



# ■ LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS, AND RECREATION PLAN ■



2022 LAND PRESERVATION  
PARKS & RECREATION PLAN



**CCPR**  
CALVERT COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION





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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# ■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## INTRODUCTION

The updates of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan for 2022 serve two primary functions:

- 1** Maintains County eligibility to participate in Maryland's Program Open Space—a significant source of annual matching grant funds used to supplement County funding to improve local parks and recreation assets.
- 2** Provides key information, goals, and achievable recommendations to guide Calvert County's management and enhancement of its system of public parks, open spaces, and preserved lands for the next five years.

■ The planning process utilized multiple methods to collect data, inventory existing conditions, engage the community and evaluate input, and gauge the overall level of service provided by public parks, open spaces, and recreation amenities in Calvert County. Since the county last updated its Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan in 2018, natural resources conservation and agricultural land preservation goals and acreage of land preserved have changed minimally. Most updates to the LPPRP are noted in the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space section which includes in-depth information and analysis of factors influencing Calvert County’s provision of public parks and recreation services.

## KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

Residents of Calvert County maintain a great landscape of waterways and parks all within close proximity to their homes. The amenities contribute to the high quality of life in the County. These assets contribute to the high attributes of the landscape, water ways, and parks are important components. of the County’s plans and documents and are supported by the key findings within the planning process for the 2022 LPPRP. The key findings process is based on the compilation of information gathered from the analysis and inventory of existing conditions, community profile, community and stakeholder involvement, and a Statistically Valid Survey. The basis of these analyses provides the foundation for the goals and recommendations presented, which are focused on enhancing parks, recreation, and open space

experiences and preservation for all residents in Calvert County over the next five years. A summary of the findings is noted below and is consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan in collaboration with other County departments:

### LPPRP 2022 Findings

- Overall, residents are satisfied with the availability of recreational opportunities.
- The County should continue to make parks and open spaces a key consideration on procuring new property or redeveloping existing property.
- The demand for more connectivity through trails and greenways is high.
- The County is in the process of updating infrastructure needs at parks and facilities to meet demands. These include lighting, restrooms, and facility development.
- There is room for improved communication methods for all department opportunities. Focus additional efforts in the southern area of the County.
- The residents would like additional public access points to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.
- Accessibility to parks and facilities is a key component as the County continues to develop an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan.
- Protecting and preserving environmentally sensitive areas with appropriate mitigation, planning efforts, capital improvements, and public outreach should be a priority.

### 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan notes Goal 3 as a priority with focus areas that fall within the LPPRP.

**GOAL 3:** Provide access to a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities in Calvert County.

- Enhance the 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.
- Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.



Figure 1: Aerial of the New Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park

- Continue to create, support, and promote public water trails in Southern Maryland.
- Investigate opportunities to increase access, parking, and comfort features at existing public landings and waterfront park sites to allow for increased boat access and usage, and improved user experience.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Create trails and paths within Town Center areas that connect with outlying parks and open spaces.
- Continue to require onsite neighborhood recreational facilities in townhouse and multifamily developments and in single-family detached neighborhoods of fifty or more houses. Require recreation fees collected through the excise tax for all new houses and use fees to provide recreational sites and facilities at locations convenient to those who paid the fees.
- Expand recreational opportunities by establishing an intergovernmental review procedure for the design or renovation of all new public buildings including schools, colleges, and community centers to help promote effective and efficient multiple use of these facilities.

**Planning Process Summary**

The contents of the plan are shaped by the guidelines set forth by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The project team consisted of County staff from the Department of Planning & Zoning, Department of Parks & Recreation, and Department of Technology Services. Members guided the project by providing input to the consultant team, consisting of BerryDunn, LSG, Biohabitats, and RRC Associates. This collaborative effort creates a plan that fully utilizes the consultants’ expertise and incorporates the local and institutional knowledge that only community members can provide.

The process included tasks in Figure 1 that were carefully analyzed and evaluated to assist with the recommendations and action plan and provided the overall foundation for the LPPRP.

**Strategic Kickoff and Determination of Critical Success Factors**

**08/2021**

**PROJECT COORDINATION**

- Document Collection/Integration of Existing Plans
- Determination of Critical Success Factors/ Performance Measures

**12/2021**

**COMMUNITY PROFILE AND ENGAGEMENT INTEGRATION WITH SURVEY**

- Initial Information Gathering
- Focus Groups/Staff/Stakeholder Interviews
- Community-Wide Public Meeting
- Pop-Up Events
- Needs Assessment/Statistically Valid Survey

**12/2021**

**RESOURCE INVENTORY, SITE ASSESSMENT, AND MAPPING**

- Inventory and Level of Service Analysis
- GIS Mapping and Analysis
- Assessment of Existing Standards
- Demographics, Trends, and Community Profile
- Organizational/Program Analysis

**01/2022**

**FINDINGS AND VISIONING**

- Key Challenges Analysis Matrix
- Visioning Strategies Workshop

**01/2022**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

- Action Plan/Recommendations

**02/2022**

**DRAFT PLAN, ACTION PLAN, PRESENTATION**

**04/2022**

**RECEIVED COMMENTS BACK FROM DNR**

**06/2022**

**FINAL PLAN, PRESENTATION, DELIVERABLES**

*Figure 1-Strategic Kickoff and Determination of Critical Success Factors*

**Summary of LPPRP**

The goals for natural resource land conservation and agricultural land preservation are long-term in nature and have been updated with the County’s 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan Goals and recommendations for enhancing parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities were updated to reflect the changing needs of the county’s population and visitors. Enhancements proposed in this plan for parks and recreation are based on the key findings.

The overall goal is to complete a comprehensive needs analysis that incorporates the opinions, needs, and desires Calvert County residents. The items listed below are focused within three areas that are representative of the LPPRP in Calvert County:

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas
- Preserve, protect, and conserve land-based natural resources
- Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River
- Mitigate natural and man-made hazards in Calvert County

**LAND USE**

- Preserve the rural character of the county, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, cultural resources, and environmentally sensitive areas
- Develop interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the county to link places where residents live, work, play, and visit

**HERITAGE**

- Identify, protect, and interpret the buildings, places, and archaeological sites that signify the heritage of the community
- Document and conserve Calvert County ways of life, the memory of the people
- Develop heritage resources as cultural capital to connect the past to the future

**Recommendations Summary**

As the State of Maryland requires each county to compile the LPPRP every five years, Calvert County should continue to focus on new amenity development, amenity improvements, connectivity, land preservation, and land acquisition. Specific areas to note are listed below:

- Addition/redesign of athletic fields with consideration for artificial turf
- Multipurpose indoor complex with multi-use courts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball), meeting rooms, and fitness opportunities
- Focus on organizational efficiencies such as scheduling/permitting/viewer availability of facilities, marketing
- Environmental sustainability
- Address activities, programming, facility opportunities for the following:
  - Residents of the south half of the county
  - Young adults
  - Cycling, casual biking, mountain/trail biking
  - Access to water (Chesapeake Bay and river)

**2022 GOALS FOR RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE**

**GOAL 1**

Improve and enhance existing Calvert County Parks & Recreation facilities and amenities.

**GOAL 2**

Continue to improve programming and natural resource opportunities within all parks and recreation areas.

**GOAL 3**

Continue to look for opportunities to develop new facilities and amenities.

**GOAL 4**

Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies.

Figure 2

# ■ LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS, AND RECREATION PLAN

This plan serves as an update of the Calvert County LPPRP for 2022 and serve two primary functions:

- 1** Maintains county eligibility to participate in Maryland's Program Open Space funding opportunity, which is a significant source of annual matching grant funds used to supplement county funding and improve local parks and recreation assets.
- 2** Provides key information, goals, and achievable recommendations to guide the county through the management and enhancement of its extensive system of public parks, open spaces, and preserved lands for the next five years.

■ Calvert County is dependent on funding support from the State of Maryland to support land acquisition and parks and recreation facility improvements. Completion of a regular five-year update to the County's LPPRP is a prerequisite for continued participation in the State Program Open Space grant program (per Section 5-905[b][2] of the Natural Resources Article—Annotated Code of Maryland). Upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission, this updated LPPRP replaces the last plan adopted in 2018.

The LPPRP provides updated information on programs, goals, and issues impacting Calvert County's provision of public parks, recreation facilities, open space, and land preservation facilities. The 2022 update has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of:

- State of Maryland Statewide LPPRP Guidelines
- State of Maryland Program Open Space statutory requirements

The State of Maryland LPPRP Guidelines issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources includes new planning criteria for the preparation of this update of the LPPRP. Compared to the previous version of the guidelines utilized to prepare Calvert County's 2018 LPPRP, the most substantive changes included in the 2022 planning criteria and reflected in this LPPRP include:

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

- Level of Service Analysis—a mixed-method approach of gauging how well the county's parks and recreation system appears to be meeting the recreational needs of the community and local users.
- Goals and recommendations for enhancing Calvert County's parks, recreation, and open space assets based on land, facility, and program needs identified through the Level of Service Analysis.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION**

- Update of relevant program data, inventories, and goals.

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

- Update only of relevant program data, inventories, and goals.

## **CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

- Not required by state guidelines, but Calvert County briefly addresses a focus area in this LPPRP.

## **Relationship with County and State Guiding Plans and Documents**

Upon adoption the updated LPPRP becomes a supplemental plan to the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. Upon adoption, the 2022 LPPRP will replace the 2018 LPPRP as the detailed guiding document for parks, open space, and recreation planning in Calvert County for the next five years. The goals and recommendations of the 2022 Calvert County LPPRP represent the shared goals of the State of Maryland, Calvert County, and the municipalities, including those determined in the following plans:

## **COUNTY**

- 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2018 LPPRP
- Rural Legacy
- North Beach Comprehensive Plan
- Northeast Sector Plan
- Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan
- Dunkirk Town Center Planning Presentations
- 2011 Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan
- 2012 Town of North Beach Comprehensive Plan
- Program Open Space Annual Programs
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
- Parks and Recreation Activity Guides

**STATE**

- Maryland 2018 Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources–Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Natural Resources Lands Acreage Report
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources–LPPRP Guidelines and Resource Documents
- Maryland Department of Planning–State Data Center
- Maryland Department of Planning–Protected Lands Reporting Site
- Maryland Department of Agriculture–Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Program
- Maryland Department of Transportation–2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Calvert County offers a true rural character along with inner-woven ties to the natural landscape, waterways, parks, and open spaces for various recreational uses as well as the preservation of natural resources. Residents and visitors respect and appreciate the natural amenities the county has to offer. Key points of reference are noted in the 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan.

**CALVERT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

■ The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for Calvert County. The Board of County Commissioners, the Planning Commission, and County departments use the plan as a guide when preparing functional plans and small area plans, evaluating proposed projects or considering changes to legislation, such as zoning ordinances. State agencies use the plan to determine whether to provide State funding for a local project.

The mission of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan is to maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all County residents by:

- Promoting sustainable development
- Encouraging a stable and enduring economic base
- Providing for safety, health and education
- Preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County

**The mission is expressed in a series of 10 vision statements**

1. Our landscape is dominated by forests and fields.
2. Our Town Centers are attractive, convenient, and interesting places to live, work, and shop.
3. Our wetlands, streams, and forests and the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River support thriving plant and animal communities.
4. Our highways are safe, with only moderate congestion and transit is readily available. Walking and bicycling are practical alternatives within and in proximity of Town Centers.
5. We waste less, consume fewer natural resources, and properly dispose of waste.
6. Our communities are safe. We care for the well-being of each other.
7. Our children are well prepared for the future. We offer robust and diverse educational opportunities.
8. We are stewards of our cultural heritage.
9. We are building a strong local economy based on renewable resources, agriculture, seafood, high technology, retirement, recreation, and tourism.
10. Our government is efficient, open, and responsive to residents’ needs and concerns.

Figure 3: Calvert County Comprehensive Plan Vision

### Planning Process and Public Engagement

Preparation of the 2022 Calvert County LPPRP was led by a collaborative effort from staff from the County’s Department of Planning & Zoning, Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Technology Services, BerryDunn, Biohabitats, RRC Associates, and LSG.

The community engagement process focused on extensive input opportunities including a staff Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) process, a Statistically Valid Survey, an Open Link Survey, and interviews with focus groups and stakeholders. A Statistically Valid Survey is a randomly distributed survey that uses proven survey methods to achieve a statistically valid response. This type of a survey is the most effective method available to receive opinions of the users and non-users of recreation facilities and programs within a community. The Statistically Valid Survey was mailed to randomly selected residents within the county. Participants had the opportunity complete the survey and mail it back within the self-addressed stamped envelope that was included or enter their information through the link provided with their access code. Those who did not receive the survey were able to participate by visiting the link that was provided online and through social media outlets. A summary of the Statistically Valid Survey can be found in Appendix C. Notable facts from the surveys include the following information:

### Staff, Stakeholder, and Public Participation

BerryDunn collected ideas, information, and perceptions of the current parks, recreation, open space assets, and programs that Calvert County manages through a series of meetings. One of the goals of the LPPRP process was to complete a comprehensive needs analysis that incorporated the opinions, needs, and desires of as many residents as possible. To meet this goal, County staff and the BerryDunn team initiated a series of stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, public forums, and completed statistically valid and open link surveys. This process helped to create recommendations and prioritized action items for the County to fulfill planning requirements over the next five years.

Stakeholders who participated in the focus group sessions included representatives of local athletic leagues, sports groups, clubs that utilize County facilities, land trust members, local farmers, outdoor enthusiasts, and County leaders. County staff who participated represented the Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Planning & Zoning, Department of Economic Development, Department of Community Resources Office on Aging, and the Department of Finance and Budget. Approximately 40 stakeholders and staff participated in six focus group sessions, and 1,013 respondents provided feedback through combined formats of the survey.

## METHODOLOGY

### Primary Methods

1. Statistically valid (invitation survey)
  - Mailed postcards and survey with an option to complete online through password protected website.
2. Open Link Survey
  - Online survey available to all residents of Calvert County.

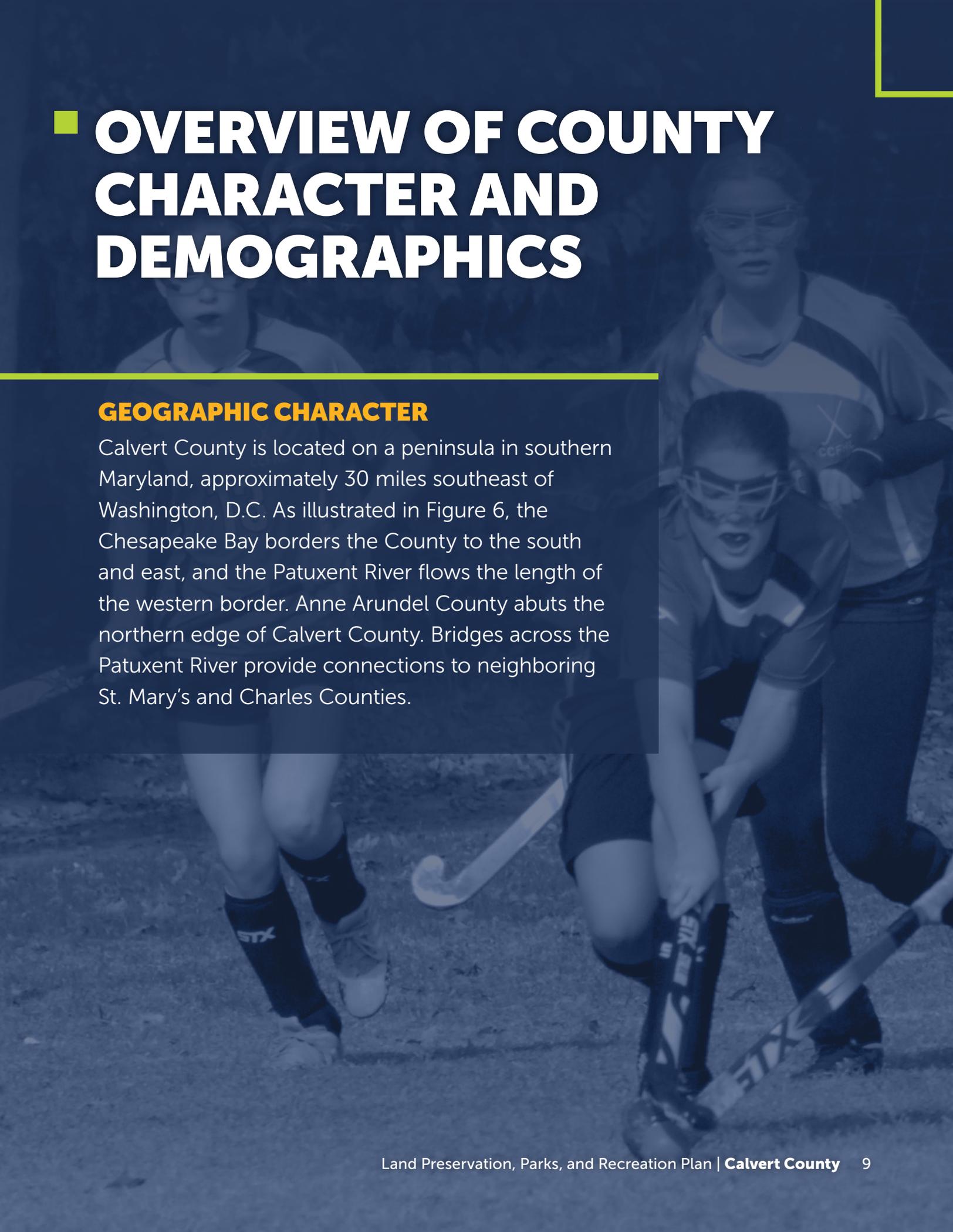
**1,013**  
**TOTAL SURVEYS**

**3,847** Postcards & Surveys delivered

**438** Invitation Surveys Completed. There was an 11% return rate on the invitation survey with an average of 10% (+/- 4.6%) Margin of Error.

**575** Open Link Surveys Completed

Figure 4: Statistically Valid Survey Methodology



# ■ OVERVIEW OF COUNTY CHARACTER AND DEMOGRAPHICS

## **GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTER**

Calvert County is located on a peninsula in southern Maryland, approximately 30 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. As illustrated in Figure 6, the Chesapeake Bay borders the County to the south and east, and the Patuxent River flows the length of the western border. Anne Arundel County abuts the northern edge of Calvert County. Bridges across the Patuxent River provide connections to neighboring St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

■ The County consists of approximately 214 square miles, 35 miles in length, and varies between 5 to 9 miles in width. The interior portion of the County is defined by rolling hills and upland plateau. The coastal areas along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River have contrasting character. On the bay side, towering cliffs composed of clay, sand, and gravel define the coastal edge; whereas, the topography of the Patuxent River coastal area is flat, and the landscape includes large numbers of acreage in agricultural production.

**Demographic Highlights**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Calvert County in 2020 was 92,783 with a median age of 41.4 years.

**Current Population**  
**92,783**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020; Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning

<b>Median Age</b>	<b>Median Household Income</b>
<b>Calvert</b> 41.4	\$109,313
<b>Maryland</b> 39.6	
<b>United States</b> 38.8	

Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

Figure 5: Population

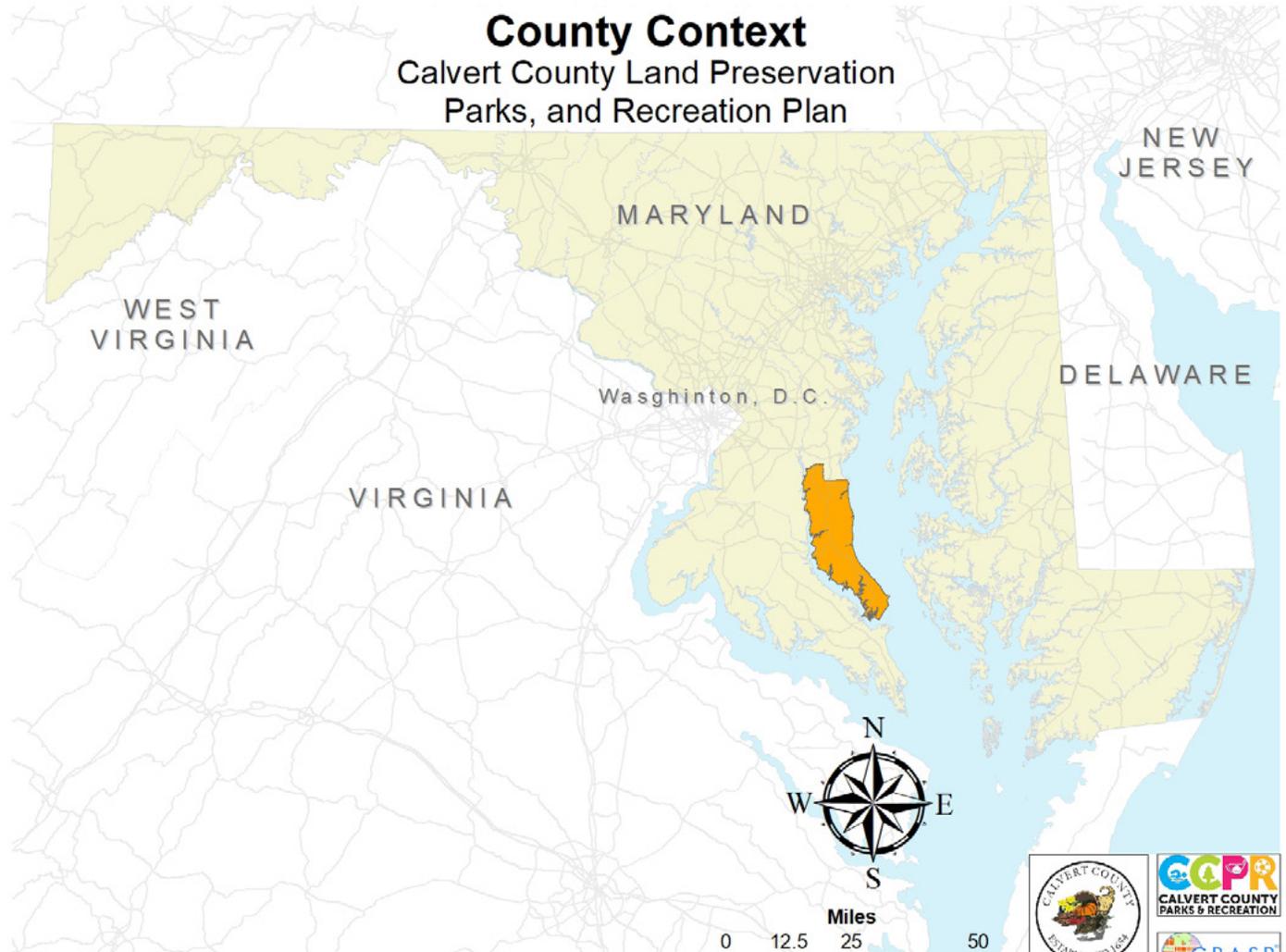


Figure 6: County Context Map

# Population Density

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan



Characteristics of Calvert County's existing and projected population trends that tend to influence the provision of public parks and recreation services are included in **Appendix A: Demographic Profile**. As illustrated in **Figure 7**, residents live throughout the County, with North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Lusby areas having the highest concentrations of residents.

