West Shady Side</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 3, p.37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Back Bay Beach</td>
<td>1929 (Plat Bk. 7, p.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Avalon Shores</td>
<td>1932 (Plat Bk.8, p.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Snug Harbor</td>
<td>1936 (Plat Bk.10, p.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chalk Point</td>
<td>1939 (Land Record: FSR 73, p.351; Plat Bk. 10, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Columbia Beach</td>
<td>1940/1941 (Plat Bk.11, p.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shady Oaks</td>
<td>1947 (Plat Bk.20, p.14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HERRING BAY AND DEALE

The southernmost portion of Anne Arundel County witnessed some very early beach-focused activity, namely at Fair Haven, although over time, as roads were built and improved, small clusters of summer cottages turned into larger beach colonies. Most of these colonies focused around earlier wharves and beach attractions.

BEACH AMUSEMENTS/PARKS

The major beach amusement in the southernmost end of the county was the Fair Haven Hotel/Resort. Just south of the county line in Calvert County was the very popular Chesapeake Beach and North Beach resorts. By the mid-20th century, Rose Haven Resort appeared and was another major attraction in the area.

FAIR HAVEN HOTEL AND SUMMER RESORT

The Fair Haven Hotel (Figure 33) was opened by George Weems in 1839 although the Advocates of Herring Bay (2012) report that he also utilized his home as a sort of tavern for travelers after he acquired the property in 1828. Weems owned a steamboat line and seemed to recognize the desire for patrons to visit rural areas as getaways from urban life and began to open hotels/boarding houses at several of his ports/landings. The Fair Haven Hotel was the most popular and advertised room for 50 persons, beach bathing, oysters, soft crab, and fish dinners, a great plaza for strolling and bay watching, a dance pavilion/ballroom, swings, fishing/rowing (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1842, 1889b; “Local Matters” 1871). Arrival to the hotel was made solely by Weems’ steamboat which left from Baltimore. The boat ride took about 3.5hour (“Local Matters” 1871). In 1870 cost of board was $2.50/day or $14/week (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1870).
The Fair Haven Hotel closed in 1923 around the time that the Fairhaven wharf went out of commission (Iconic Places n.d.). Today, the hotel is no longer there. The subsequent owner (Irvin Owings) tore down the building and built a large brick residence which was completed by 1933 (Iconic Places n.d.).

![Figure 33: The Fair Haven Hotel](image)

CHESAPEAKE BEACH RESORT

On June 9th, 1900, just over the Anne Arundel County line in Calvert County, the Chesapeake Beach Resort town was opened by the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Company. It was advertised as being ‘the Atlantic City of Maryland’, the ‘New American Monte Carlo’, and the ‘Southern Saratoga’ (“Chesapeake Beach Today” 1900; “Big Game is Delayed” 1900).

Visitors arrived to the resort via steamboat (from Baltimore) or by a direct railroad line (from Washington DC). Interestingly, the company built the railroad first (beginning in 1897) knowing that they would develop the resort (“Big Game is Delayed” 1900; Rasmussen 1975).

The resort cost over a million dollars to build and had an array of attractions including a mile-long boardwalk and steamboat pier, beach bathing, amusement rides, ‘German village’ (beer garden), dancing pavilions, bandstands, restaurant and concession stands, picnic groves, and a scenic roller coaster built partly over the water (Rasmussen 1975, “Chesapeake Beach Today” 1900; “Big Game is Delayed” 1900; Figure 34). In order to promote year-round patronage, the resort also built a clubhouse, casino, and racehorse track expected to keep ‘good-spenders’ and ‘high-rollers’ coming in the winter off-season (“Big Game is Delayed” 1900).

Unfortunately, the venture was “a broken dream and financial disaster from the very beginning”; two years after opening it began to plummet into bankruptcy partly due to numerous fatal railroad crashes (Rasmussen 1975). It continued to run and in the 1920s, new management renamed the place Seaside Park and built a new ballroom, salt water pool, and rides (ibid 1975). Despite the impacts of the Depression which led to the railroad’s closure and significant decline in patronage, the park remained open until 1972 (ibid 1975).
NORTH BEACH RESORT

North Beach was established nearby and shortly after (ca. 1900) the opening of Chesapeake Beach Resort. It was a private beach resort with hotels/boarding houses, gambling facilities, and, eventually a surrounding summer colony.

