

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**  
**April 22, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Town Council President Beye called the special meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Jamestown School at 55 Lawn Avenue and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. ROLL CALL**

A special meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on April 22, 2025. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Mary Meagher, E. Edward Ross, Mary G. Glackin, and Erik Brine.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Edward A. Mello, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, Chief Howie Tighe, Chief Jamie Campbell, and Town Clerk Roberta Fagan.

**III. PUBLIC WORK SESSION: FORT GETTY COMMUNITY WORK SHOP**

A) Review and Discussion: Fort Getty's long-term use and management.

President Beye provided meeting guidelines: 3-minute speaking limit per person, avoid redundancy, and comments to be addressed to the Council only.

Councilor Meagher delivered a tribute to the late Ron Parfitt, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Director, emphasizing his 30 years of service and integral role in maintaining Fort Getty and other town facilities. A poem titled "I See You with the Sun" by Robert Goode was read aloud in Ron's memory.

The Council reiterated no decisions would be made during the workshop. The intent was to gather community input on the future of Fort Getty in light of deferred maintenance needs, outdated RV infrastructure, and multiple prior master planning efforts dating back to 1994. The importance of aligning public investment with resident priorities was emphasized.

Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco provided a detailed overview of Fort Getty Park:

- **Facilities Overview:** Gatehouse, Pavilion, Bathrooms (3 sets), Tent & RV Campgrounds, Boat Ramp, Fishing Pier, Outhauls, Beaches, Trails.
- **Usage Statistics:**
  - 83 total RV sites; 75 rented (9 to residents, 66 to non-residents).
  - Tent camping: 26 sites; peak in August with 361 bookings.
  - Pavilion used for 61 events (2024); 24 residents, 21 non-residents.
- **Revenue (2024):**
  - RV Fees: \$480,640
  - Tent Sites: \$51,735
  - Total Revenue: \$655,844
  - Expenses: \$175,155
  - Net: ~\$480,000

Town Planner Lisa Bryer reviewed the Fort Getty master planning history:

- 1994, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2018, and 2023 plans or surveys.
- Consistent goal across efforts: enhance resident use.
- 2005 plan recommended reducing RV area to increase open space.
- Noted public input at recent workshops, surveys, and facilitated sessions

#### Public Comments:

Cheryl Boyd, 7 Stanchion Street, Jamestown resident and seasonal camper at Fort Getty. Advocated strongly for keeping the RV campground, citing its role in creating community and influencing her home purchase. She estimated that seasonal campers generate over \$500,000 in local business revenue.

Patsy Eldridge, spoke on behalf of Frances and Elizabeth Lippincott. Called Fort Getty an economic asset. Cited a proposed \$500K investment in electrical upgrades could yield over \$11M across 20 years. Emphasized revenue offsets are vital to the Parks & Recreation budget. Called for maintaining the RV park to support overall fiscal health.

Elizabeth Dillard Dix, 1070 East Shore Road, advocated for re-centering Fort Getty as a true public space, not a business park. Stressed that current seasonal use by RVers creates a perception of exclusion, especially during summer. Urged the development of a master plan with community approval and preservation of natural ecosystems.

Jeff Boal, 994 Fort Getty Road, proposed a public referendum presenting voters with multiple design scenarios. Urged professional master planning and meaningful community input beyond a simple yes/no RV vote.

Daphne Meredith, 881 Fort Getty Road, supported previous speakers advocating a referendum. Emphasized open space preservation as a civic legacy. Praised campers as good neighbors but wanted broader resident access.

Jane Bentley, 70 Mt. Hope Avenue, highlighted over 50+ years of community contributions by RVers. Criticized the long-standing neglect of campground utilities and called for support in upgrading infrastructure. The season campers support the community; now the town should support them. Called out long-standing neglect of the restroom and electric upgrades.

Kate Petrie, 1005 Fort Getty Road, advocated for a comprehensive master plan prioritizing sustainability and inclusive public access. Supported limiting RV footprint and emphasizing natural resource restoration.

Jemma Craig, 265 Highland Drive, cited the mental health and community benefits of increased public access. Urged rebalancing access between the broader community and RV tenants. Challenged financial figures, calling for a revenue breakdown by use type.