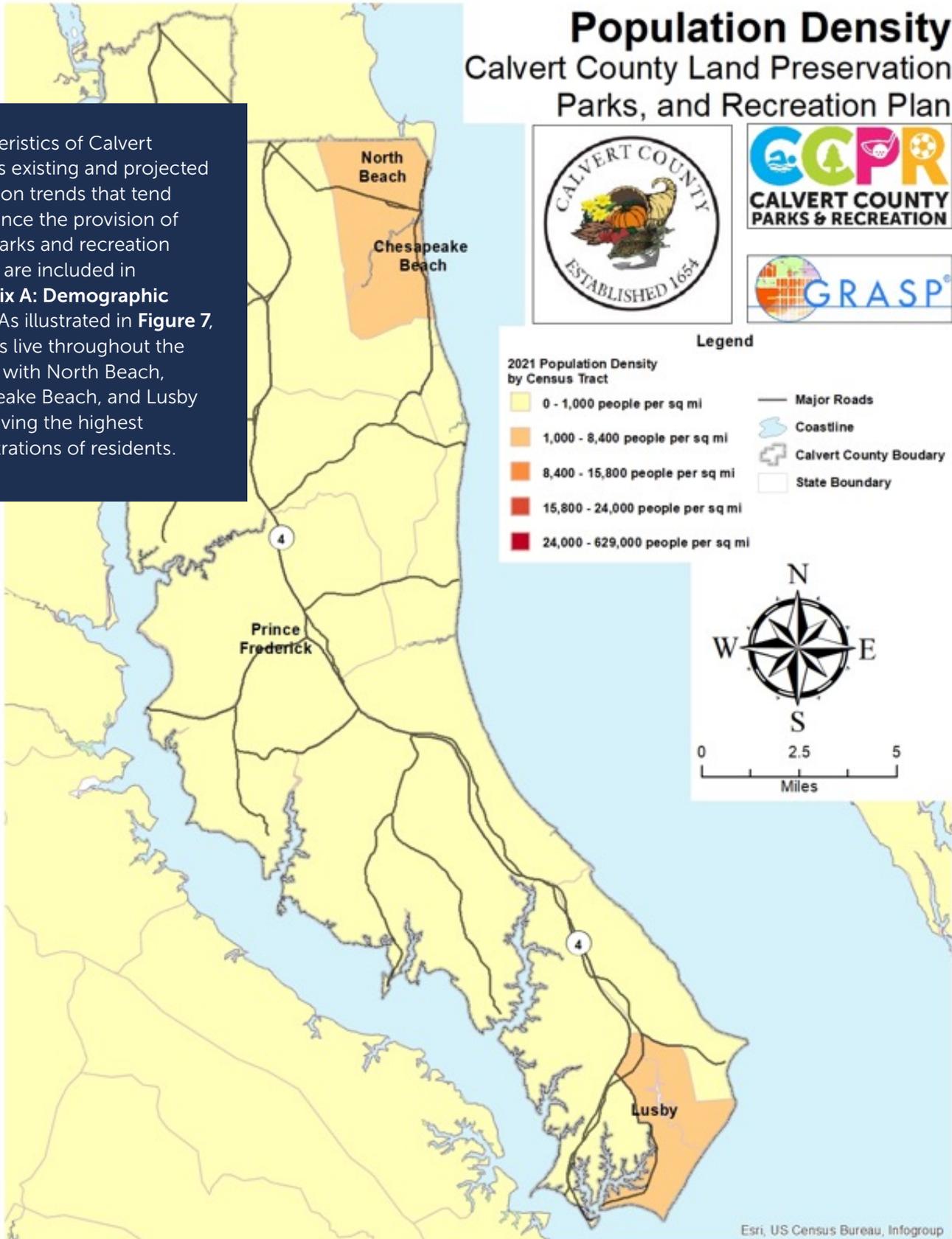


Figure 7: Calvert County Population Density  
Source: BerryDunn

## LOCAL–REGIONAL COOPERATION

Calvert County has two incorporated municipalities, North Beach and Chesapeake Beach. Both exercise local legislative authority independent of the County. The County and the municipalities cooperate on the following efforts:

- Revenue sharing (the County shares revenue with the municipalities)
- Coordination with water and sewer
- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- Schools

### THE CALVERT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MENTIONS REGIONAL COOPERATION IN GOAL 7.<sup>2</sup>

**GOAL 7:** Collectively plan future initiatives, to the greatest extent possible, with internal County departments and regional County jurisdictions, councils, and other potential partnerships.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Help ensure coordination and cooperation between Calvert County Government and other public and quasi-public agencies, and elected officials.

**10.7.1.4** Work with the towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, as well as the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, and Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties to achieve consensus on regional issues and policies.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Encourage long-term consistency between the towns and the County’s plans.

**10.7.2.1** Minimize potential land-use conflicts between incorporated towns and the County through coordination and development referrals, including review of proposed developments which are adjacent to or near town borders.

**10.7.2.2** Continue coordination of capital improvement programs.

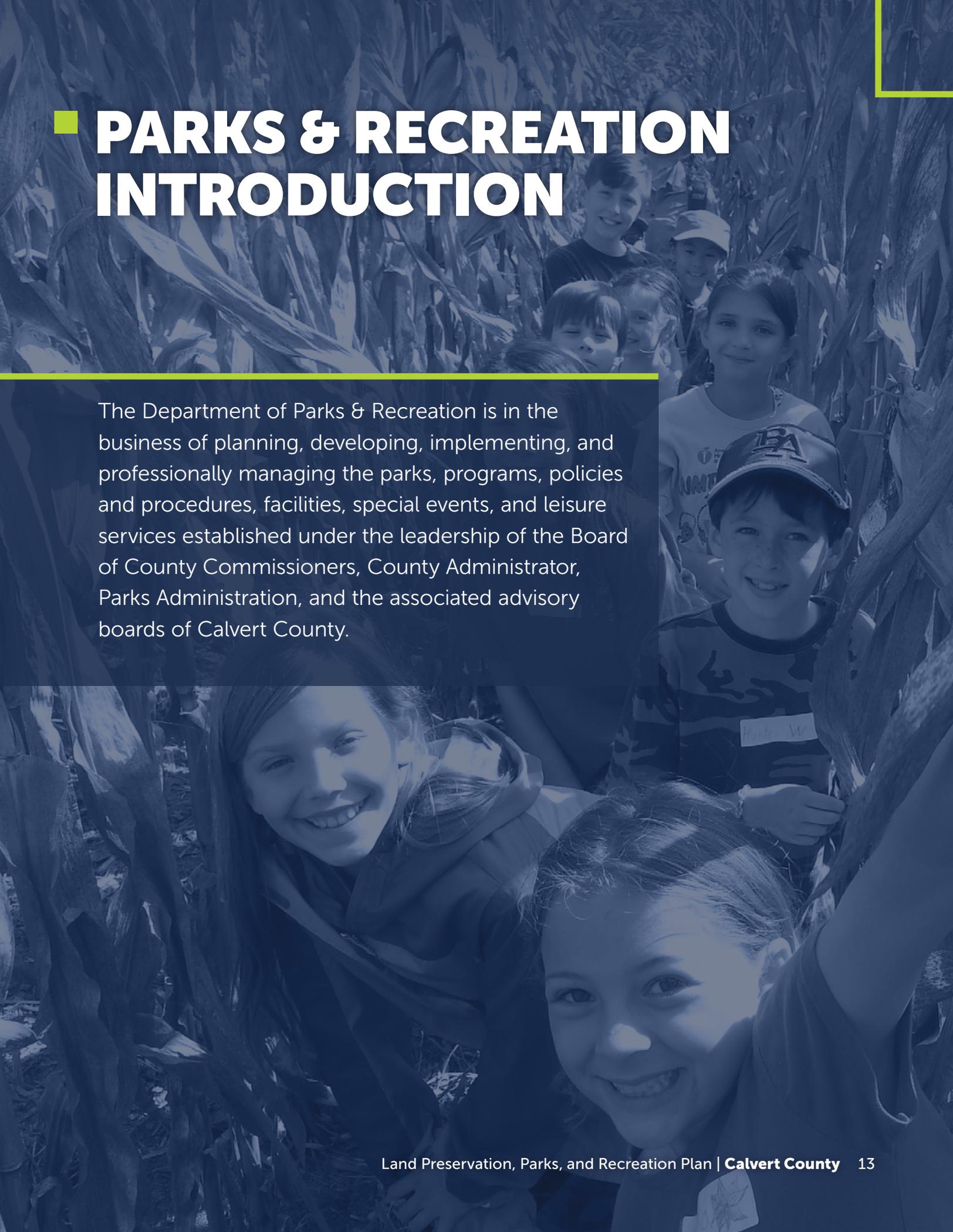
**10.7.2.3** Share staff and facilities where such sharing will improve public service capabilities and will avoid duplication of services and waste.

**10.7.2.4** Develop memoranda of understanding with the municipalities concerning the provision of infrastructure and services in connection with growth management.



Flag Ponds Nature Park

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28975/Comprehensive-Plan\\_Adopted-2019](https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28975/Comprehensive-Plan_Adopted-2019)

A group of children of various ages are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are standing in a cornfield, with tall corn stalks surrounding them. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A yellow square is located in the top right corner of the page.

# ■ PARKS & RECREATION INTRODUCTION

The Department of Parks & Recreation is in the business of planning, developing, implementing, and professionally managing the parks, programs, policies and procedures, facilities, special events, and leisure services established under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Parks Administration, and the associated advisory boards of Calvert County.

# MISSION

In partnership with Calvert County residents, the Department of Parks & Recreation cultivates programs, parks and services that positively impact quality of life; preserve natural and cultural resources; promote economic stability; and satisfy community needs for opportunities in recreation, wellness, knowledge, and connecting with nature.

Calvert County Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan July 1, 2020



■ Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation is comprised of five divisions with dedicated responsibilities. The Department’s major revenue streams are user fees; ad valorem taxes, which fund operation expenditures; excise taxes, which fund capital expenditures; and grants. Operating and replacement capital dollars are secured each year as part of the budget. The Department’s annual operating budget for fiscal year 2022 is approximately \$11.5 million. The Department will continue to work to help ensure that if revenues are not being met, expenses will not be incurred for the service. Expanded facilities and/or programming may be placed on hold until revenue streams meet requirements.

### Operating and Personnel

The Department employs 57 full-time merit and contract term employees as well as up to 300 hourly, part-time, and seasonal employees. This accounts for a full-time equivalent (FTE) of 173.37 employees.

ORGANIZATIONAL (FTE) STAFFING LEVELS	
Organizational (FTE) Staffing Levels	82.7
Natural Resources General Fund	14.9
Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund	61.67
Golf Course Special Revenue Fund	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>173.37</b>

A copy of the Department of Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart can be found on the following page.  
Table 1: Organizational Staffing Levels

## 12,448 Acres

Of parks, recreation areas, and open spaces provided a vast array of recreational opportunities in Calvert County in 2022.

Figure 8: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Acreage

# DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ORG CHART

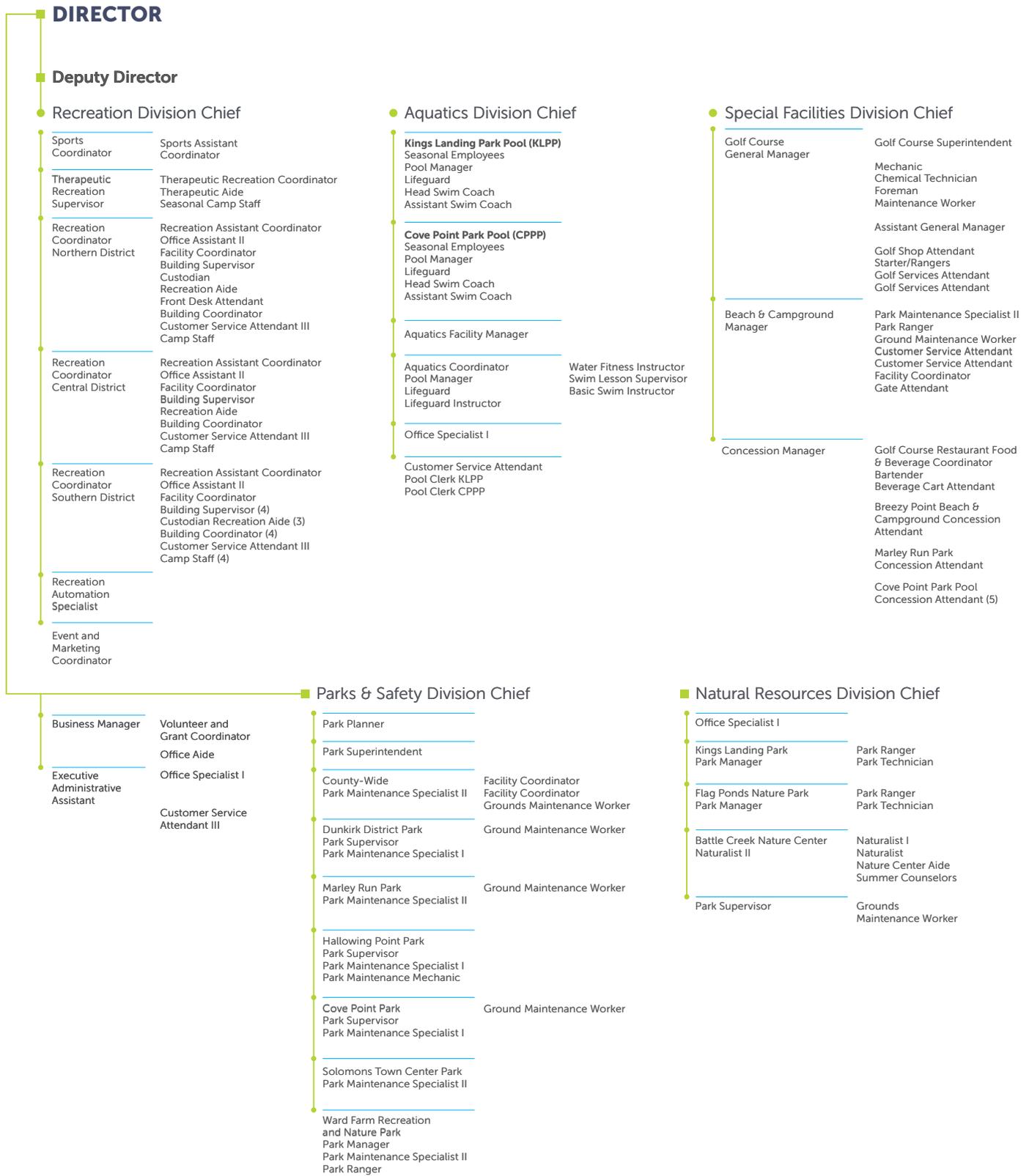


Figure 9: Department of Parks and Recreation Org Chart

■ The existing system of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Calvert County, as illustrated in Figure 11, includes lands and facilities that provide a wide range of opportunities for public participation in recreation, cultural, fitness, and leisure activities. This infrastructure supports the high quality of life residents value and expect, and serves to help preserve the rural charm of the County along with key goals and visions of the Calvert County’s Comprehensive Plan and previous LPPRP.

In 2022, public and quasi-public properties provided the public with access to diverse recreation facilities, programs, and activities for all ages. The single largest manager of public recreation land and open space in Calvert County is the State of Maryland DNR

The Parks & Recreation Department supports and maintain 76 park and properties that include schools special use and other use sites. Calvert County Park facilities fall into various categories. The number of sites listed below may differ from the total number of parks as more than one category may be applicable to a single facility. Park ID numbers correlate to Figure 6 on page 10.

**Mini-Parks**

A mini park is the smallest of County-designated park types. Mini-parks are one acre or less and designed to address a location-specific recreation need.

- A2** Calvert County Courthouse Green
- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran’s Park
- A4** Saint Leonard Polling House and Garden of Remembrance Park
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

**Neighborhood Parks**

These are designed to be the recreational and social hub of a neighborhood and include small open space areas and/or developed recreation facilities. These parks are generally less than 10 acres.

- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park & Phillips House
- B3** Twin Shields Recreation Area

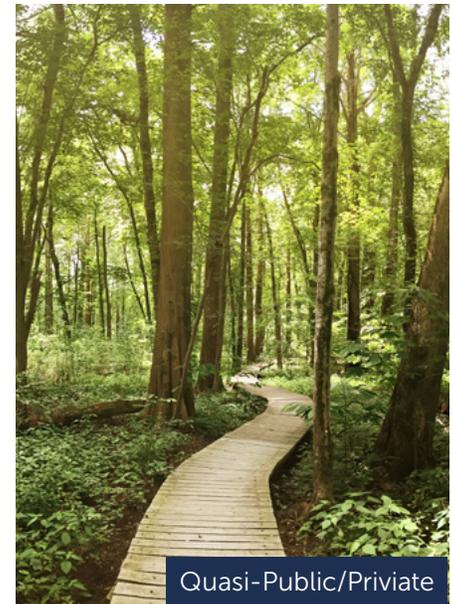


Figure 10: Existing System of Public Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Open Spaces

## Community Parks

These parks are designed to meet the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving open spaces and natural landscapes. They typically include athletic facilities for sports as well as playgrounds, picnic facilities, basketball and tennis courts, cycling, dog parks, and trails for hiking and cycling.

- C2** BG&E Field
- C6** Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park
- C7** Marley Run Recreation Area
- C8** North Beach Callis Park
- C12** Solomons Town Center Park
- C13** Sunrise Garden

## District Parks

These facilities not only draw visitors from Calvert County but also attract tourists from outside the County and State. They are designed to serve as large, active recreation hubs in each of Calvert County's three election districts. These sites provide fields, courts, and associated recreation infrastructure for team and individual sports and recreation activities. All three facilities boast multiple athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

- D1** Cove Point Park
- D2** Dunkirk District Park
- D3** Hallowing Point Park

## Regional Parks

These parks are designed to serve the needs of a large portion of the County and provide developed recreation facilities, such as sports fields and associated infrastructure and/or preserved natural areas and open spaces. Regional parks are larger than 50 acres.

- E2** Dominion Energy Regional Park
- E1** Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park



Cove Point Park

## School Recreation Sites

These facilities are the portion of a school or public educational institution available for public recreation use outside school hours and usage. Limitations on public access and use vary by school site and are based on agreements with the Calvert County Board of Education and the Department. The County has the following school recreation sites.

- G1** Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area
- G2** Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G3** Calvert Country School Recreation Area
- G4** Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G5** Calvert Middle School Recreation Area
- G6** Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G8** Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area
- G9** Huntingtown High School Recreation Area
- G10** Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area
- G11** Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area
- G12** Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area
- G13** Northern Middle and High School Ballfields
- G14** Patuxent High School Ballfields

- G15** Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields
- G16** Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area
- G17** Southern Middle School Recreation Area
- G18** Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area
- G19** Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

**Special Use Areas**

Facilities that serve a specific, single purpose. These sites include facilities such as pools, campgrounds, boat ramps, community centers, and golf courses. These facilities are relied on to be at least partially self-sufficient and produce enough revenue to not adversely impact ad valorem tax dollars.

- H7** Bayside History Museum
- K1** Breezy Point Beach & Campground
- K4** Calvert Pines Senior Center
- K8** Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- K9** Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center
- K20** Grays Road Dog Park
- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond
- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- C10** Saint Leonard Recreation Area
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

**Open Space**

By protecting the forests, waterways, and other habitats, these parks provide opportunities for the public to explore, discover, and learn about the natural heritage of the County. These areas preserve natural systems, unique landscapes, and/or local areas of unique social or ecological value. These areas offer outdoor recreation opportunities compatible with the natural landscape, cultural heritage, and ecological values of the site.

- J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- J8** Fishing Creek Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- J10** Fowler Road Open Space
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- J11** Goldstein Property
- J12** Kings Landing Park



Southern Community Center

**Other Classifications:**

**NATURE CENTER**

**J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**C3** Dowell House Community Center

**C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center

**B2** King Memorial Park & Phillips House

**K13** Mt. Hope Community Center

**C9** North Beach Senior Center

**K16** Northeast Community Center

**K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

**K1** Breezy Point Beach & Campground

**K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park

**J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park

**I4** Gatewood Preserve

**K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond

**C5** Kellam's Park Boat Ramps

**J12** Kings Landing Park

**K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf

**K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch

**K17** Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier

**A3** Solomons Mini Park & Comfort Station

**K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

**Note:** Locations are listed by their primary classification but some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications

**WATER ACCESS**

**J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm

**2018 LPPRP Accomplishments to Date**

2018 LPPRP Accomplishments to Date The table below represents the County's update on the work that has been completed to reach the goals of the 2018 LPPRP within parks and recreation.

OPEN SPACE AND PARKS AND RECREATIONAL LAND GOALS ESTABLISHED IN 2018	TYPE AND SPECIFIC LOCATION	ACREAGE NEEDED	ACREAGE ACQUIRED
<b>GOAL 1:</b> Continue to maintain and develop parks, recreation facilities, and programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing population in Calvert County.	Parks, recreation facilities in Calvert County	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatewood Preserve 48+ acres</li> <li>• Dominion Energy Regional Park 179+ acres</li> <li>• Harriet E. Brown Park/Watson Property 27+ acres</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 2:</b> Develop an interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the County to link together places people live, work, play, and visit in Calvert County and Southern Maryland.	Pedestrian trails and bike paths across Calvert County	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatewood Preserve 48+ acres</li> <li>• Dominion Energy Regional Park 179+ acres</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 3:</b> Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.	Opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatewood Preserve 48+ acres</li> </ul>

Table 2: 2018 LPPRP Successes

## OPEN SPACE AND PARKS AND RECREATIONAL LAND GOALS 2022

The table below represents how the County plans to meet their land acquisition goals (needs) over the next five years.

**GOAL:** Provide access to a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities in Calvert County.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Increase the amount of land area dedicated to recreation and natural resources.

	ACREAGE NEEDED	PLAN FOR MEETING NEED
Target the development of any new indoor and outdoor sports fields or courts, and/or other active recreation components in or near Town Centers.	N/A	Mid-Term
Plan for the creation and/or expansion of centrally located parks and green spaces in Town Centers.	N/A	Mid-Term
Select locations for parks that are easily accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists living in the Town Centers.	N/A	Mid-Term
As the County’s population grows, the inventory of parks and recreation assets and programs, as well as resources of the Department of Parks & Recreation should increase in a corresponding manner to help ensure the continued delivery of high-quality programs, facility maintenance, and infrastructure management.	N/A	Ongoing
Continue to evaluate existing linear corridors, rights-of-way, and other potential areas for future trail development.	N/A	Ongoing
Seek to acquire rights-of-way and open space through zoning or subdivision entitlement process to utilize for future trail creation	N/A	Ongoing
Seek to acquire waterfront property capable of supporting active and passive recreational usage.	N/A	Ongoing
When selecting sites for community support centers, parks, and other community facilities, analyze options for restoration and adaptive re-use of historic buildings and sites.	N/A	Ongoing

Table 3: 2022 Open Space and Parks and Recreation Land Goals

**OBJECTIVE 2: Help 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.**

	ACREAGE NEEDED	PLAN FOR MEETING NEED
Investigate opportunities to increase access, parking, and comfort features at existing public landings and waterfront park sites to allow for increased boat access and usage, and improved user experience.	N/A	Short-Term
Expand recreational opportunities by establishing an intergovernmental review procedure for the design or renovation of all new public buildings including schools, colleges, and community centers to help promote effective and efficient multiple use of these facilities.	N/A	Short-Term
Create trails and paths within the Town Center areas that connect with outlying parks and open spaces.	N/A	Mid-Term
Enhance the 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.	N/A	Ongoing
Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.	N/A	Ongoing
Continue to create, support, and promote public water trails in Southern Maryland.	N/A	Ongoing
Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.	N/A	Ongoing
Continue to require on-site neighborhood recreational facilities in townhouse and multifamily developments and in single-family detached neighborhoods of 50 or more houses. Require recreation fees collected through the excise tax for all new houses and use fees to provide recreational sites and facilities at locations convenient to those who paid the fees.	N/A	Ongoing

**OBJECTIVE 3: Increase the variety of uses of community facilities.**

	ACREAGE NEEDED	PLAN FOR MEETING NEED
Consider increasing the use of schools as community centers and providing community after-hours access when designing renovations or new schools.	N/A	Ongoing
Encourage cultural celebrations at the neighborhood, community, and County level, particularly those that bring together diverse groups.	N/A	Ongoing

