

Calvert County
FY 2019
Program Open Space Annual Program

Adopted June 19, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The *Program Open Space Annual Program* must be submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning in order for local governments to be eligible for state funding for acquisition and development of recreation land. Upon review, the *Annual Program* becomes the basis for total allocations to each of the local governments. The State determines the amount of funding based upon a formula developed for the apportionment of the annual appropriations for Program Open Space. A municipality may submit its annual program through the county in which it is located. The *Annual Program* must be consistent with the county's *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*.

CALVERT COUNTY RECREATION ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, adopted 2004 and amended 2010, sets forth four broad objectives in the Recreation section:

- Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County.
- Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.

The Comprehensive Plan sets forth an Action Plan. A major objective of the Action Plan is to establish a series of recreation and open space sites, primarily along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River, each designed to highlight a distinctive feature of Calvert County's history, culture and geography.

The Calvert County Recreation Action Plan is designed to establish a comprehensive, county-wide, recreation network that will:

- provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for County residents,
- promote a strong tourism economy,
- protect and preserve unique natural, cultural and historic resources, and
- help direct growth toward designated growth areas in accordance with the Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

Taken as a whole, these sites will provide county residents with a wide range of recreational opportunities while helping to forge a sense of identity with the county and its traditions. These sites will also provide the basis for a tourism industry that is targeted toward tourists

who respect and enjoy the same qualities that have been identified by county residents as being important – “a rural atmosphere,” “a clean environment” & “closeness to water.”

A tourism industry based on these factors will not only help support and maintain these recreational sites but will provide jobs and business opportunities in tourism-related fields.

These primary sites are to be linked to Town Centers and to each other by a series of greenways. Types of greenways will vary widely. Some will be designated scenic roadways, with or without adjacent bikeways. Others will be off-road trails for horseback riding, bicycling, hiking or a combination of two or more. Still others will be waterway corridors, providing opportunities for boating from one destination to another. Finally, there will be wildlife and scenic corridors.

The Town Centers are to serve as focal points for community-based recreation. Recreational sites and facilities will not only help shape and define the character of the Town Centers but they will also help attract new residents to towns instead of out into the countryside. They will also make recreation more accessible to more people, particularly young people and the elderly who may not have convenient access to cars. Because Town Centers are linked to county-wide parks by way of greenways, they will serve as “gateways” to county parks, providing a selection of supporting services.

This Action Plan is part of a broader set of visions for the county. It is designed to build on the unique features of this county, its characteristic landscape, and its history. Finally, it is designed to help strengthen and reinforce the recreational amenities that are already here.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* or identified as potential acquisition or development projects by the Board of County Commissioners. They have not necessarily obtained final approval from the Board. Projects specifically requested by municipalities are also listed.

For projects other than those already listed in the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* or requested by a municipality, the selection process begins when any individual or organization proposes a project for consideration. The proposal is forwarded to an in-house Open Space Committee composed of the Capital Projects Analyst and representatives from the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Department of General Services, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Planning & Zoning. The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether or not the project is consistent with criteria listed in the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*. The committee presents its findings to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Listing a project in the Annual Program is a first step toward implementing a project and is a requirement for using Program Open Space funding. Title 3, §3-205 of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code specifies that certain types of projects may not be constructed or authorized in the local jurisdiction until approved by the planning commission as consistent with the plan (comprehensive plan) or geographic sections of the local jurisdiction. Types of public projects that must be reviewed include squares, parks, and open

spaces. Each year, the Calvert County Planning Commission reviews such projects in the six-year Calvert County Capital Improvements Plan for consistency with the *Calvert County Comprehensive Plan*.

FY 2019 Annual Program									
PROPOSED BUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR ACQUISITION									
SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE			SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY (\$)				
		EXISTING	ULTIMATE	PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	A-24 CALVERT COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	125,000	0	25,000		
CALVERT	A-26 HARRIET E. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER (permanent location)	0	27	27	1,800,000	1,300,000	500,000		
CALVERT	A-27 GATEWOOD PRESERVE	0	48	48	997,500	200,000	300,000		497,500

Highlight indicates new project for the FY 2019 Annual Program.

