



2012 Land & Water Conservation Fund Application

You should read the 2012 Land & Water Conservation Fund Manual before completing this application.

A. Applicant Information

Sponsor Name: Town of Chincoteague
Project Name: Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park Annex
Contact: Robert G. Ritter
Title: Town Manager

Address: 6150 Community Dreive

Chincoteague Island Virginia 23336

City State ZIP Code

Phone: (757)336-6519 E-mail Address: rritter@chincoteague-va.gov

Grant Request: **\$XXXXXXXXXXXX**

Name and address of person to receive notification of Preliminary Application status if different from contact:

B. Legislative Information

US Congressional District: 02	Legislator Name(s): Scott Rigell
Virginia Senate District: 02	Legislator Name(s): Ralph Northam
Virginia House District: 100	Legislator Name(s): Lynwood Lewis

C. Basic Project Information

1. Please select project type:

Acquisition Development Combination

2. Please list the element (s) to be assisted by the LWCF program:

Site work, dredging??? pergola, covered structure with grills, historic interpretation and parking

3. What is the current or future name of the park? **Robert N. Reed Park**
Indicate if name is current or future by checking appropriate box.

4. Indicate the total number of acres of the park: **0**

5. Indicate the number of acres that will be placed under the protection of the LWCF program:

0

5a. If the number of acres to be protected will be less than the total acreage of the park, explain:

X acres already protected X to be annexed

6. Will this project provide access to state waters? Yes No

6a. If yes, what type of access (boating, fishing, swimming, etc)? **boating, fishing**

6b. What is the name of the body of water? **Chincoteague Bay**

7. Does this proposal represent the creation of the first public park within the locality? Yes No

7a. Does this proposal represent the first LWCF protected park within the locality? Yes No

8a. Who will hold title to the property assisted by LWCF? **Town of Chincoteague**

8b. Who will manage and operate the site(s)? **Town of Chincoteague**

8c. What is the sponsor's type of ownership and control of the property? Please check:

- Fee simple ownership
 Less than fee simple. Explain:

9a. Describe the nature of any rights-of-way, easements, reversionary interests, etc. to what will be the Section 6(f) park area.

There is a 10' wide easement provided for public access to businesses abutting the proposed park boundary CHANGE THE 6F BOUNDARY SO EASEMENT IS NOT INCLUDED.

9b. Does the applicant understand that a Section 6(f) conversion may occur if private or non-recreation activities occur on any pre-existing right-of-way, easement, leased area if they are included in the 6(f) area?

Yes No

D.

Project Location Information

1. Provide GPS coordinates for the entrance to the Park: Lat: Long:

2. Zip Code for park location:**23336**

3. Provide driving directions to project site from 203 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Take Rt. 64 east to Exit 282, Rt. 13 N. Cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and continue north approximately 85 miles to Rt. 175. Turn right on Rt. 175 and continue approximately 10 miles, crossing the bridge to Chincoteague. At the foot of the bridge, turn right on Main street and continuing XXX miles to Bridge Street (first paved road to the right). The proposed project area is on the right.

E.

Purpose and Need

1. In the space provided, give a brief narrative describing the purpose and need of the proposal.

The proposal calls for the development of XXX acres purchased by the Town of Chincoteague in XXX as an annex to the adjacent Robert N. Reed park to ensure the area would remain open space for public use. The proposed is to provide additional access to state waters, creation of additional green space for various recreational activities, expanded picnic facilities, HISTORIC INTERPRETATION? additional access to Robert N. Reed park, including handicapped parking. The development of this property is a part of a larger plan the will continue to extend public

recreation use in this area in future phases.

2. *What alternatives were considered to the proposed action?*

The Town purchased this property in XXX when it became available for sale to extend public use and open space. The property contains approved septic areas and could potentially have been purchased for private use, therefore restricting public access to state waters. Once purchased, the only options available were to develop the property to provide additional recreational activities or leave the property as an undeveloped lot which could be used for parking for the existing park and the downtown commercial district.