The Calvert Hotel was a very popular accommodation at North Beach. It advertised beach bathing, dancing, and a dining room over the bay all for $1 a day (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1912b)! Residence at another location, The Viola House, was also advertised in a 1915(b) *Baltimore Sun* advertisement for $8 per week.

ROSE HAVEN

Rose Haven was established around 1947 by Joseph R. Rose, a New York entrepreneur and gambler. Early on he dredged a half million cubic yards of the area’s salt marsh to build a 17-acre boat harbor (Armscost 1991). In a little over a decade, Rose Haven boasted a marina, 120 homes, a swimming pool, motel, slot machines (which were operated illegally after the county banned them; [“Slot-Machine Trial is Set” 1954]), an arcade, bingo hall, and a private clubhouse for the Rose Haven Yacht Club (Armscost 1991; Levelle 2013). In order to bring business into the area, Rose hosted annual fishing carnivals and beauty contests (McNally 1955; Armscost 1991) and sent out brochures saying: “Up through the mid-reaches of the Great Bay runs a roadway to ecstasy . . . an enchanted thoroughfare where storm petrels fly in the twilight before morning and great, majestic waves roll in a seafarér’s hornpipe to the cadence of the cloud-scud above in an eternal testimonial to the sanctity of Truth and the constant chastity of the Chesapeake Lady!” (“Inn at Herrington Harbor” 2015).
Rose Haven closed soon after Joe Rose’s death in 1974 and the property was abandoned until 1978 when the area was purchased and was eventually turned into Herrington Harbour.

![Figure 35: Rose Haven ca. 1950 (Kilduffs 2016)](image)

**BOARDING HOUSES:**

- *Wood Lawn Farm:* Proprietor was F.O. Leatherbury (Baltimore Sun Advertisements 1902)
- *Franklin Manor Hotel* (Iconic Places n.d.)

**AFRICAN AMERICAN BEACH AREAS**

African American resorts in this area are either non-existent or simply did not show up in the media reviewed for this project. The only reference available was a picture in Baltimore’s *Afro American* newspaper that showed young ladies at the beach of Rev. Smallwood Williams farm in Deale (“They Are in the Swim” 1950).

**EARLY BEACH COMMUNITIES:**

Summer communities begin to appear in the area once land transportation was developed and improved—generally after 1920 (Table 12). These early communities developed around earlier industrial and commercial towns like Tracy’s Landing, Deale, and Fair Haven.

**FAIRHAVEN COMMUNITY**

After the closing of the Fair Haven Hotel, the property was subdivided and small summer colonies began to develop in the vicinity. A 1968 *Baltimore Sun* article indicates that the area was still strictly known as a summer colony that housed mostly Methodist residents (Arnett 1968). It also indicated that African Americans weren’t allowed on the private beaches and that “negro tenant farmers keep to themselves” (Arnett 1968).

These mid-late 20th century Fairhaven communities (Fairhaven Cliffs area) continued to use the beaches for recreation and over time, built nettle nets and floating platforms in the Herring Bay Cove (Iconic Places n.d.). The cost and labor of keeping up with the bay swimming facilities was pushed aside and pools eventually became more favorable (ibid n.d.).
**Fairhaven Cove Club:**

In 1930, a group of residents from other portions of the county bought a parcel of land at Fairhaven where they established a private beach club and meeting area. They built a structure with a meeting room, dressing rooms, and bathrooms. Although use of the beach property and structures was private, they occasionally allowed local residents to use the building for programs including the Fairhaven Sunday School. Use of the property declined after 1954 when Hurricane Hazel wiped out a majority the beach. In 1966, the local community leased and maintained it for fundraising projects. Vandalism was an issue starting in the 1960s which eventually led to fires in the building in 1975 and 1977. The building fell into disrepair and was eventually torn down. (Iconic Places n.d.)