FY 2019 Annual Program

PROPOSED UNBUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR ACQUISITION

SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE			SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY (\$)				
		EXISTING	ULTIMATE	PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	A-1 CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH SITES	6	8	2	150,000	75,000	75,000		
CALVERT	A-2 FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK ADDITION	560	630	70	1,400,000	0	1,400,000		
CALVERT	A-3 PATUXENT WATERFRONT PARK	0	60	60	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		
CALVERT	A-4 WAR OF 1812 STAR-SPANGLED TRAIL	0	32	32	400,000	100,000	100,000		200,000
CALVERT	A-5 PARKERS CREEK WATERSHED	3000	Not identified	Not identified					
CALVERT	A-6 HUNTINGTOWN TOWN CENTER PARK	0	6	6	250,000	125,000	125,000		
CALVERT	A-7 HALLOWING POINT PARK	81	121	40	600,000	300,000	300,000		
CALVERT	A-8 HUNTINGTOWN DISTRICT PARK	0	100	100	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		
CALVERT	A-9 NORTHEAST SECTOR PARK	0	100	100	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		
CALVERT	A-10 ST. LEONARD DISTRICT PARK	0	100	100	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		
CALVERT	A-11 DUNKIRK COMMUNITY CENTER	0	1	1	1,000,000	500,000	500,000		
CALVERT	A-16 CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM ADDITION	10	11.1	1.1	750,000	0	150,000		600,000
CALVERT	A-17 BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM	206	212	6.2	300,000	250,000			50,000
CALVERT	A-18 BALTIMORE & DRUM POINT RAILROAD TRAIL	0.6	210	209±					
CALVERT	A-19 PARKS WITH WATER ACCESS	1000+	Not identified	Not identified					
CALVERT	A-21 SHARED USED TRAILS	4	Not identified	Not identified					
CALVERT	A-22 NATURAL RESOURCES EXPANDED PROTECTION	1500+	Not identified	200+					
CALVERT	A-28 UPPER HELLEN CREEK WATERSHED	0	200+	200+					

Highlight indicates new project for the FY 2019 Annual Program.

PROJECTS REQUESTED BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR ACQUISITION									
SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE			SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY (\$)				
		EXISTING	ULTIMATE	PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	A-12 CHESAPEAKE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY	.5 mile	7.7 miles	Not identified					
CALVERT	A-13 NORTH BEACH 2 ND & GREENWOOD POCKET PARK	0	0.125	0.125	120,000				
CALVERT	A-14 NORTH BEACH TOWN PARK	1.45	1.75+	.30	250,000		250,000		
CALVERT	A-15 NORTH BEACH NATURE TRAIL (A & B) SYSTEM	1.5	18.215	19.71	75,000	75,000			
CALVERT	A-20 NORTH BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN	0	1	1	50,000	25,000		25,000	
CALVERT	A-23 OLD BAYSIDE ROAD TRAIL	0	Not identified	Not identified					
CALVERT	A-25 NORTH BEACH CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH	0	2	Not identified					

Highlight indicates new project for the FY 2019 Annual Program.

FY 2019 Annual Program APPROVED BUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT									
SPONSOR	NAME OF RECREATION AREA TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	ACREAGE		SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY) \$					
		PROJECT		TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS	
CALVERT	D-2 HALLOWING POINT DISTRICT PARK (Acreage, County owns 82 & leases 20)	102 (82+20)		184,700	184,700				
CALVERT	D-3 DUNKIRK DISTRICT PARK	81		52,705	52,705				
CALVERT	D-4 COVE POINT DISTRICT PARK & FUTURE PARK IN LUSBY, MD	267		550,000	550,000				
CALVERT	D-5 SOLOMONS TOWN CENTER PARK	20		128,800	128,800				
CALVERT	D-8 BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM	206		195,000	67,000				128,000
CALVERT	D-11 CHESAPEAKE HILLS GOLF COURSE	149		634,100	634,100				
CALVERT	D-14 SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP	4.5		1,002,700	60,000				884,000*
CALVERT	D-15 KINGS LANDING PARK	260		128,200	128,200				
CALVERT	D-16 BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP NATURE CENTER	100		357,800	357,800				

CALVERT	D-18 WARD FARM RECREATION AND NATURE PARK	209	6,921,551	6,921,551			5,421,551
CALVERT	D-25 FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK	1.5	195,000	195,000			

* State funding from the Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund, ** State zero interest loan

