

| Timestamp | First Name | Last name | City | State | Zip code | Are you representing yourself? | If not, who are you representing? | Remarks | File Upload (optional) |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 2025-07-10 15:31:35 | Brian | Czarnowski | galesville | md | 20765 | Yes | | take out the overhead power line at the ramp so sail boats can use it | |
| 2025-07-10 18:43:05 | Warren | Zinck | Severn | MD | 21144-3310 | Yes | | <p>This ramp is very important. Anne Arundel county lacks public access. To close this ramp would be awful.</p> <p>This boat ramp offers so many a chance to go out on the water. Only other public ramp is in Annapolis or Sandy Point.</p> <p>There are studies that show how much local businesses benefit from a public boat ramp.</p> | |
| 2025-07-10 19:41:02 | Marianne | Gibson | Glen Burnie | MD | 21060 | Yes | | Please reopen the Discovery Village Public boat launch. I use this site for kayaking and it's the only place for me to get on the river. I'm sure the county spent a lot of taxpayer funds to make the site usable and it's a great launch. It would be a great loss to the community and a waste of the funds already invested in the site. The neighboring restaurants, stores, and gas stations will also lose revenue as we all go out to eat, stop off at local stores, and fill our cars with gas. Closing this launch but only deprives us off a place to recreate, but impacts the local businesses as well. | |
| 2025-07-11 2:38:02 | Brandt | Tingen | Churchton | Maryland | 20733 | Yes | | <p>Hi I'm a board member in Franklin Manor in Churchton. We regularly go over to the discovery village boat ramp. It seems very odd that this public feature would suddenly close, as every time we're there we meet lots of boaters, birders, photographers, nature enthusiasts, etc.</p> <p>I heard that there was a leasing issue, I am a commercial leasing professional. I'm sure there would be a way to figure that out with a lease negotiation. Ideally that would be public land, so possibly a very long term ground lease, where the responsibly to improve or not to improve would be up to the county.</p> <p>In any case, I was shocked to hear that it was closed.</p> | |
| 2025-07-11 8:16:39 | Derek | Miller | Alexandria | VA | 22308 | Yes | | Discovery village launch is the best way for folks to go out into the Rhodes, West, and South Rivers. We launch from there about once to twice a month. Even though we are not from this county, we do support the local community by buying gas and food pretty much after every time we use the boat launch. It would be a shame for this to no longer be available as it would decrease the likelihood of us paddling in the area and supporting the local community. | |

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| 2025-07-11 13:29:34 | robert | hazell | Lothian | MD | 20711 | Yes | | I just found out about the Boat Ramp discovery Village in Shadyside being closed. I use this Ramp at least a couple times a week to go boating. I was so happy when you guys put this in about seven years ago or so. I understand that you're closing it because you're losing money. Here's a solution. Maybe you could open it up like Truckston park and charge people like \$15 to use it that would give you some revenue to pay for the repairs. Because you did this the Marina in that area are going to charge us 35 to 40 dollars to use there Ramps. The frustrating thing about this is the Ramp is in good shape. The parking lot needs to be repave, but there's nothing wrong with the Ramp so now it's gonna sit there and not help anyone. This was the only free Ramp in the West River and the south river. There is a public ramp in Annapolis, but it's not free. I think you should figure out a way to open this back up for the remaining of the summer. Then you guys can go back in the negotiation with the landowner and figure something out. I'm very upset about this. Please open this ramp back up. | |
| 2025-07-11 22:30:25 | Nathan | Siegert | Pasadena | MD | 21122 | Yes | | Discovery village boat ramp needs to be reopened, the county spent a ton of money building such a great ramp free for residents. It needs to stay and allowed to serve the community or anther boat ramp needs to be put in place at another nearby county park. | |
| 2025-07-13 8:54:43 | Jackie | Romoser | Parkville | MD | 21234 | Yes | | As an avid paddleboarder I am always utilizing the public ramps provided by the state and local governments. I have used this ramp before and was disappointed when I tried to use it again but found it closed off. It is so important that public access ramps like this remain open and accessible so that taxpayers can continue to enjoy the states natural resources as intended. Thank you | |
| 2025-07-13 22:04:11 | Kurt | Svendsen | Arnold | MD | 21012 | Yes | | Please see attached pdf with one-page written testimony regarding the need for Econmic Justice by meaningfully amending the County Supplement to the Homeowners Property Tax Credit. | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/63067/testimony-invitation-to-audience-2025-07-21.pdf |
| 2025-07-14 8:50:06 | John | Sweeney | Jefferson | MD | 21755 | Yes | | I'm a resident of Frederick County Maryland and an avid sea kayaker. I very much appreciate the Bay Kayak water access locations provided by Anne Arundel County. I have launched from Discovery Village 4 times a year for the past five years, usually with a group of 15 other kayakers of the WatersEdge Kayak Club . We always support the community by attending local restaurants, gas stations, food stores, etc. The Discovery Village is a perfect launch location providing many safe kayaking trip options. Please support and reopen Discovery Village boat ramp. | |
| 2025-07-14 16:00:10 | Patrick | Moreland | Harwood | MD | 20776 | Yes | | It is inexcusable to close a public ramp that my tax dollars paid for. I rely on the ramp for leisure and it has left a negative impact on my life which will affect my voting for representatives in the upcoming election. | |

