



### **Vision**

Establish WBC as the center of excellence for community (recreational and competitive) rowing in the Upper South Reg.

### **Mission**

Provide a high quality rowing experience in a positive environment, to members of the surrounding communities from every skill level, age, and background.



*“All were merged into one smoothly working machine; they were, in fact, a poem of motion, a symphony of swinging blades.”* Daniel James Brown, The Boys in the Boat

## **Rowing**

- One of the fastest growing amateur sports: 1,300 Clubs, 85,000 Athletes
- Chickahominy Riverfront Park is a world class rowing venue, part of the national historic trail: Captain John Smith Chickahominy Water Trail – 1607, and an invaluable and unique Williamsburg asset

## **Williamsburg Boat Club**

- Rowing traces back to 1980's and Eddie Hornsby – former Yale and US rower asked to coach W&M
  - Reborn in the '90's with small group of rowers with one restarting W&M as a coach
  - Today's Club emerged 5 years ago with addition of Youth program
- Club Today: 20+ Middle School, 90+ High School, and ~50 Masters rowers
- Potential 250-300 families in 5-10 years with promotion
  - Club growth only restricted by available coaching and equipment resources
- Rowers from Richmond to Yorktown but concentrated in James City County
- Annually host two major Regional Regattas – Beak of the Chick (August); Head of the Chick (November)





### **Current Facilities**

- One half of one boathouse bay + outdoor racks
- Congested parking intermixed with youth drop offs and boat staging
- No rest rooms, or water for boat rinsing
- Limited dock capacity, poor lighting and no electricity

### **WBC & W&M Cooperation**

- Boathouse
- Small boats and oars
- Coaching Launches & motors

### **WBC & Park**

- Launches & Ergs
- WBC site maintenance & improvements





### Chickahominy Riverfront Park Facilities Plan\*

**Water Access:** Improve existing dock and extend to accommodate small boat launch center. Improve road access, lighting and dock ram for ADA access – Park lead with WBC support

**Traffic Flow:** Re-route Boat House access to improve safety and parking by using existing traffic circle behind facility and relocating RV storage within Park – Park to lead

**Boat House:** Increase boat and equipment storage, maintenance functions, and provide bad weather training options - WBC  
Phase 2 to improve bathrooms option - Park

\*Contingent on JCC Parks Master Plan design and funding approval





## WBC Events

### **Beak of the Chick (3,217 meter time trial): August**

- 2018 first annual event – Regional with ~60-70 boat entries, 500 people
- Event within event for CHKD, raise ~ \$1,500 annually through Mark & Finley's Bridge Chase
- National expansion in 2019 through Regatta Central
- Building more as a summer “festival” with a regatta

### **Head of the Chick (5k time trial): November**

- 2019 will be 4<sup>th</sup> annual event – Regional with ~100 boat entries, 800-1,000 people
- National expansion through Regatta Central
- Timing falls at the end of the East Coast race season
- Large potential to expand with colleges and Masters, national outreach

### **Other Head Racing Events:**

Head of the Schuylkill – 40 years old, attracted 8,900 entries and 30-40,000 spectators

Head of the Charles River – 50 years old, international entries, 11,000 total boats, and Chamber of Commerce estimates incremental revenue for city of \$72 million