**TABLE 12: BEACH COMMUNITIES IN THE HERRING BAY AND DEALE AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Plat/Subdivision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Holland Point (addition to North Beach Park)</td>
<td>1915 (Plat Bk. 2, p.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Masons Beach</td>
<td>1919 (Plat Bk. 15, p.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Owings Beach</td>
<td>1921 (Plat Bk. 15, p.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Franklin Manor on the Bay</td>
<td>1922 (Plat Bk 15, p.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ark Haven/Fair View</td>
<td>1922/1933 (Plat Bk. 2, p.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Owings Cliffs</td>
<td>1923 (Plat Bk. 2, p.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Broadwater Beach</td>
<td>1924 (Plat Bk. 4, p.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Fair Haven Cliffs</td>
<td>1926 (Plat Bk. 1, p.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Herring Bay View</td>
<td>1927 (Plat Bk. 5, p.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cape Battee</td>
<td>1928 (Plat Bk. 6, p.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Deale Beach</td>
<td>1935 (Plat Bk. 9, p.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Highview on the Bay</td>
<td>1938 (Plat Bk. 10, p.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rose Haven</td>
<td>1947 (Plat Bk. 20, p.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mimosa Cove</td>
<td>1948 (Plat Bk. 21, p.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the preceding chapters have evidenced, the early 20th century beach resort phenomenon in Anne Arundel County was a rapid and truly dynamic manifestation that transformed the county’s cultural, political, and physical landscape permanently. Although it was likely not the primary force, this phenomenon was certainly a major contributing factor that helped to propel the county towards modernization as it facilitated significant development and economic growth in remote areas that had long been unused. Even as the focus had begun to shift away from leisure/recreational public facilities, by the 1950s, the newly bolstered allure for shore property only exacerbated the effects of the phenomenon and drove the expansion of year-round residential development with fervor.

Needless to say, the phenomenon represents a significant era in the County’s history. Sadly though, its importance remains largely unrecognized in public and governmental discourse. As is the case with many important phenomena occurring within reach of public memory, this era is largely overshadowed by elements of the county’s deep history (e.g. Colonial Period settlements). However, as time continues to pass, this Beach Resort era sinks deeper and deeper into history and within another fifty years it will become a cherished aspect not only because of its age but because of its pivotal role in shaping Anne Arundel County heritage.