# Parks & Recreation Sites

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

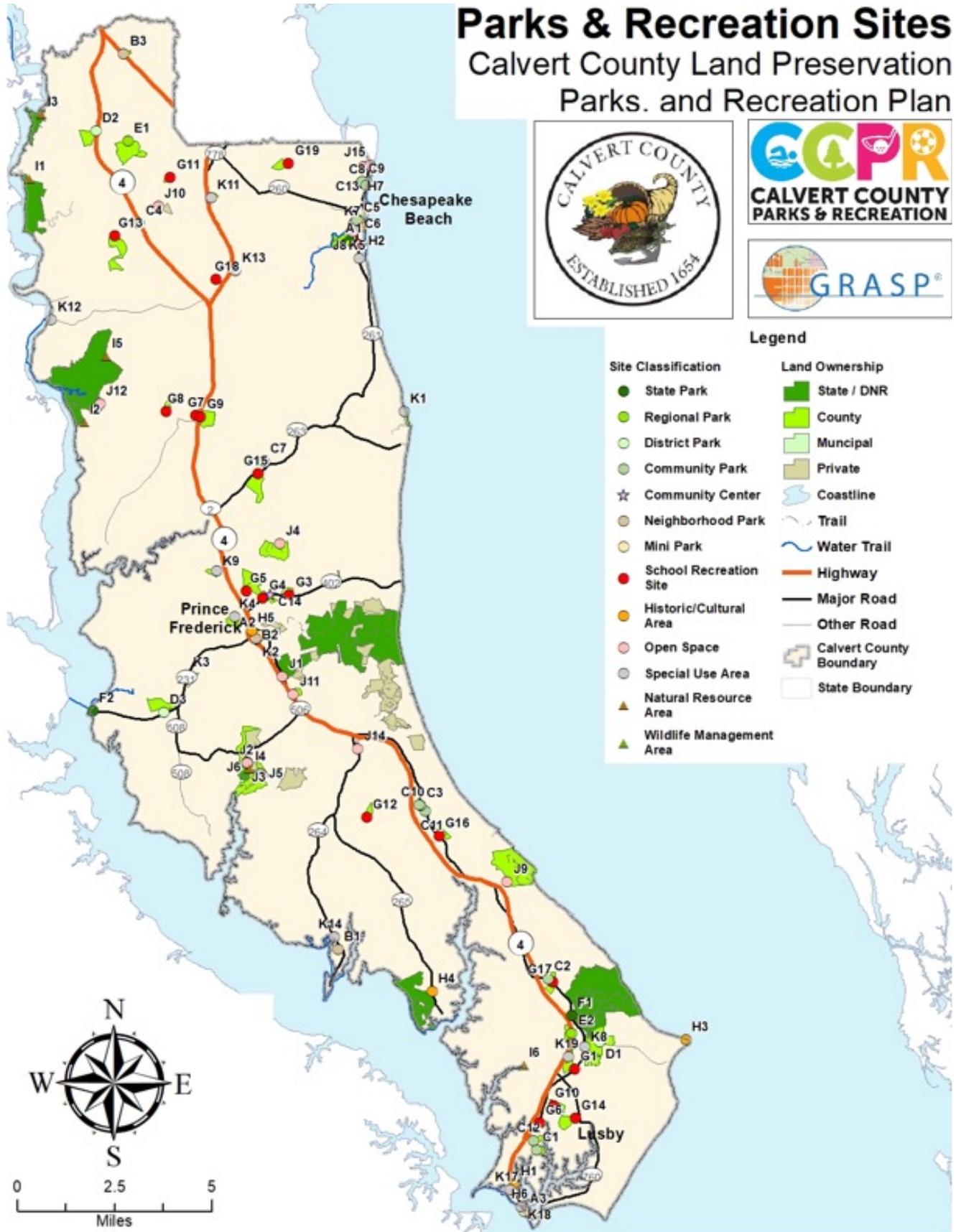


Figure 11: Public Parks and Recreation Sites in Calvert County

# PARKS, RECREATION SITES, AND OPEN SPACES IN CALVERT COUNTY

## STATE PARK

- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park
- F2** Hallowing Point Boat Ramp and Research Center
- H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

## DISTRICT PARK

- D1** Cove Point Park
- D2** Dunkirk District Park
- D3** Hallowing Point Park

## REGIONAL PARK

- E2** Dominion Energy Regional Park
- E1** Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

## COMMUNITY PARK

- C2** BG&E Field
- C6** Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park
- C7** Marley Run Recreation Area
- C8** North Beach Callis Park
- C12** Solomons Town Center Park
- C13** Sunrise Garden Neighborhood Park
- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House
- B3** Twin Shields Recreation Area

## MINI PARK

- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park
- A2** Calvert County Courthouse Green
- A4** Saint Leonard Polling House and Garden of Remembrance Park
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

## COMMUNITY CENTER

- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

## SCHOOL RECREATION SITE

- G1** Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area
- G2** Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G3** Calvert Country School Recreation Area
- G4** Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G5** Calvert Middle School Recreation Area
- G6** Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G8** Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area

- G9** Huntingtown High School Recreation Area
- G10** Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area
- G11** Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area
- G12** Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area
- G13** Northern Middle and High School Ballfields
- G14** Patuxent High School Ballfields
- G15** Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields
- G16** Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area
- G17** Southern Middle School Recreation Area
- G18** Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area
- G19** Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

## SPECIAL USE AREA

- C1** Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
- K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground
- K3** Calvert County Fairgrounds
- K4** Calvert Pines Senior Center
- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park
- K7** Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail
- K6** Chesapeake Beach Waterpark
- K8** Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
- K9** Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center
- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- K20** Grays Road Dog Park
- F2** Hallowing Point Boat Ramp and Research Center
- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond
- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- C10** Saint Leonard Recreation Area
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

## HISTORIC/CULTURAL AREA

- C1** Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
- H7** Bayside History Museum
- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park
- H1** Calvert Marine Museum
- H2** Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

- H3** Cove Point Lighthouse
- H6** J.C Lore and Sons Oyster House Museum
- H5** The Linden House

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

- I1** Hall Creek Natural Resource Management Area
- I5** Huntingtown Natural Resource Management Area
- I2** King's Landing Natural Resource Management Area
- I3** Merkle Natural Resources Management Area

## NATURE CENTER

- J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

## OPEN SPACE

- J1** American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
- J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- J6** Calvert Nature Society
- J7** Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands
- J8** Fishing Creek Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- J10** Fowler Road Open Space
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- J11** Goldstein Property
- I6** Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve
- J12** Kings Landing Park
- J14** Port Republic School House
- J15** Walton Beach Nature Preserve
- J16** Wetlands Overlook Park

## WATER ACCESS

- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground
- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park
- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond
- C5** Kellam's Park Boat Ramps
- J12** Kings Landing Park
- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

Note: Locations are listed by their primary classification but some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications.

## PUBLIC PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN CALVERT COUNTY

The system of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Calvert County supports a wide variety of benefits and services directly linked to residents' high quality of life. The natural and cultural landscapes and ecological systems preserved on public lands support biodiversity, serve to mitigate flooding and impacts of climate change, and filter drinking water. The trails, sports fields, boat launches, and other public recreation amenities distributed throughout the County provide opportunities for thousands of people to engage with nature; run, play, and stay fit; and enjoy activities known to be beneficial for public health, personal well-being, and local economies.

The programs noted below are a small sample of the programs offered within the County's Department of Parks & Recreation. The entire program plan can be found in **Appendix I**.

### Children in Nature

The State of Maryland recognizes that young residents have significant roles to play as future stewards of our communities and shared environment. Major initiatives, including the State's Project Green Classroom (formerly the Partnership for Children in Nature), and statewide educational requirements in environmental literacy help provide Maryland youth with a basic understanding of the natural world.

In Calvert County, the Department of Parks & Recreation offers nature and outdoor recreation programs year-round; Maryland State Parks programs engage with residents and visitors; and other private entities, such as 4-H, offer agricultural and land stewardship training for youth ages 5 through 18. These programs offer hands-on agricultural and natural resource-based activities and learning experiences that foster the development of future stewards of the environment.

### BENEFITS OF PUBLIC PARKS & OPEN SPACES



Economic Activity



Sense of Community



Environmental Awareness & Stewardship



Personal & Public Health & Wellness

Figure 12: Benefits of Public Parks & Open Spaces



Outdoor activities for youth in Calvert County include summer camps, swimming, fishing, hiking, boating, nature engagement, and learning about the local landscape, cultural, and historic resources through hands-on activities.

### **Parks & Recreation Summer Camps**

The camp programs offered through the Department of Parks & Recreation include outdoor recreation activities that engage children and youth ages 5 through 21 with the natural environment. In addition, the Department offers different weeklong nature camps at parks and open spaces throughout the county. Summer camp activities are held at Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert Marine Museum, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Cove Point Pool.

### **Earth Day Celebrations**

The County's annual celebration of Earth Day is hosted at multiple parks and recreation sites. Annual activities for youth and teens include planting flowers, litter clean-ups, and other stewardship activities.

### **CHESPAX**

CHESPAX is the environmental education program of the Calvert County Public School System, where Board of Education staff partner with other County agency staff to provide hands-on environmental education experiences. The program utilizes local natural areas as outdoor classrooms for teaching science and relationship building with the natural environment. As of 2022, the program operated as a cooperative effort between the Board of Education, Calvert County Natural Resources Division, Calvert Marine Museum, Annemarie Sculpture Garden, Calvert County Solid Waste Division, and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

### Natural Resources Programs

These programs provide opportunities that engage children, teens, families, and adults in activities in the outdoors. Programs are sponsored by the Calvert Nature Society, a 501(c)(3) that supports the Natural Resources Division of the Department of Parks & Recreation. A full listing of current programs is available through the Calvert Nature Society online at [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org). Programs scheduled include:

#### PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

- Amazing Evergreens
- Animal Sweethearts
- Maple Sugarin' Time
- Salamander Soiree
- Fossil Foray

#### PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

- Wild Careers
- Teen Kayak Series
- Teen Amphibian Bioblitz Overnight
- Teen Birding Hike

#### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

- Nature Trivia

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Women in Science
- Eagle Hike
- Horseshoe Crab Campout



Source: Calvert County Natural Resources Division

#### CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Boardwalk Construction
- Kings Landing Recycling
- Spring Peeper Hunt for Calvert Stewards
- Nature Center Garden Workdays
- Calvert County Diversity
- Trail Monitoring
- Bird Counts and Surveys
- Kings Landing Gardening Days
- Raptor Road Surveys
- Fishing Line Recycling
- Kings Landing Wedding and Special Event Helper
- Bluebird Predator Guard Construction
- Bluebird Box Construction

# ■ RESPONSIBILITIES, RESOURCES, AND ENGAGEMENT

The County's provision of parks and recreation infrastructure and services is managed by multiple departments within the local government structure. Each agency's area of expertise is utilized in the planning, development, maintenance, and improvement of the facilities and programs offered to residents and visitors.

■ Multiple departments within the County work to manage the parks and recreation infrastructure. The departments are listed below with a brief description of responsibilities.

## Department of Parks & Recreation

Responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and professionally managing the parks, programs, policies and procedures, facilities, special events and leisure services established under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Parks Administration, and the associated advisory boards of Calvert County. The philosophy of the Department of Parks & Recreation is to offer year-round diversified recreation services and help ensure that all residents have equal opportunity for participation. The Department keeps pace with the recreational needs of constituents and responds positively to citizen input. The Department continues to strike a balance between development and the protection of natural resources. Participation in programs fosters a sense of ownership in the community, which in turn, generates social involvement and environmental stewardship. The Department values professionalism, family centeredness, safety, and fiscal responsibility.

## Recreation Division

Focuses on providing facilities, programs, and opportunities for residents and visitors to engage in facility-based sports, fitness, and recreation activities at “active” recreation parks, community centers, and public school recreation areas. The Recreation Division consists of the following areas:

- Community Centers
- Sports, Community, and Well-Being
- Therapeutic Recreation Services
- Events and Marketing

## Natural Resources Division

Preserve, manage, and operate the natural resource areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division manages the following areas/sites: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings

Landing Park, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Nan’s Cove, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, Hughes Tree Farm, Hutchins Pond, Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park, and Gatewood Preserve.

## Parks & Safety Division

Manages and operates all active park facilities to include 3 district parks, 2 regional parks, 12 satellite parks, over 50 multi-use fields and maintains 22 Board of Education fields at 11 facilities, nine basketball courts, 14 tennis courts, 12 playgrounds, 1 skate park, 3 dog parks, 12 picnic/pavilion areas, and 18 pickleball courts. Parks Safety also leads in safety protocol and standard operating procedures and sees to the Department of Parks & Recreation’s capital projects and planning.

## Special Facilities Division

Manages and operates the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Breezy Point Beach & Campground, and all concession operations within the Department.

## Aquatics Division

Manages and operates the County’s only indoor aquatic facility, the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, and two seasonal outdoor facilities.

## Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

This nine-member board is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners with the mission to aid and advise the Parks & Recreation Division in providing recreational facilities and programs and establishing policy for the operation of the same.

## Department of Planning & Zoning

Coordinates all land-use planning, manages development review, processes and approves all grading, building and use permits and enforces the zoning ordinance.

## Department of Community Resources

Office on Aging—operates senior centers and provides recreation, education, leisure, and volunteer opportunities for senior citizens throughout the County. The Commission on Aging, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, serves an advisory role to the Office on Aging.

## Partnerships

The work of Calvert County provides public recreation opportunities and engagement with nature and is supported through partnerships with public and private organizations and assistance from volunteers.

Calvert County's parks and recreation programming is heavily supported by the work of approximately 600 volunteers annually. Natural resources programming is dependent on support provided through strategic partnerships with local and regional non-profit organizations.

The Calvert Nature Society, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established specifically to support the County's Natural Resources Division. In addition to programming, the society raises funds through membership and program fees, donations, and securing of grants.

### ADDITIONAL PARTNERS OF THE COUNTY INCLUDE:

- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Cove Point Heritage Trust
- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- George Mason University
- Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership
- Patuxent River Commission

- Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Prince George County
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)-Pollinator and Sustainability Panel
- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program-Watershed Stewards Academy
- Maryland Historical Trust
- Soil Conservation District
- Maryland Cooperative Extension
- Maryland Forest Service
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Berkshire Hathaway Energy
- Calvert County Forestry Board
- Calvert K-9 Search and Rescue
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Southern Maryland Audubon
- U.S. Department of the Navy Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration
- Natural History Society of Maryland
- Private landowners (countywide)



### THE CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY

- Is dedicated to the development of responsible environmental ethic.
- Provides opportunities for environmental education and compatible recreation.
- Preserves the natural heritage of Calvert County.

### Budgets and Funding for County Parks and Recreation

In partnership with Calvert County residents, the Department of Parks and Recreation cultivates programs, parks, and services that positively impact quality of life; preserve natural and cultural resources; promote stability; and satisfy community needs for opportunities in recreation, wellness, knowledge,

and connecting with nature. The Department of Parks & Recreation strives to enhance the health, economy, and well-being of the community through sustainable practices, leisure opportunities, and environmental stewardship.<sup>3</sup>

The operating budget for FY2022 is provided below through page 33..

### Operating Budget

Expenditures	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>					
Salaries	\$2,823,860	\$3,517,968	\$3,760,233	\$3,574,257	\$3,761,380
Operating	435,678	625,939	971,459	630,539	617,166
Utilities	201,578	254,000	305,400	255,400	255,400
Maintenance and Repair Projects	96,005	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Contracted Services	165,082	254,575	254,575	254,575	254,575
Capital Outlay	380,861	332,276	507,348	204,886	204,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,103,064</b>	<b>\$5,094,758</b>	<b>\$5,909,015</b>	<b>\$5,029,657</b>	<b>\$5,203,407</b>
Total Expenditures as a percent of Total					
Operating Budget	1.34%	1.60%	1.77%	1.54%	1.59%

Table 3: Parks and Recreation Operating Budget



<sup>3</sup> Calvert County Board of County Commissioners-Adopted Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2022

## Parks and Recreation Special Revenues Fund

The Parks and Recreation Fund, operated by the Department of Parks & Recreation, is comprised of four major components: recreational programs, Breezy Point Beach and Campground, concession operations, and three aquatics facilities, which include two seasonal pools at Cove Point and Kings Landing, and the indoor Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick.



Dunkirk Dog Park

## Operating Budget

Parks & Recreation Self Sustaining Fund	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Program Revenue	\$643,292	\$8 56,147	\$8 41,026	\$8 41,026	\$841,026
Rents & Concessions	148,168	248,888	237,000	237,000	237,000
Camping	276,530	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
General Admission	534,999	760,057	760,057	760,057	760,057
Passes	159,960	198,000	197,500	197,500	197,500
Misc. Income	12,803	17,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
General Fund Contribution	953,128	1,693,707	1,605,592	1,605,592	1,706,704
Use of Prior Year Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,728,880</b>	<b>\$4,053,799</b>	<b>\$4,055,175</b>	<b>\$4,055,175</b>	<b>\$4,156,287</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries	\$1,339,334	\$1,997,679	\$2,060,751	\$2,060,751	\$2,147,920
Benefits	257,413	438,419	373,457	373,457	406,667
Operating	347,934	571,551	561,526	561,526	554,997
Utilities	324,055	345,400	359,325	359,325	348,200
Food	27,970	52,500	50,000	50,000	50,000
Self Sustained Programs	232,835	306,100	306,100	306,100	306,100
Contracted Services	135,401	206,200	207,500	207,500	207,500
Contingency	28,448	125,000	152,000	125,000	123,387
Capital Outlay	37,090	10,950	11,516	11,516	11,516
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,730,480</b>	<b>\$4,053,799</b>	<b>\$4,055,175</b>	<b>\$4,055,175</b>	<b>\$4,156,287</b>

Table 4: Parks and Recreation Special Revenues Fund

Source: Adopted Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2022, Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County

### Golf Course Fund

The Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, operated by the Department of Parks & Recreation, is in Lusby, Maryland. The course includes an 18-hole golf course and driving range. A new clubhouse facility is currently being planned for construction.

### Operating Budget

Golf Course Fund	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Charges for Services	\$663,963	\$703,000	\$662,100	\$662,100	\$662,000
Other Revenue	49,399	100	41,000	41,000	41,100
General Fund Revenue	356,176	549,982	479,633	479,633	497,116
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,069,538</b>	<b>\$1,253,082</b>	<b>\$1,182,733</b>	<b>\$1,182,733</b>	<b>\$1,200,216</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries	\$519,230	\$540,116	\$538,713	\$538,713	\$550,870
Benefits	177,584	193,906	196,760	196,760	202,086
Operating	343,507	364,560	378,760	378,760	378,760
Capital Outlay	-	86,000	-	-	-
Contracted Services	1,230	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500
Contingency	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,041,551</b>	<b>\$1,253,082</b>	<b>\$1,182,733</b>	<b>\$1,182,733</b>	<b>\$1,200,216</b>

Table 5: Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Operating Budget  
 Source: Adopted Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2022, Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County



### Natural Resources Division

The Natural Resource Division’s budget and expenses are noted in Table 6. Funding for the general operations and maintenance of County-owned natural resources facilities approved for FY2022 totaled \$1,063,932. As illustrated in the table, the budget was dedicated to

the salaries of staff who directly provide and support the public parks, natural resources, and programs that tens of thousands of residents utilize annually. The operating budget for the Natural Resources Division can be found below..

### Operating Budget

Expenditures	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
Salaries	\$763,055	\$773,409	\$735,575	\$735,575	\$753,010
Operating	78,341	143,725	124,175	122,075	114,800
Utilities	34,887	47,500	46,200	46,200	46,200
Maintenance and Repair Projects	19,184	35,500	45,500	45,500	44,922
Contracted Services	30,534	31,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
Capital Outlay	20,395	46,100	129,500	57,000	57,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$946,396</b>	<b>\$1,077,234</b>	<b>\$1,128,950</b>	<b>\$1,054,350</b>	<b>\$1,063,932</b>
Total Expenditures as a percent of Total					
<b>Operating Budget</b>	0.31%	0.34%	0.34%	0.32%	0.32%

Table 6: Natural Resources Operating Budget  
 Source: Adopted Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2022, Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County

### The Significance of Program Open Space Funding

Calvert County leverages annual matching grants allotted through Maryland’s Program Open Space to implement projects that achieve goals for parks and recreation defined by the County’s Comprehensive Plan and LPPRP, as well those established by the State of Maryland. Established in 1969 and administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space receives funding through the collection of a small statewide tax on sale and transfer of ownership of real property and disperses funds through subprograms to State and local public agencies to be used for the preservation of open space and enhancement of local outdoor recreation opportunities for the public benefit.

Calvert County has used the Program Open Space (POS) Local program to match County funds allocated for projects to enhance the local parks and recreation system through the acquisition of land (for open space preservation, expansion of existing preserved land

holdings, or for sites for future parks and recreation facilities), renovation and enhancement of existing facilities, or development of new assets. The County submits the requests to the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources for POS matching grants annually.

Calvert County’s FY2022 POS Local Annual Program proposed projects that support the recreation, parks, and open space-relevant visions, goals, and action plans of the County and State. Projects proposed for funding included a new community center, development of facilities to support water access, facility improvements, enhancement and expansion of trails, acquisition of land to expand existing properties, landscape, and natural resource preservation, and to acquire land for the development of new parks and recreation facilities in or near town centers, where population growth is being directed. According to the FY2022 Calvert County POS Annual Program document, the County approved applying for \$575,000 from POS funding.



### STATEWIDE PROGRAM OPEN SPACE IMPACTS

- 400,000 acres of protected land
- Awarded more than 6,700 grants to local governments through Program Open Space.
- Enhanced quality of communities
- Established greenways and green infrastructure network
- Provided state and local park or public open space areas within 15 minutes of most residents
- Program Open Space funding is good for business and for the overall quality of life in Maryland and its attractive residential communities.

### Focus Areas

The 2022 LPPRP Guidelines include data and information to better serve the residents of Calvert County by identifying the following:

- Locations and recreational opportunities available at parks and recreation facilities
- Rates of park use and public participation in various types of recreation
- Need for more parks and recreation facilities
- Proximity of parks and recreation facilities to where people live and to underserved populations in particular
- Accomplishments of local jurisdictions to preserve agricultural and resource land

In preparation of the 2022 LPPRP, a mixed-methods approach was utilized to gather data and user perceptions. Findings from each focus area provided key information regarding service provision, including areas where public needs are well served, and conversely, areas where significant challenges may be impacting the provision of public recreation services. The sum of all individual focus area findings provides a well-rounded understanding of the strengths, challenges, and perceived opportunities for maintaining and improving the overall level of service provided by existing public recreation opportunities in Calvert County.

### Level of Service Focus Areas

- 1** Current perceptions—online survey and public engagement findings.
- 2** Measured participation in county parks, recreation, and natural resources programs.
- 3** Estimated participation in recreation, fitness, and leisure activities.
- 4** Distribution of existing assets and ease of public access.
- 5** Trends influencing the provision of parks and recreation services.
- 6** Estimated economic impacts of local participation in recreation.

Figure 13: Level of Service Analysis Focus Areas



## ENGAGEMENT SESSION FINDINGS & SURVEY RESULTS

### COVID-19 Pandemic

County leadership and BerryDunn both prioritized safety and well-being of all personnel and community members involved in the planning process. The Centers for Disease Control and the County’s safety protocols were carefully followed and, as a result, input was completed through a hybrid method of capturing information. The project team met face-to-face with safety protocols as well as Mobile Optimized Engagement tools, utilizing the Zoom digital platform when meeting with all focus groups and stakeholders. The results of the engagement process were thorough, comprehensive, and encouraging.

### Staff and Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Focus group sessions and a public community meeting were conducted October 12–15, 2021. These included staff meetings, focus group meetings, and a public meeting and were held in various locations throughout the County. The goal of the meetings was to gather information and perceptions regarding existing strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the County’s parks, open space, and recreation offerings. The information gathered guides the update

of the LPPRP. In all, 40 members of the community participated in the information-gathering sessions. Participants included members from:

- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Girl Scouts
- Berkshire Hathaway Energy
- Calvert County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Calvert County Public Schools
- Calvert County Parks & Recreation Calvert County
- Economic Development Committee
- Calvert Nature Society
- The Arc of Southern Maryland
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Spider Hall Farm
- Office on Aging
- ANS Smith Development–Breezy Point Marina
- Private Residents
- Local Business Owners
- Youth Athletic League Organizers
- Seniors

## VALUES OF PARKS AND RECREATION



Water Access



Protection of waterways and open spaces



Preservation of county’s natural beauty and environment



Location—Chesapeake Bay



County is not overbuilt



Affordability

Figure 14: The Values of Parks and Recreation

## UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE COUNTY

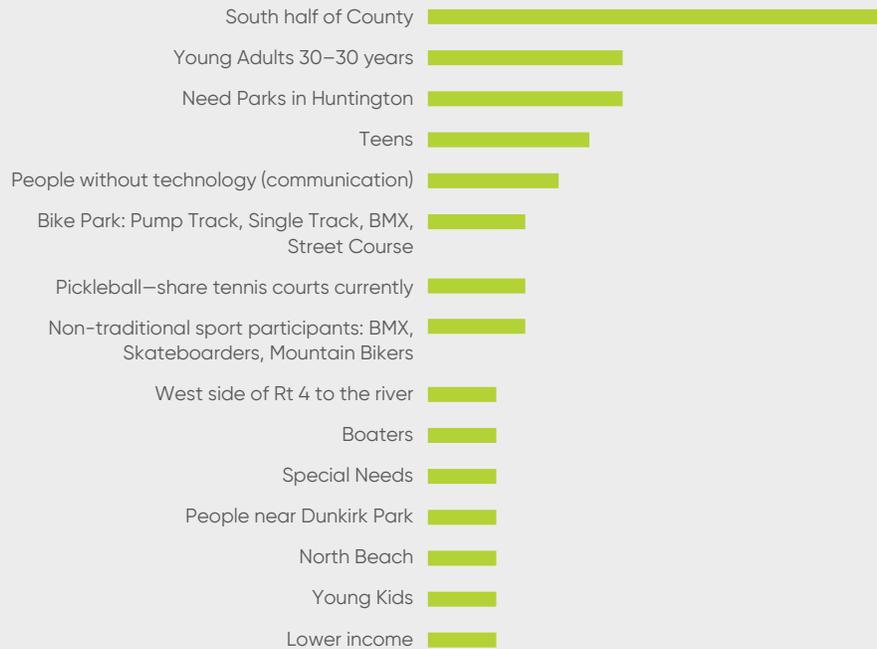


Figure 15: Under served areas of the County

Discussions with these community members yielded long lists of perceived strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the existing system of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Calvert County. Most participants noted they were generally satisfied with the recreation opportunities in the County and shared their unique perspectives on where the current parks system or programs may be deficient or could benefit from improvement. Major recurring themes from these discussions are reflected in the figure below.

