



Gloucester Community Engagement & Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester County Awarded \$250,000 Grant for Swan Bridge Replacement at Beaverdam Park

Gloucester County has been awarded a \$250,000 grant through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), a federal matching reimbursement program administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Federal Highway Administration. The grant will support the replacement of the aging Swan Bridge in Beaverdam Park, restoring safe, multi-use trail access for residents and visitors.

The Swan Bridge replacement project will demolish the existing 315-foot wooden bridge, which is more than 30 years old and currently restricted to pedestrian use due to safety concerns. A new 315-by-8-foot wooden bridge with handrails will be constructed in its place, allowing pedestrians, cyclists, mountain bikers, equestrians, and users with mobility devices to safely access the County's most popular trail system.

"Beaverdam Park is a jewel of Gloucester County and the most visited of our public parks," said Matt Barber, Director, Parks, Recreation and Tourism. "Replacing Swan Bridge ensures that residents and visitors of all abilities can continue to enjoy the trails that make this community special. We are grateful for the support of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Federal Highway Administration in making this critical project possible."

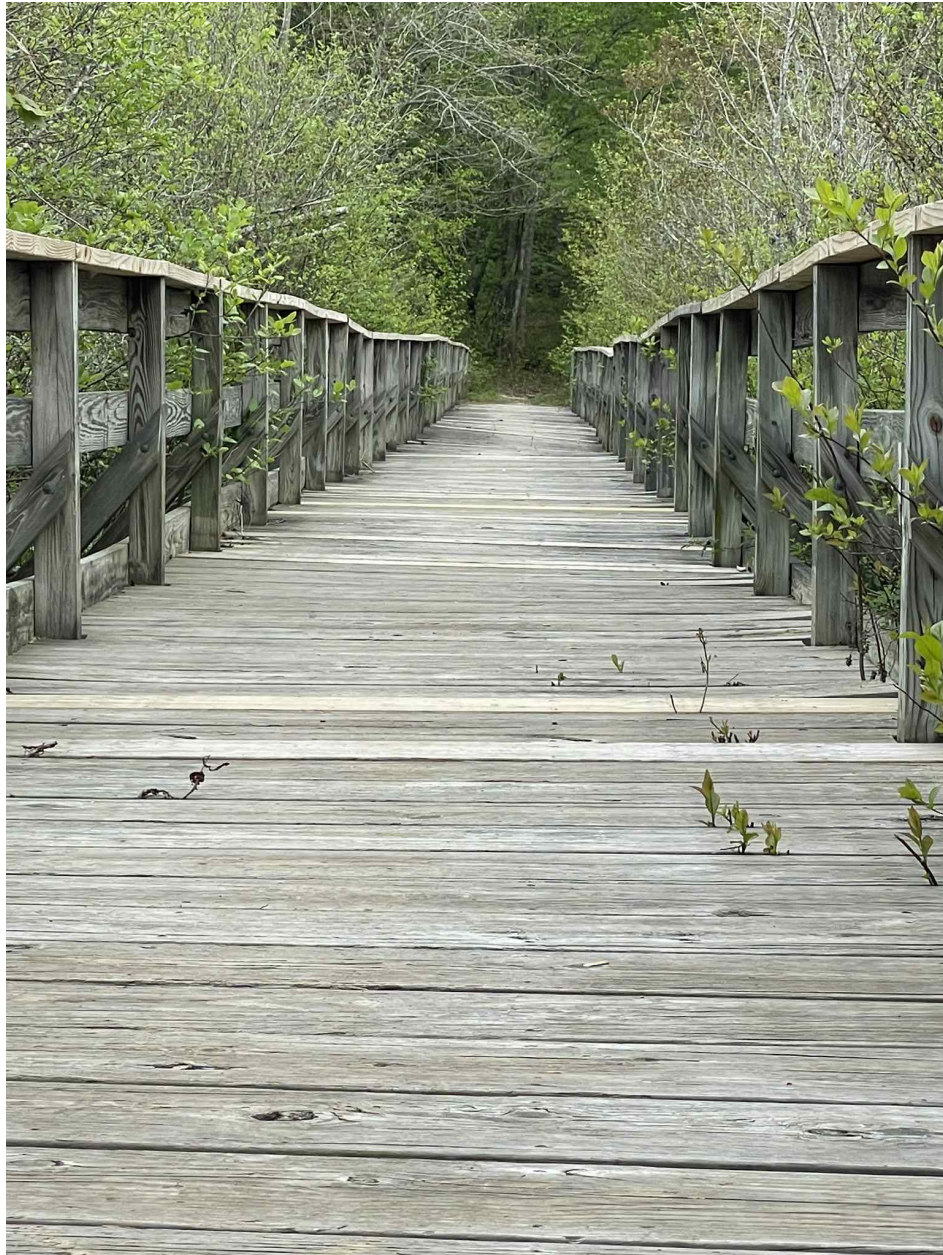
The total project cost is \$318,500 with Gloucester County providing the 20% required match allocated under the County's Capital Improvement Plan. Construction is anticipated to begin next summer following the completion of required environmental reviews and permitting.

In addition to expanding access for trail users, the project will include sustainability measures such as raising the bridge's elevation to improve resiliency against flooding, using marine-grade timber and corrosion-resistant fasteners for longevity, and replanting vegetation with the help of local volunteer organizations.

Beaverdam Park, located at 8687 Roaring Springs Road in Gloucester, is open to the public year-round. More information about the park and its amenities can be found at www.gloucesterva.gov/parks-recreation-tourism.

For additional details about the Recreational Trails Program, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants.

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Swan Bridge at Beaverdam Park