

CHAPTER SIX : RECREATION FACILITIES

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A. PARKS AND RECREATION

Warren County has many outdoor recreation areas. The Shenandoah River is used for boating, canoeing, swimming, and fishing. There are five public boat ramps owned by the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission. Another access point is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The State-owned boat ramps in the County are located near Bentonville, Karo Landing, in Front Royal, at Riverton, and at Morgan's Ford Bridge.

In 1999, Front Royal was designated "Canoe Capital of Virginia," by Governor Mark Warner. Canoe races are held every spring on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River south of Front Royal.

Approximately 12,700 acres of the Shenandoah National Park are located in Warren County. The park provides hiking trails, swimming areas, picnic areas, campsites, and fishing areas. The scenic Skyline Drive winds its way through the park. The Appalachian Trail also goes through the park and eastern Warren County. There are approximately 5,900 acres of the George Washington National Forest in the County, which provide hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking areas. In addition to these public parks, there are also numerous private camping facilities in the County.

Situated on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River with more than 1,600 acres along 5.2 miles of shoreline, the Raymond R. "Andy" Guest, Jr. State Park opened in May 1999. A large riverside picnic area with shelters, trails, river access, a scenic overlook and a car-top boat launch make this a popular destination for families, anglers and canoeists. Ten primitive riverfront campsites and a group campground are available along with a new full-service bathhouse. With more than 15 miles of trails, the park has plenty of options for hiking, biking and horseback riding, including seasonal guided trail rides. The Indian Hollow Horse Livery operates April 1 - Oct. 31. It's in Warren County, just off U.S. 340 between Front Royal and Luray. Some of the park borders U.S. 340 on the east and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River on the west.

The 75-acre Front Royal Golf Course, located off Route 522 about one mile north of Front Royal, provides a 9-hole golf course, a boat landing, boat docks, and a club house. The Course is owned and operated by Warren County as a public park facility.

The 200-acre Shenandoah Valley Golf Club, located in Rockland, has a 27-hole golf course, pool, two tennis courts equipped with lights, and a large club house for social gatherings.

The 100-acre Bowling Green Country Club, also in Rockland, opened in 1984 with a 36 hole golf course and a club house accommodating 300 for banquets and other social activities.

Jackson's Chase is an 18 hole, year round facility. Designed by Shape Masters, the course is 6,429 yards of golf from the longest tee.

Blue Ridge Shadows is a championship-caliber golf course with five sets of tee boxes ranging from 4,994 to 7,301 yards. Crooked Run Creek and five lakes come into play on eight holes with 65 bunkers. The fifteenth and seventeenth holes share a 120 yard wide double green.

Blue Ridge Shadows is open to the public for daily fee play, and offers a limited number of memberships. Blue Ridge Shadows also contains a Holiday Inn hotel and conference center, Houlihan's restaurant and Shadows Spa for a total experience.

The Warren County Agricultural and Industrial Fair, sponsored by the Warren County Fair Association, is held each summer at the Fairgrounds located five miles north of Front Royal. Situated on a 20-acre site, the Fairgrounds has an outdoor covered stage, pavilions, and livestock buildings. Horse show rings lie adjacent to the Fairgrounds.

Some of the recreation-subdivisions in the County have swimming pools, picnic areas, small parks, fishing sites, and clubhouses.

In 2000, Warren County took ownership and management of all of the municipal parks in Front Royal. Bing Crosby Stadium, located just off the Commerce Avenue bypass, includes 60 acres of land and a baseball stadium. Surrounding it are two softball fields, four picnic pavilions, several large recreation fields, two paved tennis courts with lights, a basketball court, a volleyball court, and a small child "kiddie" park complete with swings, sliding board, jungle gym, and merry-go-round. Bing Crosby Stadium and the surrounding facilities are the center of recreational activity for Warren County and Front Royal. Groundbreaking was held in June, 1991 for a Town-County Swimming pool located next to Bing Crosby Stadium. In 2006, a \$4.6 million renovation of the Bing Crosby Stadium was completed.

The Front Royal Cardinals, members of the Valley Baseball League, play their home games at Bing Crosby Stadium. The Valley League, which contains teams from Harrisonburg, New Market, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester, is a summer college league sanctioned and funded by the NCAA and Major League Baseball. Players must be in college and have at least one year of college eligibility remaining. The Valley League recruits players from all around the country. Many current Major League players are former members of the Valley League.

Also in 2006, four out of seven planned soccer fields were completed at the 32-acre Skyline SoccerPlex. The facility serves the more than 600 local children and 200 local adults that enjoy soccer in Front Royal.