Community members were also asked if there were any areas of the County that are underserved, and a majority said that the southern half of the County is underserved.

Participants noted key community concerns as follows:

- Population is aging
- Projected growth of the County is increasing
- Indoor facility space is limited, especially for sports
- Lack of connectivity across the County with trails
- No access to view available facilities
- Commuter (bedroom) community
- Aging infrastructure—maintenance



- Everything is underfunded
- There is no sport venue/complex that could sustain large tournaments
- Not enough special events
- Equitable access is essential
- Create better connectivity
- Politics in sports organizations
- Improve communication, marketing, and promotion
- Not enough access to water
- Park areas do not meet ADA requirements

■ Other unmet needs and demands as noted in the Statistically Valid Survey can be found in Appendix C Survey Report. Areas recommended by the community include additional facilities and amenities, improvements with communication and Department offerings, new programs and services, more park amenities (shade, water fountains), facilities that are closer to where community members live and work, improved maintenance, lower pricing/user fees, improvement of the quality of programs, improvement of accessibility for those with disabilities, safety and security improvements in the parks, and improvement of customer service and staff knowledge.

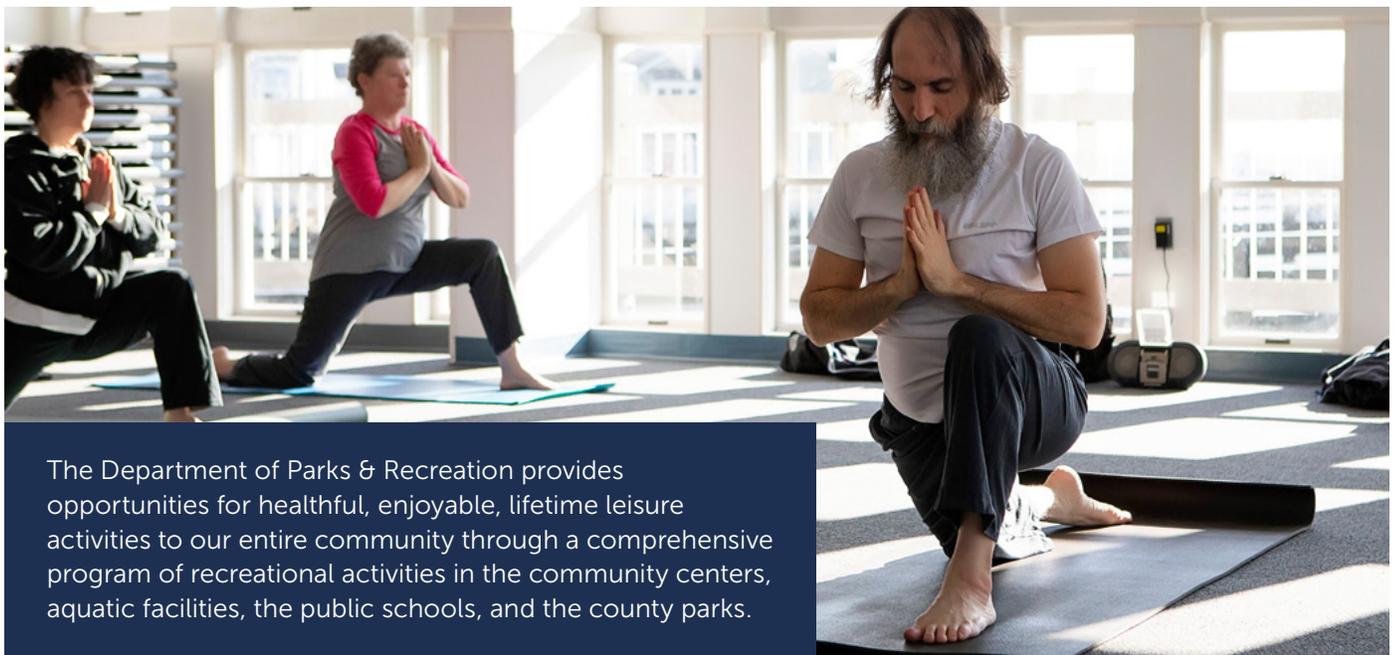
### Open Link Survey Response Summary

As a means of gaining additional public feedback regarding parks and recreation offerings in Calvert County, an invitation and Open Link Survey took place from November 20 through December 31, 2021. RRC Associates hosted the survey. RRC provides strategic market research and data analysis within the parks and recreation industry.

Outreach and notification for the survey was accomplished through a press release, email blasts, and social media postings, primarily through the Department of Parks & Recreation in collaboration with the County's Division of Communication & Media Relations (CMR). A total of 1,013 surveys were completed. The full survey report can be found in Appendix C.

### Key Findings from all Survey Respondents

- Overall, 52% of respondents rated their satisfaction with recreational opportunities between 4 and 5, where 5 reflects being very satisfied with opportunities in Calvert County.
- According to respondents, additional facilities and amenities and improved communication would help increase their participation in recreational activities, facilities, and programs. Open Link respondents were more interested in additional facilities and programs than were Invite respondents. More Invite respondents than Open Link respondents said better access for those with disabilities would increase their participation.
- Respondents' top priorities for additional amenities were paved and unpaved trails and bicycling trails, beach/water access, and an indoor multisport recreation complex.
- Most popular activities included more passive recreational activities such as walking, spending time in nature, playground general use/play, and beach going. Least-popular activities included horseback riding, hunting, and skateboarding.
- When comparing distance travelled to the most-visited facilities, most respondents travel 5–9 miles and about one-third travel 10–19 miles.
- The importance of parks, recreation, and open space rankings focused on maintenance of existing facilities and open space areas, walking, hiking,



The Department of Parks & Recreation provides opportunities for healthful, enjoyable, lifetime leisure activities to our entire community through a comprehensive program of recreational activities in the community centers, aquatic facilities, the public schools, and the county parks.

running, and cycling. New and enhanced waterfront access and open space areas all ranked above 60% as being important.

- Agricultural and land preservation was of high importance to respondents and more so for Invite respondents. On all questions, 79% or more Invite respondents rated either as a 4 (“somewhat important”) or 5 (“very important”).
- Overall, there is room for improvement regarding communication. The average response was a 3.3.

### Measured Participation in County Department of Parks & Recreation

Calvert County provides a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services that are tied to the high quality of life of residents. Most Calvert County’s parks and outdoor recreation amenities are open for public use from dawn to dusk throughout the year. With District and Regional Parks open until 11 p.m. from March to November, and 8:00pm the remainder of the year. Although no practical means currently exist to track all use of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces, program participation and registration data indicates strong and growing public use of Calvert County’s recreation and natural resource programs which have been reinvigorated in 2022.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Parks & Recreation operated an extensive recreation program which has been reinvigorated in 2022. According to the 2021 attendance records, over 80,000 attendees participated in recreation programs that year and thousands more visited facilities. Recreation program users consistently give the Department high marks for both the quality and variety of offerings.

### Recreation, Special Facilities & Aquatics Division—Participation Highlights

These divisions offer a variety of classes, sports, and recreation activities that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to participate. The Division’s quarterly program catalog is available online at <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/115/Parks-and-Recreation>.

Data tracked from December 2018 to December 2021 indicates high levels of participation in programs and activities and high use of facilities despite effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. As reported for this period:

- 251,487 registrations took place to participate in the Division’s programs or activities, reserve facilities, play golf, or purchase passes
- 10,246 programs and activities were offered
- Community and activity centers were reserved for 4,388 functions, parties, and community group meetings
- 73,069 field uses were scheduled on County athletic fields (parks and recreation, and school fields)
- Park pavilions and shelters were reserved 2,818 times for group functions
- Parks & Recreation-operated aquatic facilities reported an increase in individual daily swimmers
- Chesapeake Hills Golf Course logged 79,264 rounds of golf, with 113 golf tournaments; most reservations were for traditional golf

### Natural Resources Division Participation Highlights

The Natural Resources Division manages and operates the County’s natural resource areas and provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division collaborates with its partners to provide environmental education field experiences for all County school children in grades one, three, and five, as well as outdoor recreation and educational programs for the public. A comprehensive volunteer program is also managed by the Division and Calvert Nature Society.

The Natural Resources Division strives to preserve, manage, and operate the natural resource areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division manages the following areas/sites: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Nan’s Cove, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, Hughes Tree Farm, Hutchins Pond, Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, and Gatewood Preserve.

- Engaged 100% of Calvert County first-, third-, and fifth-grade classes in outdoor learning experiences in FY2019, FY2020, and FY2021.
- Scheduled at least 130 outdoor recreation and environmental education programs at each nature park for the public (ages 18 months through adult) throughout the year.

- Offered a comprehensive volunteer program to include job descriptions, recruitment, training, evaluation, and recognition objectives to expand volunteer opportunities throughout the Natural Resources Division. For FY2022, the Division planned to coordinate at least one hundred opportunities to engage 125 volunteers in park stewardship, ecological monitoring, and educational programs, providing over 5,076 hours of service throughout the year.
- Offered 744 public programs in FY2018–2021.
- Recorded 21,236 volunteer hours for the Division from FY2019 through FY2022.

### Estimated County Participation in Recreation, Sports, and Leisure Activities

Esri Business Analyst provides estimates for activity participation and consumer behavior based on a specific methodology and survey data to comprise what Esri terms “Market Potential Index.” The following charts showcase the participation in fitness activities, outdoor recreation, and sports teams for adults 25 and older, compared to statewide participation levels. The activities with the highest participation include walking for exercise, swimming, hiking, jogging/running, and weightlifting.

Based on the figure above, walking for exercise followed by swimming are the most popular fitness activities for adults in the County. This is representative of the information found in both community engagement and the survey results.

Adult participation in outdoor recreation ranks high in hiking, jogging/running, and overnight camping trips.

As noted on the chart to the right, basketball holds the largest participation levels in adult team sports. Other sports are consistent with steady involvement, other than softball, which shows a lower percentage of participation overall.

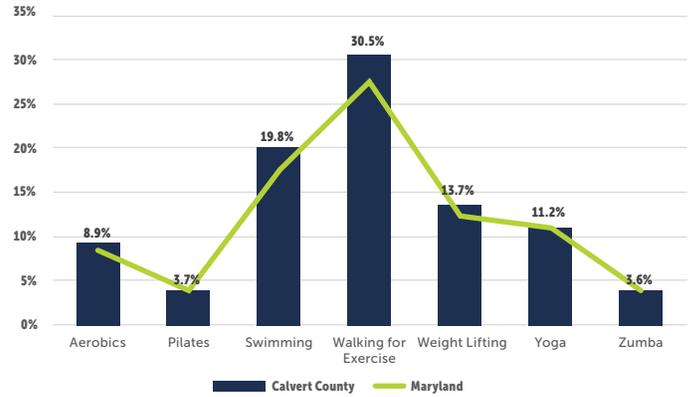


Figure 16: Adult Participation for Fitness Activities  
Source: Esri Business Analyst

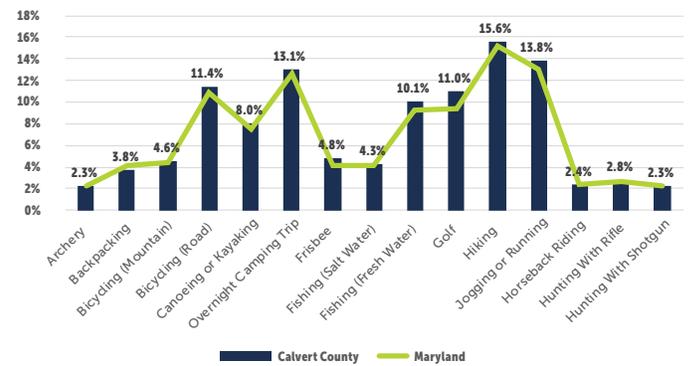


Figure 17: Adult Participation in Outdoor Recreation  
Source: Esri Business Analyst

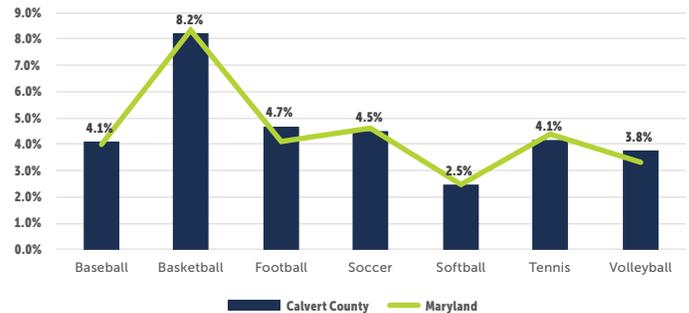


Figure 18: Adult Participation in Team Sports

The outdoor recreation economy in Maryland generates 109,000 direct jobs, \$14 billion in consumer spending, \$4.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$951 million in state and local tax revenue.

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Office of Outdoor Recreation

# ■ RECREATION AND LEISURE TRENDS ANALYSIS

Characteristics within Calvert County are impacted by various characteristics, ranging from population characteristics to changing preferences and participation in recreation activities. As detailed in Appendix B, demographic trends impacting the current and future provision of County parks and recreation services include the projection that the County population is projected to grow toward 96,050 by the year 2025, with a long-term projection of 99,160 by the year 2040. As of the 2020 Census, the County's population was 92,783.

■ The population in Calvert County consists of a large percentage (23%) of persons under 18 years. Persons ages 65 and over represent 15.5% of the County, followed children under 5 years, represented at 5.3%. The median age for Calvert County is 41.4, which is slightly higher than the statewide median age of 39.6 and the United States median age of 38.8.

The median household income in the County in 2019 dollars was \$109,313, which was significantly higher than the national median income of \$62,843 for the same time frame. In comparison to surrounding areas, the County ranked the highest in median household income on the 2014 Five-Year Estimates found in the 2019 Comprehensive statistical information.

Trends at the national level impact the implementation of parks and recreation services in Calvert County on an annual basis. A full trends report is included in Appendix A. Key impacts within Calvert County are as follows:

- Participation in outdoor recreation activities is high nationally as well as in Calvert County. Trail-based activities (such as walking for exercise, cycling, and hiking) are popular activities.
- Trends in natural resource management, planning, and provision of activities is consistent throughout the County. These include land and water resources, preservation, protection, and conservation.

Local participation in recreation, fitness, and leisure activities positively contributes to public health, community wellness, and the local economy. According to Esri, in 2016, Calvert County households collectively spent an estimated \$43.3 million on fees, equipment, and other costs typically associated with participation in recreation, sports, fitness, and leisure activities. Estimated household spending on recreation is further detailed in **Appendix A**.



Figure 19: Economic Impacts of Participation in Recreation, Fitness, and Leisure Activities in Calvert County

# ■ NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

Calvert County is defined by its farmlands, forests, and coastal resources. Small creeks, wetlands, and forested floodplain areas are found throughout the landscape. The County is bordered by the Patuxent River to the west and Chesapeake Bay to the east. Shoreline conditions on each side of the peninsula are drastically different.



High percentage of forest cover



Farmed, developed, and forested uplands bisected by steeply sloped stream valleys



Coastal and inland floodplain forests



Low-lying coastal areas along Patuxent River and coastal cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay

■ The Chesapeake Bay coast is known for its high cliffs and abrupt transition from land to water. These natural areas support biodiversity and provide other ecosystem services needed to support a healthy population, such as wetlands filtering drinking water and forests cleansing the air. Protected open spaces and natural

areas within the County also provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and education, and they serve a key role in defining County character and quality of life of residents.

# ■ EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Great public benefit is gained from conserving natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

■ The Natural Resources Division of the County strives to preserve, manage, and operate the natural resource areas for the purpose of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public.

The County follows the initiatives noted below:

- Residents and visitors to Calvert County have opportunities to engage in environmental education and compatible recreation.
- People, from preschoolers to senior citizens, have access to Calvert's green spaces and waterways, and, through learning opportunities at our parks, have the knowledge and awareness to fully appreciate our natural world.
- People are informed and realize the importance of a two-way connection to nature: Just as they reap the benefits and enjoyment of nature, so must they be responsible stewards of their natural resources, both now and for the future.

For example, the health of Calvert County's lands and its waterways are impacted by incursions from development, including loss of habitat, infrastructure demands, stressors on waterways from stormwater runoff, and a shrinking inventory of large tracts of land. New and better ways of controlling pollution and protecting water quality must be interpreted for County residents, and Calvert Nature Society works with the Natural Resources Division to communicate changes and to be a strong voice for protections for lands and waters.

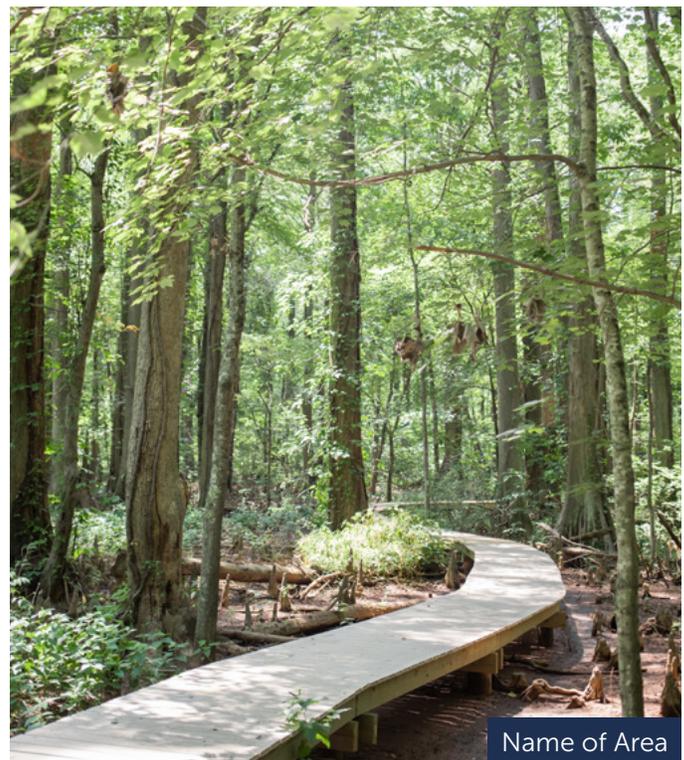
Objectives established by Calvert County's Natural Resources Division include a focus on the public benefit and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Natural resource land preservation efforts in the County are primarily led by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Calvert County, and nonprofit land trusts. Appendix J includes an inventory of lands managed by the County and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, of which are significant to preserving natural resources and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.

About 80% of Calvert County's total parks, recreation, and open space acreage is comprised of lands preserved primarily for their high natural resource conservation, open space, and outdoor recreation value.



Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center



Name of Area

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION CONSISTENTLY CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH NATURE...**

- CHESPAX, the environmental education program for the Calvert County Public School System, consists of partnerships between the **Natural Resources Division, other local environmental groups, and the public schools.** The naturalists adjusted the CHESPAX program to adapt to the COVID-19 requirements of schools, which included a combination of live Zoom presentations, filmed lessons, and activity handouts.
- Since 2018, the County has consistently offered over **100 environmentally focused public programs** annually.
- Volunteerism for natural resource conservation efforts continues to be strong, even with COVID-19 restrictions. In Fiscal Year 2020, **5,076 volunteer hours** were logged at activities at County natural resource properties. Activities included next box monitoring programs, park maintenance, and saw-whet owl banding.
- Naturalist-led activities have provided—and are projected to continue to provide—**opportunities for the public to engage in nature and learn about local ecology.**

**Bennett O. Hughes Memorial Tree Farm**

In 1986, Calvert County received a gift of land from the estate of Bennett O. Hughes. As a condition of the gift, the County agreed the 196-acre property would be maintained as a tree farm to demonstrate sustainable forest management. This generous donation provided the family with a tax benefit, and the County received a forest that can become a model for managing small forest lots. In 2016, the County, in cooperation with the Maryland Forest Service, developed a timber management plan to selectively harvest approximately 300 trees. The harvest was completed in the spring of 2017 and generated \$80,000 income to the County. This demonstrated that with proper planning and a well-designed forest stewardship plan, that forestland can be maintained as a thriving ecosystem and generate income for the landowner.

**Gatewood Preserve**

Calvert County purchased the Gatewood Preserve 48-acre property in 2018. This property connects two existing County parks: Biscoe Gray Heritage Farms and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. The preserve provides Calvert County with more than 340 contiguous acres of preserved forest and open space along the upper reaches of Battle Creek set aside for public use. The area provides additional public access to open space for appropriate outdoor recreation such as water access, hiking, fishing, and nature study and increases the protection of Battle Creek and the Patuxent watershed. The acquisition was made possible by partnerships between Calvert County and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which facilitated the award of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. Other funding sources include County Recreation Excise Tax and Local Program Open Space.



### Flag Ponds Nature Park

This 546-acre nature park is beloved by residents and visiting tourists for its extensive Chesapeake Bay Beaches and views of the Calvert Cliffs. For hundreds of years, the forces of nature have reshaped the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of Flag Ponds Nature Park, creating a remarkable variety of natural environments—from the sandy beach to freshwater ponds to the forested heights of Calvert Cliffs. Today, nature continues to play with the sand, changing the park’s landscape with each tide, storm, and season. The County acquired the property through Program Open Space, while funds through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, Maryland Historical Trust, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enabled the construction of the buildings and interpretive resources.



Fossil hunting and beachcombing are extremely popular pastimes. Millions of years ago, sharks, whales, crocodiles, and other animals inhabited the waters and shores of this area. These animals are now extinct; others are simply no longer found here. To the sharp-eyed visitor, sharks’ teeth and other Miocene fossils may be found along the park’s shoreline. The park also offers hiking trails—a short, half-mile hike to the sandy beach, or longer trail routes that showcase the beauty of the park. Additionally, there are observation platforms at two ponds, a fishing pier on the Chesapeake Bay, and a visitors’ center with wildlife displays.

The preservation of natural resources often coincides with the protection of our cultural heritage. From the early 1900s until 1955, the area was a sheltered harbor on the Chesapeake Bay supporting a major “pound net” fishery supplying croaker, trout, and herring to markets as far away as Baltimore. At one time, three shanties housed fishermen during the main fishing season. Known as “Buoy Hotel,” the last surviving shanty was burned down in October 2012.



### Keim Forest

Calvert Nature Society preserved this tract of more than 100 wooded acres, fields, and wetlands, further protecting one of Calvert County’s unique natural habitats. The purchase of the property doubled the preserved natural landscape around Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, one of the northernmost stands of bald cypress trees in the country. The 107-acre farm includes a century-old farmhouse and a historic tobacco barn built from locally harvested and milled cypress logs. The acquisition was made possible with the assistance of the Maryland Heritage Area Authorities and The Conservation Fund. This acquisition demonstrates the role the local land trusts play in preserving the County’s natural resources.

# ■ PUBLIC PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, OPEN SPACE, & INVENTORY

Calvert County's system of publicly accessible parks and recreation sites total approximately 12,000 acres. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Calvert County, and incorporated municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach were the major providers of land, infrastructure, and programs that provided public recreation opportunities throughout the County. Appendix J includes a detailed inventory of public parks, recreation sites, and open spaces in Calvert County.

Community conditions impacting the service of public parks and recreation amenities throughout Calvert County are focused within areas of transportation and advancing the Priority Preservation Areas (PPA) and Priority Funding Areas (PFA) as defined by the Maryland Department of Planning.<sup>1</sup>

Calvert County is a peninsula, and has limited connections to neighboring jurisdictions. The topography of the County has influenced where roads are located and how the road network has developed.

Public parks and recreation facilities are important to County residents at numerous levels. It is through the provision of programs and facilities that one receives benefits. The Department is in the business of planning, developing, implementing, and professionally managing parks within the County that fall under the County jurisdiction. Patrons of parks and recreation facilities in Calvert possess one or more of the following characteristics that impact the benefits to them:<sup>2</sup>

- Concerned about physical and mental wellness
- Interest in the natural environment

### Federal Recreation Amenities

Within Calvert County, the National Park Service manages significant regional trails and driving routes that link together sites of national, historical, and cultural significance. National trails that wind through the County include:



#### CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Links at least 13 sites in Calvert County related to the explorations of John Smith with other relevant historical sites throughout the region.



#### STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Links sites significant to the War of 1812 in Calvert County with others in the region.



#### CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATER TRAILS NETWORK

Links over 170 sites that tell the story of connections between people and nature in the Chesapeake region. Sites in the network include historic sites, communities, trails, parks, wildlife refuges, maritime museums, and other culturally and environmental significant sites.

In addition to these national trails, the Department of Defense operates the Navy Recreation Center Solomons. This site provides lodging and recreation

amenities for military members and families but does not accommodate public use.

### STATE PARKS, RECREATION SITES, AND OPEN SPACES



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources manages nine properties in Calvert County in 2022 based on available GIS. Six of the nine properties and most of the Department acreage provide public outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, biking, camping, fishing, boating, paddling, hunting, and nature appreciation. The remaining three properties housed Department operations focused on scientific research, natural resource conservation, and waterway management operations. The Department of Natural Resources properties are listed in Table 5.

Additionally, the State of Maryland Department of Planning manages and operates Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard, which provides year-round public programs, recreation activities—including 5k fun-runs and arts in the park—and amenities, including museums, trails, and canoe and kayak access to the Patuxent River. In total, the State of Maryland provides over 5,500 acres of public parks and open space areas in Calvert County, with the Department of Natural Resources managing 90% of these lands. For additional information, please visit: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Tracking-Acreage.aspx>.

Figure 20: Federal and State Amenities

<sup>1</sup> Calvert County Comprehensive Plan August 2019

<sup>2</sup> Calvert County Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan; Fiscal Year 2019-2023

- Civic-minded
- Possesses a need for non-school-hour programming
- Seeks a social outlet
- Seeks a recreation or leisure opportunity

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE PROPERTIES	ACRES
Calvert Cliffs State Park	1,311
Calvert Marine Police Radio Tower	5
Hall Creek NRMA	383
Hallowing Point Waterfront Park	13
Hallowing Point Research Center	9.5
Kings Landing NRMA	1,258
Merkle NRMA	113
Molly's Leg Dredge Spoil Site	2
Parkers Creek WMA	1,877
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>	<b>4,961</b>

Table 7: Department of Natural Resources Properties  
 Source: Maryland DNR FY2021 DNR Owned Lands Acreage Report  
 (May differ from Actual GIS)



Battle Creek

### County and Municipal Parks, Recreation Sites, and Open Spaces

Calvert County and the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach manage parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Additionally, these providers offer a variety of organized sports, recreation, and leisure programs that cater to all ages and interests. Parks and open spaces in Calvert County are treasured for the recreation opportunities they provide, the natural resources they preserve, and the environmental and social functions they serve. County and municipal parks provide opportunities for active, facility-based and natural resource-based recreation.

Calvert County and municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach parks, recreation areas, and open space areas are classified into the following categories:

#### Mini-Parks

A mini park is the smallest of County-designated park types. Mini-parks are one acre or less and designed to address a location-specific recreation need.

- A2** Calvert County Courthouse Green
- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran’s Park
- A4** Saint Leonard Polling House and Garden of Remembrance Park
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

#### Neighborhood Parks

These are designed to be the recreational and social hub of a neighborhood and include small open space areas and/or developed recreation facilities. These parks are generally less than 10 acres.

- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park & Phillips House
- B3** Twin Shields Recreation Area

## Community Parks

These parks are designed to meet the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving open spaces and natural landscapes. They typically include athletic facilities for sports as well as playgrounds, picnic facilities, basketball and tennis courts, cycling, dog parks, and trails for hiking and cycling.

- C2** BG&E Field
- C6** Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park
- C7** Marley Run Recreation Area
- C8** North Beach Callis Park
- C12** Solomons Town Center Park
- C13** Sunrise Garden

## District Parks

These facilities not only draw visitors from Calvert County but also attract tourists from outside the County and State. They are designed to serve as large, active recreation hubs in each of Calvert County's three election districts. These sites provide fields, courts, and associated recreation infrastructure for team and individual sports and recreation activities. All three facilities boast multiple athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

- D1** Cove Point Park
- D2** Dunkirk District Park
- D3** Hallowing Point Park

## Regional Parks

These parks are designed to serve the needs of a large portion of the County and provide developed recreation facilities, such as sports fields and associated infrastructure and/or preserved natural areas and open spaces. Regional parks are larger than 50 acres.

- E2** Dominion Energy Regional Park
- E1** Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

## School Recreation Sites

These facilities are the portion of a school or public educational institution available for public recreation use outside school hours and usage. Limitations on public access and use vary by school site and are based on agreements with the Calvert County Board of Education and the Department. The County has the following school recreation sites.

- G1** Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area
- G2** Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G3** Calvert Country School Recreation Area
- G4** Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G5** Calvert Middle School Recreation Area
- G6** Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G8** Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area
- G9** Huntingtown High School Recreation Area
- G10** Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area
- G11** Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area
- G12** Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area
- G13** Northern Middle and High School Ballfields
- G14** Patuxent High School Ballfields
- G15** Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields
- G16** Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area
- G17** Southern Middle School Recreation Area
- G18** Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area
- G19** Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

## Special Use Areas

Facilities that serve a specific, single purpose. These sites include facilities such as pools, campgrounds, boat ramps, community centers, and golf courses. These facilities are relied on to be at least partially self-sufficient and produce enough revenue to not adversely impact ad valorem tax dollars.

- H7** Bayside History Museum
- K1** Breezy Point Beach & Campground
- K4** Calvert Pines Senior Center
- K8** Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- K9** Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center
- K20** Grays Road Dog Park
- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond

- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- C10** Saint Leonard Recreation Area
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

### Open Space

By protecting the forests, waterways, and other habitats, these parks provide opportunities for the public to explore, discover, and learn about the natural heritage of the County. These areas preserve natural systems, unique landscapes, and/or local areas of unique social or ecological value. These areas offer outdoor recreation opportunities compatible with the natural landscape, cultural heritage, and ecological values of the site.

- J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- J8** Fishing Creek Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- J10** Fowler Road Open Space
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- J11** Goldstein Property
- J12** Kings Landing Park

### Other Classifications

#### NATURE CENTER

- J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

#### COMMUNITY CENTER

- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- K14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park & Phillips House
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

#### WATER ACCESS

- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- K1** Breezy Point Beach & Campground
- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond
- C5** Kellam's Park Boat Ramps
- J12** Kings Landing Park
- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier
- A3** Solomons Mini Park & Comfort Station
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

A detailed inventory of all public parks, recreation sites, open spaces, natural resource lands, and quasi-public areas in Calvert County is included in Appendices J and K.

### Distribution of Parks, Recreation Sites, and Open Space Assets (Drive-Time Proximity Analysis)

Public parks and recreation assets are located throughout Calvert County. The distribution of these community amenities should ideally provide residents living in all parts of the County with access to recreation opportunities close to where they live. County staff and stakeholders who participated in the planning process identified reliance on vehicles to travel from home to parks and other public recreation amenities. Although they expect to drive to access most community amenities, participants ideally desired to drive less than five minutes to access a recreation amenity but were willing to travel up to 15 minutes to access recreation opportunities. Based on this important information all GIS analyses and access-based drive-time analyses are based on a 15-minute drive-time. In addition, a 5-minute drive-time has also been included that may be more applicable in the more densely populated areas of Calvert County.

As illustrated in Figure 21, public parks, open spaces, and recreation sites are clustered in their highest density around North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, Lusby, and Prince Frederick. Most other sites are loosely grouped along the MD 4 / MD 2-4 corridor. The following figures illustrate the distribution of public parks, recreation sites, and open spaces in Calvert County, and they focus on identifying sites with specific, popular recreation amenities, as well as 5-minute and 15-minute drive-time areas. Drive times were selected based on the public input and willingness to drive 15 minutes. Areas illustrated within a 5-minute driving distance of sites are considered to have good access to sites with specified recreation amenities being studied. Areas located within between 5 and 15 minutes of drive time from a park are considered to have moderate access to sites with specified amenities being studied.

The amenities at County park sites selected for study include those with athletic fields, sport courts, picnic opportunities, trails, historic and cultural sites, indoor facilities such as community centers, and sites with public water access. These amenity types are consistent with those studied in the previous LPPRP and the latest DNR LPPRP guidelines.

Based on the drive-time analysis, residents throughout the County have good access to recreation sites.



#### GOOD ACCESS

5 min. drive or less



#### MODERATE ACCESS

5–15 min. drive



#### LESS THAN DESIRABLE ACCESS

15+ min. drive

Analyses of the various recreation opportunities showed each site with at least 80% of access within a 15-minute drive. When school facilities are included in the access analysis, athletic fields and sports courts showed the greatest access opportunities within a 5-minute drive, while historic/cultural opportunities and trail access have less access at this shorter drive time.

The more highly populated areas of Prince Frederick, Chesapeake Beach, and Lusby tend to include higher densities of existing recreation sites than less densely populated areas of the County. This study helps identify potential challenges with access to certain amenities throughout the County.

Highlighted as part of this update, the percentage of populations by drive time has been included to each map analysis. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Equity Analysis tool may offer additional insight into equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities.

While informative, GIS-based proximity analysis should not be considered as a complete measure of park access. The proximity analysis included in this plan provides a snapshot of distribution of parks and specified recreation amenities throughout the County, which is good. However, despite a favorable geographic distribution of assets, community input indicated that other barriers to access exist; primarily, there is lack of community awareness about the full spectrum of recreation opportunities in the County, and a lack of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. The limited road network beyond the MD 2-4 corridor contributes to certain areas being less accessible than others are.

County GIS mapping should be consistent with the State of Maryland GIS mapping systems with updates provided on an annual basis to the State's database.

Drive-time analysis maps and percentage of population by drive time are included for all sites, indoor facilities, historic/cultural sites, water access, athletic fields, sports courts, trails, and picnic opportunities.

# Parks & Recreation Density

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

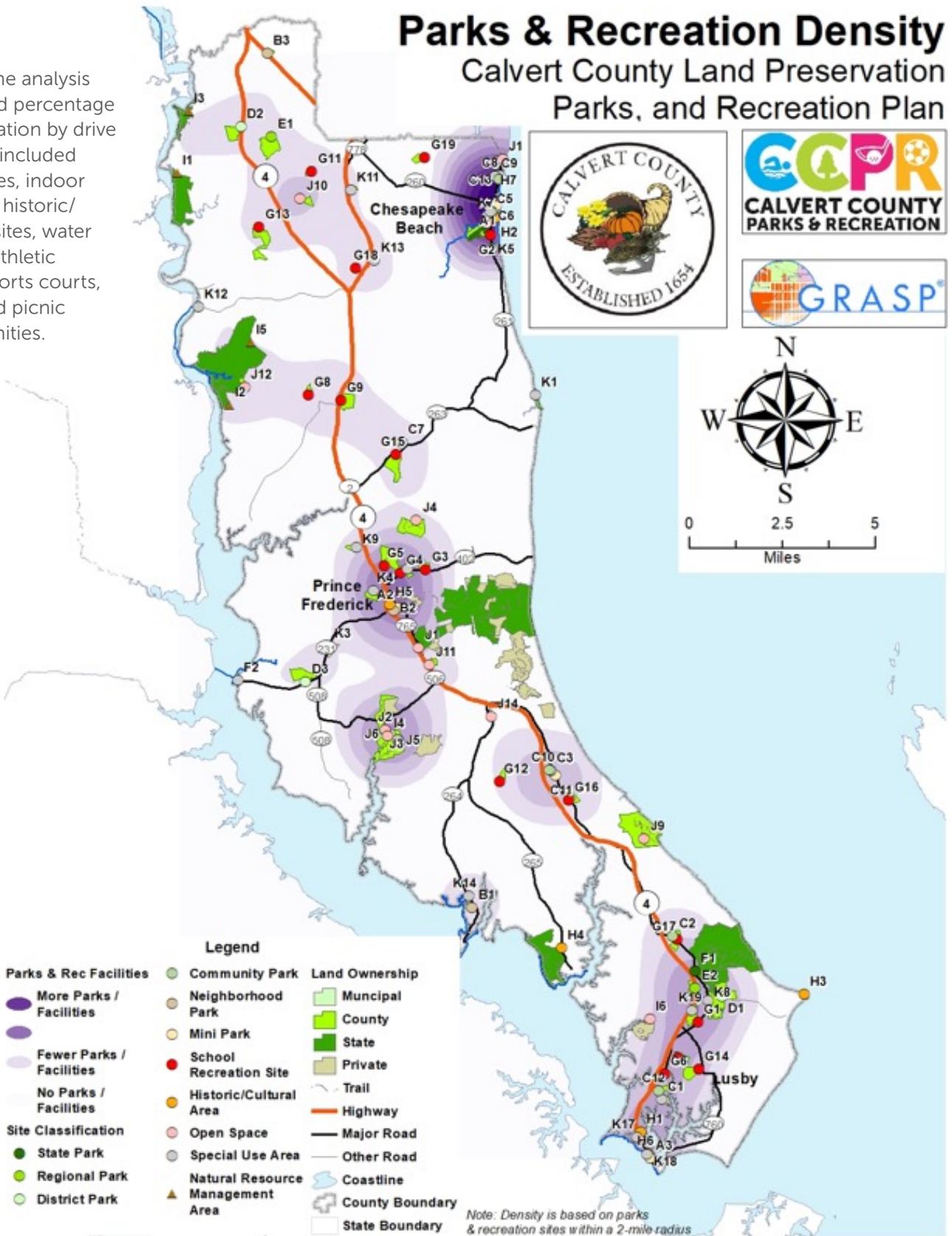


Figure 21: Density of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Sites in Calvert County  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

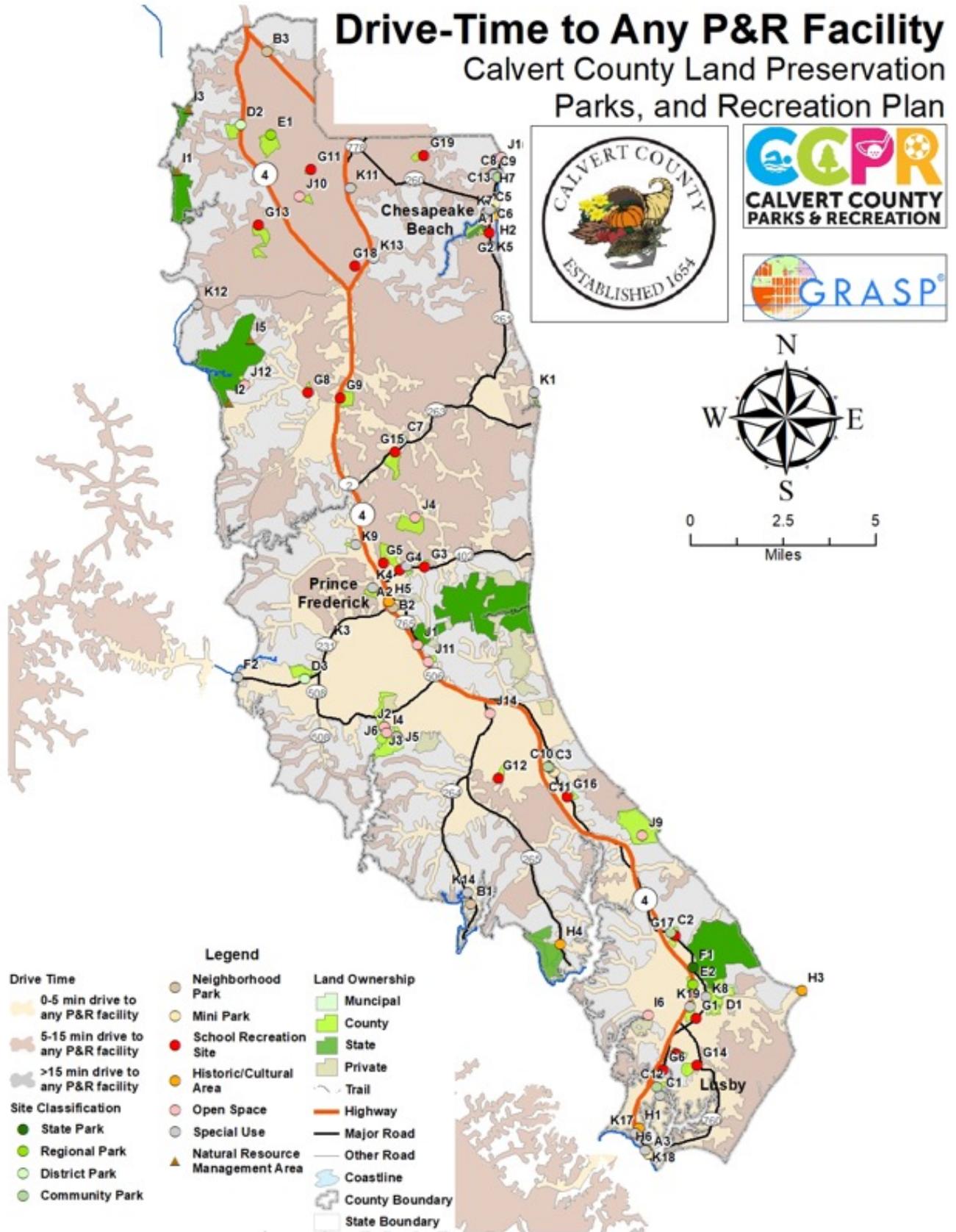


Figure 22: Drive Time to Any Public Parks and Recreation Sites in Calvert County  
Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## PARKS, RECREATION SITES, AND OPEN SPACES IN CALVERT COUNTY

### STATE PARK

- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park
- F2** Hallowing Point Boat Ramp and Research Center
- H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### DISTRICT PARK

- D1** Cove Point Park
- D2** Dunkirk District Park
- D3** Hallowing Point Park

### REGIONAL PARK

- E2** Dominion Energy Regional Park
- E1** Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

### COMMUNITY PARK

- C2** BG&E Field
- C6** Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park
- C7** Marley Run Recreation Area
- C8** North Beach Callis Park
- C12** Solomons Town Center Park
- C13** Sunrise Garden Neighborhood Park
- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House
- B3** Twin Shields Recreation Area

### MINI PARK

- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park
- A2** Calvert County Courthouse Green
- A4** Saint Leonard Polling House and Garden of Remembrance Park
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

### COMMUNITY CENTER

- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

### SCHOOL RECREATION SITE

- G1** Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area
- G2** Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G3** Calvert Country School Recreation Area
- G4** Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G5** Calvert Middle School Recreation Area
- G6** Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G8** Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area

- G9** Huntingtown High School Recreation Area

- G10** Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area

- G11** Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area

- G12** Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area

- G13** Northern Middle and High School Ballfields

- G14** Patuxent High School Ballfields

- G15** Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields

- G16** Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area

- G17** Southern Middle School Recreation Area

- G18** Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area

- G19** Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

### SPECIAL USE AREA

- C1** Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center

- K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground

- K3** Calvert County Fairgrounds

- K4** Calvert Pines Senior Center

- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park

- K7** Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail

- K6** Chesapeake Beach Waterpark

- K8** Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

- K9** Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center

- C3** Dowell House Community Center

- K20** Grays Road Dog Park

- F2** Hallowing Point Boat Ramp and Research Center

- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center

- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond

- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf

- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center

- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch

- K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk

- C9** North Beach Senior Center

- K16** Northeast Community Center

- C10** Saint Leonard Recreation Area

- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier

- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

- C1** Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center

- H7** Bayside History Museum

- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park

- H1** Calvert Marine Museum

- H2** Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

- H3** Cove Point Lighthouse

- H6** J.C Lore and Sons Oyster House Museum

- H5** The Linden House

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

- I1** Hall Creek Natural Resource Management Area

- I5** Huntingtown Natural Resource Management Area

- I2** King's Landing Natural Resource Management Area

- I3** Merkle Natural Resources Management Area

### NATURE CENTER

- J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

### OPEN SPACE

- J1** American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA

- J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm

- J6** Calvert Nature Society

- J7** Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands

- J8** Fishing Creek Park

- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park

- J10** Fowler Road Open Space

- I4** Gatewood Preserve

- J11** Goldstein Property

- I6** Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve

- J12** Kings Landing Park

- J14** Port Republic School House

- J15** Walton Beach Nature Preserve

- J16** Wetlands Overlook Park

### WATER ACCESS

- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm

- K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground

- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park

- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park

- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park

- I4** Gatewood Preserve

- K11** Hutchins' Fishing Pond

- C5** Kellam's Park Boat Ramps

- J12** Kings Landing Park

- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf

- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch

- K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk

- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier

- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

Note: Locations are listed by their primary classification but some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications.

■ As noted in figure 23, 87% of residents live within a 15-minute drive of a public park and recreation opportunity. The majority of more densely populated areas are within a 5-minute drive with those in more rural or lower-density areas within a 15-minute drive.

### % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO ANY FACILITY

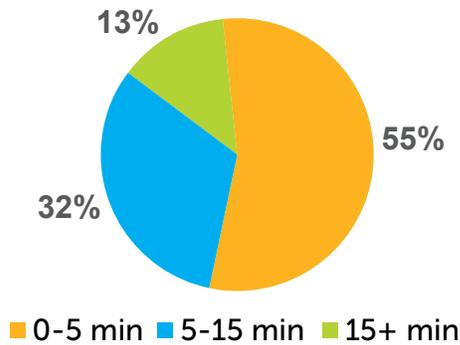


Figure 23: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Any Parks and Recreation Facility or Opportunity  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn

### % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO ATHLETIC FIELDS

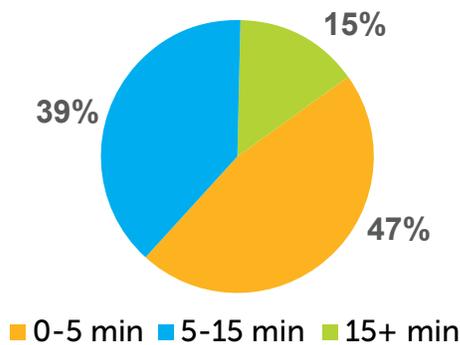


Figure 24: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Athletic Fields  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn

## DRIVE-TIME TO ATHLETIC FIELDS

From most points within the County, there is at least one public park or recreation facility with athletic fields within a 15-minute drive, as illustrated in the tan shaded areas on Figure 25. Almost half of residents are within a 5-minute drive from more densely populated areas and those in more rural or lower-density areas within a 15-minute drive. As of 2022, the County had over 30 sites with publicly accessible athletic fields, including:

### District Park

- D1 Cove Point Park
- D2 Dunkirk District Park
- D3 Hallowing Point Park

### Regional Park

- E2 Dominion Energy Regional Park
- E1 Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

### Community Park

- C2 BG&E Field
- C6 Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park
- C7 Marley Run Recreation Area
- C10 Saint Leonard Recreation Area
- C12 Solomons Town Center Park

### Neighborhood Park

- B1 Broomes Island Community Center
- B3 Twin Shields Recreation Area

### School Recreation Site

- G1 Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area
- G2 Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G3 Calvert Country School Recreation Area
- G4 Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G5 Calvert Middle School Recreation Area
- G6 Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G8 Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area
- G9 Huntingtown High School Recreation Area
- G10 Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area
- G11 Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area
- G12 Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area
- G13 Northern Middle and High School Ballfields
- G14 Patuxent High School Ballfields
- G15 Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields
- G16 Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area
- G17 Southern Middle School Recreation Area
- G18 Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area
- G19 Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