Much of this important yet underappreciated era has unfortunately vanished from the landscape due to continual structural development and erosion prior to adequate documentation. Exceptions do exist, including several properties that have been recorded in the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) and the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) databases (see Table 13); however, because these preservation initiatives tend to favor standing structures, most of the properties that have been recorded are monumental in nature and are representative of the higher echelons of society. As a result, the more informal beach destination sites and those that hosted minorities or lower class citizens have received far less attention despite the fact that such sites are critically important to understanding the era more holistically. With that being said, there have been valiant efforts made to collect and preserve community histories by various grassroots organizations including local historical societies, independent researchers, and interested citizens; although much of the content gathered has not been entered into any official archive.
### Table 13: Historic Beach Resort/Community Sites Listed on the National and State Register of Historic Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>MIHP</th>
<th>NRHP</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Bay Ridge</td>
<td>AA-950, AA-809 (railroad bed)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Highland Beach</td>
<td>AA-721, AA 812-842</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglass Summer House (Twin Oaks)</td>
<td>AA-721</td>
<td>NRHP ID: 1097</td>
<td>Annapolis (Highland Beach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Annapolis Roads</td>
<td>AA-949</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers/Solomsons Heights Historic District (Summer cottages for main estate)</td>
<td>AA-2312</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arundel-on-the-Bay Summer Cottages</td>
<td>AA-810, AA-811</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilsmere Clubhouse/Summer Cottage</td>
<td>AA-942</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Annapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Forest</td>
<td>AA-941</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Severn River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Woodlands</td>
<td>AA-2353</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>South River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Beach Ski Club</td>
<td>AA-2455</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews Hotel</td>
<td>AA-301</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Shady Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Salem Avery House and Museum (associated with the Masonic Fishing Club at Shady Side)</td>
<td>AA-65</td>
<td>NRHP ID: 1487</td>
<td>Shady Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay View Inn</td>
<td>AA-300</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Shady Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Galesville</td>
<td>AA-2242 &amp; associated sites</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Galesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 20th century house/cottage(?) in Cedarhurst-on-the-Bay</td>
<td>AA-2243</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Shady Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottages at Contee’s Wharf (cluster of family summer cottages)</td>
<td>AA-2068, AA-239</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>West River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Point State Park</td>
<td>AA-2305</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Broadneck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson Island</td>
<td>AA-936</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Magothy River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Smallwood Park</td>
<td>AA-898</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>North Co/Patapsco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Beach Survey District</td>
<td>CT-219 (&amp; associated listings: CT-1188, 1215-1253, 1275)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Calvert County, North Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Beach</td>
<td>CT-98 (&amp; associated listings: CT-100, 1207, 1287)</td>
<td>Railway Station: NRHP ID: 644</td>
<td>Calvert County, Chesapeake Beach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 14: Sites not listed on the NRHP or MIHP but have been recorded by other measures or are today incorporated into the Park system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Archaeology Site</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological remains of an 1880’s hotel site</td>
<td>18AN1207</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>North County: Rock Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly-Triton Beach</td>
<td>18AN1312/18AN1313</td>
<td>Archaeology site designations &amp; Currently a County owned park</td>
<td>Mayo Peninsula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayo Beach Park</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Currently a County owned park</td>
<td>Mayo Peninsula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beachwood Park</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Currently a County owned park</td>
<td>Magothy River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severn Bridge Beach/ Jonas Green Park</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Currently County owned park</td>
<td>Severn River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mago Vista Park**</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>**Currently County owned park but it is not at the original location</td>
<td>Magothy River</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because past research has revolved around monumental sites like Bay Ridge, the sites that have received official documentation tend to be those that were owned, operated, and patronized by the white majority. In fact, the only minority represented beach-resort era sites included on the MIHP or NRHP are those related to the African American summer colony of Highland Beach (AA-721, and AA-812 to AA-842) and the Captain Salem Avery House and Museum (AA-65) which was the location of a Jewish fishing club in Shady Side. This under-representation of minority-related sites leads to a distortion of the era in a multitude of ways and is a serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Such a circumstance is an issue firstly because it fundamentally excludes the presence of minorities along the coastline in any sense other than as laborers and skews the diverse experiences of beach-side recreation during the era. Minorities enjoyed the Bay and its tributaries for the same reasons the white majority did, but circumstances forced their facilities to be separate as a result of structural oppression which limited location and type of development. Separation was a also conscious choice on the part of minority groups, considering that they too wanted their own safe havens away from the imposing white majority.

Secondly, by deeming only the formal and more elaborate beach ‘resorts’ (which are predominately associated with the white majority) as worthy of inclusion on historic property inventories implicitly suggests that other places like those formulated by minorities are otherwise insignificant and not worth saving or investigating. For example, as Table 13 shows, although various historic summer cottages, amusement parks, and communities are listed they are all are associated with whites; meanwhile, various well-known African American sites including Carr’s and Sparrow’s Beach, Beachwood Park, and Columbia Beach are just as historically significant and influential during the era but have been excluded. Therefore, it is recommended that future research seek to incorporated more sites associated with minorities.

Additionally, because the majority of sites identified during this project were not comparable to the grandiose Bay Ridge and Chesapeake Beach resorts, future researchers should be sensitive to the diverse
experiences of beach leisure and should attempt to broaden the traditional definition of ‘beach resort’ to incorporate the less-glamourous and informal practices/facilities that also manifested during the period. Although, understandably, it is harder to preserve something that is no longer present (in the case of the smaller amusement parks) or intangible (for instance, a hub of minority beach recreation like Magothy Park Beach), such sites significantly shaped the era and deserve far more recognition in local historic narratives.

