

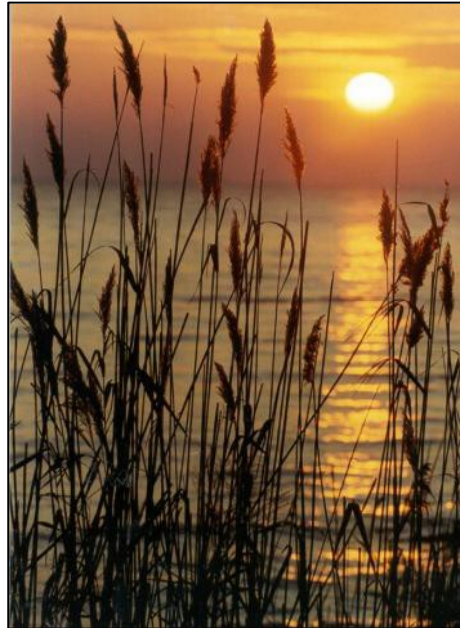
Calvert County
FY 2016 Program Open Space
Annual Program
Project Descriptions

Approved by the Calvert County
Board of County Commissioners
June 2, 2015

A-1 Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites

The County is actively looking for at least two additional public launch sites for canoes, kayaks, and other hand carried boats along County creeks. This is 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.

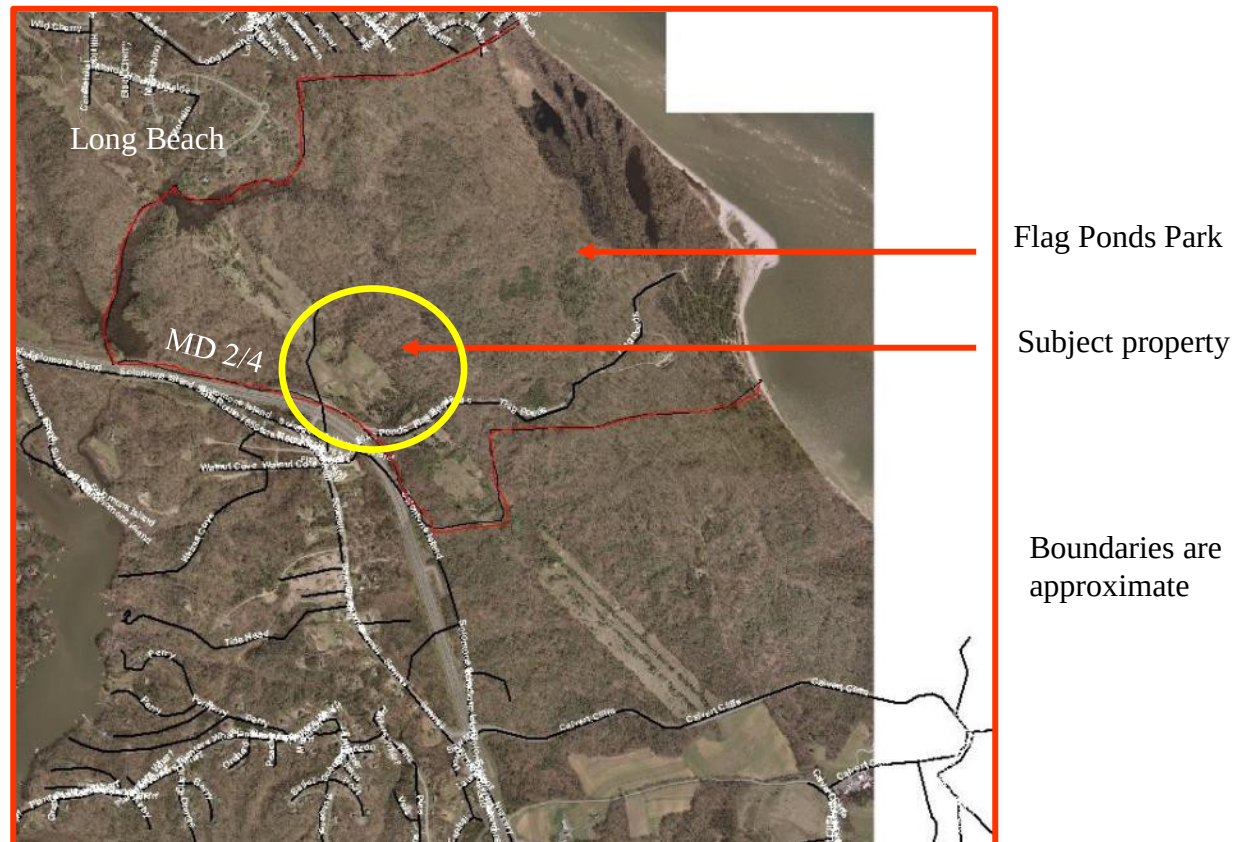
Canoeing and kayaking are low-impact recreational uses, which help promote the State's Planning Vision #1 on quality of life and sustainability. (Refer to the last page for a list of the State of Maryland's Planning Visions.)



A-2 Flag Ponds Nature Park

The Wright property contains 70 acres (more or less) and adjoins the northeast corner of Flag Ponds Nature Park. This is the last remaining parcel to fulfill the preservation goal of the park, which now contains 546 acres of upland hardwood, swamp, marsh and beach habitats. The acquisition of the Wright property would maintain the natural visual integrity along MD 2/4 at the park's entrance. It also provides opportunity for additional trails.

This project is consistent with Planning Vision #1, which states “A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment.”



A-3 Patuxent Waterfront Park

Calvert County is nearly surrounded by water but access to the water remains limited, despite substantial acquisitions by both the County and the State. Waterfront access, therefore, remains a priority.

There are several public access sites along the Chesapeake Bay, but public access to the Patuxent River is limited to Kings Landing Park, Hallowing Point, Nan's Cove, 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. Several of the other acquisition projects listed in this report could be accommodated on a waterfront site.

Acquisition of a waterfront site is consistent with Vision #9 "Environmental protection: Land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems, and living resources."



A-4 War of 1812 Star -Spangled Banner Trail

During the summer of 1814 two Jeffersonian gunboats serving in Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake flotilla were scuttled in St. Leonard Creek. The State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources identified a series of potential areas in which to expand Maryland's Greenway Network as early as 1995. One of these potential greenways was designated the Flag Ponds to Solomons Trail.

Part I of this hiking, biking, horseback riding trail system would connect Flag Ponds to Cove Point Park. Ideally, the trail would include several smaller loops to allow for trips of varying lengths.



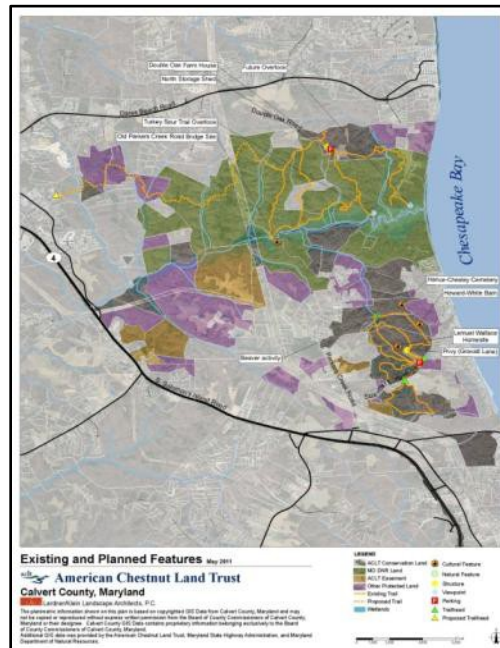
Part II would be a bikeway along shoulders on MD 765 to Dowell Road and then split into two trails, one along Dowell Road past Annmarie Garden and the other along H.G. Trueman and Solomons Island Road to the Calvert Marine Museum. The museum currently has a display depicting the route of the British up the Patuxent River to Washington D.C. where they burned the Capitol during the War of 1812. Other artifacts of the period are displayed in the museum.

This entire project would tie in with one of the product development initiatives of the Maryland Office of Tourism Development which calls for the establishment of a series of trails throughout the state that are relevant to the War of 1812. The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission is planning a multi-year cultural tourism and educational initiative. Governor Martin O'Malley established the Commission on September 8, 2007 by an Executive Order. More information on Maryland's commemoration of the War of 1812 is available from the Maryland Office of Tourism, www.visitmaryland.org and www.starspangled200.com.

For information on rail trails, explore www.railtrails.org. Creating an 1812 trail is an example of resource conservation and, therefore, consistent with the State's Vision #10.

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. Preservation of the watershed is consistent with Planning Vision #1 (stewardship), Vision #9 (resource conservation), and Vision #12 (implementation). In 2014, the Maryland General Assembly recognized the State-owned land in the Parkers Creek watershed as a designated State Wildlands.



Parkers Creek is a tidal stream, navigable by canoe and kayak, which traverses barrier beach, salt marsh, freshwater swamp, and thick forests, altogether a microcosm of the Chesapeake Bay itself. It is the last such stream still in its natural state on Maryland's western shore. While farmland bordered the stream in the 18th-19th centuries, thick forests now frame the marshland, giving the visitor a wilderness vista resembling that of the 17th century. The creek opens out to a wide beach that forms part of a 1 ¾-mile section of undeveloped scenic shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to the beach, the shoreline includes sections of the Calvert Cliffs which contain some of the most well-known and significant fossil deposits in the world, offering us a window into our ancient past, 12 to 18 million years ago.