# Drive-Time to Athletic Fields

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

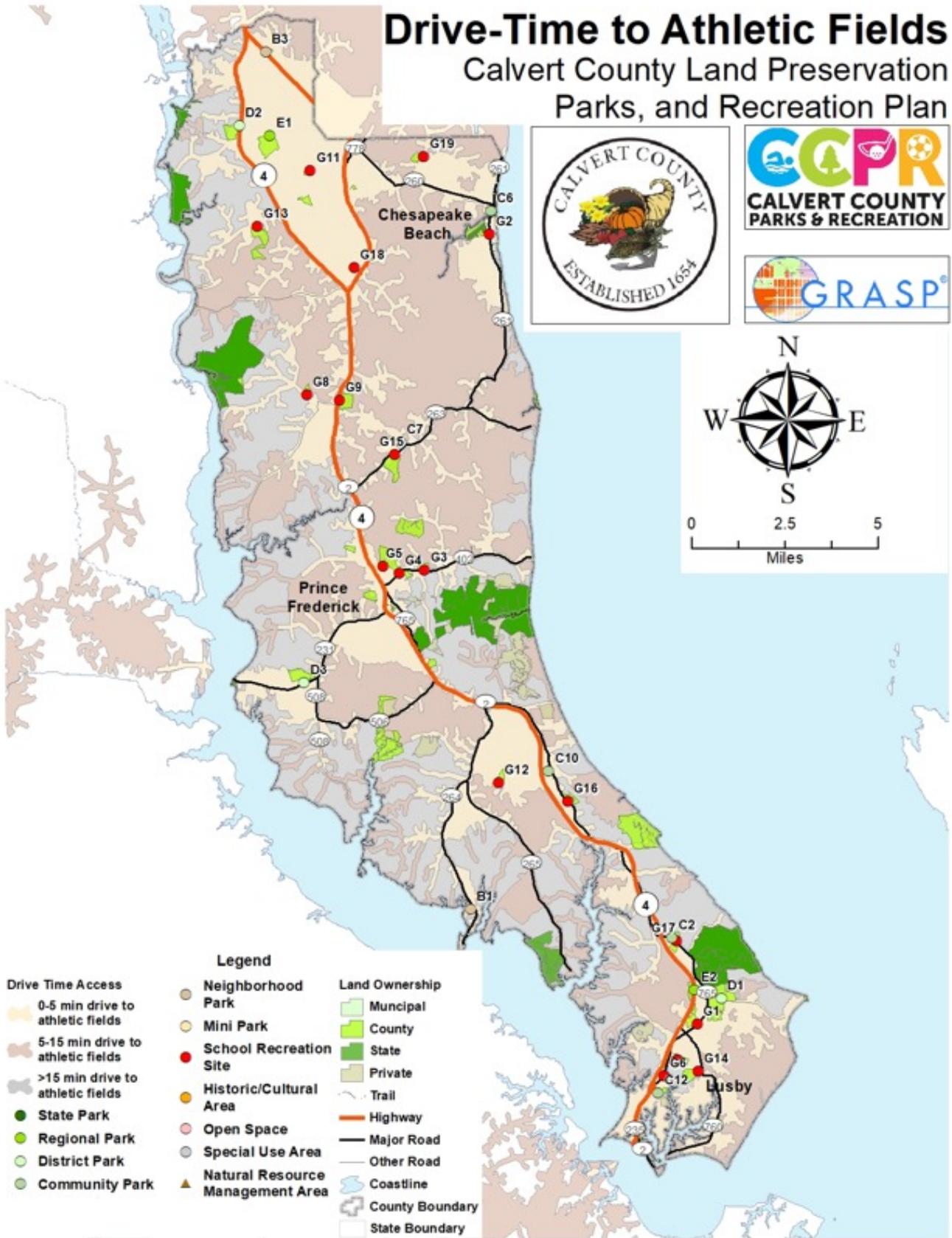


Figure 25: Drive Time to Sites with Athletic Fields (Diamonds and Rectangles)  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS

Eight parks and recreation sites provide sport courts for public use. In addition, many school sites offer courts that may be accessible outside of school use. Including the school facilities increases access across the County as illustrated in Figure 26. Sites included:

### District Park

- D1** Cove Point Park
- D2** Dunkirk District Park
- D3** Hallowing Point Park

### Regional Park

- E2** Dominion Energy Regional Park (planned)

### Community Park

- C12** Solomons Town Center Park

### Special Use Area

- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center

### School Recreation Site

- G2** Beach Elementary School Recreation Area
- G4** Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields
- G6** Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area
- G9** Huntingtown High School Recreation Area
- G11** Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area
- G13** Northern Middle and High School Ballfields
- G14** Patuxent High School Ballfields
- G15** Plum Point Elementary and Middle School Ballfields
- G19** Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area

Note: Some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications

## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO SPORT COURTS

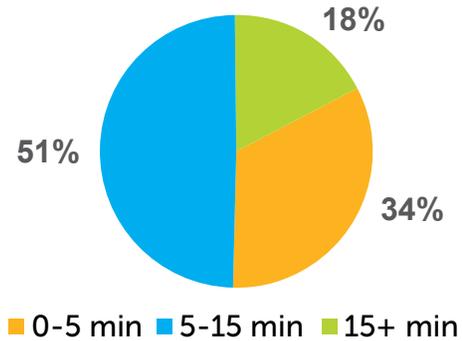


Figure 29: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Sport Courts  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn



Dunkirk District Park

# Drive-Time to Sport Courts

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

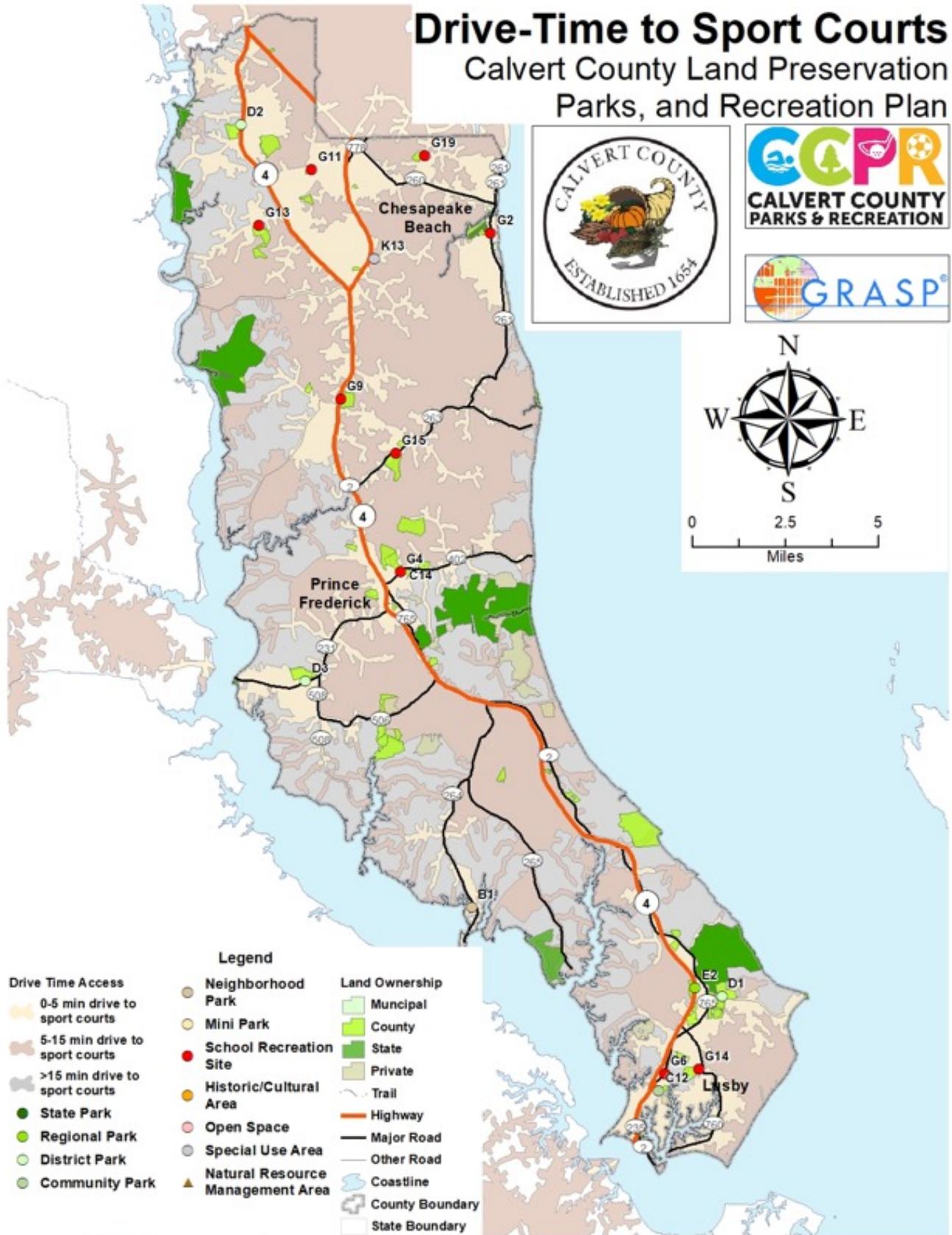


Figure 27: Driving Time to Sites with Sport Courts (Basketball, Tennis, and Pickleball)  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO INDOOR FACILITIES

Indoor facilities primarily consist of community centers. Also included in this analysis are museums and nature centers. See the following list for all included facilities. Approximately 87% of residents are within a 15-minute drive of an indoor facility. Thirteen percent (unshaded areas on Figure 29) were farther than a 15-minute drive from an indoor site.

### Community Center

- B1** Broomes Island Community Center
- K4** Calvert Pines Senior Center
- C3** Dowell House Community Center
- C14** Harriet E. Brown Community Center
- B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House
- K13** Mt. Hope Community Center
- C9** North Beach Senior Center
- K16** Northeast Community Center
- K19** Southern Community Center/Southern Pines Senior Center

### Historic/Cultural Area

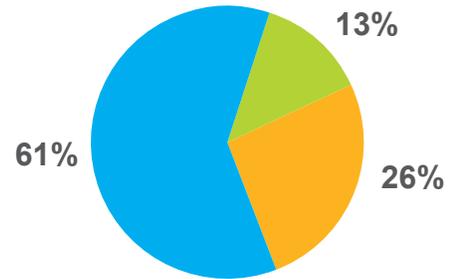
- H7** Bayside History Museum
- H1** Calvert Marine Museum
- H2** Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
- H6** J.C. Lore and Sons Oyster House Museum
- H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### Nature Center

- J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

Note: Some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications

## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO INDOOR FACILITIES



■ 0-5 min ■ 5-15 min ■ 15+ min

Figure 28: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Indoor Facilities  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, US Census, BerryDunn



Mt. Hope Community Center

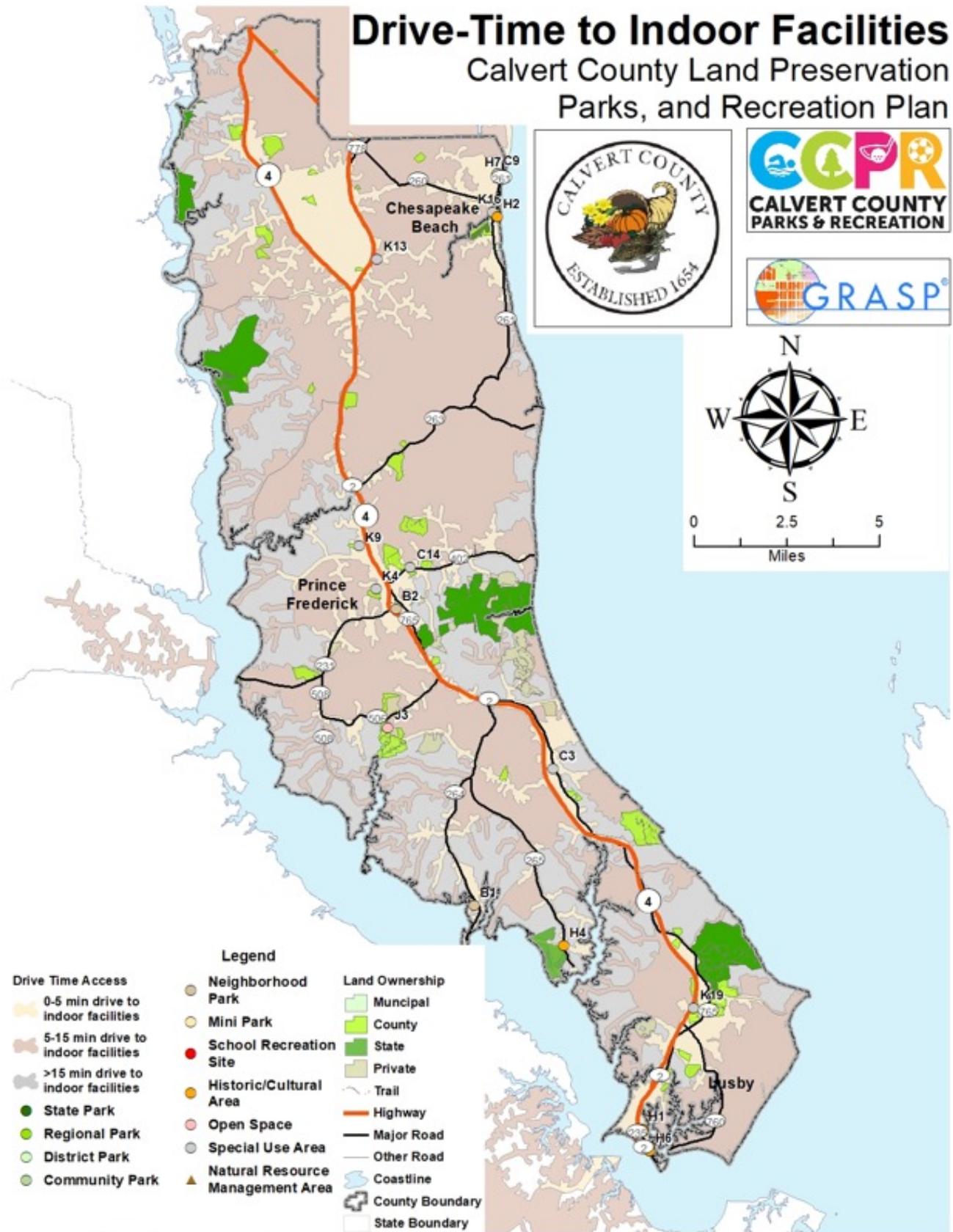


Figure 29: Driving Time to Sites with Indoor Facilities  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO TRAILS

Many parks, recreation, or open space sites within the County include designated trails or trail systems that are available for public use. Individual trail maps for the properties are available online. These sites are distributed throughout the County, with most being in the central and southern portions of the peninsula. Parks, open space areas, and recreation sites in Calvert County with trails include:

### State Park

**F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park

### Neighborhood Park

**B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House

### Special Use Area

**K7** Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail

**K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk

**K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

### Historic/Cultural Area

**H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### Open Space

**J1** American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA

**I4** Gatewood Preserve

**J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

**J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm

**J6** Calvert Nature Society

**J8** Fishing Creek Park

**J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park

**J12** Kings Landing Park

### Natural Resource Management Area

**I5** Huntingtown Natural Resources Management Area

**I3** Merkle Natural Resources Management Area

Note: Some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications

It should be noted that although Calvert Cliffs State Park includes several miles of trails, it is illustrated as being greater than a 15-minute drive. The park is nestled between major energy facilities to the north and south, and as a result, it is isolated from residential development and public roads and is not as quickly accessible as other sites with trails.

Eighty-seven percent of residents are within a 15-minute drive of a trail opportunity.

## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO TRAILS

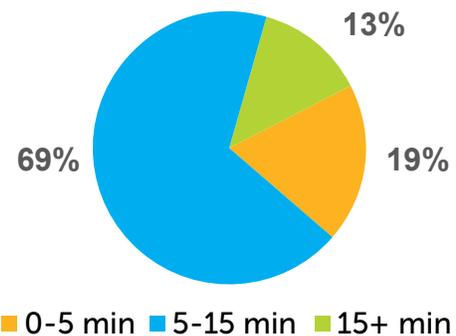
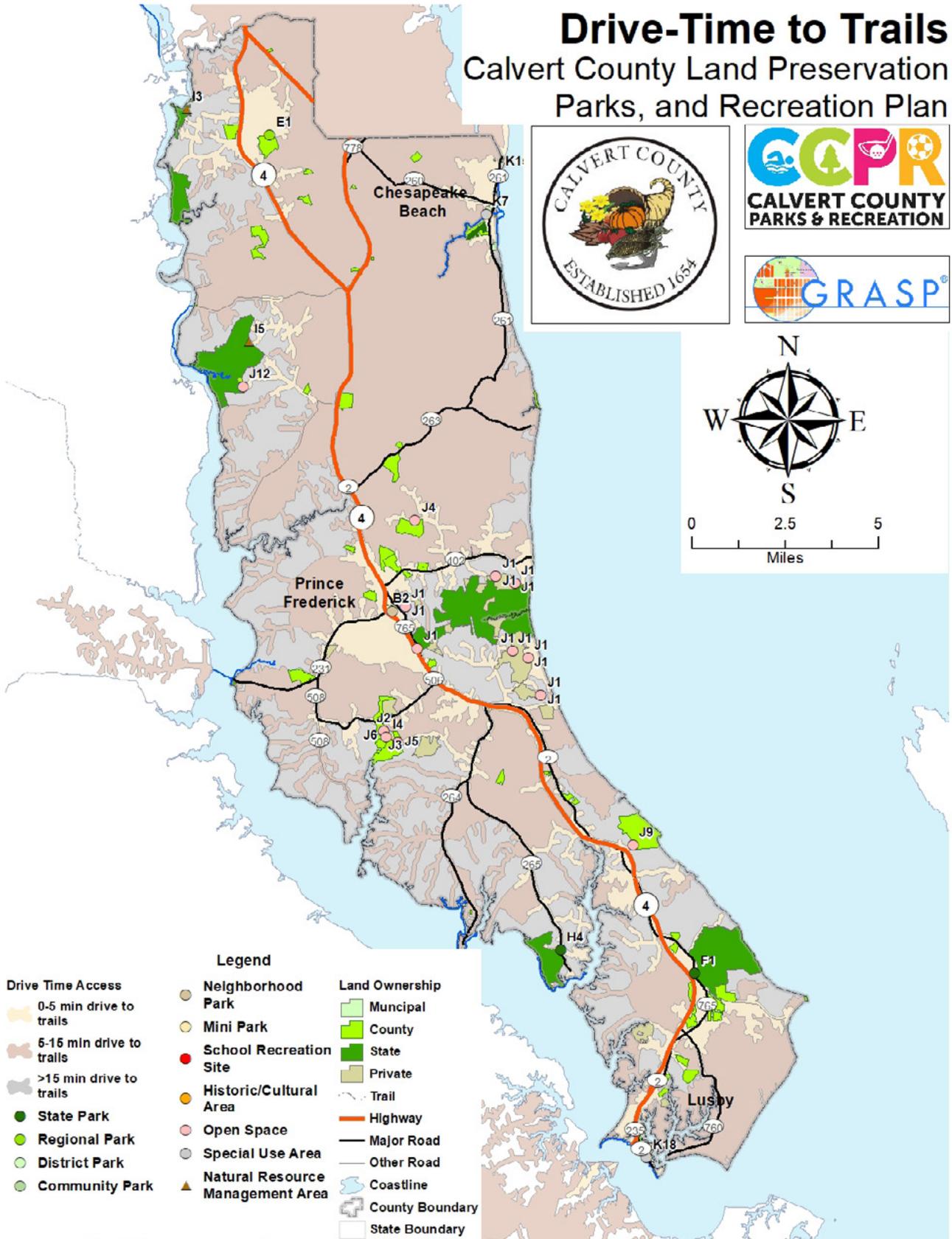
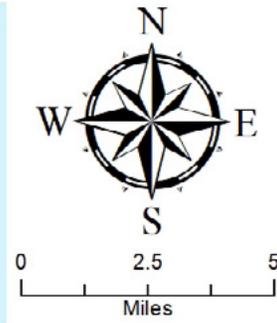


Figure 30: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Trails  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn

# Drive-Time to Trails

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan



- Legend**
- |                          |                                  |                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Drive Time Access</b> | <b>Neighborhood Park</b>         | <b>Land Ownership</b> |
| 0-5 min drive to trails  | Mini Park                        | Municipal             |
| 6-15 min drive to trails | School Recreation Site           | County                |
| >15 min drive to trails  | Historic/Cultural Area           | State                 |
| State Park               | Open Space                       | Private               |
| Regional Park            | Special Use Area                 | Trail                 |
| District Park            | Natural Resource Management Area | Highway               |
| Community Park           |                                  | Major Road            |
|                          |                                  | Other Road            |
|                          |                                  | Coastline             |
|                          |                                  | County Boundary       |
|                          |                                  | State Boundary        |

Figure 31: Driving Time to Sites with Trails  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO WATER ACCESS

As illustrated in Figure 25, the northern and southern portions of Calvert County are better served by water access sites than the central portion of the County. Boating, fishing, swimming, paddle sports, and other water-based recreation activities are known to be popular in the County and Southern Maryland. In 2022, many sites in the County provided public water access to the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay, and included:

### Historic/Cultural Area

- H1** Calvert Marine Museum
- H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### Mini Park

- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station

### State Park

- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park

### Natural Resource Management Area

- I1** Hall Creek Natural Resource Management Area
- I5** Huntingtown Natural Resource Management Area
- I2** King’s Landing Natural Resource Management Area
- I3** Merkle Natural Resources Management Area

### Nature Center

- J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

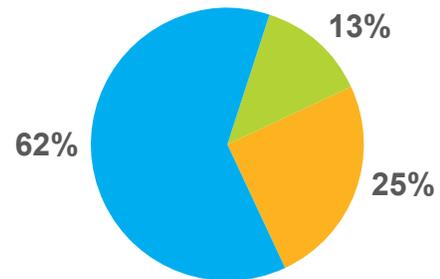
### Open Space

- J1** American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
- J4** Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- J12** Kings Landing Park

### Water Access

- K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground
- F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park

## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO WATER ACCESS



■ 0-5 min ■ 5-15 min ■ 15+ min

Figure 32: Percentage of Population by Drive-Time to Trails  
Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn

- K2** Calvert County Community Resources
- K5** Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park
- J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park
- I4** Gatewood Preserve
- F2** Hallowing Point Boat Ramp and Research Center
- C5** Kellam’s Park Boat Ramps
- J12** Kings Landing Park
- K12** Lower Marlboro Wharf
- K14** Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
- K15** North Beach Waterfront Park and Boardwalk
- K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
- A3** Solomons Mini Park and Comfort Station
- K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

Note: Some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications.

It should be noted that although Calvert Cliffs State Park includes water access, it is illustrated as being greater than a 15-minute drive. This is a result of the site being bordered by major energy facilities to the north and south, isolated from residential development and public roads, and not as quickly accessible as other sites with water access.

Eighty-seven percent of residents have water access within a 15-minute drive.

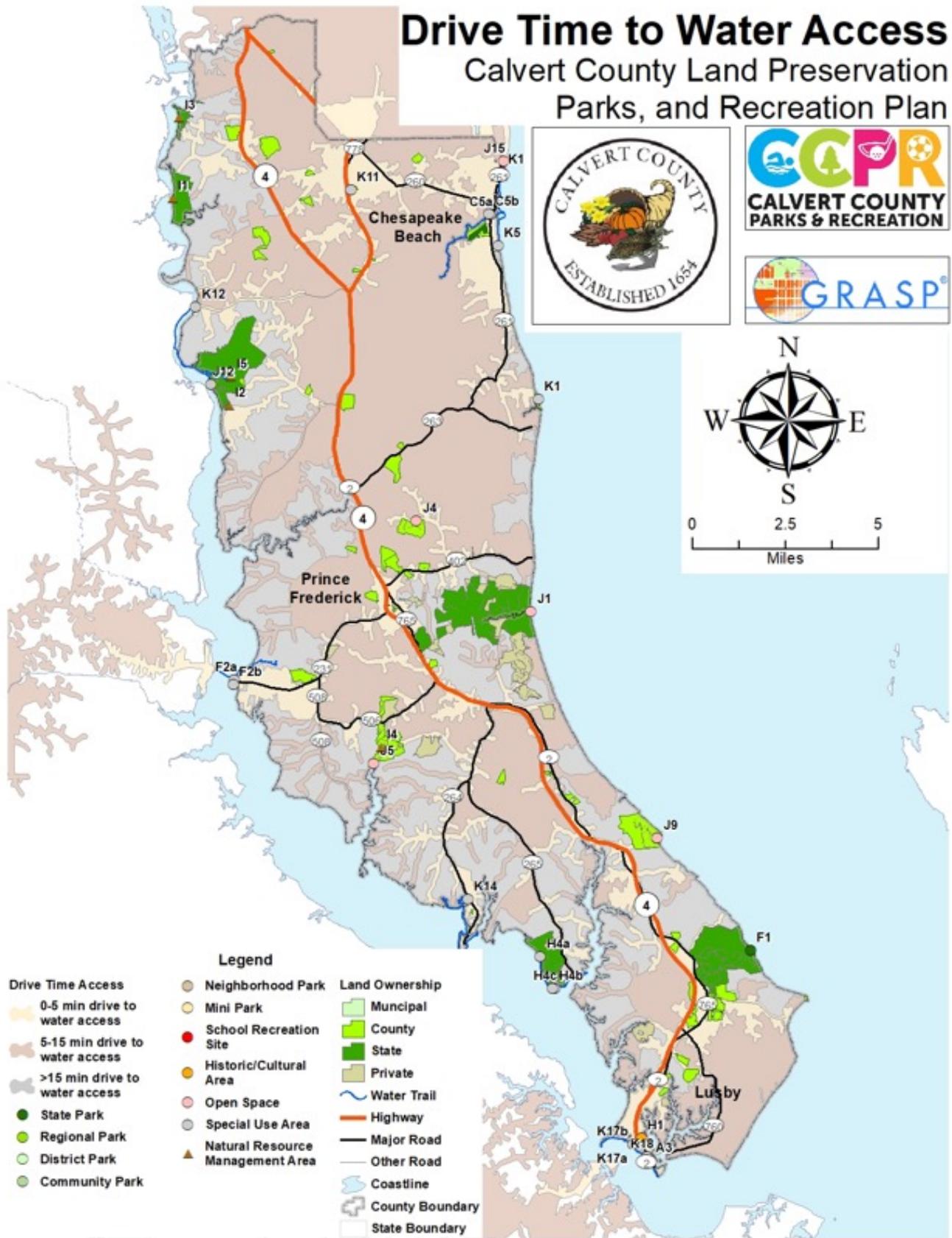


Figure 33: Drive Time to Sites with Water Access  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO HISTORICAL/CULTURAL AREAS

As illustrated in Figure 27, historic and cultural resources are widely distributed across Calvert County. In 2022, about a dozen sites were included in this analysis. Many are museums, and others are features located within existing parks or facilities as follows:

### Historic/Cultural Area

- C1** Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
- H7** Bayside History Museum
- J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- H1** Calvert Marine Museum
- H2** Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
- A1** Chesapeake Beach Veteran’s Park
- H3** Cove Point Lighthouse
- H6** J.C Lore and Sons Oyster House Museum
- H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
- A4** Saint Leonard Polling House and Garden of Remembrance Park
- H5** The Linden House

Eighty-one percent of residents have water access within a 15-minute drive.

## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO HISTORIC/CULTURAL AREAS

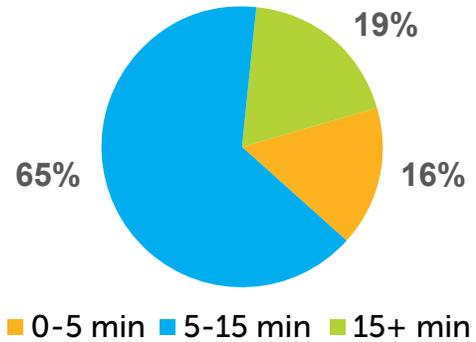


Figure 34: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Historic and Cultural Opportunities  
 Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn



Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

# Drive-Time to Historic/Cultural Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

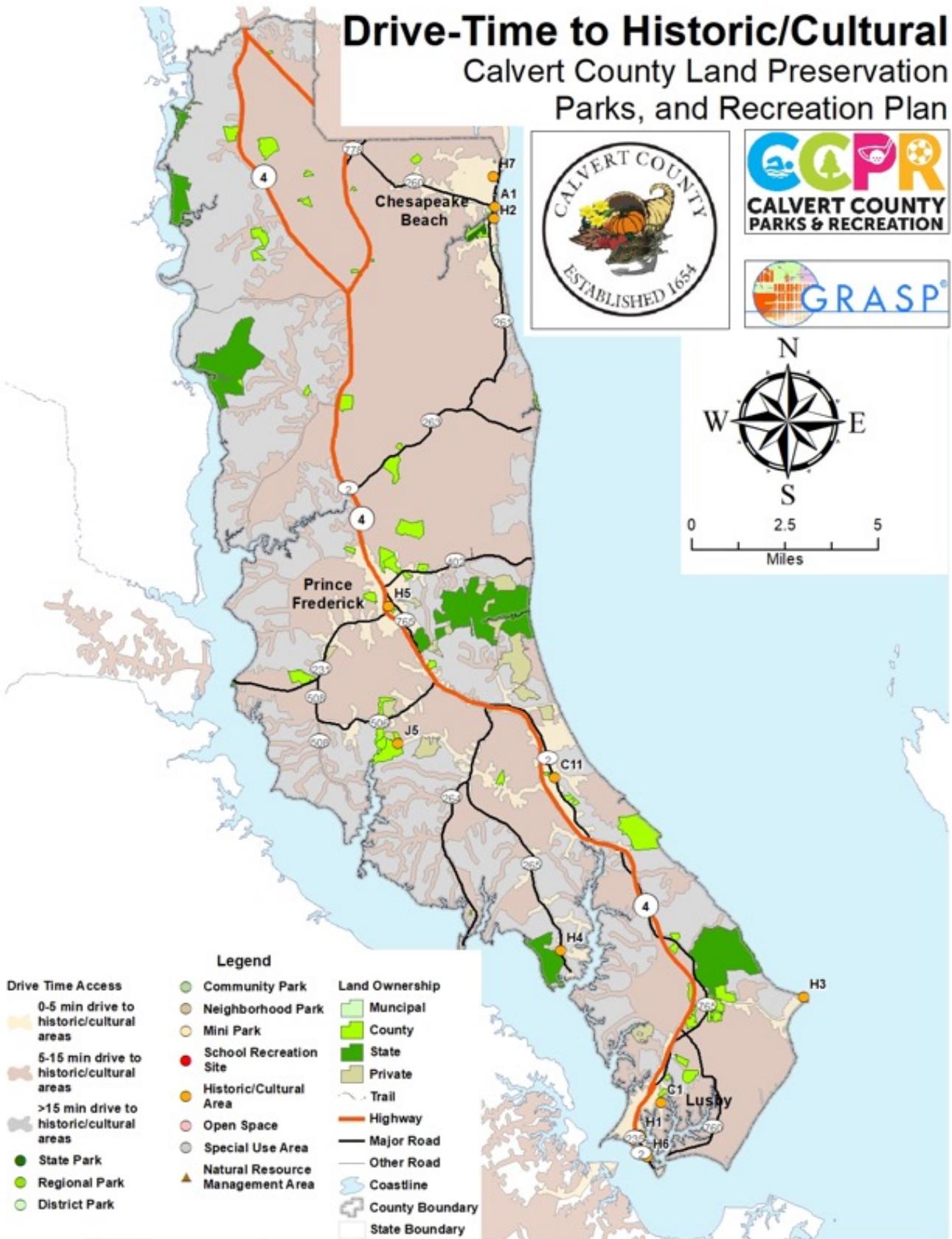


Figure 35: Drive Time to Sites with Historic and Cultural Opportunities  
Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

## DRIVE-TIME TO PICNIC AREAS

As illustrated in Figure 29, picnic opportunities are widely distributed across Calvert County. In 2022, the following sites were included in this analysis.

### State Park

**F1** Calvert Cliffs State Park

### District Park

**D1** Cove Point Park

**D2** Dunkirk District Park

**D3** Hallowing Point Park

### Community Park

**C6** Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park

**C12** Solomons Town Center Park

### Neighborhood Park

**B1** Broomes Island Community Center

**B2** King Memorial Park and Phillips House

### Special Use Area

**K1** Breezy Point Beach and Campground

**K6** Chesapeake Beach Waterpark

**K17** Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier

**K18** Solomons Waterfront Park

### Historic/Cultural Area

**H4** Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### Nature Center

**J3** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

### Open Space

**J1** American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA

**J2** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

**J5** Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

**J6** Calvert Nature Society

**J9** Flag Ponds Nature Park

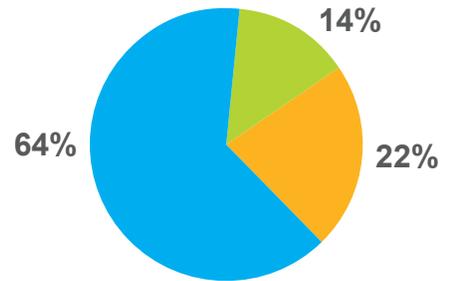
**J10** Fowler Road Open Space

**J11** Goldstein Property

**I4** Gatewood Preserve

**J12** Kings Landing Park

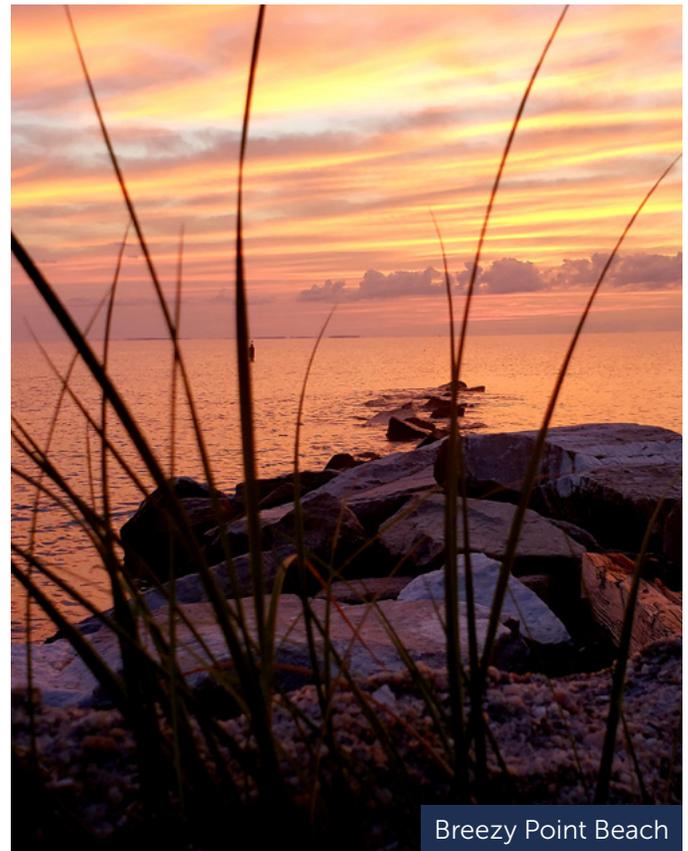
## % OF POPULATION BY DRIVE-TIME TO PICNIC OPPORTUNITIES



■ 0-5 min ■ 5-15 min ■ 15+ min

Figure 36: Percentage of Population by Drive Time to Picnic Opportunities

Source: Esri Data Enrichment, U.S. Census, BerryDunn



Breezy Point Beach

Note: Some parks/facilities may occur in multiple classifications

Eighty-six percent of residents have picnic opportunities within a 15-minute drive.

# Drive-Time to Picnic Areas

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan

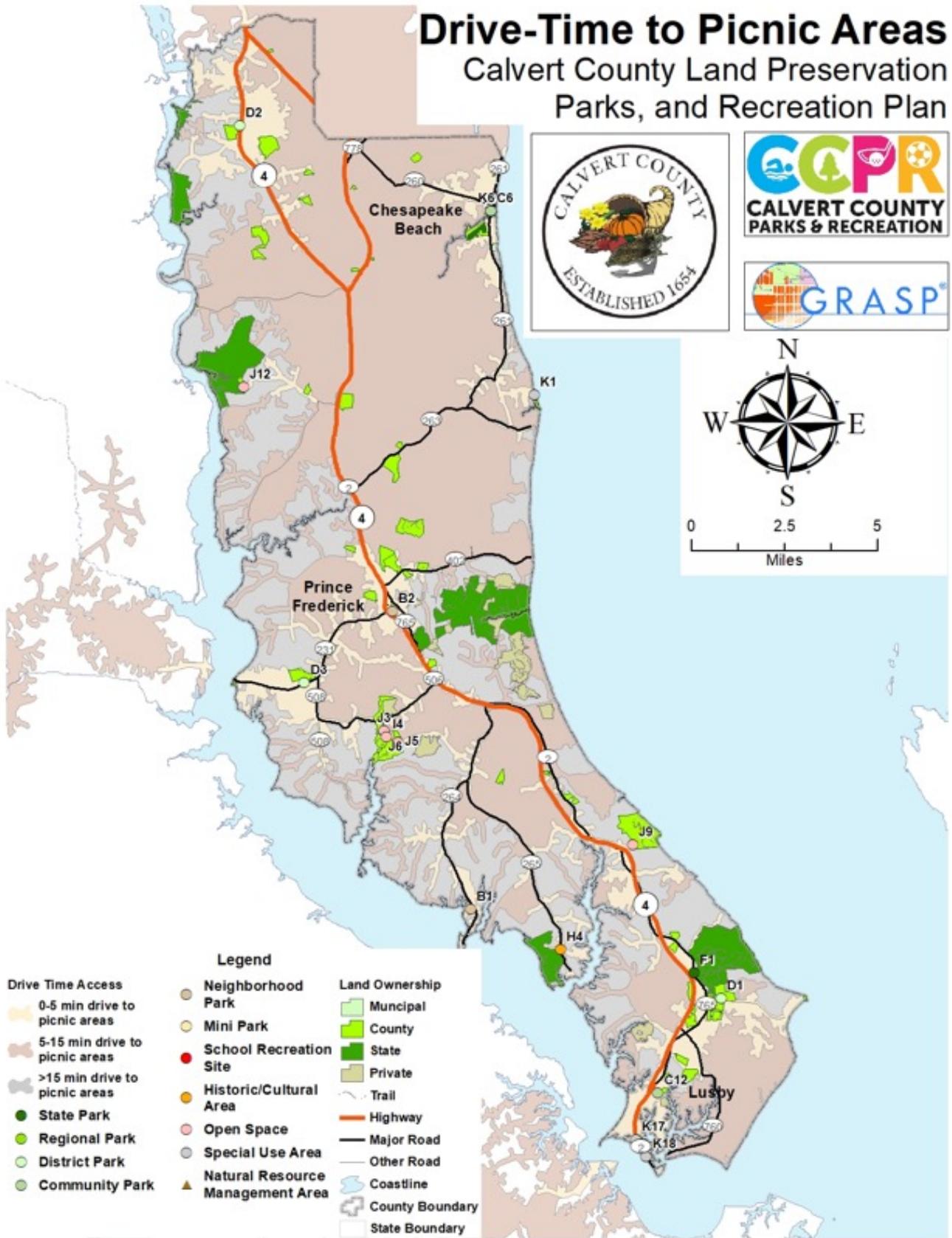


Figure 37: Drive-Time to Sites with Picnic Opportunities  
 Source: BerryDunn and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

### Maryland Park Equity Mapper

The Maryland Park Equity Mapper application combines demographic and environmental health data from a variety of sources and maps that data onto Maryland census block groups to identify disparities in park access and quality. This application allows users to evaluate the green space available in their community and see how it compares to the rest of Maryland. Local government planners and park officials can use the Park Equity Mapper to identify communities in need of green space revitalization. Currently there are four categories of data.

1. Park Equity Scores
2. Park Equity Factor Layers
3. Maryland EJScore
4. Context Layers

#### PARK EQUITY SCORE

This data category includes two-point indicators that map locations for parks and public transportation, and one count indicator that measures the number of park amenities. The eight remaining park equity indicators have scores organized into five bins or quintiles.

#### PARK EQUITY FACTOR LAYERS

<b>PARKS (CONTEXT)</b>	<p>This layer shows all park and open spaces reported in the 2019 – 2023 LPPRP. It includes state parks, state forests, natural resource management areas, natural environmental areas, wildlife management areas, state wildlands, and federal lands.</p> <p>People-powered recreation – So-called “active” recreation areas whose main purposes are to provide space for physical activities or social gatherings. Parks with this indicator have more people-powered amenities (see next layer) than nature-based amenities.</p>
------------------------	---

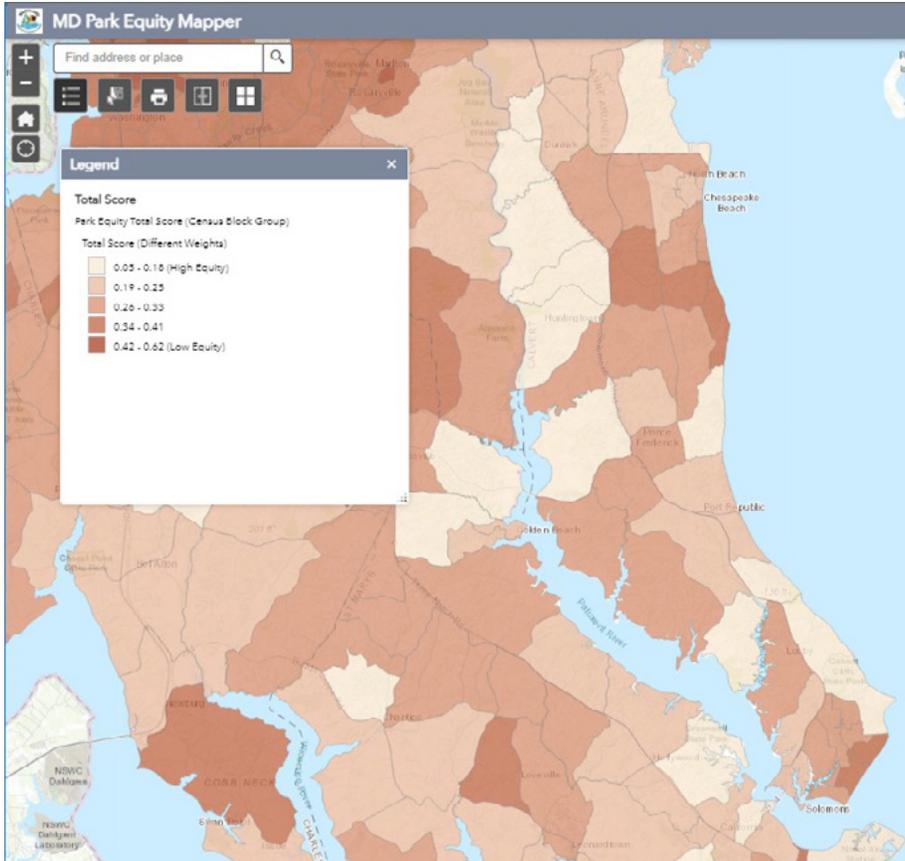
Table 8: Park Equity Layers

<b>PARKS (CONTEXT) (CONT.)</b>	<p>Nature-based recreation – Recreation areas whose main purpose is the preservation and promotion of the natural ecosystem or whose main attraction is nature itself. Parks with this indicator have more nature-based amenities than people-powered amenities.</p> <p>People-powered and nature-based – Parks with this indicator have an equal number of nature-based and people-powered amenities.</p>
<b>PARK AMENITIES (CONTEXT)</b>	<p>Facilities and/or equipment that enhance the usability of parks. Amenities include access to:</p> <p><b>NATURE-BASED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature areas</li> <li>• Water recreation</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Hunting</li> <li>• Fishing</li> </ul> <p><b>PEOPLE-POWERED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnicking</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Sports facilities</li> <li>• Waste receptacles</li> <li>• Restroom facilities</li> <li>• No fees/reservation required</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC TRANSIT (CONTEXT)</b>	<p>Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) access via local buses, metro subway, and the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) train. This data is based upon the winter 2014 schedule. For more information, see: <a href="http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train">http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train</a>.</p> <p>This layer also includes interstate public transit [services] such as Amtrak rail stops and Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bus and metro rail stops.</p>

<b>PARK EQUITY SCORE</b>	This is a combination of the layers below.
<b>POPULATION DENSITY SCORE</b>	Number of residents per residential acre (as defined by urban lands in the 2002 Maryland Department of Planning land use/land cover data). Higher-density equals a higher score (between 0–10) x2.
<b>LOW WEALTH SCORE</b>	The ratio of household at or below 185% of the County poverty level. The higher ratio equals a higher score (0–10).
<b>CHILDREN UNDER 18 SCORE</b>	Ratio of the number of children age 17 and under relative to the total population. The higher ratio equals a higher score (0–10).
<b>ADULTS 65 AND OLDER SCORE</b>	Ratio of the number of adults age 65 and older relative to the total population. The higher ratio equals a higher score (0–10).
<b>NON-WHITE SCORE</b>	Ratio of non-white to white individuals in that census tract compared to the average ratio of the state. The higher ratio equals a higher score (–10).
<b>PARK DISTANCE SCORE</b>	An average of distances of each location in a block group to the closest park.
<b>PUBLIC TRANSIT DISTANCE SCORE</b>	The Public Transit Distance Score is based on the Accessibility Index from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is an index of the relative accessibility of a block group compared to other block groups in the same metropolitan region, as measured by travel time to the working-age population via transit. Higher values indicate more accessibility.

<b>WALKABILITY INDEX SCORE</b>	<p>The Walkability Index Score is based on the U.S. EPA model, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Walkability Index (relative metric; higher values indicate conditions generally more conducive to pedestrian travel)</li> <li>• Employment and household entropy</li> <li>• Eight-tier employment entropy (denominator set to the static eight employment types in the CBG)</li> <li>• Street intersection density (weighted, auto-oriented intersections eliminated)</li> <li>• Distance from population-weighted centroid to nearest transit stop (meters), but remember that significant transit capacity has been added since the date of source data used in this analysis (TRAX green line, extensions to other lines, FrontRunner south, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>LINGUISTIC ISOLATION SCORE</b>	The Linguistic Isolation Score is a measure of the number of households in which every member over the age of 14 speaks a non-English language and none speak English “very well.”

Source: *MD Park Equity Mapper (umd.edu)*



Darker areas on the map have lower equity than lighter-colored areas.

Figure 38: Park Equity Total Score (Census Block Group)

Source: MD Park Equity Mapper (umd.edu)

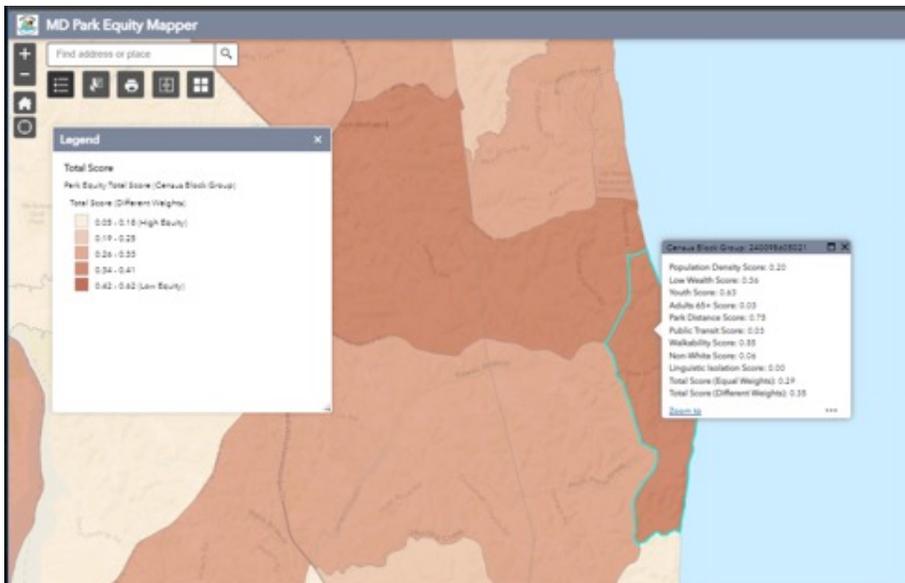
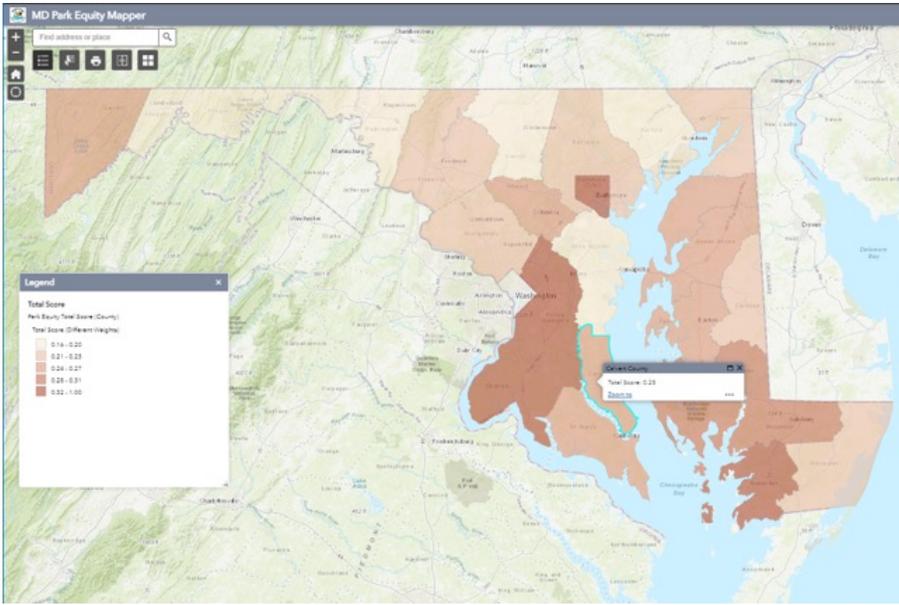


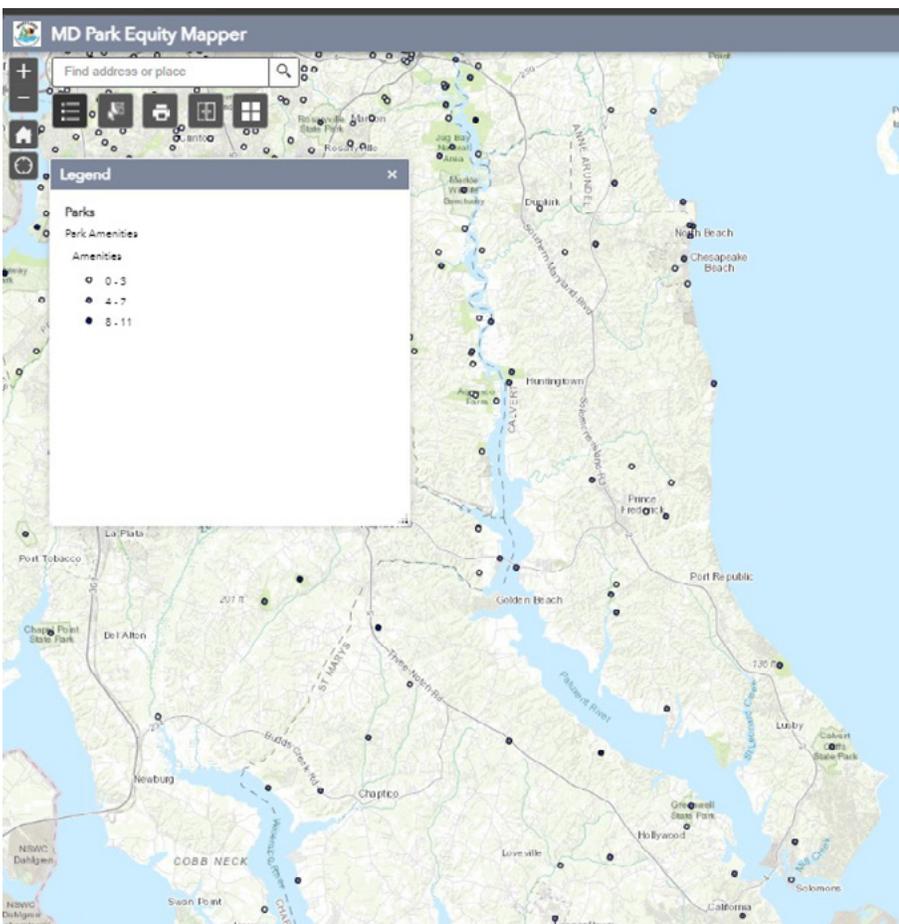
Figure 39: Chesapeake Beach Area  
As an example, this area in Chesapeake Beach is one of the lower equity areas.