On that same note, since most documentation efforts have been site-focused, the broader significance of the recreation phenomenon and its sheer impact on the county has yet to be fully investigated. It was not just a few ‘resort’ sites that marked this transformational period but the larger trend as a whole. Countless facilities developed along nearly the entire coast, creating tremendous growth in Anne Arundel County. Therefore, future research should also pay more attention to the reverberations over time that began with the beach resort era. There needs to be far more focus on the social and political trials and tribulations during this period of modernization, including how residents reacted and adjusted to changes, how the resorts operated, their influences on the social and physical landscape near and far, the impacts of racial and class-based exclusivity, and how each resort compared and operated in relation to one another.

In conclusion, the increased use of Anne Arundel County’s shores for summer recreation was a direct societal expression and reaction to broader nationwide shifts that occurred from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. It is how these changes played out throughout the beach resort era that has led us to where we are today and unfortunately, very few people are aware of it. If we continue to allow this past to wash away with time, more and more of its information potential will disappear with it. Ironically, the history of this era has become increasingly more relevant as water-privileged communities still try to keep their beach-fronts private, which is in direct opposition to the initial forces that led to the development of those communities in the first place. This contemporary controversy and struggle for shore access is merely one instance where understanding historically embedded concepts might assist in finding resolution.
REFERENCES


http://bay-ridge.org/our-community/history-of-bay-ridge/


http://bayweekly.com/articles/culture-history/article/summer-memories


Columbia Beach Community 1990. Our 50th Year: 1940-1990, Columbia Beach, Shady Side, Maryland. Unpublished Pamphlet. Available at the Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Cultural Resources Division office: Annapolis MD.


Cox, C.J. (2007a). Survey and limited assessment of archaeological resources in the Rhode River Region, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Unpublished manuscript. Available at the Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Cultural Resources Division office: Annapolis MD.


– 2016. “MRA Cornfield Creek”. You Tube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKLRWWEm8EI


APPENDIX A: Public Outreach Events/Material

Mayo Beach Park: August 7, 2016

On Sunday August 7, 2016 Anne Arundel County’s Cultural Resource Division (CRD) of the Planning and Zoning Department organized and hosted a public outreach event at Mayo Beach Park from 11:00am – 4:00pm. Supporting organizations and partnerships included the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, the Four Rivers Heritage Area, and Anne Arundel County’s Recreation and Parks department. The event’s purpose was to educate and excite the public about Anne Arundel County’s historic beach resort past. Advertisements sent out prior to the event attempted to entice people to come to not only learn but to contribute as well. Requests were made for attendees to bring memorabilia they had for any of the County’s beach resorts including photographs, souvenirs, videos, personal stories, and advertisements. The CRD team also encouraged event attendees to provide oral histories at the event. Two rooms were set aside with both audio and video equipment in order to adequately capture these moments.

The event was quite successful as approximately 500 visitors were reported to have attended. Additionally, a total of 20 local community organizations and several authors contributed by hosting information tables at the event (see table below). These organizations ranged from independent researchers to community historical societies. The CRD team also managed to record six oral histories and collected a range of material from various attendees (see table below). Three local researchers/history buffs also volunteered to give a guest lecture at the event. These individuals included Lara Lutz, the author of Chesapeake Western Shore Vintage Land; Darald Lofgren, the Mayo Beach Park ranger and history buff, and finally Connie Butler Holland, a researcher of Anne Arundel County’s African American history. Food and refreshments were also provided by the Galesville Community Center Organization.