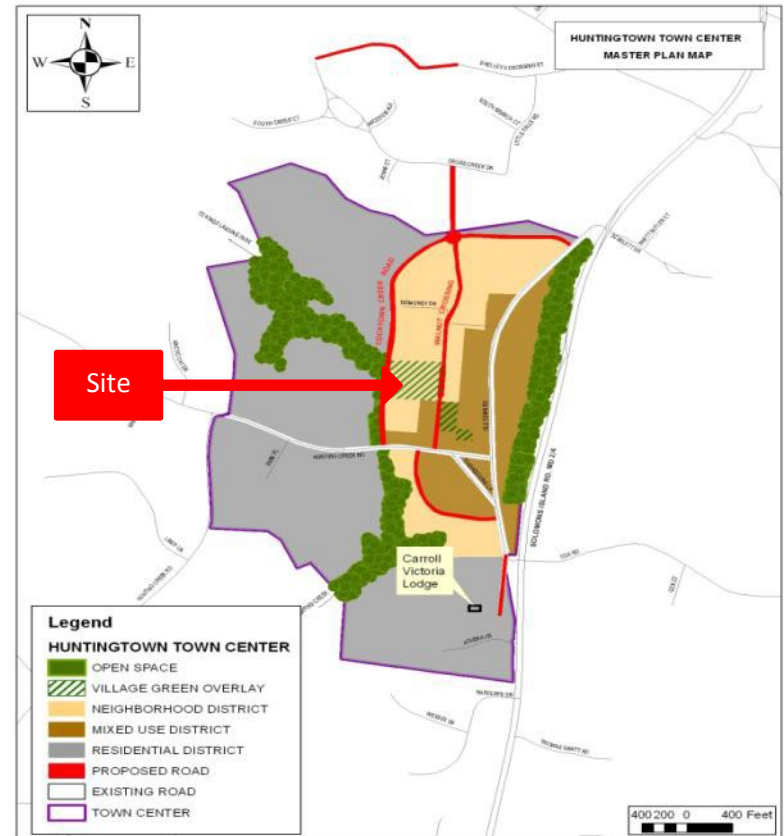
Parkers Creek Watershed

A-6 Acquisition of Town Center Park - Huntingtown

The Board of County Commissioners approved a master plan for Huntingtown Town Center in September, 1993. The Master Plan calls for linking the central gathering area of the town center to an open space corridor along Cocktown Creek through a series of linear parks. The largest park - which the Bowen property would become - would provide a playground in addition to a lake, trail system, tennis courts and an all purpose playing field.

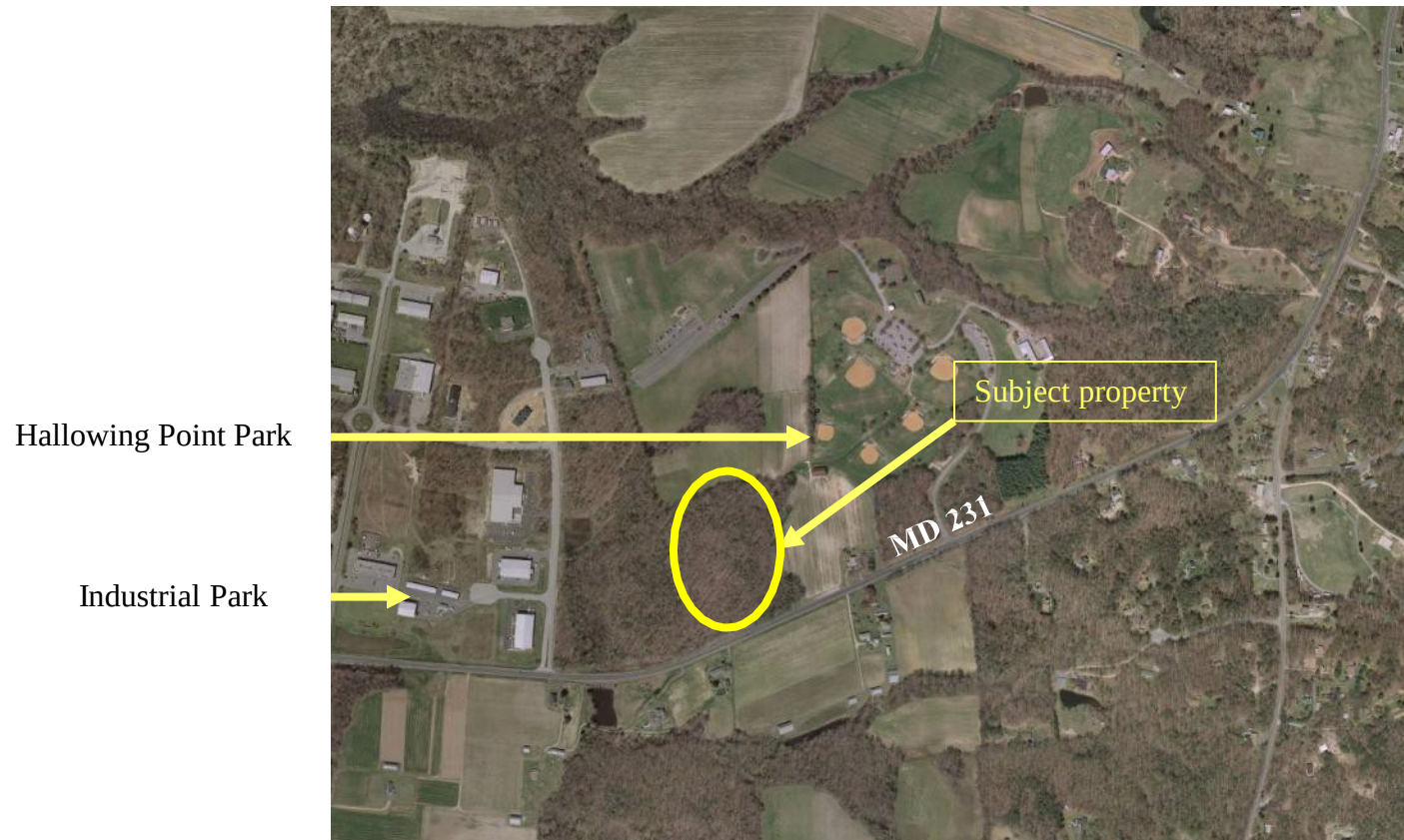
The Bowen property is located on the north side of Hunting Creek Road near the designated central gathering place in the Town Center. The total property is 5.26 acres but there is a potential to add to the park. The topography of the land would lend itself to the creation of a man-made lake, which would serve as a focal point in the park. There would be pedestrian paths connecting the park with the business area, as well as a trail system.

By providing recreation in an existing Town Center, this project is consistent with Planning Vision #3 which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers. The project is consistent with the goal listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan of providing a town park in or near each Town Center.



A-7 Hallowing Point Park Addition

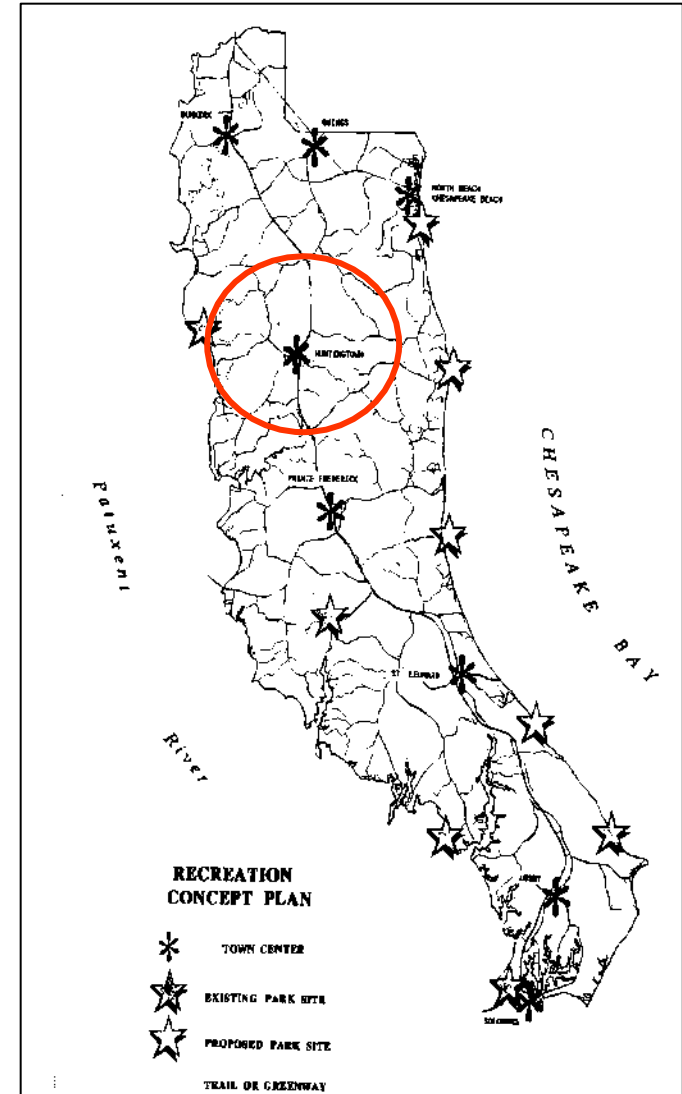
The purchase of this property will add 40 acres to the existing 81-acre Hallowing Point Park and enable the County to meet a strong demand for additional athletic fields. The property is level and well suited to active recreational use. By adding on to an existing park and utilizing existing infrastructure, the project will cost less to develop and maintain than a comparable site at a new location. It will also utilize land more efficiently. For these reasons it is consistent with Planning Vision #3 which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



A-8 Huntingtown District Park

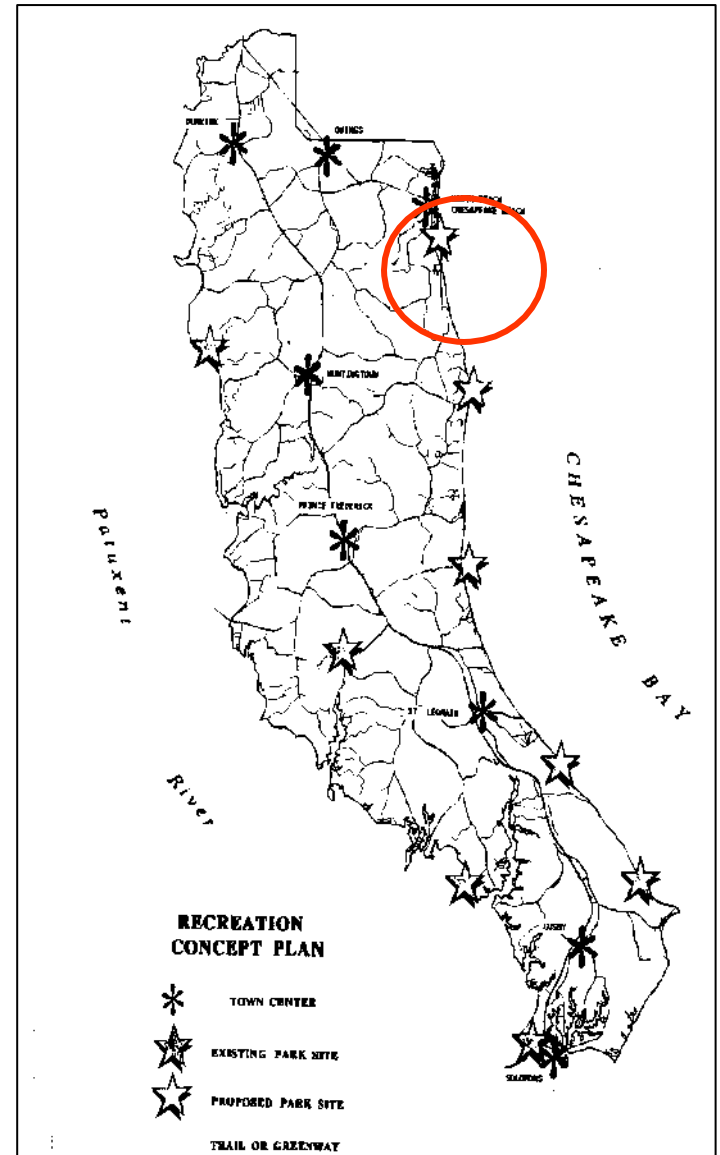
The County is actively seeking property in the vicinity of Huntingtown to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. We are seeking parcels no smaller than 100 acres. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

This project is consistent with the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, which calls for a community park that will provide facilities and space for team sports in or near each of the County's Town Centers. It is also consistent with Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers.