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| 2025-07-14 16:10:23 | Gary | Waters | Churchton | US | 20733 | Yes | | As the owner of a small boat(16 ft jon boat) I tend to fish rivers , primarily the west river. Obviously this is the only close ramp. There are really no viable options with adequate space for more than 8-10 boat trailers in south Anne Arundel county. | |
| 2025-07-14 16:55:40 | Jeff | Graybill | Tracys Landing | MD | 20779 | Yes | | My son was using this ramp at least once a week from early spring until mid December. He does alot of fishing as do i. He also uses this ramp to crab. This ramp was beneficial as it aloud easy access to the West River, Eastern Bay and the Bay Bridge. My son is 19, his outdoor hobbies like this keep him out of trouble. I feel as though spending tax money on places like this makes alot of sence as it encourages kids to get into outdoor hobbies. Without this access, he would have to use ramps he would have to pay for. I believe he will not go nearly as much as he had been. I believe there are alot of other young men and women in the area that would benefit as well if this ramp were opened back up to the public. | |
| 2025-07-14 17:34:17 | Nick | Troiano | Deale | Maryland | 20751 | Yes | | We are willing to pay a yearly fee with sticker for use of ramp open 24 hours every day ! | |
| 2025-07-14 18:28:15 | Jeff | Gibson | Tracys Landing | Maryland | 20779 | Yes | | The ramp needs to be reopened there is no public county access in south county. AA county has more shoreline to the Chesapeake bay and tributaries than any other county in the state. Tax payers paid for this ramp and now the county wont re up the lease. Some corrupt dirty deals going on behind closed doors. | |
| 2025-07-15 6:18:04 | Gregg | Hartley | Deale | string:MD | 20751 | Yes | | It seem illogical not have a public ramp in area with so many boaters, a water based community , and a thriving marine oriented economy. There appears to be no real logic to discontinued leasing of a facility in which the county made a substantial tax payer funded investment although it may have been wiser just to have purchased the ramp property. The usage may have been higher if the county had done a better on of making tha availability of the ramp known. | |
| 2025-07-15 9:57:19 | Julia | Howes | Churchton | MD | 20733 | Yes | | I urge you to reconsider this lease or to make water access in Southern Anne Arundel a priority in 2025. | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/63254/discovery-village-park-closure-testimony-7.21.25.pdf |
| 2025-07-15 14:24:31 | Dee | McGuire | Owings | MD | 20736 | Yes | | My husband and I have used the Discovery Village boat ramp to launch our jet skis for quite a few years now. We normally use it 2 to 3 times a week as it gets us to the places we love to go in a lot less time and a lot safer than our other options. We also use it to launch our kayaks. We hope that we will be able to use this ramp again soon. We know a lot of other people that use it as well for boats, kayaks and jet skis. Please get this back for everyone to use again soon. Thank you. | |
| 2025-07-15 15:11:05 | Glen | Sampson | Owings | Md | 20736 | Yes | | I use the discovery village ramp a few times a week to launch my jet ski, kayak and my crabbing skiff. | |

