



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 037-5246

1. General Property Information

Property name: Goochland Recreational Center

Property address: 2415 Sandy Hook Road

City or Town: Goochland

Zip code: 23063

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Goochland County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 23.3

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural X

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Goochland Recreational Center is located off Sandy Hook Road (522) in central Goochland County. The property encompasses 23.3 acres. The recreation center building is located closest to Sandy Hook Road, on the west side of the parcel. A baseball field and pond sit to the southeast of the recreation building. A restroom/bath house building and basketball/tennis court sit to the northeast of the recreation building. A concessions building and pavilion sit between the field/pond to the south and restroom/courts to the north.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): No Style

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1967

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The Goochland Recreational Center building was constructed ca. 1967. The center is a one-story concrete block building with a raised basement. The building (not including the raised basement) is clad in beaded vinyl siding. A shed-roofed porch--supported by flat, decorative iron columns--surrounds the double-leaf, half-light front door. The first-floor windows are rectangular sliding sash of an indeterminate material. The basement windows appear to be 1/1 awning windows or double-hung sash windows of an indeterminate material. There is a secondary entrance on the south (side) elevation and a basement entrance on the east (rear) elevation. On each elevation, between each bay, there is a flat, concrete block buttress.

Double doors provide access to an entry vestibule with composition tile flooring, veneer panel walls with baseboards and chair rail, and acoustic tile drop ceilings. Wall, floor, and ceiling materials continue throughout the rest of the main floor. Two restrooms flank the hall on one side and a closet on the other. The hall opens into a large meeting room, which is the primary space on the main floor. A metal door provides exterior access. There is also a kitchen and doorway/stairway leading to the ground floor. The ground floor contains a large assembly room approximately the same size as that on the main floor, as well as a bathroom and kitchen. The walls are concrete block and floors commercial composite tile throughout the ground level. Two metal doors provide exterior access on two walls of the floor.

Though a number of material changes have been made to the recreation building over the years, the property retains strong integrity of location, setting, and association.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Baseball field, 1961
- Pond, 1961
- Concessions Building, c. 1964: This one-story, one-room concrete block concessions building has a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, fixed windows with a vertical sliding concessions access, and two doors (one on the north elevation and one on the east elevation).
- Restroom/Bath House, c. 1986: This one-story, one-bay concrete block restroom/bath house has a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and two doors (one on the south elevation and one on the east elevation). The gable portion of the structure appears to be clad in vinyl siding.
- Basketball/tennis court, c. 1998
- Pavilion, c. 2003: This post and beam pavilion with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles is located east of the recreation center and adjacent to the concessions building.

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

On April 5, 1961, a group of interested citizens of Goochland County met at Central Elementary School for the purpose of establishing recreational facilities for wholesome recreation for all citizens in Goochland County. In the height of the Civil Rights movement, these visionaries worked together to establish a place where all were welcomed, formulate an organization that offered help to all residents, black and white, young, or old.

On April 26, 1961, a mass meeting was held to seek membership and support from the citizens of the entire county to assist in the development of this recreational space. From this meeting the Property Committee was authorized to seek a parcel of land to build "The Center." The committee was authorized to spend \$25.00 for the option to buy the land on which to build the center. \$48.05 was collected. After which, the Finance Committee was formed, beginning with the balance of \$48.05, "not enough to buy a good conversation."

The Location Committee sought a central location for the center, in keeping with its mission of accessibility for county residents. By May 10, 1961, a good citizen by the name of Mr. Jefferson Mayo decided to sell twenty-three acres of land for \$2165.00. Eager and excitement followed this decision, a mass fundraising effort took place throughout the county, from Mrs. McCowan's backyard picnics in Columbia, VA to Mr. Snead's Pond in Manakin, VA, ranging from backyard picnics, baseball games, and concerts to other various sponsored events.

May 24, 1961, the official name was established as "Goochland Recreational Center" and the Constitution and By-Laws were given to each member. Within the constitution, meetings were to be held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM and dues were set at \$12.00 for sustaining members, \$3 for regular members, and \$1.20 for children, annually.

During the summer of 1961, the 23.3 acres of land were surveyed and the Board of Trustees authorized to purchase the land. The Goochland Recreational Center sponsored its first Red Cross water safety and swimming lessons class. This class took place at Mealy's pond; and physicals were conducted by Dr. James Bowles' Sr. The Executive Board solicited free labor. On August 5th, the group paid the landowner \$2,165 for the property.

On September 13, 1961, the land was cleared, and a 2-acre pond and baseball diamond were erected. The 12th grade students at Central High School made the first official sign for the Goochland Recreational Center. All male members from all walks in life agreed to donate a day's salary to upkeep the grounds.