A-9 Northeast Sector Park

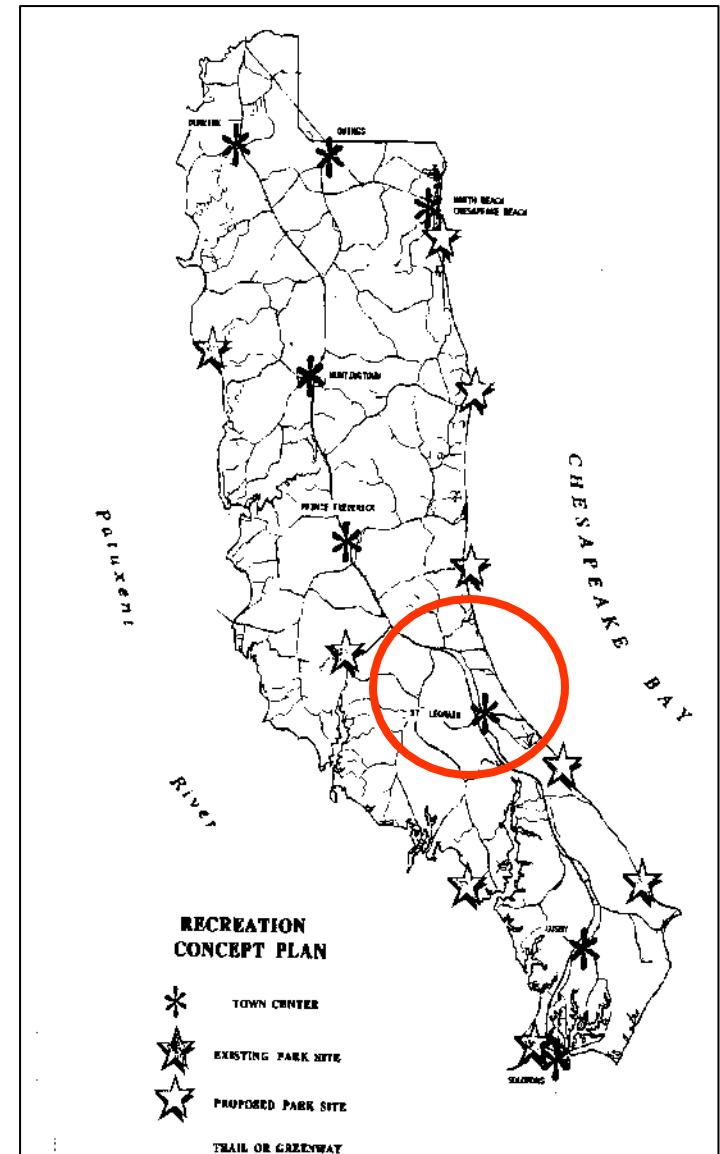
The County has identified the need for an additional park near North Beach/Chesapeake Beach to include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow. The project is consistent with the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Action Plan, which states that each town center should have an outdoor public facility designed primarily for active team sports. It is also consistent with the Northeast Sector Plan, which identifies the need for active recreation sites in the vicinity of the North Beach and Chesapeake Beach. The provision of recreational facilities in or near Town Centers helps promote Vision #3 by directing growth to existing population and business centers.



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 district parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. We are seeking parcels no smaller than 100 acres. 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.

This project is consistent with the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, which calls for a community park that will provide facilities and space for team sports in or near each of the County's Town Centers. It is also consistent with Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers.

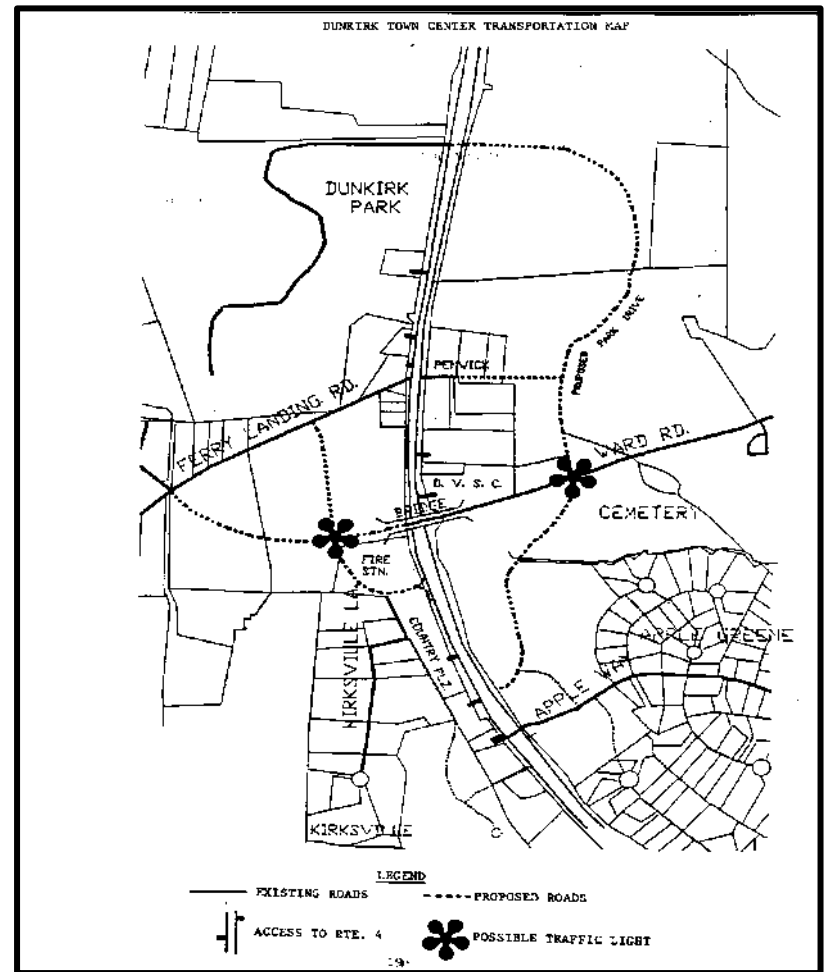


A-11 Dunkirk Community Center

The County is looking for a small site with an existing building near or adjacent to Dunkirk Park to use as a community center for area residents. The property would be similar to the Dowell House property in St. Leonard and would provide meeting rooms and space for indoor activities.

This project is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan to provide an indoor community center for each of the Town Centers.

By providing a centralized community space in the Town Center of Dunkirk, the project would promote Vision #3 which states that growth is concentrated in existing population or business centers.



A-12 Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way

The Chesapeake Beach Railroad ran from Washington D.C. to Chesapeake Beach until the line was abandoned in 1935. Today the corridor has the potential of becoming a pedestrian/bicycle/horseback riding trail that would provide recreation to area residents and promote tourism related industries in Chesapeake Beach, North Beach and Owings. The total length of the corridor is approximately 7.7 miles of which 4.3 miles are located within the MD 260 corridor. 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. Funding for the project included \$100,000 in Bay Access funds, \$100,000 in Critical Area mitigation funds and \$6,200 in local side POS funds. The Town of Chesapeake Beach has completed the first segment of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail and is working with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Critical Area Commission to 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. Acquisition of the right-of-way is consistent with the State's Planning Vision #10 (resource conservation).



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.

This project would promote Vision # 4 Community Design by providing a recreational area within walking distance of many of the Town's residents.



Parcel
proposed for
acquisition

A-14 North Beach Town Park

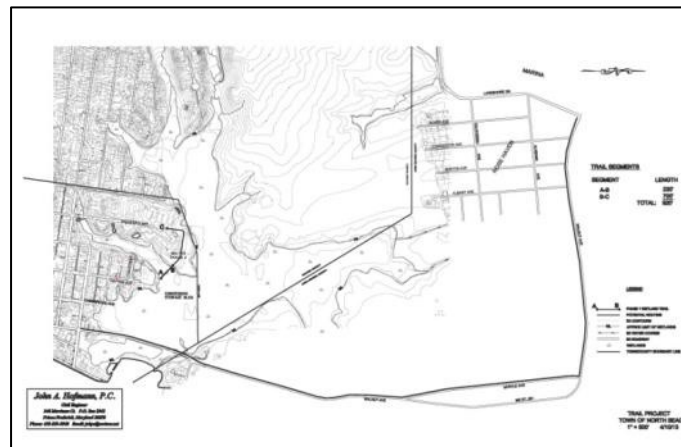
The Town of North Beach has been assembling parcels to enlarge the Robert W. Callis Memorial Park over a number of years. The proposed acquisition, either adjacent to Callis Memorial Park or in a centralized location within the town, would be used as a passive recreation area and include benches, chairs, chess/checker tables, and other passive recreational amenities. This project is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Calvert County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, both of which encourage acquiring land adjacent to existing parks. By making the town more attractive and pleasant, this town park project is consistent with Vision #3 which states that growth should be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



A-15 North Beach Nature Trail

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.

The project supports Calvert County's plan to create a network of recreation sites and in-town trails to connect to greenways. The implementation of a trail network will benefit not only the Town of North Beach but also Calvert and Anne Arundel counties. This project is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan objectives: "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" and "Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access." The project is consistent with the State's Planning Vision #1 (stewardship of the land, water and air), Vision #4 (community design), Vision #6 (multimodal transportation) and Vision #10 (resource conservation).



A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition

The property proposed for acquisition is located at 215 Lore Road in Solomons, Maryland. The property is 1.10 acres with a single family dwelling located on it and has approximately 60 feet of waterfront with a pier.