Larry Goss, 15 Buloid Avenue, as an economist, referred to the campground as a “no-brainer” financially. Highlighted economic multiplier effect of RVers’ spending.

Lindsay & Stephanie Hague, 9 Bow Street / Village Hearth Bakery, expressed strong support for the RV community, describing them as kind, welcoming, and regular customers. Pointed out that residents can still access all parts of the park, including beaches and ramps, even during peak season.

Marla Romash, 34 Clinton Avenue, spoke as both a resident and small business owner (Our Table Jamestown). Cautioned against eliminating a major revenue source without clear alternatives. Supported a full study and inclusive planning process, but voiced skepticism about replacing the economic value the RV park brings.

Aidan Petrie, 1005 Fort Getty Road, care of the park needs to be the focus. It is more complicated than simply revenue and expense.

Nick Robertson, 109 Carr Lane, recounted the historical use of Fort Getty for large community events like Family Day. He argued that the RV park provides a valuable alternative for visitors who can't stay with family and supports local commerce. Urged retaining the campground unless a better use is found.

John Preece, 73 Pembroke Avenue, as a frequent park user, raised concerns about trash accumulation and suggested revenue analysis, specifically for RV-related income and environmental costs.

Alma Davenport, 99 Clinton Avenue, emphasized procedural concerns over bond postponements. Voiced concern that the Fort Getty improvement bond was struck from the current budget. Encouraged residents to advocate for paper ballots at the Financial Town Meeting for transparency in funding decisions.

Abby Jenkins, 994 Fort Getty Road, compared Fort Getty's potential to the community playground improvement campaign. Urged thoughtful investment and inclusive design. Criticized the limited summer access.

Richard Smith, 1258 North Main Road, defended campers from being stigmatized as "second-class." Compared the visibility and public acceptance of boats to campers, emphasizing that both serve similar seasonal recreational purposes.

John Romano, 3 Hammond Court, a former seasonal camper, spoke warmly of the campground community. Shared personal and family ties to the park and harbor. Believes various user groups—sailors, campers, dog walkers—can coexist.

Paul Sprague, 11 Mast Street, compared a RV site revenue to taxes from \$870K homes, but without associated infrastructure or school costs. Urged recognition of campers as residents of the "Fort Getty neighborhood."

Mary Gorman, 36 Bayberry Road, interviewed 20 campers for an article, and heard heartfelt stories of connection and community. Recalled earlier traditions of resident-camper bonding events. Advocated for respect toward campers and ending derogatory stereotyping.

Dave & Mary Daquino, 2 Walcott Avenue, expressed appreciation for balanced planning. Voiced

support for continued RV presence coupled with sustainable development and resident engagement.

BJ Dupre, 159 North Road, praised Fort Getty's beauty. Called for professional land-use planning similar to Colt State Park. Advocated for more trees and ecological design.

Chris Powell, 38 Mt. Hop Avenue, as the former Conservation Commission Chair, was involved in the 2006 planning. Urged reviewing and updating the 2006 master plan. Advocated for the removal of the eastern RV row as previously planned and more trees. Urged renewed planning effort and reassessment of whether RVs align with Jamestown's future needs.

Joe Ford, 35 Norman Road, a lifelong resident of Jamestown, shared his memories of Fort Getty before it became a campground. He recounted intergenerational connections and how campers have always treated his family with kindness and warmth.

Patrick Driscoll, Highland Drive, engage the residents for more input on the future of Fort Getty. This should not be up to the Town Council only.

Larry Smith, 464 Beacon Avenue, advocated for keeping the RVs and making the park more accessible to residents. Should be able to accommodate both.

Donna Defusco, 1 Luther Street, a 38-year resident of Jamestown, is upset by the direction of the town. For over 10 years, it has been well known that the electric upgrades have been necessary. The park and RVs are revenue for the town and will not be easy to replace. She advocated for keeping the RVs.

Barbara Cunha, 31 Seaview Avenue, would like more access for residents year-round. Community events like "Art in the Park" or fitness stations throughout the park would be welcomed.