All collected material has been digitized and is available at the CRD office at 2664 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401.
## Organizations Represented at Mayo Beach Event:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Author/Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Beach Community</td>
<td>Andrew W. Kahrli (Author of <em>This Land Was Ours</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mago Vista Community &amp; Anne Arundel County Historical Society</td>
<td>Patsy Mose Fletcher (Author of <em>Historically African-American Leisure Destinations around Washington DC</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayo Beach Park History</td>
<td>Mayo Heritage Society &amp; Lara Lutz (Author of <em>Chesapeake’s Western Shore: Vintage Vacationland</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carr’s and Sparrows Beach Parks</td>
<td>Anne Arundel Co. Cultural Resources Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Community</td>
<td>Lost Towns Project, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayside Beach Community</td>
<td>Anne Arundel Co. Trust for Preservation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galesville Community Center Organization</td>
<td>Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deale Area Historical Society</td>
<td>Anne Arundel Co. Genealogical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates of Herring Bay/Fairhaven</td>
<td>Four Rivers Heritage Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Salem Avery Museum Community</td>
<td>West/Rhode Riverkeeper</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## ORAL HISTORIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewee</th>
<th>Topic Discussed</th>
<th>Interviewer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Israel</td>
<td>Excavations at the Saunders Point Site (18AN39)</td>
<td>Stephanie Sperling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Grigsby &amp; Debbie Gingell</td>
<td>Mayo and Beverly-Triton Beach Parks</td>
<td>Lyndra Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Cordone</td>
<td>History of South County</td>
<td>Lyndra Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Johnson</td>
<td>Mago Vista Beach Park</td>
<td>Stephanie Sperling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Benson</td>
<td>Bay Ridge and other beaches</td>
<td>Stephanie Sperling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Law</td>
<td>Bay Ridge and other beaches</td>
<td>Stephanie Sperling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## OTHER MEDIA COLLECTED:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Material Collected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Bacard</td>
<td>Mayo Beach photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Law</td>
<td>Photos from Bay Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ Menshaw</td>
<td>Ponder Cove summer cottage blueprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Benson</td>
<td>PowerPoint document with images of Mago Vista Beach Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Beach Community Association</td>
<td>Images and other historic documents regarding the Columbia Beach Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wayside Public Information Signs and Brochure Development

The Learn S’Mores History project personnel contributed to the development of two wayside public information signs and a historic resources brochure that were installed and distributed at Mayo Beach Park and Beverly-Triton Beach Park (Figure 39 and Figure 40).

On April 26, 2017 an unveiling of one of the signs took place at the Mayo Beach Park. Local government representatives and other individuals involved in the County's historic heritage initiatives attended.

![Figure 38: Sign Unveiling at Mayo Beach Park April 26, 2017](image)
BEVERLY AND TRITON BEACHES

People first flocked to Beverly Beach Club and later Triton Beach from the 1920s to the 1960s to swim, play, gamble, and relax by the Bay with friends and family.

Beverly Beach Club (to the south) was one of the largest resorts on the East Coast, where nettle fencing stretched far into the Bay to protect swimmers from jellyfish. A dance pavilion with an amusement arcade and slot machines stood just off the wide, sandy beach.

Vacationers seeking a quieter reprieve could enjoy camping, swimming, and picnics at the less developed Triton Beach (to the north).

Beverly Beach Club closed in 1968 when slot machines became illegal and the owners refused to comply with a civil rights court order to integrate (left). The once thriving resorts slowly deteriorated as the forest reclaimed much of the land and the Bay washed away the sandy beaches. See if you can find remnants of the old resorts as you walk through the park today!
Figure 40: Sign Installed at Mayo Beach Park

In the 19th and 20th centuries, vacationers from congested urban areas boarded steamboats and trains seeking recreation and relaxation along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The opening of the Bay Bridge in 1952, integration of beaches after enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and ban on slot machines in 1968 all contributed to the demise of resorts and summer enclaves.

Beach Resorts on the Bay

1. Ft. Smallwood
   - Baltimoreans found a welcome respite at this park, designed in the spirit of the Osmund Brothers and still open today.

2. Mago Vista
   - Visitors to this Magnificent Blue amusement park enjoyed a fishing pier, dance halls, a roller coaster, and even alligator races.

3. Carr’s & Sparrow’s Beaches
   - Families and people of all ages enjoyed these popular African American beaches, including these children learning to swim.

4. Bay Ridge
   - Developed in 1879, this summer resort featured a Victorian hotel and was accessible by both steamboat and the Bay Ridge and Annapolis Railroad. This area is now an established suburb.

5. Highland Beach
   - After being denied access to the Bay Ridge resort, Charles and Laura Douglass established the first African American-owned beach resort in the United States.