2a. *Why is the proposed course of action the best choice?*

Providing additional recreational activities through the development of this lot is the highest and best use of this property. Not only will it expand the present opportunity for recreational activities, it will serve as a link to additional spaces to be developed for recreational activities in the future (proposed fishing pier).

F.

2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan

1. *Indicate in the space provided to what extent the proposed project meets needs identified in the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan? Be sure to include page references. The 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan is available online at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vop.shtml*

The 2011 Outdoor Demand Survey Public concluded "Support is very strong for public access to open spaces and outdoors recreational opportunities, as well as for public expenditures to make those opportunities available". The Survey's four most frequently mentioned activities were "walking for pleasure", "visiting historic sites" and "visiting parks. The proposed project responds to these issues by creating recreational opportunities and historic interpretation at the site of the historic swing bridge, now demolished.

The Town supports the 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan (VOP) premise that "The integration of parks and open space into a locality's comprehensive plan is critical to improving quality of life. This project directly implements strategies in the comprehensive plan. "As appropriate, continue to improve the "Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park" facility and fishing pier to enhance downtown's relationship to Chincoteague Bay and promote downtown visitation." (P. 3-7)

By developing the proposed site in the heart of downtown, the Town addresses the VOP recommendation that "local government should provide close-to-home recreation activities to meet changing trends in recreation." (CH 1 P.8) as well as the VOP assertion that "Demonstrating the connection between economic benefit with outdoor recreation and land conservation remains an important issue. (CH1 P. 3) Development of the proposed project site is supported by the findings cited in VOP Chapter 5: Economic Benefits of Recreation, Recreation and Open Space.

The VOP states a 39% preference for developed parks, 59% for providing places to explore and enjoy natural and cultural heritage and 50% of Virginians felt the most needed outdoor recreation opportunities include public access to state waters (CH2 P.21). This project addresses all of these important identified issues.

2. *Is the project a specific recommendation of the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan? To be considered specific the project must be referenced by name in the regional section for the project area, please give page number, item number and quote the reference.*

Example: If the project application is for the acquisition of property in the Winterpock area of Chesterfield County for a regional park, the project would be a specific recommendation of the existing VOP. The response to this question would be:

Yes, see page 530, item 68: "Chesterfield County should acquire and develop a regional park site in the Winterpock area to serve the fast-growing Spring Run community and the south-western quadrant of the county".

No

G.

Combination Proposals

*If the proposal involves acquisition and development, answer the Development Proposal section **and** Acquisition Proposal sections of this document below.*

H.

Development Proposals

1. For existing parks, briefly describe the facilities currently available to the public.

This project proposes improvements to an undeveloped lot adjacent to Robert N. Reed Park that was purchased by the Town for the purpose of preserving public access and creating additional opportunities for public recreational activities. The project will extend the use of the existing park and expand the area available for public use. It also provides a continuous connection needed for future phases of the park expansion.

Facilities currently available to the public in Robert N. Reed park include: transient recreational boat slips, multi-use open space, covered pavilion, picnic facilities, walking paths and seating and cultural/historic interpretive panels.

2. If the proposal involves renovation of facilities, which facilities will be renovated? Give the age of the facilities, the extent of the renovation and why the renovation is needed.

None of the existing facilities will be renovated as part of this project.

3. Indicate the number and type of resources that will be made available with assistance from the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

The project proposes development and construction activities consistent with the environment, type and character of the site and identified recreational needs of residents and tourists.