Raymond Smith, 58 Pennsylvania Avenue, stated it was a mistake not to include \$450,000 in the bond for Fort Getty. He also stated that Bonds should be voted on a ballot.

Brad Berringer, Walrus & Carpenter Oysters, asked for repairs to the boat ramp and consideration of a public touch-and-go dock.

Louis ?, 77 Stanchion, as a long-time user of Fort Getty RV, noted that most RVers tend not to use the park's bathrooms or the tap water (rusty). He would like to receive feedback from both the fire and police departments regarding the seasonal RVs.

Christa Gladding Delyi, 91 Severence, noted that, in addition to Fort Getty, residents can also use Beavertail State Park and Fort Wetherill. Despite the fact that Fort Getty park has "rusty" water and poor electrical facilities, RVs continue to visit year after year.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The Town Council thanked all participants for their contributions and indicated further meetings, data gathering, and master planning efforts will be discussed further. Residents were encouraged to continue public engagement, including in upcoming budget and town planning sessions.



A motion was made by Councilor Glackin with a second by Vice President Brine to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor E. Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

Attest:

*/s/ Roberta J. Fagan*

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Roberta J. Fagan, CMC, Town Clerk

# FORT GETTY

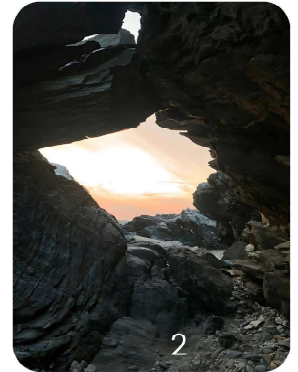


PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
April 22nd 2025

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## Presentation Overview

- History of Fort Getty workshops and public engagement
- Current Conditions
- Revenue and expenditure overview



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## Fort Getty Master Plan 1994

TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
RHODE ISLAND

### FORT GETTY PARK MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 1994

#### PREPARED BY:

The Fort Getty Reuse Committee:  
Matthew Bolles, Chairman  
George Meservy, Secretary  
Nick Robertson, Town Council  
William Bargin  
Alena Caldarone  
Jim McLoughlin  
J. Christopher Powell  
David Pritchard  
Nick Roach  
Robert Trout  
Eandy Tyson  
Ellen Wright

### Goals of the Master Plan:

- Provide for increased Resident use of Ft. Getty park;
- Improve public access to park amenities for residents and take steps to address perceptual problems which limit its use by residents during the camping season;
- Develop additional active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and upgrade camping facilities and amenities which will enhance the appeal of the park for campers and other visitors;
- Develop annual events which will encourage Jamestown residents to utilize the park;
- Achieve a continued positive financial impact to the Town while planning for ongoing improvements and maintenance.

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## 2004 Resident Survey

### Questions on current use, park access, finance/revenue as well as future use of the park

#### Challenges to use of Ft. Getty Park:

1. Feeling of intrusion on other park uses
2. Inadequate facilities
3. Lack of parking
4. Primarily use state parks

#### Future Camping Use:

1. Campground remain the same (41%)
2. Campground be reduced in size (19%)
3. Campground eliminated (30%)
4. Not sure (11%)

### Do you support user fees to pay for improvements to Fort Getty?

1. yes (76%)
2. no (24%)

#### Jamestown Resident Priorities - amenities

1. Upgrade Restrooms
2. Recreational Fishing Pier (Improve)
3. Create Open Space
4. Upgrade Pavilion
5. Sailing School
6. Buffer Camping Area with Landscaping
7. Upgrade Parking Facilities
8. Clambake Facility
9. Increased Small Boat Storage Facility

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# Fort Getty Master Plan 2005

## Ft. Getty Master Plan



### Committee Members:

Mary Moughan, Chair, Resident at Large  
 Pat Bolger, Conservation Commission  
 Matt Bolger, Parks and Recreation Director  
 Lisa Royer, Town Planner  
 Dick Condon/James Archibald, Harbor Management Commission  
 Betty Hubbard, Planning Commission  
 William Marsh, Buildings and Facilities Committee

With assistance from:  
 Ashley Hahn, Planning Intern

Approved by Ft. Getty Committee May 2, 2005  
 Approved by Town Council May 9, 2005