PROPOSED UNBUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT							
CALVERT	D-1 KING MEMORIAL PARK	7					
CALVERT	D-2 HALLOWING POINT DISTRICT PARK	102	3,109,000	3,109,000	307,000		
CALVERT	D-3 DUNKIRK DISTRICT PARK	81	2,742,000	2,742,000			
CALVERT	D-4 COVE POINT DISTRICT PARK & FUTURE PARK IN LUSBY, MD	267	750,000	750,000			
CALVERT	D-5 SOLOMONS TOWN CENTER PARK	20					
CALVERT	D-7 HARRIET E. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER (permanent location)	27	8,082,000	8,082,000			
CALVERT	D-8 BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM	206	300,000	200,000			100,000
CALVERT	D-9 BREEZY POINT BEACH PARK AND CAMPGROUND	13					
CALVERT	D-10 B CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY TRAIL	Not identified					
CALVERT	D-11 CHESAPEAKE HILLS GOLF COURSE	149	6,123,100	6,123,100			
CALVERT	D-12 BALTIMORE & DRUM POINT RAILROAD TRAIL (PRINCE FREDERICK PORTION)	11					
CALVERT	D-13 NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER	3					
CALVERT	D-14 SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP	4.5					
CALVERT	D-15 KINGS LANDING PARK	260	335,000	310,000			25,000
CALVERT	D-16 BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP NATURE CENTER	100	480,000	480,000			
CALVERT	D-18 WARD FARM RECREATION AND NATURE PARK	209	3,900,000	3,900,000			
CALVERT	D-22 SHARED USE, NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS COUNTY-WIDE	Not identified					
CALVERT	D-23 FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK	560	185,000	135,000			50,000
CALVERT	D-27 WATER ACCESS-BOATING, FISHING, AND CRABBING	Not identified					
CALVERT	D-29 MAIN STREET GREENSPACE						
CALVERT	D-30 GATEWOOD PRESERVE	48					
CALVERT	D-31 UPPER HELLEN CREEK WATERSHED	200+					
CALVERT	D-32 KING CALVERT RURAL LEGACY	65					

Highlight indicates new project for the FY 2019 Annual Program.

PROJECTS REQUESTED BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT						
SPONSOR	NAME OF RECREATION AREA TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	ACREAGE	SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY) \$			
		PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS
CALVERT	D-10 A FISHING CREEK PARK AND CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY TRAIL	104	1,900,000	950,000*		950,000
CALVERT	D-19 WETLANDS WILDLIFE OVERLOOK PARK	18±				
CALVERT	D-20 NORTH BEACH 2 ND AND GREENWOOD POCKET PARK	0.125				
CALVERT	D-21 SUNRISE GARDEN	0.70				
CALVERT	D-24 OLD BAYSIDE ROAD TRAIL PHASE I PHASE II	0.86 2	412,500 825,000			
CALVERT	D-26 NORTH BEACH CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH	Not identified				
CALVERT	D-33 CHESAPEAKE BEACH PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS	Not identified				
CALVERT	D-34 CHESAPEAKE BEACH SENIOR PLAYGROUNDS	Not identified				

* Funding: 75% cash and 25% in-kind (\$712,500 cash plus \$237,500 in-kind).

Highlight indicates new project for the FY 2019 Annual Program.

FY 2019 ACQUISITION PROJECTS

A-1 Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites

The County is actively looking for additional public launch sites for canoes, kayaks, and other hand carried boats along the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River and County creeks. This was one of the goals specifically identified in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. Each site will be designed to provide parking space for a limited number of cars and a launching area. These types of small craft can launch from sites on the Patuxent River at Kings Landing Park, Nan's Cove, and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Small craft can launch onto the Chesapeake Bay from Breezy Point Beach Park, Bay Front Park in the Town of Chesapeake Beach, and at the beach in the Town of North Beach. In addition, canoes and kayaks can launch at public boat ramps at Solomons, Hallowing Point, and Chesapeake Beach.

A-2 Flag Ponds Nature Park Addition

This property, which contains approximately 70 acres, is the single remaining parcel to fulfill the preservation goal of the park which now contains 560 acres of upland hardwood, swamp, marsh and beach habitats. The acquisition of the Wright property could maintain the natural visual integrity along MD 2/4 at the park's entrance. It also provides opportunity for additional trails.

A-3 Patuxent Waterfront Park

Public access to the Patuxent River is limited to Kings Landing Park and Solomons. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum provides views of the river but very limited access. In addition to one or more small canoe launching sites, a riverfront park could combine water access and active recreational facilities with historical, cultural and/or natural features.

A-4 War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner Trail

This trail would provide access to important War of 1812 sites in the County as well as connect several existing public recreational sites, including Flag Ponds Nature Park, Cove Point Park, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Annmarie Garden and Calvert Marine Museum. The project includes acquisition of a site near or at the location of the old St. Leonard Town peninsula where, during the summer of 1814, two Jeffersonian gunboats serving in Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake flotilla were scuttled in St. Leonard Creek.

A-5 Parkers Creek Watershed

The project to acquire and protect this unique watershed has been the result of the sustained and ongoing efforts of a public-private partnership including the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, Calvert County and private property owners. Over 4,000 acres (more than 50% of the land area of the watershed) have been preserved through actions taken by these partners. Three-quarters of the preserved land is available for public access and includes 19 miles of hiking trails.