Resources to be made available include:

multi use green space for general recreational activities - The project will extend the amount to waterfront area available to the public for scenic viewing, fishing and other general outdoor recreation activities

picnic facilities - The project will expand the opportunities by providing a 10X12 covered area equipped with grilling facilities and additional handicap accessible picnic furniture

boating and fishing - The project will expand opportunities for boating and fishing/crabbing by dredging an existing slip that has filled in over the years to the point that it is now unusable.

access - The project will provide 4 - 6 parking spaces including handicap accessible spaces. These spaces are intended to provide close parking for picnicking, fishing and scenic viewing on the proposed site. These facilities will be located on Bridge Street and will not impact the amount of recreational space available on the site. VDOT is currently in the process of completing transfer of the ownership of Bridge Street to the Town.

cultural/historic interpretation - The project will provide historic and cultural interpretation related to the historic bridge and gateway to Chincoteague. The Town has obtained several artifacts from the historic swing bridge as it was torn down and intends to display and provide interpretive panels for these items at the foot of the bridge site.

4. *As a result of this project, describe **new** types of outdoor recreation opportunities and capacities that will result and the anticipated short and long term public benefits.*

Project activities will create the opportunity for outdoor cooking provided by the grills and covered picnic facility. It will also create a new opportunity for recreational access by dredging the existing boat slip on the property. In its current condition the slip only allows for water view. When the project is completed, it will create new opportunities for fishing and recreational and transient boating for motorized and sail boats. Project activities will create new public access by land and water, including handicap accessibility to the park facilities. Other project activities will focus on improvements that have proven to meet the public's need for recreational facilities based on public input and the use of the existing park.

5. *Explain any existing non-recreation and non-public uses that will continue on the project site(s) and describe any that are proposed for the future that may occur within the 6(f) boundary.*

The property purchased for this project contains a 10-foot easement to provide emergency vehicle and other access to the rear of commercial buildings adjacent to the project area on Main Street . This area is not within the 6(f) boundary and no LCWF funding will be spent on the easement area.

6. *When will the project be completed and open for public use?*

The project can be completed within 2 years of funding and contract award. Certain elements are construction ready because , permits are in hand or no permits are required and activities will be carried out by Town forces. Other activities will require procurement prior to design and construction.

I. Acquisition Proposals

Applicants submitting proposals for acquisition must read the acquisition requirements in the 2012 Land & Water Conservation Fund Manual.

1. *How many acres will be acquired with assistance from the Land & Water Conservation Fund?*

2. *What is the estimated purchase price of the property?*

2a. *What is this estimate based upon?*

3. *Indicate the types of existing resources and features of the site and the quantity (acres, number of feet, etc):*

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront | Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Beachfront | Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> Forested areas | Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Present: <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/> |

e. Open/Clear areas Present: Quantity: Not Present: Unknown:

f. Existing utilities Present: Quantity: Not Present: Unknown:
(underground or above)
Indicate type and location:

g. Historical resources Present: Quantity: Not Present: Unknown:
Indicate type and location:

h. Unique features Present: Quantity: Not Present: Unknown:
Indicate type and location:

i. Contamination Present: Quantity: Not Present: Unknown:

j. Other: Describe:

4. Indicate how and when the site will be made open and accessible for public outdoor recreation use (signage, entries, parking, site improvements, allowable activities, etc) once the property is acquired.

5. Describe development plans for the proposed public outdoor recreation use within the next three (3) years.

5a. If development will be delayed for more than one year from the date of the acquisition, explain why immediate acquisition is needed.

7. Explain any existing non-recreation and non-public uses that will continue on the project site(s) and describe any that are proposed for the future that may occur within the 6(f) boundary. If the project is a combination project and you answered this question in the development section of the application you may answer see H.5, above.

8. When will the project be completed and open for public use? If the project is a combination project and you answered this question in the development section of the application you may answer see H.6, above.

J.

Operation & Maintenance

1. Describe the management, operation and maintenance of the park and its facilities. Outline the support staffing dedicated to the management and operation of the park. For parks to be created, indicate the number of support staffing that will be provided to operate and maintain the park. In both scenarios, clearly indicate who is responsible for each action and how frequently the action occurs.