6. Herald Harbor
7. Woodland Beach

8. Beverly, Triton, and Moyo Beaches
   - Bingo halls and slot machines made these resorts popular gaming complexes on the East Coast in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

9. Shady Side Beaches
   - Waterman’s enclaves transformed into summer communities like Idlewild, Avalon Shores, Columbia Beach (African American), and the Fishing Club at Shady Side (Jewish American).

10. Fair Haven
    - The Wessels Steamboat Line established a resort here in 1839. In the 1870s it cost only $2.50 to stay at the hotel.

11. Chesapeake Beach
    - The Chesapeake Beach Railway ran from Washington, D.C. from 1900 to 1935. This resort featured a bandshell, carousel, the Great Roller Derby roller coaster, and other amusements on the boardwalk.
**History Hike at Beverly-Triton Beach Park: April 22, 2017**

On April 22, 2017 Mandy Melton and Stephanie Sperling conducted a heritage hike through Beverly-Triton Beach Park. The major theme for the hike incorporated the changing landscape of the park from 2,000 years ago up to today. Discussions focused on the park’s bygone Beach Resort past but also incorporated information about the other archaeological sites within the park, including Native American shell middens and the historic homesteads of the early watermen and farmers.

Registration for the hike was open to 15 participants and lasted approximately two (2) hours. Stopping points along the tour are presented in the figures below.

![Beverly-Triton Beach Park Heritage Hike Trail Map](image)
### Figure 42: Beverly-Triton Heritage Hike Trail Map (Back)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix A- vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Historic Archaeology Sites:</th>
<th>7. Old Road to Kalb House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological testing within the park has uncovered several structures related to earlier 18th and 19th century occupations of the area. One of which is possibly connected to Jason Saunders’ homestead, whom Saunders Point is named after. The area at that time was known as Scrabbleton.</td>
<td>This main drag was once the road to the Kalb house. As you pass through this area look close at the landscape and you’ll find evidence of the strict boundaries that once separated the park from outsiders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Triton Beach/Ford’s Camp</th>
<th>8. Beverly Beach Club</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This portion of the park was acquired by the owner of Beverly Beach, Edgar Kalb, in 1941. Based on newspaper advertisements it offered passive recreational opportunities to the public including beach bathing, picnicking, and also had a game room.</td>
<td>This portion of the Park’s beach was once known as Beverly Beach Club. It was a public recreational facility and summer community for gentlemen only. On any given summer weekend, the beach park would attract thousands of visitors, with families spending the day, a weekend or even renting a summer cottage for a week at a time.</td>
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<tr>
<th>3. Triton Beach Facilities:</th>
<th>9. Environmental Classes of Former Development:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These concrete docks and adjacent water drainage features are the remains of the subterranean pump house foundation</td>
<td>This location is where the Beverly Beach parking lot and entertainment buildings once stood. The lack of trees in the area indicates that below the surface lies the foundations and impervious surfaces that once covered the land. These buildings included several portions that housed the dance hall, concession stands, bath house, penny arcade containing pinball machines, coin-operated miniature bowling, other coins-operated amusement devices and a bingo hall.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>4. Camp Cabin Ruins:</th>
<th>10. Landscape Modifications:</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| The three large structures that lay in ruins were once utilized as cabins during the summer months. They were likely associated with Ford’s Camp although they appear to have remained in use throughout the transition to Triton Beach | This earthen ridge that divides the pond was erected around 1940. Before the con-

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**Figure 42: Beverly-Triton Heritage Hike Trail Map (Back)**
**Spring Plein Air Paint Out! Event: April 29, 2017**

A Plein Air ‘Paint Out!’ event took place at Beverly Triton Beach Park on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association were challenged to capture the essence of the site (Figure 43). Ten painters spent the day at the park and engaged with the public during the event.

**Figure 43: The Plein Air Paint Event at Beverly Triton Beach Park**
APPENDIX B:  
Maps Used During Cartographic Study

See attached CD for the following maps:

- 1940s Road Map: “Anne Arundel County, Maryland”. Prepared by the Maryland State Roads Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Public Roads, data obtained from, State-Wide Highway Planning Survey.