A-6 Huntingtown Town Center Park

A Town Center park, called for in the Huntingtown Master Plan, would provide a playground in addition to a lake, trail system, tennis courts and an all-purpose playing field.

A-7 Hallowing Point Park

The purchase of property will add 40 acres to an existing 81-acre district park and enable the County to meet a strong demand for additional athletic fields. Property has also been identified to re-route the park exit at busy times to relieve traffic on Route 231.

A-8 Huntingtown District Park

The County is actively seeking property in the vicinity of Huntingtown to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

A-9 Northeast Sector Park

The County is seeking property in the vicinity of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach to build a park that will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

A-10 St. Leonard District Park

The County is actively seeking property in the vicinity of St. Leonard to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

A-11 Dunkirk Community Center

A community center similar to the Dowell House in St. Leonard is needed for community meetings and activities in Dunkirk.

A-12 Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way

The Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way has the potential of becoming a pedestrian/bicycle/horseback riding trail that would provide recreation to area residents and promote tourism. The total length of the corridor is approximately 7.7 miles. The off-road portion of the right-of-way (approximately 3.4 miles) involves 18 separate parcels. In May, 1998, the County acquired a 104-acre tract that includes a portion of the right-of-way through a combination of Bay Access funds, Critical Area mitigation funds and local side POS funds. The Town of Chesapeake Beach has completed the first segment of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail and may in the future extend it further along the old railway right-of-way to include a nature trail to the back of Richfield Station creating a walking loop. The nature trail will be left relatively undisturbed and unimproved. The County would be responsible for land acquisition and development outside the Chesapeake Beach town boundary.

A-13 North Beach 2nd & Greenwood Pocket Park

The Town of North Beach seeks to acquire and develop a 5,898-square foot corner lot adjacent to the San Francisco community for a play area for children. The development plan would include such amenities as age appropriate playground equipment, water fountain, and park benches. Program Open Space funds will be requested to assist with the acquisition and development of the park.

A-14 North Beach Town Park

North Beach is seeking additional land for a Town Park, either adjacent to Callis Memorial Park or in a centralized location within town. The park would include benches, chairs, chess/checker tables and other passive recreational amenities.

A-15 North Beach Nature Trail (A & B) System

Section A plan for the Trail is to extend the observation area of the overlook to the Burnt Oaks community by connecting the overlook and Frederick Avenue through a recently acquired parcel of land. Section B plan is to have a Trail System from North Beach to Rose Haven in Anne Arundel County. The first part of Section B would be pedestrian biker pathway in North Beach beginning at 9th Street and Bay Avenue and extending northerly for 0.4 mile to the Anne Arundel County line. This part would include a segment adjacent to the wetlands on the 15-acre Walton Parcel recently acquired by the Town. The continuation of the trail would be an extension of the in-town trail from the Town line to Rose Haven. This part beyond the North Beach line in Anne Arundel County is in the planning stages and will require extensive coordination with the Rose Haven, Holland Point Citizen Association, Anne Arundel County, and Maryland State Highway Administration representatives.

A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition

The Calvert Marine Museum established the goal of owning all of the property between the museum and the Beacon Marina. At this point, only this property remains in private hands and is completely surrounded by museum property. Because of its contiguous waterfront, it is a critical component of the museum's long range plans. This project would add 1.10 acres of waterfront land and a pier to the museum campus. The additional land will allow museum to add vital waterfront development such as installing a marine railway for use by the historic bugeye, *Wm. B. Tennison* and the skipjack, *Dee of St. Mary's*, extending the boardwalk along the waterfront, and increase traditional water-based activities. Because the water is deeper in front of this property and the museum-owned property on the other side, the museum would be able to invite larger vessels to the museum and expand its role as a host to visiting vessels. It would also enable the museum to create an open greenspace from Lore Road to the water to be used for museum events.

A-17 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

In order to provide 24 hour on-site presence on the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm to ensure protection of livestock, a residence will be required. One option is to renovate the George Rice house. Other options would be to purchase adjacent properties, such as the original Gray family residence, a barn and outbuildings.

A-18 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail

The path of the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad runs the entire length of Calvert County, from Owings to Drum Point. Most of the railroad's 34 miles is still visible. The challenge is that the company went defunct over a century ago and the right-of-way is not owned by a single entity. This project is to acquire portions of the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad, with a special focus on the portion that runs through Prince Frederick, and develop it as a pedestrian/bicycle trail. Portions of the B&DPRR Trail could be used for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail (Project A-4).