Once completed, the Town of Chincoteague will own and operate and maintain the park and provide security. It will be open to the public year round. Operation of the Town will be under the guidance of the Town's Park's and Recreation Committee which regularly reports to the Council. Chincoteague is well equipped to maintain a facility of this sort. They have a public works department of 15 employees including full-time park attendant staff. They currently operate and maintain Veterans' Memorial Park, (LWCF project) Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park (LCWF project), two nature trail areas

purchased with Virginia Land Conservation Foundation funds and developed with Town funds and four public boat ramps. All facilities are which is well maintained and improved regularly. NEED MORE HERE FROM HARVEY

K.

Accessibility

1. All projects must be accessible to (and usable by) disabled citizens. The intent is to enable disabled citizens to participate in outdoor recreation activities in a way that parallels as closely as possible participation of non-disabled citizens. Describe how this proposal addresses this requirement. If the proposal does not address accessibility, explain why.

The project will provide accessibility improvements to enable disabled citizens to participate in outdoor recreational opportunities provided on site. Accessible spaces will be provided in close proximity to fishing and picnicking and general recreation areas. All boardwalks and pathways will meet ADA requirements and be free from impediments to wheelchair access. At least one grill constructed as part of this project will be at a height that is wheel chair accessible. The project will provide access to the existing ramp and floating dock to ensure that disabled citizens have access to boating opportunities.

L.

Planning Process

1. Describe the planning process that led to the development of this proposal. You must address:

a. How the interested and affected public was notified and provided an opportunity to be involved in the planning for the Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal.

The proposed project area has always been an area of public interest, even though until 2011, it was privately owned. Improvements to this property were discussed as part of the original 2002 master planning process that created the Robert N. Reed Park as part of the Town's downtown revitalization process. When the park was created, an easement was obtained to extend the boardwalk along the edge of this property. Development options for the proposed project area during the 2009 were once again considered in the public input sessions for a master plan for streetscape design.

In preparation for this application a steering committee was formed and met with representatives from Land Studio, PC on the project site to discuss the strengths and constraints inherent to the property. The Town then held two advertised council sessions dedicated to the park design and invited the public to participate. Merchant groups and property owners were individually notified. Additional public comment was solicited by posting the rendering and proposed project elements on the Town website prior to submission of the proposal.

b. Who was involved and how were they able to review the proposal, including any state, local, federal agency professionals, subject matter experts, members of the public and local Indian Tribes.

The primary public involvement in preparation for the LCWF application came from project area stakeholders including property and business owners along Main Street, members of non-profit organizations, regional planning organizations and members of the Town's Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Council and staff. These stakeholders worked with Land Studios, PC to develop a vision for the area and prioritize and locate components of the project. Concepts from the 2002 and 2009 planning efforts were reviewed and the public helped the Town evaluate their relevance to today's perceived needs. Public comments were used to prioritize perceived recreational/access needs and to determine along with Council input the proposed project elements.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Historic Resources have been invited to comment on the proposed activities through the environmental review process.

- c. *Describe any public meetings held and/or formal public comment periods including dates and lengths of time provided for public input into the planning process and/or comments on the completed proposal.*

The initial public meeting to solicit public input was held on February 28, 2012 and lasted approximately two and one-half hours. The public reviewed earlier planning efforts as well as four concepts presented by Land Studios and chose elements to be explored further based on perceived recreational and access needs.

Land Studios incorporation evaluated all public input in relation to physical restraints of the project area and presented a concept drawing at the second public input meeting which was held on March 1, 2012. During this three and one-half hour meeting, comments from all stakeholders regarding the desirability and the potential positive and negative impacts of various elements. The design consensus resulting from this public process is described in this application. The public was given additional opportunity to comment on the application through the Town's website.

2. *What information was made available to the public for review and comment? Did the applicant provide written responses addressing received comments? If so, include the responses as an attachment to this application.*

All public comment on this project was received in the form of input during the design sessions. No additional public comment was received.