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| 2025-07-20 5:21:35 | Denny | Newborn | Pikesville | MD | 21208-3204 | Yes | | We need more access to the water not less. Please be more considerate to paddlers who want to enjoy the water in Maryland. Thank you, Denny Newborn! | |
| 2025-07-20 6:18:21 | Jeff | Evason | Annapolis | MD | 21403 | Yes | | <p>I'm writing as a concerned resident of Anne Arundel County regarding the closure of the public boat ramp at Discovery Village.</p> <p>This closure represents a significant loss for our community. The ramp is one of the few remaining access points for middle-class, working families who rely on trailered boats to enjoy the very waterways that define our county's identity. While we take pride in living in a waterfront community, removing meaningful public access sends the wrong message.</p> <p>Many of the residents impacted by this decision are long-time taxpayers — and voters. With growing frustration over recent budget decisions at the state level, this action only deepens the feeling that local leadership is increasingly out of touch with the needs of the people it serves. Some of the candidates we voted for have really let us down. We will not forget next election.</p> <p>As long time Chesapeake Bay sailors, my wife and I are relatively new to trailering a boat. This year we were thrilled to "discover" the ramp at Discovery Village. It's an easy, safe ramp for newbies like us - unlike some other commercial options in the area that we're not comfortable to use. We feel that with the closure of Discovery Village ramp, we will need to reconsider our boating area.</p> <p>I urge you to take action to preserve or replace this vital resource. Please find a funding solution that protects public access to the water and upholds the values that make Anne Arundel County such a special place to live.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeff Evason</p> | |
| 2025-07-20 6:20:34 | Emma | Nicholson | Pasadena | MD | 21122 | Yes | | Please keep this boat ramp open so people can access the water with boats, kayaks, standup paddle boards, etc. Time in nature supports physical and mental health. We understand we need to pay taxes but this is one of the few things AA Co. taxpayers pay for that we directly enjoy. County executives should strive to ensure taxpayers fund needed services (teachers, police, libraries, etc.) while also funding some infrastructure for leisure. | |
| 2025-07-20 6:21:52 | David | Stein | Severna Park | MD | 21146 | Yes | | The boat ramp at Discovery Village should remain open, there are not many places for the public to launch boats. I personally have worked at the boat shop right next to this ramp as have seen it used quite a bit. | |