The property offers significant waterfront that connects to the museum's property. The museum already owns the property directly behind it, purchased a number of years ago with local open space funds. With the addition of this parcel, the museum would be able to significantly expand usable public land with water front access.

Program Open Space funds would be used for land acquisition costs. The museum proposes purchasing the house at the appraised value out of private funding. The house would be used for staff office space, collections storage, and guest housing for visiting lecturers. The basement level offers the opportunity for visiting boaters to use the restroom and shower facilities separate from the other uses of the building.

This property will be part of the museum campus with full public access. This additional land would allow the Museum to install a marine railway for use by the historic bugeye, *Wm. B. Tennison*, and the skipjack, *Dee of St. Mary's* for seasonal inspections and repairs. The additional land would allow the Museum to extend the boardwalk along the waterfront and increase the offering of water-based activities. Because the water is deeper in front of this property, it would also allow the museum to invite larger vessels, such as the *Sultana* and *Maryland Dove*, to the museum. By removing the existing fence and changing the access road, it will be possible to greatly increase public areas for outdoor festival and events.



and reduce the museum's reliance on the privately owned property across Solomons Island Road.

Proposed Acquisition



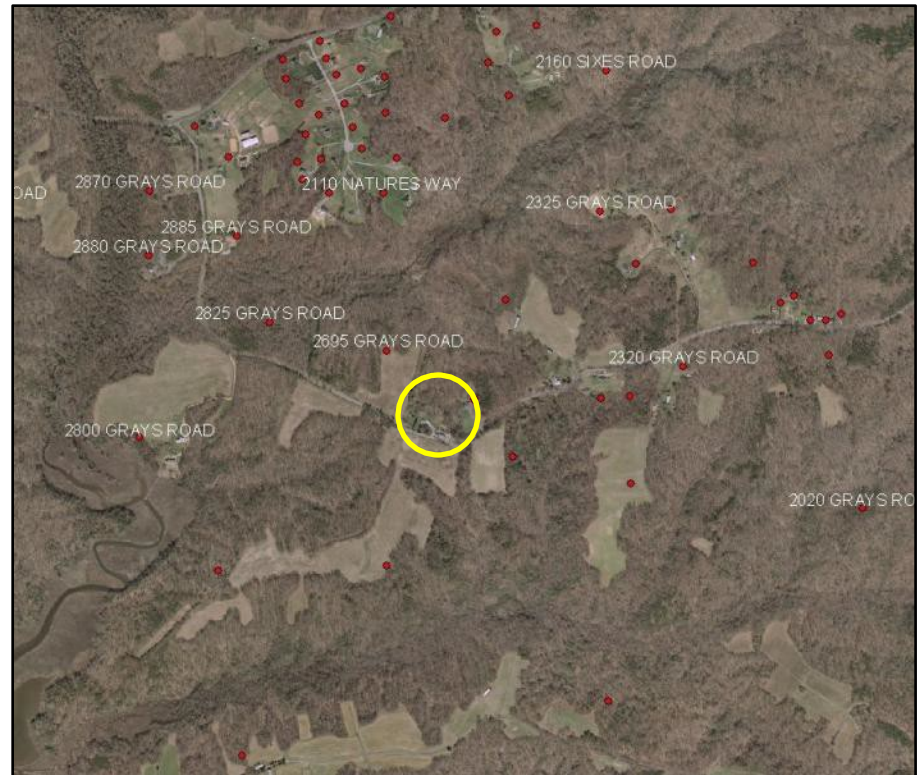
Calvert Marine Museum
Complex

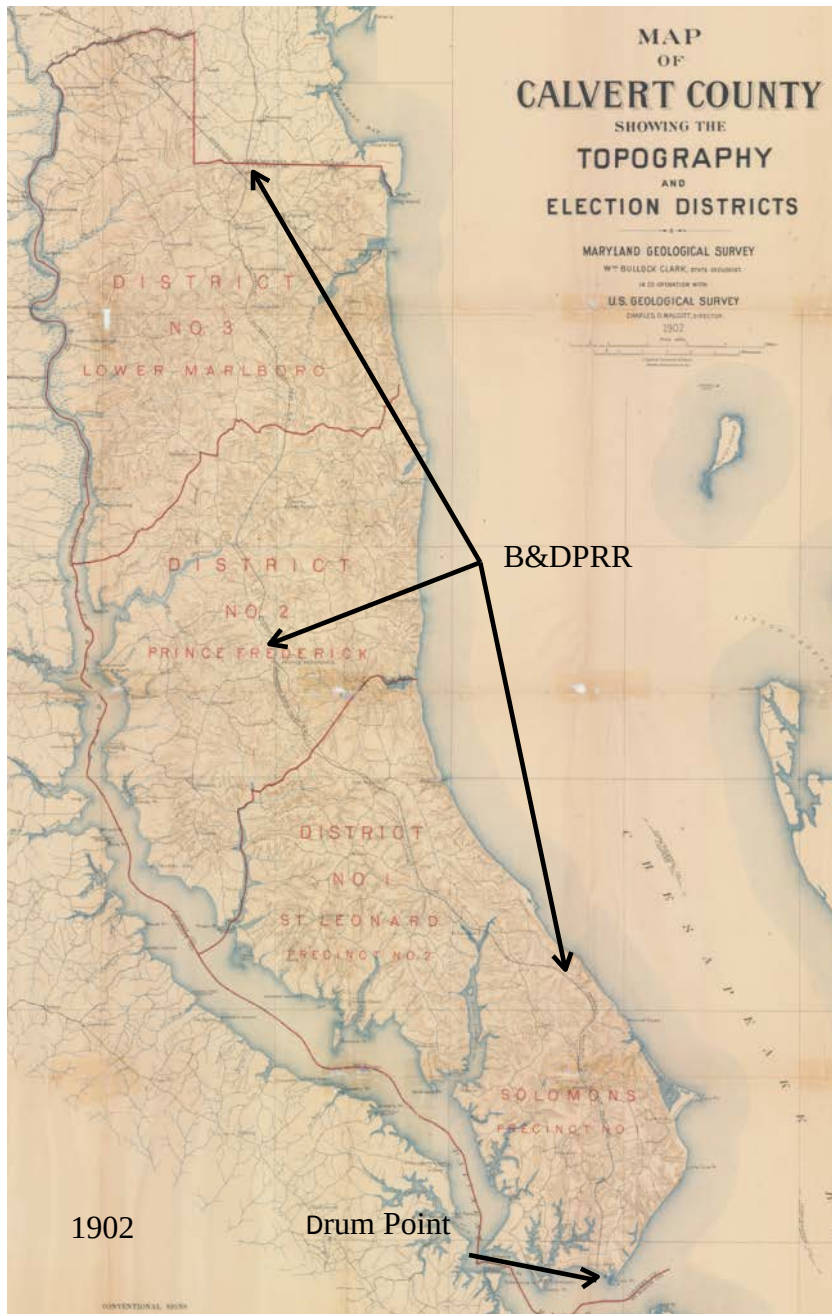
A-17 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

The Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm was purchased in 2004 utilizing Rural Legacy funding. A Master Plan for the property was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in December 2010.

The Master Plan calls for an on-site residency to provide security for livestock that will eventually be a part of the educational program developed for this project. While the plan mentions the possibility of renovation of the existing George Rice house, the potential purchase of the original Gray residence is considered to be a more viable option, should it become available. In addition to a residence, this property includes an original barn and other out buildings.

This project is consistent with Planning Vision #1, which states “A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment.”





A-18 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail

The path of the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad was surveyed in 1868 with the goal of linking Baltimore to the deep water port at Drum Point. The right-of-way was acquired and construction began along the entire length. Most of it was graded and trestles were built for water crossings, but it was never finished. The railroad was fraught with fiscal and political woes, and the project was abandoned in the early 20th century. The railroad bed is still visible most of the 34 miles from where it enters Calvert County in Owings, to its terminus at Drum Point. The potential for the railroad to be used as a trail has long been recognized and has been included in the County's open space plans for many years, including linking together sites of the proposed War of 1812 Star- Spangled Banner Hiking/Biking Trail.

The projected course of the railroad was mapped on the USGS topographic map of Calvert County in 1902, shown at left. The railroad was recently mapped using GPS, historic maps, historical accounts, and the best available aerial and digital imaging.

This project is consistent with State Planning Vision #4 (community design) and Vision #6 (transportation).

A-19 Chesapeake Bay Parks

Public access to the Chesapeake Bay 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 bay, boat and fishing access, and beach combing opportunities, in addition to making improvements to existing facilities to increase public access to the water.

This project is consistent with the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan's objective to provide public access to the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. It is also consistent with the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan and is consistent with the State's Planning Vision #1 (stewardship of the land, water and air) and Vision #10 (resource conservation).



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.

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan includes the objective to “Promote strategies that encourage adults to model positive, healthy lifestyles.” This project is consistent with the State Planning Vision #1, which states “Quality of life and sustainability: a high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment” and is also consistent with Vision #4 regarding community design.



A-21 Shared Used Trails

The County is actively looking for at least two public routes for 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. Acquisitions previously identified in this plan (A-16 North Beach Nature Trail (A & B) System; A-13 Chesapeake Beach Railway Right-of-Way; and A-19 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail) could include plans for a shared use trail.

The current multi-use trails:

- County managed: Kings Landing Park (horses and hikers) and Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm (horses and hikers)
- Town managed: Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail (hikers and bikers) and North Beach Boardwalk (hikers and bikers)
- State managed: Huntingtown Wildlife Management Area (horses and hikers) and Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area (hikers and bikers), Calvert Cliffs State Park (hikers and bikers).