3. *If the proposal has not been made available to the public during the planning process, does the applicant understand that a 30 day public comment period will be required for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act?*

Yes No

M.

Environmental

1. *Describe how the project helps promote environmentally responsible activities. Indicate the use of native plant materials for landscaping, drip or treated effluent irrigation, energy efficient lighting, recycled material use, minimizing removal of existing forested areas and vegetation, reduction of impervious surfaces, balancing of natural and active areas, etc.*

The project helps promote environmentally responsible activities by developing facilities including the multi-use green space that encourage low-impact recreational activities such as picnicking, fishing, walking, scenic/nature viewing and outdoor play. Trash receptacles will be provided to encourage environmentally responsible behavior. The project enhances the Town's ability to provide its residents with a livable, walkable community and provides close to home recreational activities which reduces automobile use.

During site development, there will be no need for removal of trees or other vegetation. The lot is fairly bare. Site development activities will take place in such a way as to avoid soil erosion and pollution of state waterways. The sitework schedule will be set to avoid times when potentially endangered species are known to be nesting within the 3 mile radius. No additional impervious areas will be created for parking or other facilities. All parking will take place on the existing paved area of bridge street. Due to the strategic placing of park improvements the largest portion of the project area will be green space.

Landscaping will be with native materials consistent with those in the existing park which will reduce the amount of water usage and maintenance required and increase the project's sustainability.

2. Has any environmental scoping been conducted for this proposal?

Yes No

2a. If yes, indicate with whom the scoping was conducted, the environmental resources analyzed and the identified resource impact issues.

Based on the public input received during the development of the project, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) conducted a preliminary environmental review using the Statutory and Other Checklists used in HUD's NEPA process. Assessment of the need for compliance in each area was determined using the websites provided by HUD's Environmental Specialist in the Planning and Development Division. Assessment was made by staff completing HUD's environmental training.

A finding of no significant impact is anticipated pending comments from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Historic Resources. Similar undertakings as part of previous federally funded projects in the immediate area have been found to be compliant with federal regulations. A copy is included in the attachments.

3. List all the required federal, state and local permits/approvals needed for the proposal and explain their purpose and status.

HARVEY

3a. If no permits are needed for the proposal, please explain why.

4. If no environmental scoping has been conducted for this proposal does the applicant understand that environmental review to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act, Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act, will be required? Also, projects located in the Coastal Zone Management Area will be required to obtain Federal Consistency Determinations.

Yes No

N.

Unmet Needs

1. As part of the annual reporting requirements associated with the Land and Water Conservation Fund the Department of Conservation and Recreation is required to provide the dollar value of unmet recreational needs within Virginia.

In order to provide a more accurate estimate for Virginia we are requiring that each applicant provide the total funding needed to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate public outdoor recreation resources that were not met in 2011. This estimate should include all unmet public outdoor recreation needs (not including operation and maintenance costs).

Provide the dollar estimate below for the unmet needs for your locality/ agency/ park authority and give a short explanation of how you developed your estimate. Indicate in the explanation how much funding was needed for acquisition, new park development, park renovation and/or rehabilitation and new developments at existing parks.

JACK/ROB

O.

Five Minute Sales Pitch

1. *The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a highly competitive grant program. In a typical grant cycle funding request are triple the amount of available funding. In the space provided, indicate why this proposal should selected for funding over other projects, particularly those may be similar in nature.*

Recreational activities are at the heart of Chincoteague's lifestyle and tourism industry. Chincoteague's year-round population is approximately 4,500 but in the summer over 1.5 million people visit the area for day trips and vacations. Funding this project in the heart of downtown Chincoteague provides the Town with a valuable recreational asset and DCR with the widest possible exposure for the LCWF program as well as the greatest potential use of recreational facilities created through it. The Town has a proven track record of stewardship of DCR funds and facilities.