A-19 Parks with Water Access

Public access to the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River and other water bodies within Calvert County is limited to beaches and parks in the Towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, Breezy Point Beach Park, Flag Ponds Nature Park, and Calvert Cliffs State Park.

The County is seeking new sites to provide a range of public access opportunities: scenic views of the water, boat and fishing access, and beach combing opportunities, in addition to making improvements to existing facilities to increase public access to water resources.

A-20 North Beach Community Garden

The Town of North Beach is seeking additional land for a community garden. The Town would like to provide a community garden for those who do not have access to gardening or for anyone with an interest in community gardening. A shared garden can provide a healthy outdoor recreation for all ages, promote a sense of community, and provide healthy food.

A-21 Shared Use Trails

The County is actively looking for public routes for a network of shared use trails. These trails could be either natural surface or paved, and would be designed to accommodate a mix of hikers, bikers, and/or equestrians.

A-22 Natural Resources Expanded Protection

Acquisition of lands to support the conservation and stewardship of our natural heritage would also expand the capacity to offer compatible outdoor recreation opportunities at existing county owned and managed facilities. Areas of special interest include properties adjacent to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Kings Landing Park, and Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park. Other acquisitions are identified in A-2, Flag Ponds Nature Park, A-17, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, and A-27, Gatewood Preserve.

A-23 Old Bayside Road Trail

A bike path and pedestrian walkway/sidewalk from Beach Elementary along the county maintained Old Bayside Road. The first segment is anticipated to go along the north side of the road approximately 1,500 linear feet from the school to just south of “E” Street and across from “F” Street with a long term goal of extending the trail another 3,500 +/- linear feet. This trail would access Calvert County’s Fishing Creek Park. This project is seen as a trail extension possibility for the school and south part of town to loop back into the county park and ultimately to the existing Railway Trail.

A-24 Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local land preservation and recreation plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest and Parks. The State is requiring the next Plan to be more detailed and statistically based. The Plan is to include a survey on the use of county parks and recreation facilities and programs and a level of service analysis that must include a *Proximity Analysis* and a *Park Equity Analysis*. The updated plan is nearing completion and is expected to be adopted in the spring of 2018. The next plan will be due in 2022.

A-25 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites

North Beach is actively looking for at least two public launch sites for canoes, kayaks, and other hand carried boats. Each site may be designed to provide parking space for a limited number of cars. Small craft can launch onto the Chesapeake Bay from the beach in the Town of North Beach, but a designated launch site is preferred so as not to interfere with designated and netted swimming areas.

A-26 Harriet E. Brown Community Center

A recreation center similar to the Northeast Center in Chesapeake Beach is needed to serve central Calvert County. On March 1, 2016, the County dedicated the interim Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick. The county purchased and renovated the former Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative office building to serve as an interim community center until the permanent center is built. This facility provides meeting and activity rooms for recreation programs and public use. It also houses Parks and Recreation's Central Area office and Therapeutic Recreation Services office. In 2017 the county identified a property on Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick to serve as the permanent site for the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center. The project area consists of approximately 27 acres including five parcels of property in a location that facilitates walkable access from several large residential areas.

A-27 Gatewood Preserve

This 48.35 acre parcel is the estate of the late Isabelle T. Gatewood, and placed into a family trust. In 2016, the County and family entered negotiations to purchase the property for public use. This acquisition is the central piece in this large area of preserved lands open to the public for appropriate outdoor recreational uses. It would connect the 5 miles of trails at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm to the 2 miles of trails at the BCCSS. The property has 2,714 feet of frontage on Battle Creek, one of the major tributaries of the Patuxent River with a wooden pier and scenic views of an undeveloped waterway. This project will provide important new outdoor recreation public water access opportunities for fishing and non-motorized boats. In addition, the acquisition would help create a longer network of hiking trails.

A-28 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed

The acquisition of the undeveloped forests of the Upper Hellen Creek Watershed in Lusby, MD have been identified as a priority to develop a natural trail system and associated facilities as the property will allow. This area is adjacent to property being donated to Calvert County.

FY 2019 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

D-1 King Memorial Park

A seven-acre site in the center of Prince Frederick Town Center was donated to the County by Mr. Boyd King in July, 1993. The property is located directly adjacent to the Courthouse and includes a portion of the former Baltimore & Drum Point railroad right-of-way that is proposed as an in-town trail. The park Master Plan includes hiking trails, a pavilion, a playground, and a formal garden immediately across from Linden, a historic house acquired by the County for public use through the use of POS funds. Proposed POS funds would be used to make improvements to the park.