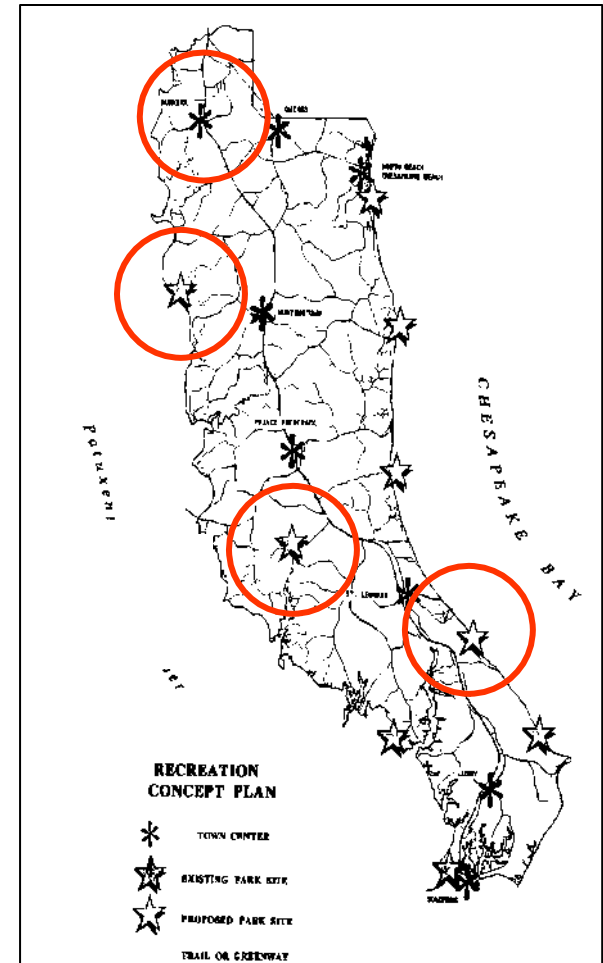
This project is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan's objective to develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County. This project is consistent with State Planning Visions #4 (community design) and #6 (multimodal transportation).



A-22 Natural Resources Expanded Protection

Many of the Natural Resources Areas managed by the County are identified within the State Greenways Program. Greenways are “natural corridors set aside to connect larger areas of open space and to provide for the conservation of natural resources, protection of habitat, movement of plants and animals, and to offer opportunities for linear recreation, alternative transportation, and nature study.” Natural Resource Land Conservation is one of the four elements identified in the County’s Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. Some potential acquisitions are identified within this Plan, for example, A-2 and A-18. Acquisition of undeveloped lands adjacent to Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park (D-20), Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Kings Landing Park, would support the conservation and stewardships of our natural heritage and offer compatible outdoor recreation opportunities.

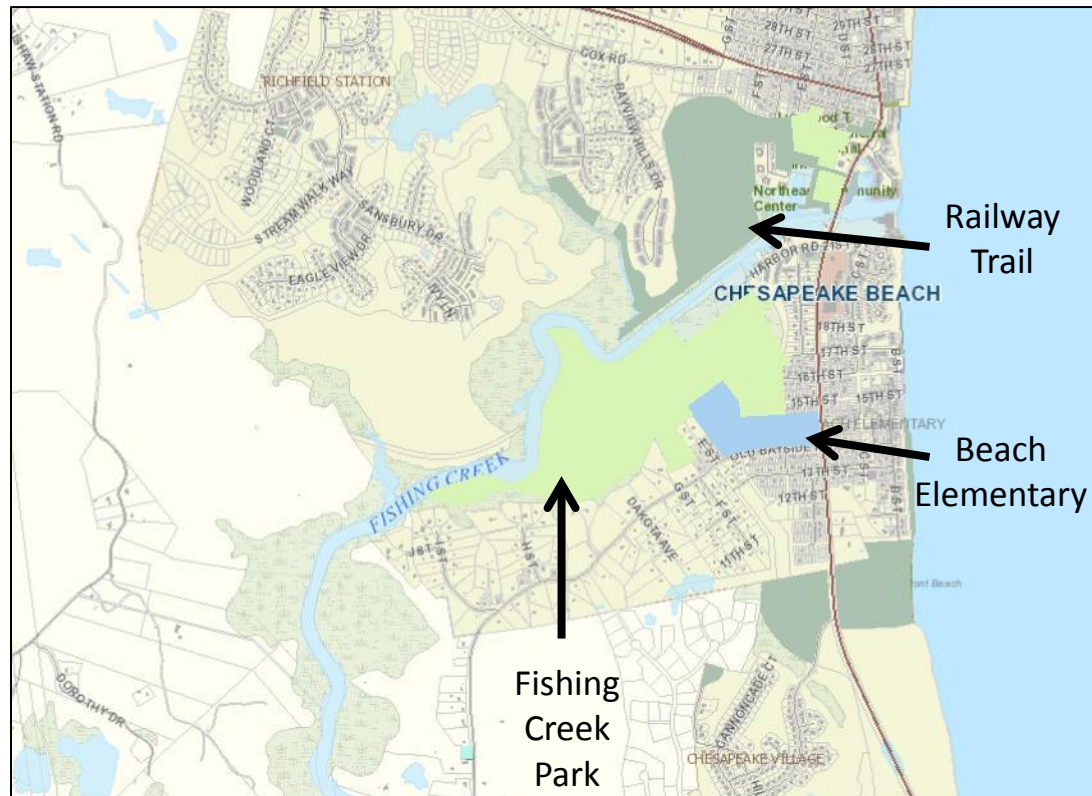
This project is consistent with Planning Vision #1 (stewardship), Vision #9 (resource conservation), and Vision #12 (implementation).



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. 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.

This project is consistent with State Planning Visions #1 (quality of life), #4 (community design), and #6 (multimodal transportation).

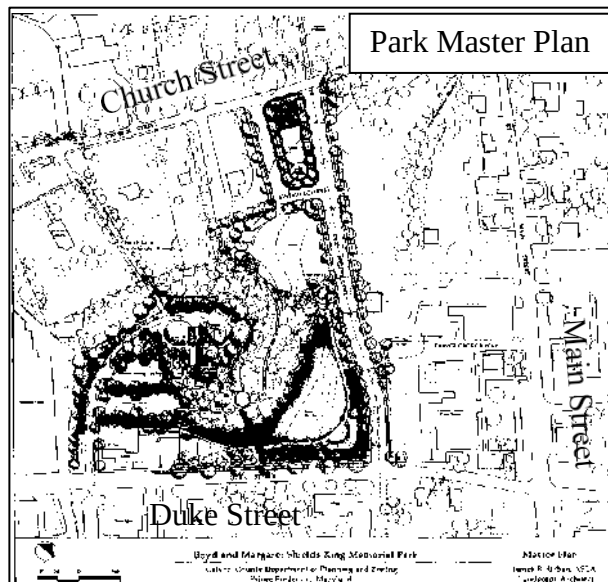


D-1 King Memorial Park

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 property includes a house dating from the early 1800's situated on a promontory, a cleared area around the house, and a magnificent stand of mature trees on steep to gently sloping land. The Prince Frederick Rotary Club and the Calvert County Kiwanis Club joined together with the County government and the Forestry Board to construct a gazebo in the park along Church Street.

A Master Plan for the park was prepared by a landscape architect with assistance from area citizens and includes hiking trails, a pavilion, a playground, a formal garden immediately across from Linden, an historic house acquired by the County for public use through the use of POS funds and renovated using County funds. The development of this property is consistent with Planning Vision #3, that growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers. The park will also promote economic development in the Town Center and is therefore consistent with Vision #8.

Proposed POS funds would be used for the second phase of development, which entails creating an entrance to the park from Church Street, connecting that entrance to the existing path system and Duke Street, and constructing the amphitheater and band-stand at the bottom of the slope.



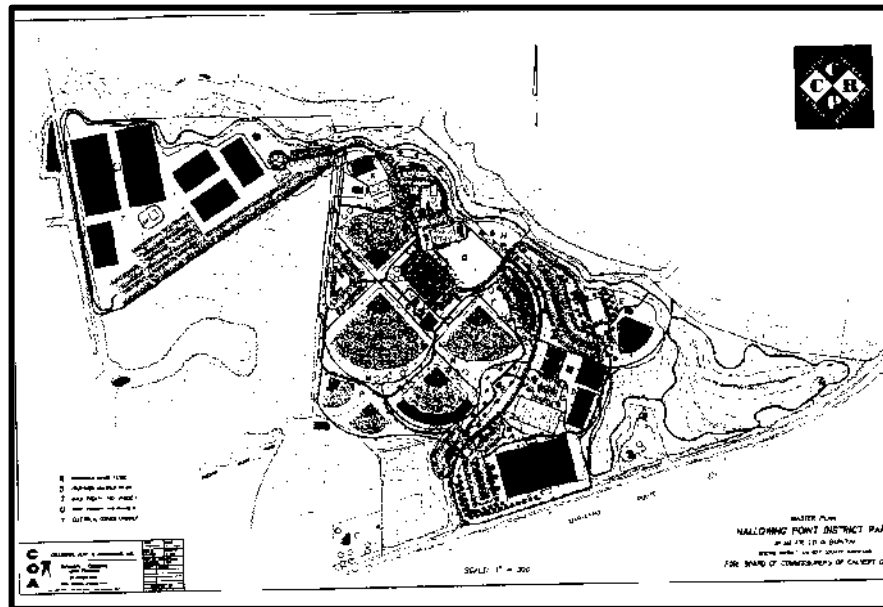
Map of
Park with
Existing
Paved
Walkway

D-2 Halloween Point District Park

Hallowing Point Park is located on MD 231 approximately six miles west of Prince Frederick. It is one of three district parks in the County and currently provides 18 playing fields, four tennis courts, a basketball court, playground, picnic pavilion, comfort stations and a snack stand. The purchase of the property and development of Phase One approximately 20 years ago were Program Open Space projects.

The County is in the process of implementing the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. Future projects include parking, construction of a restroom/snack stand, and construction of new basketball courts and picnic pavilions. In FY15 construction was completed on the new playground and a parking lot to serve fields 3, 5 and 6.

These improvements are consistent with the County's goal of expanding and improving existing sites. By developing this site efficiently, the County is meeting Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



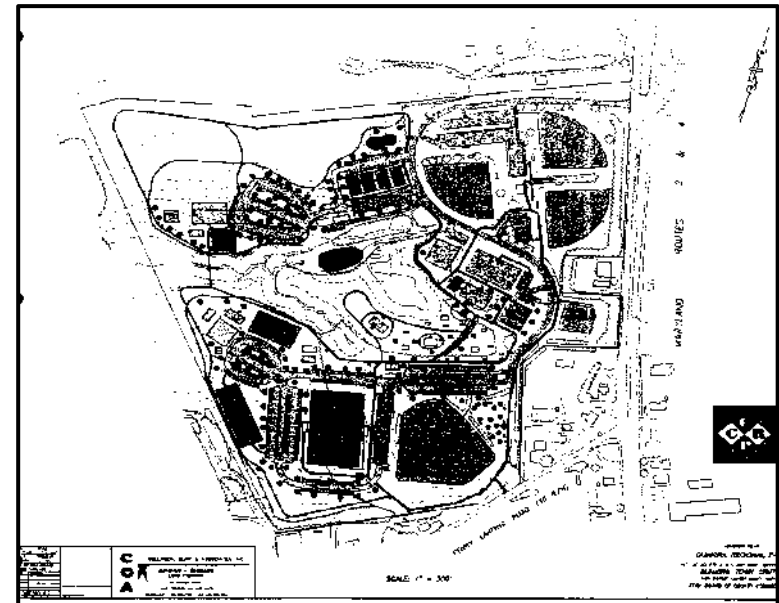
D-3 Dunkirk District Park

Dunkirk District Park is located on the west side of MD 4 adjacent to Dunkirk Town Center. It is one of three district parks in the county and includes six play fields, four tennis courts, two play areas, two practice basketball courts and a comfort station/concessionaire. The purchase of the park property and the development of Phase One approximately 20 years ago were Program Open Space Projects.