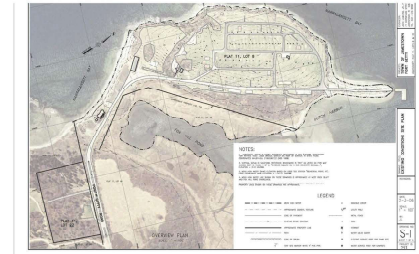
### Three goals of the Master Plan:

- 1) Enhance Residents' use of the park;
- 2) Develop additional (and improve existing) water-dependent and water-enhanced active and passive recreation opportunities;
- 3) Ensure revenues for ongoing maintenance and improvements.

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# Fort Getty Land Use Plan

- 3/2011 - Town hired Landworks Collaborative
- 5/19/2011 - Facilitated Workshop held at Lawn Avenue School. 125 attended, 111 participated



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# 2011 Facilitated Workshop

## Ft. Getty Town Park Use Elements

### Ranked by Preference

From May 19, 2011

Ft. Getty Workshop

On May 19, 2011 the Jamestown Town Council held a public facilitated workshop. This workshop gauged public opinion on:

- 1) The best use(s) for Ft. Getty Town Park.
- 2) Whether revenue generation should be integral to park operation.
- 3) Whether to keep, eliminate or reduce the size of the RV Park.

Passive Recreation/Open Space	87
Sailing Center	57
Restrooms - Year Round	44
Overlooks/Viewing Bench	35
Walking/Running Trail - Fenced	31
Trail System	31
Tent Camping	31
Improve Beaches/More Beaches	29
Marine Education/Recreation Center	28
Adaptive Reuse of Existing Battery/Historic Feature	28
Amphitheater	27
Historical Interpretive Signage	15
Commercial Fishing Access	13
Nature Preserve	14
Picnic Areas	14
Pier Improvements	12
Farmers Market	9
Smaller Pavilion	8
Affordable Housing	6
Boat Trailer Parking	6
Water Taxi for Bay Island Park System	5
Floating Touch and Go Dock	4
Bike Trail	3
Fenced Dog Park	2
Public Swimming Pool - Year Round	1
Kayak Rental	1
Snack Bar	1
Ice Rink	1
Upgrading Outfalls	1
Aquaculture	1
Permeable Parking Surface	1

## What should Jamestown do with the RV Park?

Eliminate RV Park	63
Reduce size of RV Park	32
Keep RV Park	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>

## Should Park Uses Generate Revenue or Not?

Revenue Neutral	65
Revenue Producing	44
Cost to the Town, but Services Provided	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>

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# Misc. Ft Getty planning studies/ improvements

- 2006 - Land Use Plan and Full Ground/Topo Survey
- 2010 - Report to TC on Ft Getty Planning Process
- 2011 - Rebuild Pavilion
- 2013 - Pavilion Landscaping
- 2015 - Story Circle built
- 2018 - Ft Getty Design Study (Gatehouse/Bathroom)
- 2023 - Community Survey

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## CURRENT USAGE

### PARK AREAS

- Gatehouse
- Lower Bathrooms
- Upper Bathrooms
- Lower Tent Sites
- Upper Tent Sites
- Beaches
- Pavilion
- Open Spaces
- Nature Trails
- RV Sites
- Boat Sites
- CISF - Sailing School
- Boat Ramp
- Kayak Rack
- Fishing Pier
- Out hauls