In 2005, Warren County supervisors voted to assume the debt of the failing, privately-owned 9-hole Front Royal Golf Club. That debt was paid off in 2010 through the sale of a power easement located on the property, and additional improvements to the facility are currently underway that includes a 3-mile walking trail at completion. The facility provides affordable access to the [now] community golf course.

The most recent additions to the Warren County Parks portfolio is the 15,000 square foot Warren County Skate Park. Rockland Park, formerly known as the Fishnet Property, is a 219-acre park that was purchased by Warren County in 2009. The Park currently includes walking trails, a large playground structure, an 18-hole disc golf course, two large picnic shelters, and parking areas. Future development has been broken down into three additional phases and includes features such as a multi-field baseball/softball complex, restroom facilities, additional walking trails, dog park, amphitheatre with outdoor seating, multi-use practice fields, camping areas, fire and rescue training facility, recreation center, and a possible elementary school site.

Warren County's Eastham Park is located off of Luray Avenue in Front Royal. The Park includes several facilities for the public to enjoy including:

- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Public Boat Launch
- Town of Front Royal Park
- Public parking area
- Three multi-use athletic fields
- Warren County Dog Park
- Large outdoor classroom
- Interpretive signage
- Eastham Park Trail

The Park is operated and maintained by the Warren County Department of Parks and Recreation and is open from dawn until dusk each day. Eastham Park is quickly becoming one of the County's most used facilities due to the variety of activities offered and it will only improve as Phase Three of the Eastham Park Trail is constructed in the Fall of 2015.

The Raymond E. Santmyers Youth Center building is located on land adjacent to Bing Crosby Stadium. The Youth Center provides teenagers with a place to have dances, play games, hold meetings, events, etc. Although designed to meet the needs of Town and County youth, this facility is also utilized by the general public.

All elementary schools and the intermediate school in Warren County have playgrounds. The newly renovated Warren County High School has a football field, baseball field, softball field, track and tennis courts. The newly built Skyline High School also has a football field, baseball field, softball field, track and tennis courts.

1. Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center

The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center is located on 229 acres beautifully situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. The Center is a \$5.5 million complex with lodging, conference and food service accommodations for 200. Recreational facilities include a junior Olympic size swimming pool, three outdoor tennis courts, two volleyball courts, a softball field, a soccer field, a 2-1/2 acre lake for fishing and canoeing, three spacious shelters for picnics and recreation, a fitness trail, several hiking trails, a campfire circle, outpost camping sites, stables for 44 horses, three horse show rings, two archery ranges and an outdoor amphitheater with designated seating for 450 and lawn chair seating for 2500.

Summer months are designated for 4-H Youth camping. Teen and adult leadership programs are offered on weekends throughout the year. Workshops and conferences in traditional extension programs are the focus during non-summer months.

Facilities are open daily for public recreation at little or no cost. Picnic shelters are available to families, companies and groups for reunions and socials. Program assistance to conference planners is provided by staff.

B. CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Front Royal and Warren County offer many civic, social, and fraternal clubs and organizations. A partial list of them includes the following:

Academy at Innisfree	Browntown Friendship Club
American Association of Retired Persons	Boy Scouts of America Shenandoah Area Council
American Cancer Society Warren Co. Chapter	Business & Professional Association
American Diabetes Association Winchester Chapter	Caving Club
American Heart Association	C-Cap
American Legion Auxiliary	Cedarville Ruritan Club
American Legion, Giles B. Cook Post 53	Chester Gap Fire Dept.
American Red Cross Warren Co. Chapter	Christendom College
Anti Litter Council Front Royal - Warren Co.	Civil Air Patrol
A.S. Rhodes Elementary	Concern Hotline
A.S. Rhodes PTA	Council of Churches Front Royal - Warren Co.
ARC of Warren Co., Inc.	Crimesolvers
Auxiliary of Warren Memorial Hospital	Dare Program
Babe Ruth Baseball League	Daughters of the American Revolution, Front Royal Chapter
Berries & Kindling 4-H Club	Emotions Anonymous
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Gamma Kappa Chapter	Eagles
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority laurate Alpha Chapter	Elks
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Xi Delta Pi Chapter	Environmental 4-H Club
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Xi Epsilon Pi Chapter	Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority Shenandoah Valley Area Council
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Xi Epsilon Kappa Chapter	E. Wilson Morrison Elementary
Blue Ridge Arts Council, Inc.	E. Wilson Morrison PTA
Blue Ridge Hospice, Inc.	Fair Association
Blue Ridge Kids 4-H Club	Farm Bureau
Blue Ridge Majorettes	Flora & Fauna 4-H Club
Blue Ridge SID Support Group	Fortsmouth Vol. Fire Dept.
B.P.O. of Elks, Lodge #2382	Fraternal Order of Eagles #4265
Bowling Green Country Club	Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 33 Front Royal - Warren Co.
Browntown Community Center Association	Friends of Shenandoah National Park
Front Royal Country Club	Friends of the Shenandoah River
Front Royal Duplicate Bridge Club	Front Royal Business & Professional Association
Front Royal Garden Club	*Front Royal Civil Air Patrol
Front Royal Grotto Club	Livestock 4-H Club
	Local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Union 26
	Lord Fairfax Community College