D-2 Hallowing Point District Park

Hallowing Point Park is one of three district parks in the County. The County is in the process of implementing the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2015 construction was completed on a new playground and associated parking, and on parking lots to serve fields 3, 5 and 6. In FY17 parking and street lights were installed. In FY 2019 the planning will begin for the replacement of the restroom/snack stand complex.

D-3 Dunkirk District Park

Dunkirk District Park is one of three district parks in the county. The County is in the process of implementing the Dunkirk District Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2014, field lighting was installed on Field 6. In FY 2018, the County will begin preparation of construction drawings for new tennis courts. Also in FY18 playground at the snack stand complex will be replaced.

D-4 Cove Point District Park & Future Park in Lusby, MD

Cove Point District Park is one of three district parks in the county. Funding will be needed to implement the master plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2013, the tennis courts were renovated. Future improvements will include a skate park, roller hockey courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails. In FY 2019 the Cove Point Park Pool will be resurfaced. In FY 2018, it was determined to update the master plan to Cove Point District Park while creating a master plan for the newly acquired 179 acres off Cove Point Road west of Route 4. This regional master plan project will occur in FY 2019.

D-5 Solomons Town Center Park

Solomons Town Center Park was purchased from the Annmarie Garden Board of Trustees in FY 2004. This 20-acre parcel provides active recreation for residents in the southern end of the county. The park opened in spring 2012 and includes ballfields, a playground, two shelters, and a restroom facility. The playground and shelters were funded by a state Community Parks and Playgrounds grant. Field lighting was installed in FY 2014. The installation of field irrigation was completed FY 2018.

D-7 Harriet E. Brown Community Center (Permanent Location)

A recreation center similar to the Northeast Center in Chesapeake Beach is needed to serve central Calvert County. On March 1, 2016, the County dedicated the Harriet E. Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick. The County purchased and renovated the former Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative office building to serve as an interim community center until the permanent center is built. This facility provides meeting and activity rooms for recreation programs and public use. It also houses Parks and Recreation's Central Area office and Therapeutic Recreation Services office. In 2017 the county identified a property on Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick to serve as the permanent site for the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center. The project area consists of approximately 27 acres including five parcels of property in a location that facilitates walkable access from several large residential areas.

D-8 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Rural Legacy funds were used to acquire the Biscoe Gray property in 2002. This 206-acre site is part of a 1,500 acre greenbelt along Battle Creek and includes farm fields and barns representing Calvert's longstanding farming tradition. In 2010 a master plan was adopted for the 196-acre portion of the property between the county road and Battle Creek. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm is to be a "living laboratory to explore, understand, and experience Calvert County Agricultural practices and lifeways throughout its history..." Recent improvements include stabilization of the George E. Rice house and rehabilitation of the homestead's outbuildings; partial completion of the entry drive; development of interpretive signs and brochures; and installation of picnic tables and trail benches. Improvements to the natural surface trails, development of the Battle Creek boardwalk, and construction of barns and other farm buildings are required to complete the master plan. .

D-9 Breezy Point Beach Park and Campground

Breezy Point Park is approximately 13 acres in size and includes 2,000 feet of Bayfront beach with access to Plum Point Creek. In addition to the wide beach area, the property includes a fishing pier, bathhouse, 100 trailer sites, playground, volleyball court(s), snack/concession stand, and large shaded picnic area. Most of the planned major improvement projects have been completed. However, additional funding may be required in future years. In FY 2015, a new playground was installed in the campground. Future projects include construction of a new office, replacement/extension of the fishing pier, and the replacement of the sea wall in campground.

D-10 a Fishing Creek Park and the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail - Chesapeake Beach

Purchased through the joint efforts of the State and Calvert County, Fishing Creek Park contains 104 acres, which includes approximately 1,800 feet of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. This property presents an opportunity for the public to experience a unique hiking trail that combines the cultural heritage of the area with the natural beauty of Fishing Creek and adjoining tidal marsh. Additional opportunities exist to establish a public canoe launch site and to assist Beach Elementary School to enhance their environmental study area. In 2005, the Town of Chesapeake Beach was awarded a \$1.6 million T21 grant to develop a portion of the right-of-way that will connect two existing residential subdivisions to the center of town. The Town of Chesapeake Beach has completed the first segment of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail connecting the residential subdivisions of Richfield Station and Bayview Hills to the center of Town and allowing access to the natural beauty of Fishing Creek and the surrounding tidal marsh.

D-10 b Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail – Calvert County

This County project would be a continuation of the railway trail developed by the Town of Chesapeake Beach. See details in D-11 above and A-12 in the acquisition section.