Fort Getty Gatehouse



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## Facilities



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## Facilities



Upper Bathrooms



Pavilion Bathrooms



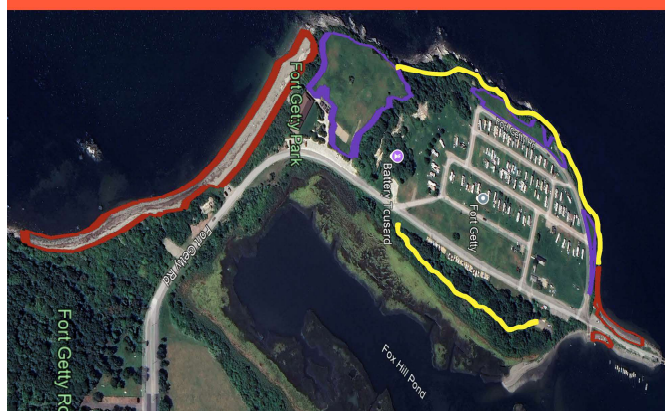
Lower Bathrooms



Gatehouse

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## Public Space

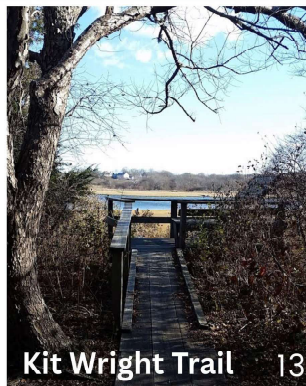


- Trails
- Open Space
- Beaches

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# Public Space



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# Pavilion



Pavilion Overflow Parking

Pavilion Parking

Pavilion

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# Pavilion

BY THE NUMBERS - 2024

Season Dates - May 20th - October 14th

Events Booked - 61

- 21 Non-Resident
- 24 Resident
- 7 Town
- 5 Community Group
- 4 Canceled

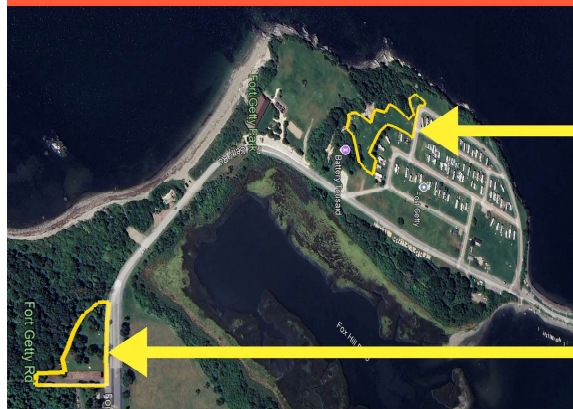
Programs - 182 hours

- 60 hrs of Senior programs
- 122 hrs of Adult programs



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# Tent Sites



Upper Tent Sites

Lower Tent Sites

16



# Tent Sites

BY THE NUMBERS - 2024

## 26 Tent Sites

- 15 in the Upper Tent Sites
- 11 in the Lower Tent Sites

## Tent Camping Season

- May 16<sup>th</sup> - September 9th

## 116 Bookable Nights (3,016 for 26 sites)

- Total Nights Booked - 1150
- 119 Bookings in May
- 281 Bookings in June
- 317 Bookings in July
- 361 Bookings in August
- 72 Bookings in September



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# RV Sites



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# RVs

By the numbers

- 83 Sites -Only 75 RV Sites Rented
- 9 Jamestown Residents
- 66 Non-Residents
- \$5,750 per season (residents)
- \$6,250 per season (non-resident)

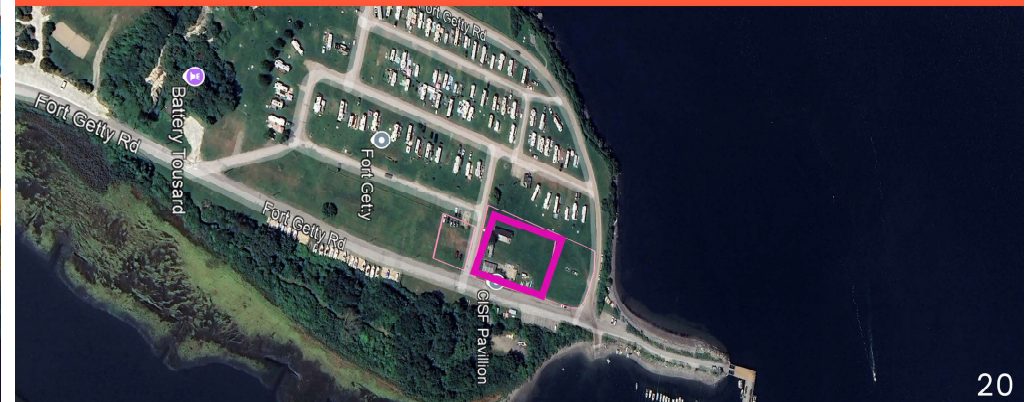
## Season Length

- May 16th - September 22nd  
(129 days)