P.

Preliminary Application Attachments

The following items must be included with the Preliminary Application:

- Location Maps** - Provide maps that show:
 - Locality within Commonwealth of Virginia
 - Jurisdiction within the locality
 - Site of Park within locality
- Concept/Site Plan** – Identify which elements are to be assisted by LWCF
- Deed** (Acquisition proposals do not need to include with the Preliminary Application)
- Two copies of the 6(f) boundary map** (Acquisition proposals should include a map showing the area to be acquired by LWCF and the number of acres to be protected). Refer to the 2012 Land and Water Conservation Fund Manual for details regarding the 6(f) boundary map.
- Acquisition projects must include property tax assessment** to support the estimated purchase cost. (Be sure to read the requirements for acquisition in the 2012 Land & Water Conservation Fund Manual)
- Project Timeline** – Careful consideration should be taken in providing the tasks and time associated for each in this outline. The timeline submitted will be used to create the milestones for the project and its progress over the life of the grant should it receive formal approval.
- Copies of responses submitted on comments received during any public commenting period.**
- Governing Body Resolution**
- Application Signature Page**

Q.

Budget Information

Provide a budget estimate of the Land & Water Conservation Fund proposal.

The budget estimate must provide a complete estimated cost of the project. Estimates should include cost increases that may occur during the construction period.

If the LWCF assisted elements are a component of a much larger proposal, your estimate must consider only the elements that will receive federal assistance.

List the projected cost of the proposed element(s), give the priority rating of the element, and itemize the percent of total project cost for each activity.

The priority rating indicates how important the development of that particular element is to the overall project and will be taken into consideration during any requested changes in scope of work for the project. **Projects providing public access to waters of the U.S., must list those elements as the number 1 priority.**

Percentage of Total Project Costs is the amount of a particular venue divided by the sum of construction and non-construction costs.

Notes:

The sponsor must have the funding currently in place to complete the project. The Land & Water Conservation Fund is a 50-50, matching, reimbursement program. **All cost are incurred by the grantee prior to receiving reimbursement (whether partial or in full).** The program requires that 20% of the award be held back until all LWCF elements are 100% complete.

No costs are eligible for reimbursement until after approval by the National Park Service and a Project Agreement between DCR and the grantee is formalized.

The sponsor must have funds in place to start construction on the project no later than 5 months from signing the project agreement with DCR.

A completed example budget estimate is included in the appendices of the **2012 Land & Water Conservation Fund Manual.**

If you need more space you may re-create the form below to add as many rows as. However, be sure to include all the requested information if you create and use your own form.

**Land & Water Conservation Fund
Preliminary Application Signature Page**

"On behalf of the Project Sponsor, _____

I hereby certify the information contained in the attached application is true and correct. I understand this application will be rated on the basis of the information submitted and the submission of incorrect data or an incomplete application can result in this application being withdrawn from consideration for funding."

"I hereby certify the applicant will comply with all applicable local, state and Federal laws and regulations."

"I hereby certify the availability of funding for the total project costs as represented in this application."

"I hereby certify that the applicant understands that the LWCF program reimburses at 50% and that documentation supporting expenditures must be submitted for verification in order to receive payment, whether partial or in full. Further, it is understood that 20% of the grant award must be held back until the project is 100% complete."

"I hereby certify that the property will be placed under Section 6 (f) (3) protection of the Land & Water Conservation Act and will have wording to such effect placed in the deed of the property."

Signed this _____ day of _____

By _____

Title _____

Attested by _____

The LWCF Preliminary Application is due no later than **4:00 pm on March 19, 2012.**

Deliver 4 complete copies of the Preliminary Application plus one complete electronic version to DCR no later than 4:00pm at 203 Governor Street, Suite 326, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Postmarks, faxes and email submissions will **not** be accepted.

Applicants are responsible for effecting delivery by the deadline above; late submissions will be rejected without consideration.