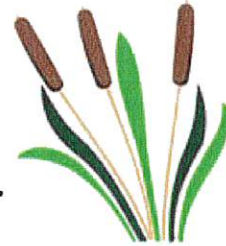
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| 2025-07-20 7:06:14 | Leonard | Rudow | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | We do NOT want to see the Discovery Village boat ramp closed!! With the already-limited trailer water access in Anne Arundel county, where many of us live because we love being close to and accessible to the Bay, this is a step in the wrong direction. | |
| 2025-07-20 7:17:53 | Brian | Kowalczyk | Nottingham | MD | 21236 | Yes | | Hearing about the Discovery Village Boat Ramp/Park closure is such sad news. As a destination paddler (residing outside AA Co.) It is so disheartening that Maryland has very few public launch facilities. Now having one less does not help. Please reconsider reopening the park. Thank you | |
| 2025-07-20 8:49:18 | Pat | Jarvis | Deale | MD | 20751 | Yes | | I have enjoyed Discovery Village and did visit regularly. The soft launch for The kayaks would be very missed. I also enjoy walking the grounds and the waterfront and the rain garden near the kayak launch. I have not used the boat ramp, however, there are no other public boat ramps nearby. | |
| 2025-07-20 8:58:00 | Susan | Huber | Edgewater | MD | 21037 | Yes | | Private peers are An exclusive expense, and therefore not accessible to the Working class in Anne Arundel County. As a taxpayer in Anne Arundel County my entire Life I believe this pier we paid for it needs to be available to us taxpayers, and there should be more. I would like to see Stewart Pittman explain in his weekly address exactly what has happened concerning this Taxpayer investment and what is going to be done about it. Thank you and have a nice day. | |
| 2025-07-20 9:56:52 | Bruce | Kellman | Annapolis | md | 21409 | Yes | | Please restore the Discovery Village boat ramp. Water access in AACO is already appallingly limited. Removing developed access that the gov't invested over 1 million dollars is unconscionable! | |
| 2025-07-20 12:38:22 | Jennifer | Yacovissi | Crownsville | MD | 21032 | Yes | | Please do not close the Discovery Village boat ramp. Taxpayers already spent \$1.3M on the ramp and it's the only public ramp in 20 miles. AACo already has such limited public water access; let's not lose this, too. | |
| 2025-07-20 14:02:47 | Rita | Ormond | Annapolis | MD | 21401 | Yes | | If Anne Arundel County can spend almost 2 million Dollars on the Discover Village boat ramp, it needs to be Open to the public. These are our tax dollars and are not for Private use. The County. Council needs to fix this mess immediately. Open to the public or all funds must be returned to the county. We do not have enough boat ramps in the county to let this one be private after using our tax dollars. Thank you. | |
| 2025-07-20 16:06:48 | Kurt | Svendsen | Arnold | MD | 21012 | Yes | | See attached PDF file for an UPDATED version of my written testimony on the Economic Justice of amending the income thresholds associated with the County's Supplement to the Homeowners Property Tax Credit program. | https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_general_testimony/63830/testimony-invitation-to-audience-2025-07-21-updated.pdf |
| 2025-07-20 16:20:54 | Lucy | Osius | 8 | MD | 21114 | Yes | | Leave boat ramp | |

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| 2025-07-20 17:25:41 | Hayley | Sypniewski | Pasadena | MD | 21122 | Yes | | I am writing in support of the project to add a stoplight and sidewalks to Jumpers Hole outside of Creekstone Village and Ashbury. Many people use this road for access to the Walmart and B&A trail and, as it currently stands, this road lacks basic infrastructure such as sidewalks and crossing points to support safe pedestrian walkways. With the increasing amount of traffic due to development of Pasadena's neighborhoods, it is also increasingly difficult to get onto Jumper's Hole Road. Please continue this project with haste — our community has so many great parks, restaurants, and community spaces, and our residents (especially those with only 1 family car) deserve the ability to safely walk there. | |
| 2025-07-20 19:53:35 | Josh | Ardison | Shady Side | MD | 20764 | Yes | | <p>Dear Anne Arundel County Council Members,</p> <p>As a committed resident of South County, I am deeply disappointed by the unanimous decision to eliminate \$156,000 in FY26 funding for the Discovery Village public boat ramp. This modest amount was critical for ensuring public access to the Chesapeake Bay in South County, especially since our county now has only two public ramps along its expansive 500-mile coastline.</p> <p>Over the past three summers, I have frequently utilized the Discovery Village ramp, which was bustling with activity from working-class residents, suggesting the statistics presented to you do not accurately reflect its true usage. The decision to cut this funding has left our Shady Side community feeling marginalized and unheeded, as this issue continues to be a topic of widespread discussion among residents who are committed to protecting our access to the bay.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to reconsider this decision immediately and to advocate for reinstating both funding and a new lease for this vital community resource.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Josh Ardison</p> | |
| 2025-07-20 21:07:22 | Teresa | Rose | West River | MD | 20778 | Yes | | The Shady side boat ramp is extremely important to many citizens. The only local access. Much used. To require people to go north in the county makes us unable to enjoy our local waters. Anne Arundel county should keep Discovery Village access open. To give and then take away is cruel. Please fix this | |
| 2025-07-21 8:47:33 | Leigh | Woodling | Fort Pierce | FL | 34982-8609 | Yes | | The closure of the Discovery Village boat ramp is a bad decision, and should be reversed. Residents help to pay for this facility, and the cost for the County is minimal in the grand scheme of things. To tell residents that they will have to drive 20 miles to launch a kayak or a canoe will keep many of our youth and residents from being able to experience the beauty and peace of the local waters. Why does government have such a difficult time doing the right thing these days?! I vehemently oppose this action. | |