D-11 Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

The County took ownership of the 149-acre Chesapeake Hills Golf Course in Fall 2008 (\$3,019,356 County funds). Several improvements were undertaken in FY 2010 including rehabilitation of the clubhouse exterior, and improvements to the golf course. The County is in the process of implementing the master plan for the golf course. Construction of a new maintenance facility was completed

in FY 2012. In FY 2014 the installation of a pump station and new golf course irrigation project was completed. In FY 2016, the hole #2 green was renovated. In FY 2017, the course bunkers were renovated. In FY18 and 19 all fairways will be sprigged with Bermuda grass. Future improvements include renovation of tees, renovation of the driving range, course drainage improvements, and construction of a new clubhouse.

D-12 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail

The County government owns the portion of the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad that crosses King Memorial Park in Prince Frederick (approximately 525 linear feet). As other portions of the railroad bed in Prince Frederick are acquired, develop these as a pedestrian/bicycle trail from north of Calvert Memorial Hospital, behind the Fox Run Shopping Center, through the woods along Armory Road, across Main Street, to King Memorial Park.

D-13 Northeast Community Center

Northeast Community Center, located in the Town of Chesapeake Beach, is designed to serve the entire Northeast Sector of the county. Numerous recreational programs are conducted at the center and it is heavily used by the community for community events and private events and meetings. In FY 2012, the center's gymnasium floor was replaced. In FY 2016, the facility metal roof was replaced.

D-14 Solomons Boat Ramp

The renovation of Solomons Boat Ramp will begin in FY2019, funded through State and Federal waterway funds. The restrooms need renovation and could be upgraded with energy and water saving devices. In anticipation of a change in operations, a facility for collecting ramp fees and providing a bait and tackle shop will be required. The parking lot will need to be repaved within the next five years.

D-15 Kings Landing Park

Kings Landing Park has a wide range of amenities that have a variety of needs to better serve the public. Tom Wisner Hall is used throughout the year for meetings, weddings receptions, etc. However, there is no defined parking to support these activities. This project will provide parking for approximately 100 vehicles. Some outdoor lighting is planned for safety during night-time activities. This parking must be compatible with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and has to be made of pervious materials. Seven cabins remain from when the park was the summer camp site for the Baltimore YMCA. Grant funds were received in FY2014 and FY 2016 to rehabilitate the cabins for overnight camping cabins, classrooms for interpretive programs, and day-use shelters. In FY 2007, POS funding was used to construct a 150' by 300' ring for casual riding and equestrian shows. Associated with the ring was the construction of a 12' by 16' roofed judges' stand with electric service. Current usage of the ring is low, yet the surrounding area is very popular as a youth group camping area. Overall, a new management and/or strategic plan is needed; the current plan is from 1990 and has many actions that are not relevant to the current park.

D-16 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

The Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center serves as the headquarters for the Natural Resources Division, as well as a Visitor Center for the Sanctuary. The visitor reception area was renovated to better serve the public. Additional space is needed to create two office spaces for nature center staff and volunteers. Storm water management and erosion from the drive and parking are in need of improvement. The existing interior and exterior exhibits, over 10 years old, need to be replaced and/or renovated to maintain and further the mission of the Natural Resources Division. The construction and renovations of the new animal display exhibits have been ongoing. New exhibits will entice and educate visitors as well as serve the many school groups that come to the facility. Exterior signage and trail improvements, including repairs to the boardwalk and development of an ADA compliant trail, will better serve the diverse audiences visiting the swamp.

D-18 Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

In FY 2013, the County purchased 209 acres adjacent to the Dunkirk Town Center to build additional playing fields a shared use natural trail system and associated facilities, restrooms, concession facilities, maintenance facilities and other facilities as the property will allow. In FY2015, a master plan for the development of the property was approved. Since the approval, the County has begun implementing the park's master plan. In FY17, the preparation of construction drawings for Phase 1 development will began which includes an entrance road, a multi-purpose field, parking, restroom and educational shelter. The purchase of the property was made possible through the Calvert County Youth Recreational Opportunities Fund. This special fund was created by the State Legislature in 2012 and is administered by the Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the revenue received from gaming in Chesapeake Beach and North Beach is returned to Calvert County to the purpose of increasing recreational opportunities for youth in the county.

D-19 Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park

The Town of North Beach has acquired two larger parcels on the west side of MD 261(Parcel 2 totals 14.539 acres, Parcel 3 totals 3.676 acres). The Town of North Beach is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore the wetlands. Once restored and properly managed, this resource would provide many benefits; including opportunities for recreation, wildlife observation, photography, flood control and other benefits derived from a restored and functioning wetlands area.