In 1997 the Board of County Commissioners approved a Master Plan for the build-out of Dunkirk District Park. Completed projects include a parking lot overlay, the Phase B main playground, the Phase E restroom and associated well, a skateboard park, associated paved walkways and electrical service and development of the east picnic grove and new basketball courts, a multi-purpose playing field, and a dog park area and lighting of field #7. In FY 2012 the skatepark renovations were completed.

Future improvements include additional picnic pavilions, paved pathways and new tennis courts.

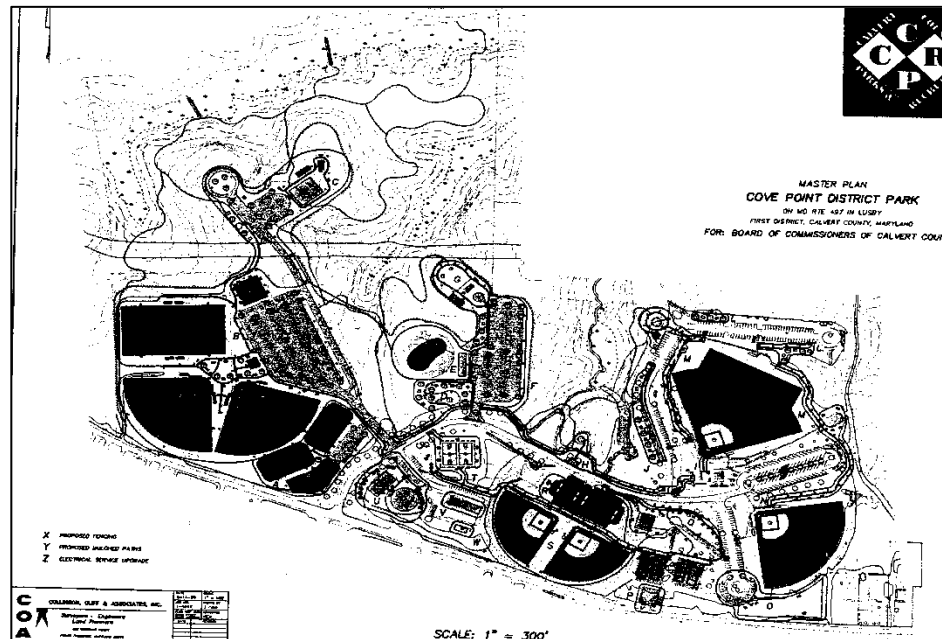
These improvements are consistent with the County's goal of expanding and improving existing sites. By developing this site efficiently, the County is meeting Planning Vision #3 which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



D-4 Cove Point District Park

Cove Point Park is located in the 1st election district and contains approximately 80 acres. Facilities include playing fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a picnic shelter and a playground. A master plan for the build-out of the park has been completed. Future facilities will include a skateboard park, picnic shelters, paved pathways, and a dog park. An outdoor swimming pool, restrooms, concession stands and additional parking were completed in 2006. An accessible playground was completed in fall 2007. In FY 2008 the playing field, the parking lot and lighting project was completed. In FY 2009 a new restroom was constructed with FY 2007 funding. In FY 2013 the tennis courts were renovated. Future improvements include a skate park and picnic areas. Open Space funds will be used to fund a portion of future development.

These improvements are consistent with the County's goal of expanding and improving existing sites. By developing this site efficiently, the County is meeting Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



D-5 Solomons Town Center Park

This 20-acre site was purchased from the Annmarie Garden Board of Trustees in FY 2004. The property is immediately adjacent to Annmarie Garden and is located within Solomons Town Center and is designed for active recreation. Parking can be shared during Annmarie Garden's larger special events. The park was opened in spring of 2012 and includes playing fields, restrooms, parking and a playground that was funded by a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant (state funds). Field lighting was installed in FY 2014. Future improvements include installation of irrigation. The project is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan which calls for a community park in or near each Town Center. It is also consistent with the Solomons Master Plan which calls for public recreation within the Town Center. By providing amenities such as town parks in Town Centers, the County is promoting the State's Planning Vision # 3 which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.

Future improvements include installation of irrigation.



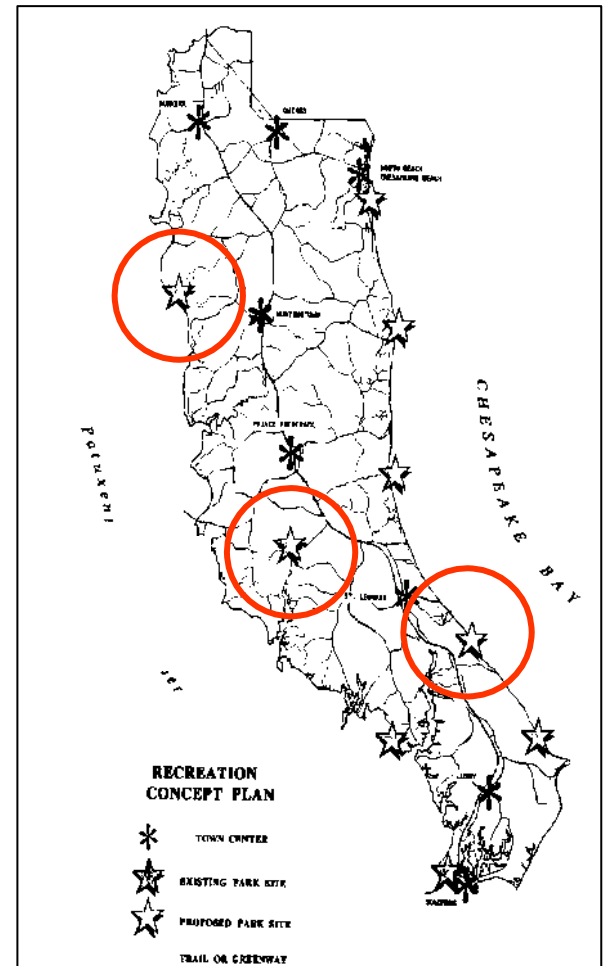
D-6 Equestrian Trails County-wide

There is a clear need for designated horseback riding trails in Calvert County. The County has ranked several potential sites on public property for the development of horse trails.

Potential Equestrian Trails include:

- Trails at Biscoe Gray Property: County-owned property adjacent to Battle Creek Nature Center. Approximately 3 miles of trails were mapped in 2012. Recent trail improvements include placement of boundary and wayfinding signs and development of a trail map.
- Trails and Trailer Parking at Cammack Property: The County in cooperation with Maryland DNR expanded the parking area of the Cammack property adjacent to Kings Landing Park for horse trailers.
- Trails at Kings Landing Park: There is currently a limited area for horseback riding at Kings Landing. A trail assessment completed in 2013 evaluated the trails and included possible expansion of the trail system, including connections to the Cammack Property.
- Trails at Flag Ponds Nature Park: The potential for horse trails at Flag Ponds is tied to the acquisition of the remaining adjoining property and/or easement agreement with Constellation Energy.

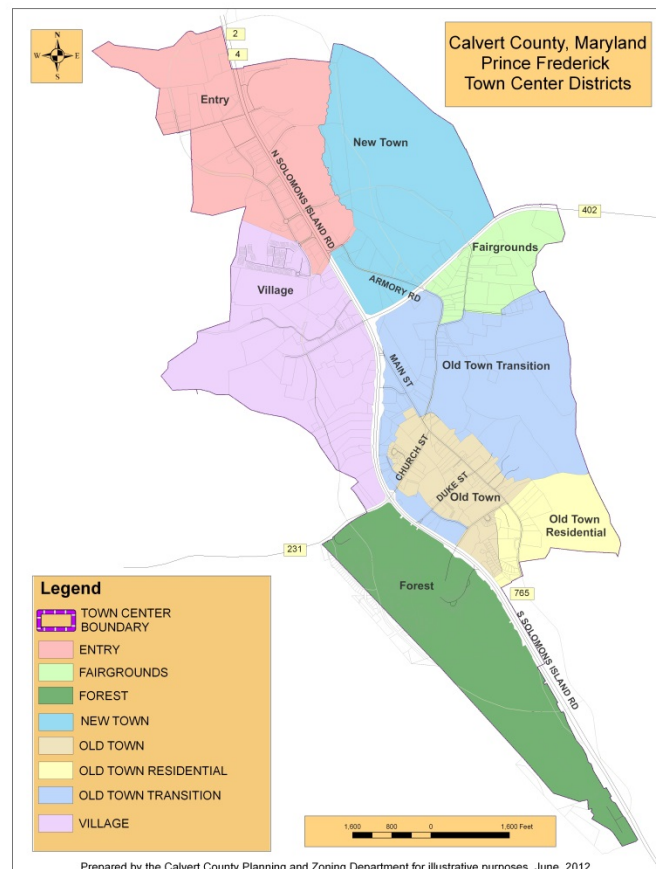
These projects would complement Calvert County's long-standing goal of promoting an awareness and appreciation for the County's rural character and for land preservation. These projects are consistent with Vision #1 which calls for universal stewardship of the land.



D-7 Prince Frederick Community Center

A recreation center similar to the Northeast Center in Chesapeake Beach and Southern Community Center in Lusby is needed to serve central Calvert County. The center will provide meeting rooms and activity rooms suitable for a variety of recreational programs including exercise activities, arts and crafts, performances and the like. A parcel has been identified adjacent to the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in the Prince Frederick Town Center as a possible location.