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| 2025-07-21 9:24:43 | Sandra | Stansbury-Spade | Severna Park | MD | 21146 | Yes | | Reopen the Discovery Village boat ramp. There are not enough boat ramps in Anne Arundel County. There are not enough launching spots for kyaks in AA Co. Anne Arundel Co is a community surrounded by water and high stress traffic, jobs and careers. As YOU sit in traffic and day dream about what YOU are going to do when you need to destress, know that your CONSTITUENTS may gave fewer options than you to recreate and destress. | |

SACReD

South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development
SACReD - Building a future on the strength of Bay communities.
PO Box 205, Churchton, Maryland 20733



July 11, 2025

County Executive Steuart Pittman
44 Calvert St
Annapolis Maryland, 21401

Dear County Executive Pittman and County Council Chair Hummer,

South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development (SACReD) is committed to promoting responsible development and to protecting the watershed and health of local waterways in South County that are critical to our maritime culture and industry. Public access to local waterways is essential to the local economy. The recent and sudden closure of the County's Discovery Village boat ramp in Shady Side was a shock to South County residents and disrupted the holiday weekend for many. Anne Arundel County provides only two other boat ramps to its citizens, both in North County, over an hour away. **We respectfully request that trailered boat access in Shady Side be restored immediately.**

The manner in which the recent closure took place was equally egregious to the closing itself and demonstrates a profound lack of respect for citizens, and is counter to the former support for the ramp and public water access in South County voiced by County Executive Pittman. The ramp was closed with no forewarning, no public input - only lip service to the democratic process consisting of a last-minute budget amendment presented by the Council Chair Hummer that was accompanied by inaccurate annual usage data for the boat ramp. If the County and/or County Council was unhappy with the terms of the lease, why didn't they work with the owners well in advance of the budget deadline instead of rushing to an ill-informed decision? Why didn't Councilwoman Leadbetter request time to research the issue that was so important to her District? In short, what was the impetus for this rash and ill-timed decision?

According to Councilwoman Leadbetter, the main concerns that prompted the Council's decision to close the ramp appear to have been the lease terms regarding repairs (which could potentially have been negotiated) along with grossly understated usage statistics (which need to be corrected). Much more concerning, however, in terms of the use of public tax dollars is the nearly \$1.5M that was appropriated and expended to build the ramps, bulkhead, and dockage, including a substantial Maryland State Waterway Improvement grant. Does it make economic sense to walk away from this level of investment by the County and State?

Currently, public and equal access to the Chesapeake Bay for all citizens, regardless of income, is severely lacking in Anne Arundel County. By comparison, Calvert County, with one-sixth of Anne Arundel's population and far less shoreline, provides three high quality boat ramps to its citizens across their County. Closing the sole access point to local waterways in South County is in direct conflict with the recent Small Area Planning process for Region 9 and Plan 2040, which emphasizes the importance of maintaining the maritime character and economy of South County. Specific strategies identified in the Region 9 Small Area Plan important for this discussion include:

HC3 - Maintain and improve water access in R9 (Community)

HE1 - Support for re-use of vacant buildings (Healthy Economy)

HC5 - Evaluate potential for community center (Healthy Community)

It is important to note that Discovery Village has provided more to South County than the public boat ramp. Over the years, the facility has provided space for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the West/Rhode Riverkeeper, other local non-profit organizations and shop space for the maritime industry. SACReD has joined with the local arts community and others over the past year to encourage County acquisition of Discovery Village as a Community Center for South County. **County acquisition of this property is long overdue.**

We request that the County provide an immediate, safe, and adequate solution for the remainder of the 2025 boating season and invest in a long-term solution that provides more public access to waterways across South County and beyond.

Thank you for your commitment to public access and support of our communities, lands, and waters.

Linda L. Andreasen

Linda L. Andreasen, SACReD Co-President

Linda Nguyen

Linda Nguyen, SACReD Co-President

CC: Anne Arundel County Council
Jessica Leys, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks
Karen Henry, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works
Jennifer L. Jackson, Maryland State Department of Natural Resources