D-20 2nd & Greenwood Pocket Park

The Town of North Beach seeks to acquire and develop a 5,898-square foot corner lot adjacent to the San Francisco community for a play area for children. The development plan would include such amenities as age appropriate playground equipment, water fountain, and park benches. Program Open Space funds will be requested to assist with the acquisition and development of the park.

D-21 Sunrise Garden

The Town of North Beach developed a 30,000-square foot waterfront parcel (Block 2 Lots 7, 8, 9, 10) as a passive park with a sculpture garden and other amenities such as a fountain, benches and walkways. The public park provides views of the Chesapeake Bay. Program Open Space funds were requested to assist in the development of the park.

D-22 Shared Used, Natural Surface Trails County-wide

There is a need for shared use, natural surface trails to accommodate trail running, off-road bicycling, horseback riding, and/or hiking. Trail plans could be developed at existing facilities, such as Kings Landing Park, Flag Ponds Nature Park, and Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, as well as new locations for a trail connecting Prince Frederick to the Patuxent River.

D-23 Flag Ponds Nature Park

The Educational Building was constructed to provide spaces for environmental education programs. A comprehensive exhibit design plan and implementation budget would be developed for the construction of interpretive resources of Flag Ponds Nature Park. This plan would include existing and future facilities, as well as the natural features of the park that can add to the visitor experience. The scope of the project will include a series of interpretive exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the park, interpretive areas for group programs and lessons, and a small meeting room for workshops and trainings that are compatible with goals of the park and the Division of Natural Resources. Construction of a shelter at the beach and wayside stations along the trails would provide additional exhibit and interpretive spaces, located where the majority of visitors congregate.

D-24 Old Bayside Road Trail

A bike path and pedestrian walkway/sidewalk from Beach Elementary along the county maintained Old Bayside Road. The first segment is anticipated to go along the north side of the road approximately 1,500 linear feet from the school to just south of “E” Street and across from “F” Street with a long term goal of extending the trail another ±3,500 linear feet to the town limits at “I” street. This trail would access Calvert County’s Fishing Creek Park. This project is seen as a trail extension possibility for the school and south part of town to loop back into the county park and ultimately to the existing Railway Trail. The Town is currently in the design phase of the sidewalk project, funded 80% by the State of Maryland Safe Routes to School program. The Town seeks to allow safe access from Beach Elementary School to Bay Front via sidewalks and crosswalks.

D-26 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch

There is a need for a canoe and kayak launch in the Town of North Beach that is easily accessible and not in the designated swimming areas.

D-27 Water Access-Boating, Fishing and Crabbing

There is a need for adding, expanding and improving water access throughout the county. This project will pursue improvements for water access, including kayak/canoe launching, fishing and crabbing through repairs and renovation of existing facilities and installation and

construction of new structures to increase opportunities for water-based activities and access to the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River and its tributaries.

D-29 Main Street Green Space

In FY17 planning began for development of the Main Street Green Space. This portion of existing roadway is being donated to the county as part of the Maryland State Highway Administration's Main Street Project. SHA will grade the area to the county's specifications. Funds are anticipated in FY18 and FY19 to develop a sidewalk, recreational amenities and connections to the shopping center.

D-30 Gatewood Preserve

Projects include upgrades to the existing pier to improve ADA access and easier launching of kayaks, such as a floating dock, conversion of the residence into a nature center, with, offices, small classroom and public restrooms, The barns and animal shelters would be used to house equipment and possible domestic animals for interpretive programs.

D-31 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed

The undeveloped forests of the Upper Hellen Creek Watershed adjoining "off-site area a" have been identified as a priority acquisition to develop a natural trail system and associated facilities as the property will allow.

D-32 King Calvert Rural Legacy

Acquisition of this property was through the Rural Legacy Program. The wooded parcel abuts the southern border of Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park and includes a portion of Hall Creek and its floodplain. Natural surface trails and elevated boardwalks will provide access for public education and ecological monitoring projects. Efforts to create a nature play space and outdoor classroom would benefit the local community, schools, and the public.

D-33 Chesapeake Beach Public Boat Ramps

The Town owns six public boat ramps within the Kellam's Recreational Complex. The Town is in the process of renovating the piers and is seeking funds from the Department of Natural Resource's Waterway Improvement fund. The parking lot is scheduled to be repaved.

D-34 Chesapeake Beach Senior Playgrounds

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is seeking to include a senior playground concept in multiple areas of the Town allowing for residents to incorporate additional exercise into their activities. The concept is geared towards seniors, however, the playground could be used by all citizens.