Front Royal Jaycees	Lucky Cloverbuds 4-h Club
Front Royal Ladies Aux. Front Royal Fire Dept.	Masonic Lodge #146, Unity Lodge
Front Royal Lioness Club	Massanutten Archery Club
Front Royal Lions Club	Master's Gardeners
Front Royal Little League	Midget Football
Front Royal Little Theatre	Moose Lodge #829
Front Royal Oratorio Society	Mosby Raiders 4-H Club
Front Royal REACT	Mountain Laurel Montessori School
Front Royal Rotary Club	NAACP Warren-Page Branch
Front Royal Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept., Inc.	Northern Shenandoah Valley Master's Gardener's Association
Front Royal Women's Softball	Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center
Front Royal - Warren Co. Clergy Association	Northern Virginia Audubon Society
Front Royal - Warren Co. Crimesolvers	Northwestern Community Services Health Center
The Garden Club of Warren Co.	Old Dominion 100 Mile Endurance Ride, Inc.
Girl Scouts of America	Optimist Club
Habitat for Humanity	Order of the Eastern Star
Harmonica Club	Front Royal Chapter #6
Horse 4-H Club	Overeaters Anonymous
Humane Society of Warren Co.	Pals of POW 4-H Club
International Order of Odd Fellows	Parent Support Group
Izaak Walton League Warren Co. Chapter	Preceptor Alpha Iota Sorority of Beta Sigma Phi
Izaak Walton League Valley Ladies Chapter Jaycees	Powhatan School
Jolly Losers	Project Link
King's Daughters & Sons, Loving Service Circle	Randolph-Macon Academy
King's Daughters & Sons What-So-Ever Circle	Rebekas
King's Daughters & Sons Willing Workers Circle	Recreation Association
Kiwanis Club	Republican Women's Club of Warren Co.
LaLeche League International	Ressie Jeffries Elementary
Ladies of the Elks	Ressie Jeffries PTA
Leslie Fox Keyser PTA	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Leukemia Society of American Virginia Chapter	Rivermont Extension Homemakers Club
Linden Vol. Fire Dept.	Rivermont Ramblers Square Dance Club
Linden Rotary Club	Rivermont Rascals 4-H Club
Linden Ruritan Club	Rivermont Vol. Fire Dept.
Literacy Volunteers of America Warren Co.	Rivermont Vol. Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary
Royal Riders 4-H Club	Royal Christian Academy
Salvation Army	Royal Oak K-9 4-H Club
Samuels Public Library	Royal Plaza Merchants Association
Shenandoah Rebekah Lodge 83	Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging
Shenandoah Shores Vol. Fire Department	Shenandoah Farms Vol. fire Department
Shenandoah Valley Golf Club	Shenandoah Orchid Society
Shenandoah Valley Parents of Twins Club	Warren Co. High School
	Warren Co. School Athletic Boosters Association
	Warren Co. High School PTA

Shenandoah University
Shooting Sports 4-H Club
Sons of Confederate Veterans
South River Garden Club
South Warren Vol. Fire Department
South Warren Vol. Fire Dept. Auxiliary
South River Ruritan Club
Special Olympics - Area 13
Town & Country Ext. Homemakers Club
United Way
Valley Garden Club
Valley Harpers of Virginia
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1860
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Dept. for the Deaf & Hard
of Hearing
Virginia Dept. for the Visually Handicapped
Virginia Horse Council
Wakefield Country Day School
Wakefield School
Warren Co. 4-H Leaders Association
Warren Co. Chapter #38 Disabled
American Veterans
Warren Co. Council of PTA's
Warren Co. Council on Domestic Violence
Warren Co. DARE
Warren Co. Education Association
Warren Co. Education Foundation
Warren Co. Extension Homemakers Club
Warren Co. Extension Agent Agriculture
& 4-H
Warren Co. Fair Association
Warren Co. Farm Bureau
Warren Co. Garden Club
Warren Co. Habitat for Humanity
Warren Co. Mental Health Association
Warren Co. Middle School
Warren Co. Middle School PTA
Warren Co. Retired Teachers Association
Warren Co. Senior Centers
Warren Co. Workshop, Inc.
Warren Heritage Society
Warren Rifles Chapter United Daughters
of the Confederacy
Welcome Wagon
Women of the Moose
Woodland Park Ext. Homemakers Club