By providing recreation in an existing Town Center, this project is consistent with Planning Vision #3 which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



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 County's longstanding farming tradition. A tobacco barn that would have otherwise been destroyed was moved to the site and restored. In FY 2009, Calvert County received a grant from Preserve America to produce a master plan for the 196-acre portion of the property between the county road and Battle Creek. The master plan mission was to realize the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm as a "living laboratory to explore, understand, and experience Calvert County Agricultural practices and lifeways throughout its history..." The planning process included Phase I-II investigation of four archaeological sites on the farm along with documentation of the standing structures and setting by architectural historians. The master plan was adopted by the Board of Calvert County Commissioners in December 2010, and funding to implement priority projects is being sought. An access drive, parking area and horse trails have been completed. An entry drive was completed in 2014 to provide public access. In 2012, an African American Heritage Preservation Grant was received to rehabilitate the George E. Rice House. A Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant was awarded to install interpretive signs, develop a trail map and improve visitor amenities. Other priority projects include expanded interpretation of the cultural resources, improvements to the natural surface trails and development of the Battle Creek boardwalk..

The development of this property is consistent with the State's Vision #1 "a high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment."



Trail improvements and development of a boardwalk along Battle Creek will allow visitors to experience the wetlands and archeological features of the site.



D-9 Breezy Point Beach Park

Breezy Point Beach Park is approximately 13 acres in size and includes 2000 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. As the longest stretch of Bay front beach available to the public, Breezy Point is an important recreational facility for Calvert County, serving both residents and tourists. An estimated 30,000 visitors per year use the beach, picnic and camping facilities. The property was purchased jointly by the County and the State in 1995.

POS funding has been used in the past to correct a sewerage problem, add charcoal grills, picnic tables and playground equipment, construct a beach bathhouse, provide ADA access to the beach, make campground improvements, make jetty repairs and replace a pier. Additional funding may be required in future years. In FY 2010 there were major renovations of the campground electric and water systems (no POS). In FY2014 improvements included extension of stone groins, replacement of swim area groins and replacement of northern boundary fence and groin.

In FY15 a new playground was installed in the campground. Future projects include extension of the fishing pier and reconstruction of the office.

This property is a critical component of Calvert County's long range recreational open space plan, which identifies important properties along the Bay and connects them through a network of roads and trails, "Stepping Stones Along the Bay." The fact that Breezy Point Beach has been a public beach for more than fifty years means that an active recreational facility has been provided for the public without consuming any additional resource land (Vision #10).



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

Purchased through the joint efforts of the State and Calvert County, Fishing Creek Park contains 100 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 in the town of Chesapeake Beach 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 kayak/canoe launch site and to assist Beach Elementary School in expanding its environmental study area. The Town of Chesapeake Beach's Comprehensive Plan calls for a hiker biker trail network that includes the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail. The Town of Chesapeake Beach was awarded a T21 grant to develop a portion of the right-of-way that will connect two existing residential subdivisions to the center of town. The project covered by the grant includes approximately 8,720 linear feet of the main line trail. With the spur trails to the existing communities of Bayview Hills and Richfield Station, there will be approximately 12,380 feet of trail constructed.

The \$1.9 million project was funded 50:50 Federal and local with Federal funds covering \$950,000 and the Town's half including 75% in cash and 25% of in-kind match. The Town of Chesapeake Beach 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. The project included approximately 8,720 linear feet of the main line rail with approximately 12,380 feet of trail constructed.

10 a The Town is working with the Maryland Department Environment and the Critical Area Commission to 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.

10 b The County project would be a continuation of the railway trail developed by the Town of Chesapeake Beach.



Key:



Completed trail



County property

Prepared by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning based on plans submitted by Chesapeake Beach

D-11 Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

This 149-acre facility, located in Lusby, was purchased by the County in 2008. The property features an 18-hole golf course, driving range, clubhouse and maintenance area. The facility is being operated as a public municipal course by Calvert County Parks and Recreation. County funding was allocated for various improvements including: painting and roofing the clubhouse, replacement of grill/pro shop HVAC, irrigation repairs, golf course improvements, a new maintenance facility and maintenance equipment. In spring of 2012 the new maintenance facility was completed. A Golf Course Master Plan was completed late Fall 2012. Other FY12 improvements included the purchase of a new fleet of golf carts and renovation to the pro shop and entrance to the grill area. In FY 2013 the installation of pump station and new golf course irrigation project was completed. In FY 2015, the #2 green was renovated. Future improvements include renovation of the clubhouse and improvements to tees, greens, fairways, bunkers and driving range. The County is in the process of implementing the master plan for the golf course.

Besides providing a venue for the golfing public to pursue their sport, the course serves as a home for high school practice and matches and provides a place to develop young golfers through lessons and junior golf. The purchase is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan which calls for the provision of a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the county.

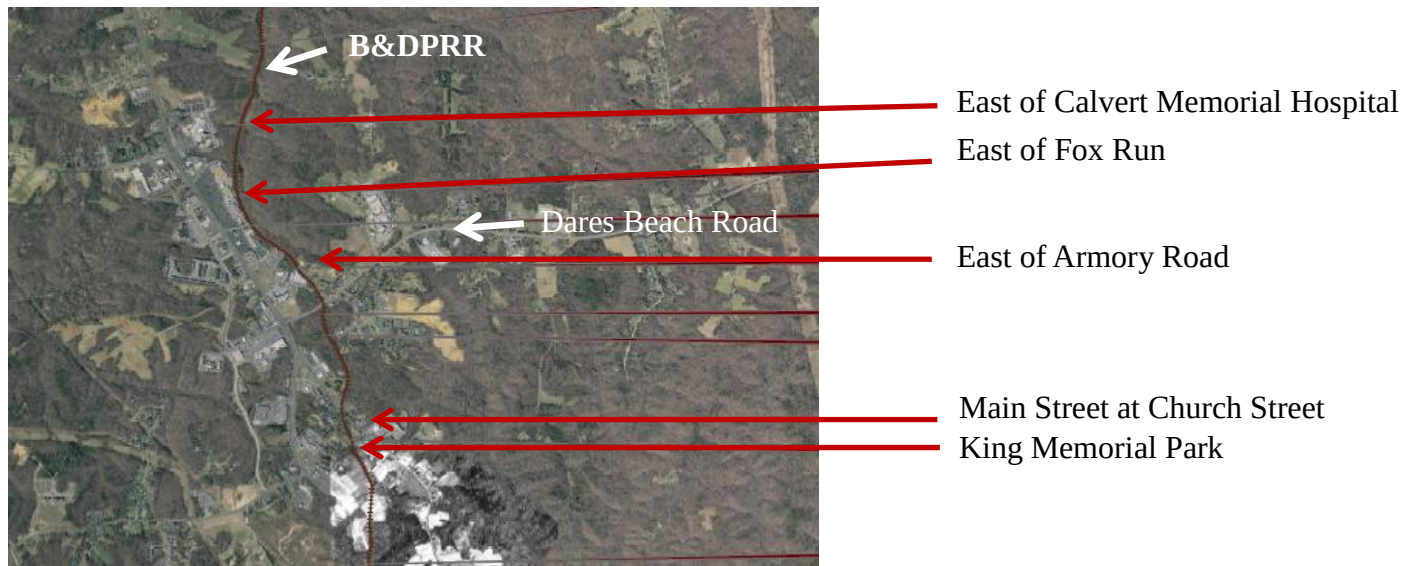


D-12 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail

The portion of the Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad that runs through Prince Frederick has been well documented in multiple sources. The map below features the course of the B&DPRR that runs through Prince Frederick: 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. The railroad bed traverses parcels belonging to ten different property owners before it enters King Memorial Park, owned by the Calvert County Commissioners.

The goal of right-of-way acquisition would be to develop it as a walking/biking trail.

This project is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan's objective: "Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based upon the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County." The project is also consistent with the State Planning Vision #4 (community design) and Vision #6 (transportation).



D-13 Northeast Community Center

The 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.

This project is consistent with the State's Planning Vision #4 on community design which calls compact, mixed-use, walkable design to ensure efficient use of recreational areas.



D-14 Solomons Boat Ramp

The Solomons Boat Ramp is in need of renovation. Both the ramp and boat piers need extensive work. From a safety and public service standpoint, at least one of the boat piers should be floating so that easy boat access can be maintained regardless of tide, and provide an ADA-accessible facility. State Boating Funds were awarded for FY 2014 and FY2015 for design of the renovations. State and Federal waterway improvement funds will be requested for the construction. This improvement fulfils the State Vision Component #1 in maintaining the quality of life.



Existing Boat Ramp

D-15 Kings Landing Park

Tom Wisner Hall (renovated in 2001), two pavilions, and primitive campgrounds are used throughout the year for meetings, weddings receptions, youth camping, scouting events, 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 to repair the cabin roofs. Additional funds will be required to rehabilitate the cabins for overnight camping cabins, classrooms for interpretive programs, and day-use shelters. The park serves as the field center for the 7th grade CHESPAX programs, providing County young people an excellent opportunity to learn about the importance of stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land. A fishing pier and soft launch for kayaks and canoes are popular amenities of the park, although the erosion along the shoreline and invasion by *Phragmites australis* will need to be managed to support these activities. 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 needs.

These improvements make a strong contribution toward the implementation of the State's Planning Vision #1 regarding quality of life and stewardship.



Existing Tom Wisner Hall and parking spaces



Overnight camping cabin

D-16 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Building Renovation and Addition

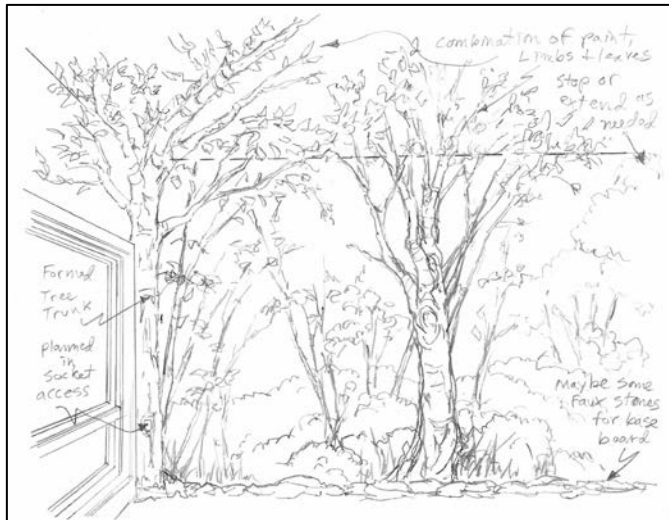
The Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center serves as the headquarters for the Natural Resources Division, as well as a Visitor Center for the Sanctuary. It is in need of a renovation of the visitor reception area to better serve the public. Additional space is needed to create two office spaces for nature center staff and volunteers.