In 1962, the Goochland Recreational Center was incorporated. Throughout 1962, center officials met with local churches to develop church-sponsored recreation activities at the center – multiple committees were formed to focus on a variety of efforts. The Building Committee's first June rally was held on June 16th and other fundraising events were required in order to keep finances steady and "maintain high morale." This was a year full of additions, including the installation of a gravel driveway, the pond was stocked with fish, two outdoor toilets were constructed, and a playground area designated. Suits and equipment for the baseball teams were also purchased. These enhancements brought in significant revenue for the Center. By December, the center held \$3,980.03 in savings and \$503.53 in checking.

In 1963, the athletic field and picnic areas were developed and a storage building and picnic shelter were constructed. 1964 saw the addition of a concessions building, a patio, the children's playground (with merry-go-round, see saw, swings, etc.). By October 1963, the "Center" received its 501(c)(3) Federal income tax exempt

status. From this point forward, until 1967, and many groups gathered and held events on the premises, even without the main building having yet been constructed. By the end of 1966, the savings account had reached \$14,148.38, and on December 10, 1966, the building contract was signed.

(Project Head Start involvement)

March 1967, the bulldozers broke ground for the actual Goochland Recreational Center, starting with digging out a space for the basement. Members continued to work hard to sponsor fundraising events to support the initiative.

The first 4th of July event was held and included boat rides and fishing contests on the pond, while the fields were full of people watching the baseball game, played between Goochland Recreational Center and Cartersville. The 4th of July event would become the most successful fundraising event and celebration for the organization – since that first celebration, many other activities have been added to include the participation of residents – youth and adults, and churches and organizations of Goochland and surrounding communities.

The building was dedicated on October 29, 1967. At that time, the Board took out a loan from the Bank of Goochland to liquidate the debt of the building “in the next ten years.” The building stood as collateral, as long as quarterly payments of \$668.48 were met.

CAA – Community Action Agencies – local private and public organizations that carry out the Community Action Program, which was founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act by empowering the poor as part of the War on Poverty. The Center endorsed the Goochland Community Action Committee as the official community action agency serving Goochland County. The center cooperated with the Agency in the accomplishment of its stated purpose.

In 1971, the center’s lower level was used by Goochland Industries to operate a company to manufacture garments for women – the company assisted in meeting a demand for this type of manufacturing process and provided needed employment for 35-37 persons in the county. In 1973, the Capital Area Agency on Aging was established and the local branch of that nonprofit stationed their Care Coordinator’s office at the center. The Assemblies of Virginia, formed to solve personal and community-wide problems, held its meetings at the center. Throughout the early ‘70s, events and fundraising efforts including popularity contests, semi-formal dances, among others, continued at the center. In 1975, the Goochland County Electoral Board voted the center to be the polling place for the Sandy Hook Precinct for local, state, and national elections. In February 1977, the last mortgage payment was made.

In 1978, through funds raised from the Popularity Contest, Spring and Fall dances, etc., the original windows were replaced, air conditioner was installed, and the first mortgage of \$33,210 was burned. In the late 1970s or early 1980s, the tractor was purchased; the handicap ramp constructed on the front of the building; and fan lights were installed in the assembly room. May 20, 1982, the center was awarded a “Certificate of Appreciation” for volunteer services rendered to Goochland Head Start Center by the Central Piedmont Action Council.

In 1986, improvements and repairs were made, including the construction of a bathhouse with restrooms and outfitting the concessions stand with a sink and drain ditch. For more permanent use by the Head Start Program, the basement was renovated and upgraded with commercial grade floor tile, cabinetry, painting, restroom ventilation, threshold sweepers, window screens, light fixtures and lamp covers, lavatory and faucet in kitchen, stove electrical work, freezer and refrigerator. Prior to the basement renovation, the upper floor of the center had been used for the Head Start Program. 1987: exterior and main floor repairs, including installation of vinyl

siding and sheetrock, stained and varnished wall paneling, storm door replacement, auditorium swing door replacements, well filled with dirt, divided utility room with wall, replaced kitchen sink. In 1993, the regular source of income other than membership, donations, and fundraising activities renting out the building and site was Head Start, Capital Area Agency on Aging, and the Full Gospel Church. 1993: replace leaking roof and install vinyl siding on exterior. On 11/30/1993, the center vandalized by fire – primarily interior damage.

Over the decades, the center has been used by many groups and organizations, including the Voters League, Citizens Development Corporation, Capital Area Agency on Aging, James River District Baptist Association, American Legion, NAACP – monthly youth and adult meetings, Area 5 District Meetings, NAACP – Annual Freedom Fund Banquet and King and Queen Contest.

- 50th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative Album published in 2012
- Certificate of Incorporation June 27, 1962
- Contract to construct building December 10, 1966
-

Private: X Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Date: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Date: 7/31/25

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Goochland Recreation Center
Goochland County, VA
DHR ID# 037-5246

 Proposed Boundary

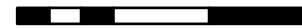
0 100 200 300
 Feet



PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

Goochland Recreation Center
Goochland County, VA
DHR ID# 037-5246

 Proposed Boundary

0 300 600 900
 Feet

