

Baltimore County officials open accessible trail at Rocky Point Park



The accessible trail at Rocky Point Park features a new boardwalk and stairs. Baltimore County Executive Kathy Klausmeier speaks at a ribbon cutting for the trail at Rocky Point Park in Essex. Natalie Jones/Staff photos



Baltimore County Executive Kathy Klausmeier speaks at a ribbon cutting for a new accessible trail at Rocky Point Park in Essex.

[< PREVIOUS IMAGE](#)

[Image](#)

[NEXT IMAGE >](#)

By Natalie Jones

Baltimore County opened a new accessible trail designed to make it easier for people with disabilities to access a popular fishing and picnicking spot at Rocky Point Park in Essex.

The \$1 million project features a new pathway built with recycled rubber and stone, reinforced concrete boardwalk planks, benches made of recycled plastic, a new covered pavilion and native plants.

“Sometimes they say seeing is believing, and if you want to know what an accessibility project looks like, well, here it is,” said Jay Doyle, a county staff liaison to the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities. “These ramps are perfectly sloped to provide wheelchair access to this outstanding destination here at the water’s edge, which Baltimore County is famous for.”

The trail replaced a concrete path in poor condition. Less than a year ago, the path to the fishing and sightseeing spot was “crumbling and eroding,”

and the blacktop was “falling apart,” said Bob Smith, director of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks.

The project was funded through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. It’s not the first improvement made to the park — a playground was installed recently.

The Rocky Point Park, located at the mouth of the Back and Middle rivers, also has a 300-foot beach and numerous picnic areas, as well as boat ramps, a sailing center and a fishing pier.

County Executive Kathy Klausmeier said Wednesday that she hadn’t been to the park since she was a child.

“As a resident of eastern Baltimore County and as county executive, I love our waterfront,” she said. “I’m so very, very proud of it, and I am proud of all those who try to protect it. Everyone should be able to experience it.”

The improvements at Rocky Point are just some of the county’s efforts to boost accessibility at other recreational areas. A pier and accessible path were recently completed at Fleming Park near Turner Station, for instance, and an accessible trail loop is being designed at Oregon Ridge Park.

Have a news tip? Contact Natalie Jones at najones@baltsun.com.