Exterior of building for potential expansion

D-17 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Exhibit Renovations

The existing 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 of the new animal display exhibits will be completed in 2013. Minor changes to the exhibit displays are ongoing. New exhibits will entice and educate visitors as well as serve the many school groups that come to the facility.



"Nature at Night" Exhibit Concept Drawing



Eastern Screech Owl in the Renovated Exhibit

D-18 Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

In FY 2013 the County purchased a 209-acre property adjacent to the Dunkirk Town Center to develop into additional playing fields, shared use natural trail system and associated facilities, restrooms, concession facilities, maintenance facilities and other facilities as the property will allow. In FY15 the development of a master plan for the property was completed. The FY16 Budget Proposal includes funding for Phase I planning that will include road improvements and other infrastructures. 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 and is returned to Calvert County to the purpose of increasing recreational opportunities for youth in the county. This project will help address the need for athletic fields, specifically baseball/softball diamonds and fields for spring and fall field sports. The Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, adopted in 2006, identified the 2020 unmet need for diamonds to be 20 and the unmet need for fields for spring and fall field sports to be nine. The Master Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in November 2014.

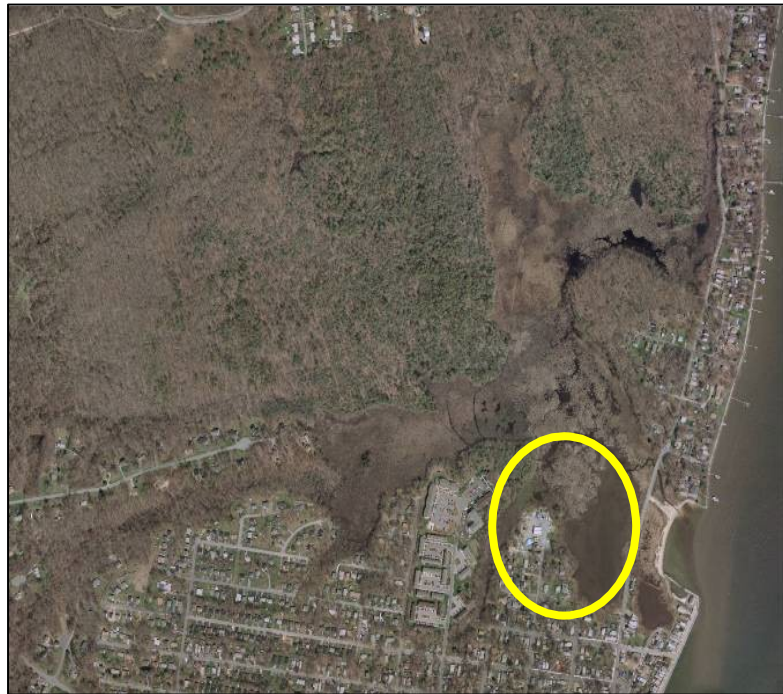
This project is consistent with the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, which calls for a community park that will provide facilities and space for team sports in or near each of the County's Town Centers. It is also consistent with State of Maryland's Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers.



D-19 Wetlands Wildlife Observation 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.

This project would promote Vision # 4 Community Design by providing a recreational area within walking distance of many of the Town's residents.



D-20 2nd and 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.

This project would promote Vision # 4 Community Design by providing a recreational area within walking distance of many of the Town's residents.



Parcel proposed
for acquisition
and
development

D-21 3rd Street Park

The Town of North Beach seeks to develop the 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 park will provide views of the Chesapeake Bay and would be for public use. Program Open Space funds will be requested to assist in the development of the park.

This project would promote Vision # 4 Community Design by providing a recreational area within walking distance of many of the Town's residents.



Land
proposed for
development

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

There is a need for shared use, natural surface trails in Calvert County. These trails would allow for trail running, off-road bicycling, horseback riding, and/or hiking. Kings Landing Park and Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm have trails for hikers and horses. Chesapeake Bay Railway Trail is suitable for hikers and bicycling; otherwise, there are very few trails for bicycling off-road. Trail plans could be developed to accommodate bicycling at existing facilities. There is the potential to develop natural surface trails on public property.

Potential shared use, natural surface trails include:

- Trails at Kings Landing Park: A trail assessment completed in 2013 includes expanding the shared use, natural surface trails and possible connections to the Huntingtown Natural Resource Management Area (NMRA).
- Trails at Flag Ponds Nature Park: The potential for shared use, natural surface trails at Flag Ponds is tied to the acquisition of the remaining adjoining property and/or easement agreement with Constellation Energy.
- Trails at Smoky Road/Huntingtown NRMA: A shared use, natural surface trail system at the Smoky Road/Huntingtown NRMA along with a connection to Kings Landing Park would provide several miles of trails.
- Trails at Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park: The newly acquired property on Ward Road in Dunkirk has the potential for several miles of shared use, natural surface trail. A shared use, natural surface trail system and pump track/skills area would complement planned athletic fields, complement a natural surface trail system, and give children and adults a place to work on bicycling handling skills.
- A trail leading from Prince Frederick to the Patuxent River could combine natural surface and roadside trails to provide resources to access the Patuxent River and its tributaries, such as Battle Creek, from the Prince Frederick Town Center. The trails could tie into the Prince Frederick to Bay trail developed by the American Chestnut Land Trust, creating a cross-county experience.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park in Dunkirk - existing trails could serve as shared use trails



Example of a shared use, natural surface trail for hikers & bikers in a Prince George's County Park



D-23 Flag Ponds Nature Park Exhibit Development

The Flag Ponds Education Center was completed in 2002 and each year more than 2300 school children, their teachers and parents learn about Chesapeake Bay ecology, focusing on terrapins, oysters, water quality and habitat needs through Calvert County Public Schools CHESPAX. Programs coordinated by the Division of Natural Resources for families and adults use the building as a classroom. The lower level of the building could serve as a nature center with exhibits focusing on Flag Ponds and the Chesapeake Bay and be open during park hours, while the upstairs could be designed to facilitate group activities. Exhibits would entice and educate visitors as well as serve the many school groups that come to the Park. Recent efforts have been made to install temporary exhibits to enhance the education experience. A comprehensive exhibit design plan and implementation budget would facilitate the development and construction of interpretive resources of the 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 plan would include a series of interpretive exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the park, interpretive areas for group programs and lessons, and a meeting room for workshops and trainings that are compatible with goals of the Park and the Division. 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.

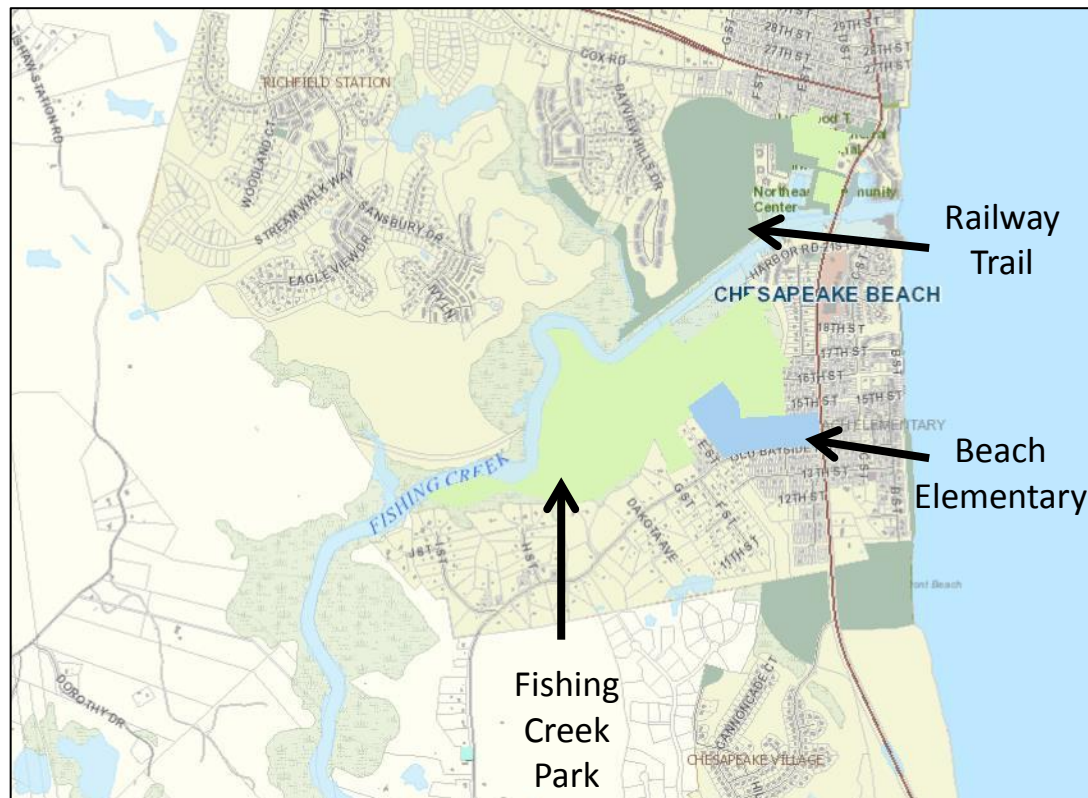
This project is consistent with State Planning Vision #12: Implementation: strategies, policies, programs, and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure, and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, state, and interstate levels to achieve these visions.



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. 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.

This project is consistent with State Planning Visions #1 (quality of life), #4 (community design), and #6 (multimodal transportation).



The Planning Visions

Adopted by the State of Maryland in the 2009 Smart, Green, and Growing Act (SB 273/HB 294)

1. Quality of life and sustainability: a high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment;
2. Public participation: citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals;
3. Growth areas: growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers;
4. Community Design: compact, mixed-use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near available or planned transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural systems, open spaces, recreational areas, and historical, cultural, and archeological resources;
5. Infrastructure: growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient, and environmentally sustainable manner;
6. Transportation: a well-maintained, multimodal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable, and efficient movement of people, goods, and services within and between population and business centers;
7. Housing: a range of housing densities, types, and sizes provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes;
8. Economic development: economic development and natural resources-based businesses that promote employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the State's natural resources, public services, and public facilities are encouraged;
9. Environmental protection: land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems, and living resources;
10. Resource conservation: waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems, and scenic areas are conserved;
11. Stewardship: government, business entities, and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection; and
12. Implementation: strategies, policies, programs, and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure, and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, state, and interstate levels to achieve these visions.