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# Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation



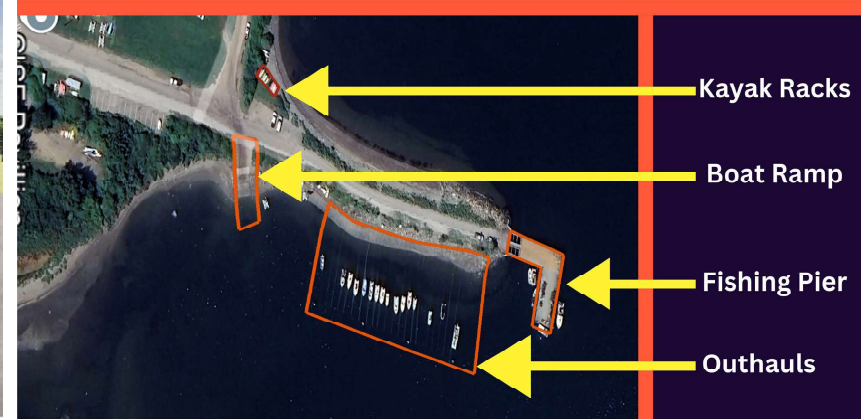
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## Boat Ramp - Fishing Pier - Outhauls



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### Boat Ramp Boat Parking Fishing Pier Outhauls

BY THE NUMBERS - 2024

26 Seasonal Boat Sites

24 sites booked

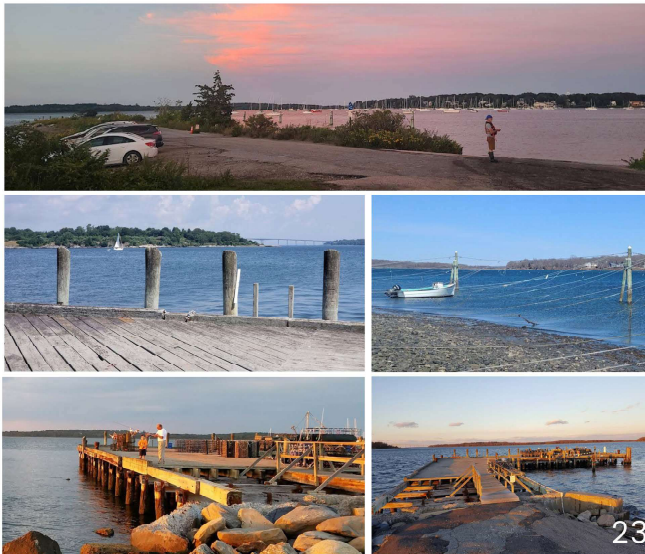
5 - Residents

19 - Non-residents

7 - Pier Permits

22 - Outhauls

60 - Kayak Rack Spots



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## Total Expenditures

### Staffing

- Payroll - \$62,655
- Clerical Staff - \$12,000
- Pavilion Staff - \$8,700
- Maintenance Staff - \$20,000
  - TOTAL = \$103,355

### Supplies

- Ice (for ice sales) - \$3,500
- Various Supplies (can fluctuate year to year) - \$2,000
  - Total = \$5,500

### Utilities

- Propane (hot water) - \$1,500
- Septic Pumping - \$9,700
- Trash Removal - \$7,600
- Electricity - \$29,650
- Water - \$13,950
- Electrical Repairs - \$3,900
  - TOTAL = \$66,300

Total Expenses = \$175,155

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# Total Revenues

- Campground RV - \$480,640
  - RV Waitlist - \$900
  - Dump Station (septic tank) - \$200
  - Tent Site Reservations - \$51,735
  - Ice Sales - \$5,807
  - Seasonal Boat Sites - \$17,675
  - Daily Entry - \$27,640
  - Non-Resident Ft Getty Pass - \$8,125
    - Total Campground = \$592,722
  - Pavilion Rentals - \$47,150
  - Pier Permits - \$3,872
  - Outhauls - \$12,100
    - Total Other - \$63,122
- Total Fort Getty Revenue - \$655,844
- Net Revenue - \$480,689