Source: MD Park Equity Mapper (umd.edu)



This statewide comparison shows Calvert County at a total score of 0.25 in Park Equity Total Score. Comparison can be made to other counties based on the darkness of the shading.

Figure 40: Park Equity Total Score (County)  
Source: MD Park Equity Mapper (umd.edu)



The park equity mapping does not seem to match other analysis in terms of overall number of parks and park amenities presented already in this document. Calvert County should continue to work with DNR to update park and amenity locations and quantities to create mapping that better reflects current conditions.

Figure 41: Park Equity Score – Park Amenities  
Source: MD Park Equity Mapper (umd.edu)

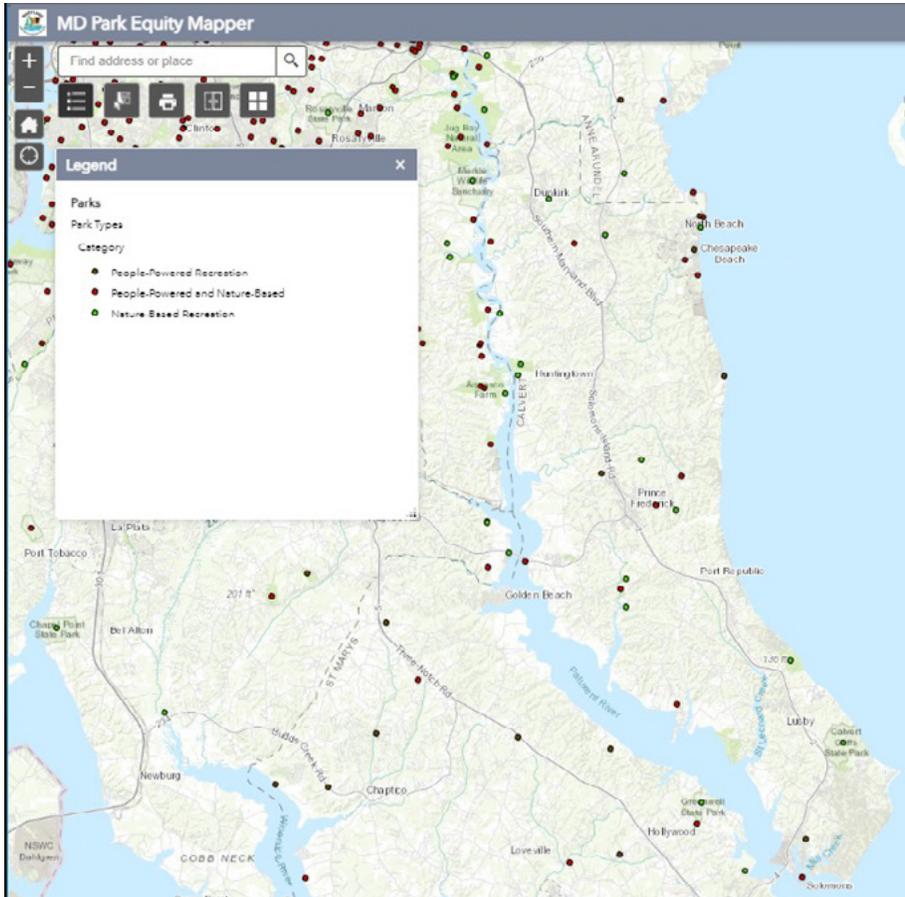


Figure 42: Park Equity Score – Parks  
Source: MD Park Equity Mapper ([umd.edu](http://umd.edu))



# ■ NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION GOALS

Current goals, visions, objectives, and actions guiding Calvert County's efforts to conserve natural resource lands were established by the County's 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. These guiding criteria complement Maryland's statewide goals for natural resource land conservation, included in Appendix H.

■ In comparison to statewide goals, the County’s goals are more focused on identifying specific objectives and actions to preserve, protect, and restore the County’s environmentally sensitive areas including wetlands, floodplains, streams, steep slopes, etc. The County’s goals also emphasize the critical role of outreach and education in the natural resource conservation. Relevant criteria from the 2019 update of the Comprehensive Plan that guides the County’s natural resource land conservation efforts include:

## County Goal

- Preserve the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.

## County Vision

- Our landscape is dominated by forests and fields.
  - At least 40,000 acres of farm and forestland are preserved.
- Our wetlands, streams, and forests and the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River support thriving plant and animal communities.
  - Ninety percent of existing forest is retained.

## COUNTY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS (MOST RELEVANT PROVIDED BELOW):

### GOAL 1: PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve and restore wetlands.

- Restore or create wetlands and wetland buffers in areas that will reduce nutrient pollution runoff from farms and developed areas.
- Develop regulations to address existing and future development adjacent to wetlands.
- Revise site planning criteria to encourage use of natural features of a site and planting of native vegetation, as well as to help prevent disturbance of wetlands and their buffers.

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve and restore floodplains.

- Consider raising the floodplain protection level.
- For development in the floodplain, help ensure that construction practices minimize damage to property and the environment during flooding.
- Prohibit the removal of vegetation in the floodplain.

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve and restore streams and stream buffers.

- Require and maintain undeveloped buffers containing native vegetation that limit development around perennial streams.
- Preserve and restore riparian forests.

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve and protect steep slopes.

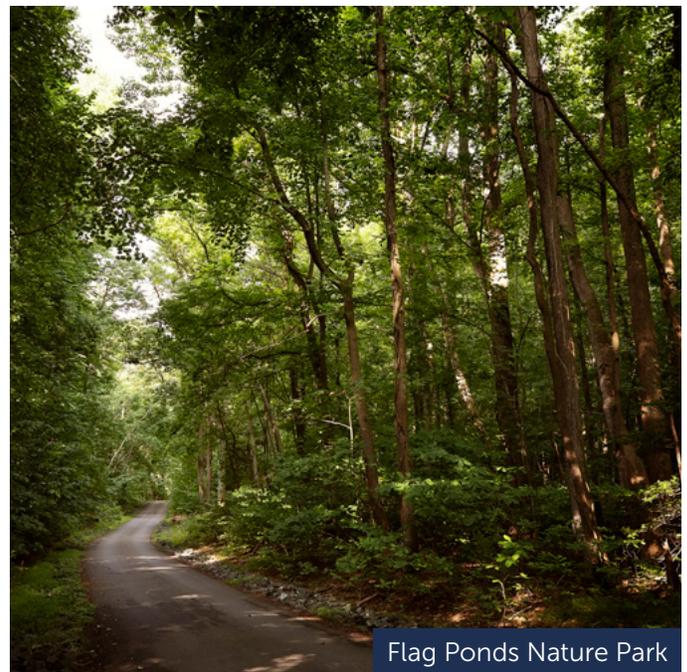
- Develop regulations to address existing and future development on steep slopes. Limit grading and alterations of natural vegetation on steep slopes.
- Revise site planning criteria to encourage use of natural features of a site and planting of native vegetation as well as to help prevent grading of steep slopes.

**OBJECTIVE:** Develop methods to protect the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species.

- Work with the State to map rare, threatened, and endangered species outside the Critical Areas and develop protective measures.
- Limit shore erosion control measures in areas of Calvert Cliffs that have significant Puritan tiger beetle populations.

**OBJECTIVE:** Create greenways throughout the County.

- Establish greenway systems along stream valleys, especially where they connect large tracts of protected agricultural and forest lands.



Flag Ponds Nature Park



Breezy Point Beach and Campground

**GOAL 2: CONTINUE AN EXTENSIVE APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WATERSHED PLANNING.**

**OBJECTIVE:** Foster greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental concerns.

- Maintain, support, and improve the environmental education programs for school-aged children, including the CHESPAX program for the Calvert County Public School System.
- Develop environmental education programs focused on watershed protection for adults and families, working with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and Morgan State University’s Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory.

**GOAL 3: PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE LAND-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES.**

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve and restore forestland.

- Using the map of the 2010 forested areas map, track, and report forest loss and gain.

- Retain 90% of existing forest as of 2010.
- Require replacement of 100% of forest loss since 2010 outside the Critical Area town centers.
- Expand land preservation programs that protect forested areas (e.g., local land trusts, county land trusts, easement programs, Forest Stewardship Program, and Department of Defense programs for the Joint Land Use Area).

**Natural Resource-Preservation Goals Achieved Since the 2018 LPPRP**

Since the last update of the LPPRP in 2018, Calvert County has continued its ongoing work to achieve the long-term natural resource conservation and land preservation goals established by the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, and goals of the State of Maryland. Since 2018, the County purchased the Gatewood Preserve and the Watson Property, adding approximately 75 acres in Prince Frederick and one hundred acres to existing 73 acres for Dominion Energy Regional Park in Lusby.

# ■ NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## STATE FOCUS AREAS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

Forests, wetlands, and waterways are key natural resource features of the Calvert County landscape that the County and State actively work to preserve and protect. Natural areas in Calvert County provide important habitats for diverse plant and animal species. Both the State and the County have created complementary programs that prioritize natural resource land conservation efforts. Maryland's BioNet and GreenPrint programs are utilized statewide to prioritize land preservation strategies.

**MARYLAND BIONET** Prioritizes areas of statewide importance for the conservation of species and natural communities into a five-tiered system, with Tier I being the most significant for conservation. Calvert County includes Tier I and Tier II areas.

**MARYLAND GREENPRINT** Identifies Targeted Ecological Areas, lands, and watershed areas of high ecological value that are considered conservation priorities by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Targeted Ecological Areas often include large areas of contiguous forests, wetland areas, and stream corridors that provide high-quality habitat, important nesting areas, and spawning grounds.

**NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS** Among the most sensitive ecological areas in the County are three State-designated Natural Heritage Areas. These areas include features that set them apart as “best examples” of unique ecosystems within Maryland. In addition to their special natural resource characteristics, each is known to be home to at least one locally threatened or endangered species. Land-disturbing activities and development within Natural Heritage Areas is regulated, with requirements that activities will have no adverse impact on the local plant and animal communities.

**County Natural Resource Conservation Focus Areas and Tools**

Calvert County has a strong dual focus regarding natural resource conservation. Environmental education and land conservation initiatives are both

major components of the County’s conservation strategy. Educational experiences are primarily provided by the Department of Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Division, whereas the acquisition of land or easements to conserve land is guided by the County’s 2019 update to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance. The focal areas and goals of the County for conserving natural resources are complementary to goals established by the State of Maryland.

Calvert County protects lands and natural resources in Designed Protection Areas that include:

- Shoreline and cliff areas on the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, and their tributaries
- Floodplain areas
- Steep slopes (25% or greater; 15% or greater in Critical Areas)
- Erodible soils adjoining streams
- Wetlands
- Perennial and intermittent streams, and wetland buffers
- Sites of State-listed threatened or endangered species
- Natural Heritage Sites
- Waterfowl concentration and staging areas
- Forest Interior Dwelling Species habitat



**NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS IN CALVERT COUNTY:**

- Camp Roosevelt Cliffs
- Cove Point Marsh
- Flag Ponds
- Randle Cliff Beach

## County Land Use and Zoning Tools

**DESIGNATED PROTECTION AREAS** Receive protections from land-development activities through Calvert County’s zoning ordinance. Development planned in or near Designated Protection Areas is required to avoid disturbing land within regulated areas and buffer zones.

**FARM AND FOREST DISTRICT** The 2019 Comprehensive Plan and existing zoning ordinance use the term “Farm and Forest District” synonymously for Priority Preservation Area. Priority Preservation Areas include large land areas that are mostly undeveloped and have high existing and/or potential productive farm or forest uses.

**MANDATORY CLUSTERING** Requires most new major subdivision developments located outside designated growth areas to preserve 50% – 80% of the land on the parcel to be preserved as open space. The preserved areas resulting from clustered developments are classified as one or more of the following:

- Farm Reserves – Cleared land capable of functioning as cropland, pasture, or meadow.
- Woodland Reserves – Contiguous acreage of forest capable of supporting timber production or wildlife management.
- Conservation Open Space – Wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, streams, and their buffer areas
- Community Recreation Open Space – Recreation open space as required in subdivisions with 50+ units.
- Public Access Open Space – Land deeded (or to be deeded) to a land trust or government agency that provides public access.

**PARKS AND RECREATION ORDINANCE** Gives the Board of County Commissioners the authority to establish public park areas including natural areas.

## Additional County Tools

The County employs additional tools as part of its park management and conservation strategy, including:

**INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT** The County developed Invasive Plant Management Plans to focus division- and park-specific invasive control efforts to protect areas of ecological importance and limit the further degradation of natural areas within park boundaries due to the impacts of invasive species. Specific goals and methods are identified for Flag Ponds and Kings Landing Park properties.

**DEER MANAGEMENT** Deer management is an important component of conserving and restoring the ecological health of parks as the overabundance of deer damages the forest health by over-browsing the herbaceous and shrub layer and reducing the number of tree seedlings required for forest regeneration. The County is working to implement the recommendations from a work group convened in 2013. Recommendations include expanded hunting opportunities, exploration of non-lethal options, and development of an education campaign.

**MEADOW MANAGEMENT** The County has developed and is implementing meadow management protocols at several park properties. These efforts provide invasive species control and enhance and increase habitat for grassland species such as barn owls, American kestrels, monarchs, and pollinators such as native bees.

**WILDLIFE INVENTORIES** The County conducts inventories of a wide variety of wildlife through partnerships with Calvert Stewards and the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Inventories include American kestrels, barn owls, dragonflies, monarchs, saw-whet owls, and box turtles. These inventories have the dual benefit of gauging wildlife populations and health within the County and engaging and educating residents.

# State Targeted Growth, Conservation Areas & GreenPrint Areas

## Calvert County Land Preservation Parks, and Recreation Plan



**Legend**

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| GreenPrint Areas                 | <b>Inventory</b>        |
| <b>Protected Lands</b>           | <b>Land Ownership</b>   |
| <b>Protection Type</b>           | State / DNR             |
| AGEASE                           | County                  |
| DNR                              | Municipal               |
| MET                              | Private                 |
| PDR                              | Highway                 |
| PRV                              | Major Road              |
| RURLEG                           | Other Road              |
| TDR                              | Calvert County Boundary |
| <b>mdp_planning_areas</b>        | State Boundary          |
| <b>Planning Area</b>             |                         |
| Established Community            |                         |
| Rural Resource Area              |                         |
| Targeted Growth & Revitalization |                         |

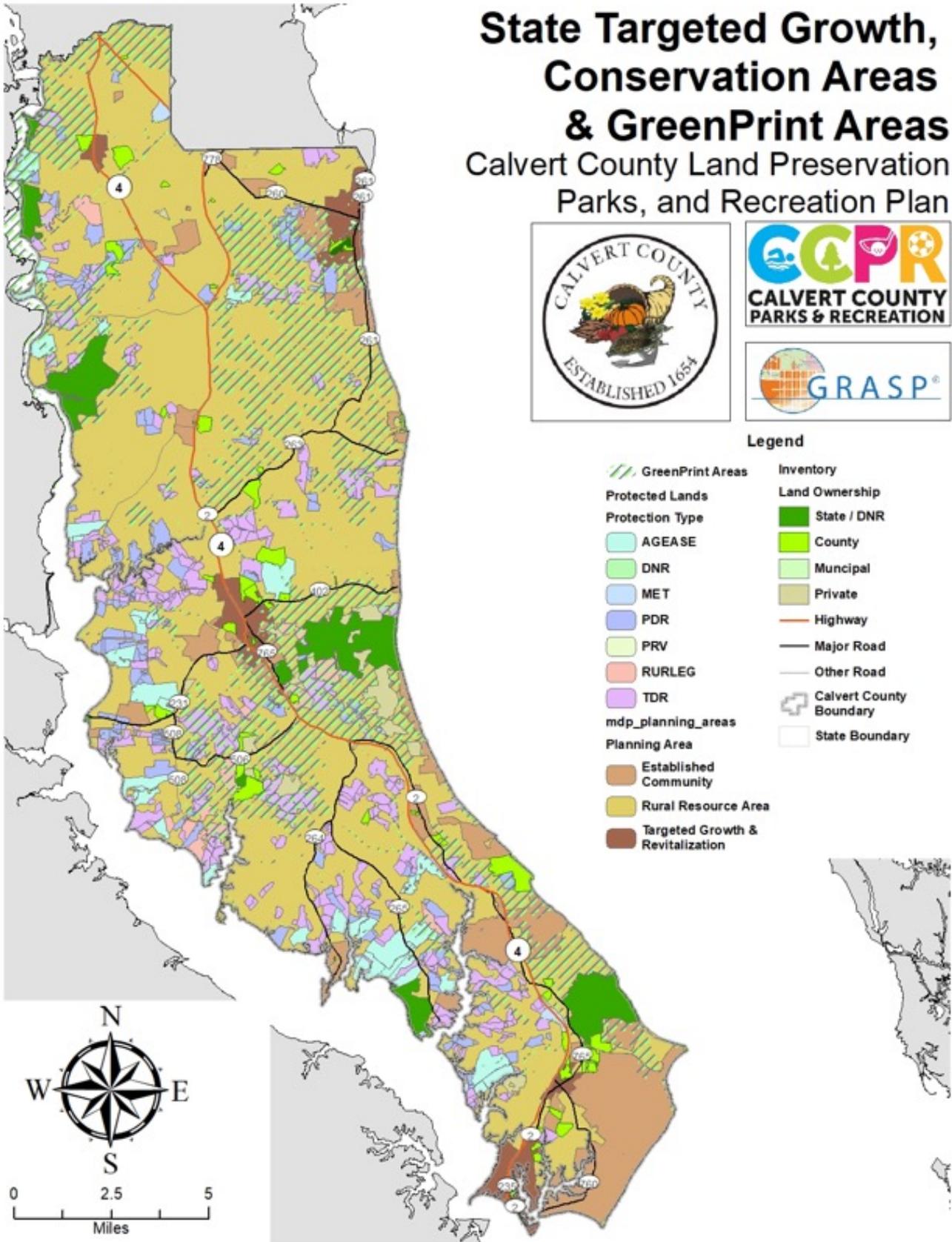


Figure 43: State Targeted Growth, Conservation Areas, & Greenprint Areas

### Environmental Education and Engagement—Calvert County Natural Resources Division

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Division is responsible for the preservation, management, and operation of natural areas for the purposes of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The primary goal of the Division is to increase the environmental awareness of the public by:

- Providing quality environmental education activities
- Providing environmentally compatible recreation activities
- Preserving the natural heritage of Calvert County

Natural Resources Division staff provide programs and opportunities for connecting people with the natural landscape and educating them about environmental issues and stewardship. Each year, the Division’s programs engage thousands of County schoolchildren and more residents and visitors of all ages.

Since the preparation of the last LPPRP, the Division’s operating budget increased from \$833,744 in FY2017 to \$1,063,932 in FY2022 primarily as a result of staff salary increases. The Natural Resources Division budget in FY2022 represented one-third of 1% of the total County operating budget. Additional information regarding the Division’s operations can be found in **Section 2: Recreation, Parks, and Open Space**.

The Division works to achieve these goals through its operation of 11 County natural area parks, and programs provided in partnership with organizations including the Calvert County Board of Education and nonprofit Calvert Nature Society.

### Evaluation of Natural Resource Land Conservation Programs

Calvert County works to preserve land of high natural resource and open space value through programs that regulate land development, incentivizes private participation in easement programs, and/or directly purchases easements or property outright. As stated in the 2018 LPPRP plan, the County reported four major challenges with natural resource land conservation:

- 1 General lack of public awareness of the needs to protect habitat, significance of erosion control, and stewardship needs of greenways.  
The Calvert County Natural Resources Division actively engages residents in the Calvert Stewards volunteer program, providing opportunities for public service in education, research, and stewardship, which support the overall mission of the division. This benefits the participants, the parks, and the community as Calvert Stewards use and develop their skills to form an environmentally aware community and become the environmental stewards of Calvert County. The Calvert Stewards program also encourages youth and families in projects to create a pipeline of engaged residents who will continue their involvement in the parks into adulthood.
- 2 Limited awareness of property owners of land conservation programs/alternatives to selling their land for development.
- 3 More strategic planning is needed to ensure the most effective and efficient use of limited resources for natural resource land conservation.
- 4 Maintaining a steady and reliable funding source for natural resource protection and conservation.

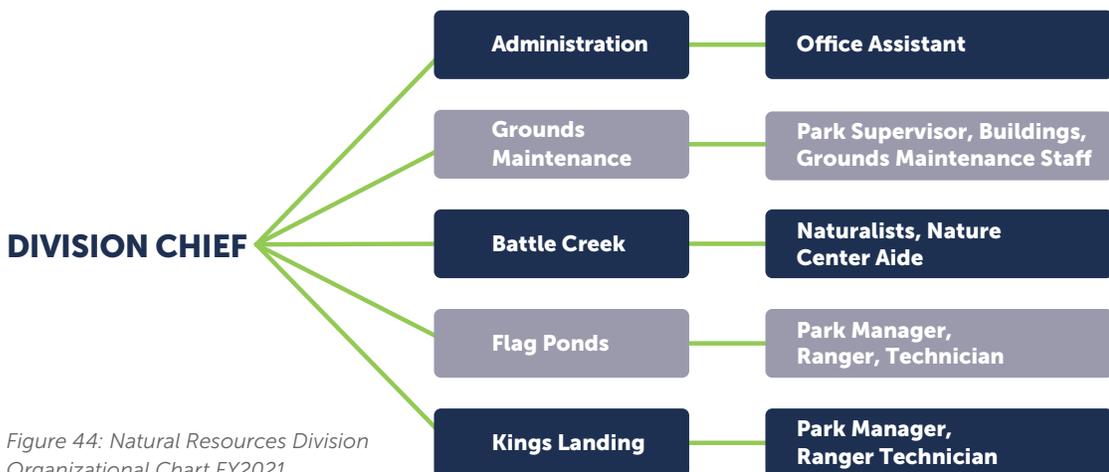


Figure 44: Natural Resources Division Organizational Chart FY2021

■ In November 2016, a Land Preservation Roundtable was organized to provide landowners information about the various options available through federal, state, local, and non-governmental organizational programs. The following organizations partnered with Calvert County to describe and promote their land preservation programs:

**CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY**

- Maryland Environmental Trust
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Rural Legacy)
- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program
- University of Maryland Agriculture Extension
- Land Trust Alliance
- Soil Conservation District
- Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Farm Bureau
- Calvert Sustainable Network
- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Calvert Farmland Trust
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Southern Calvert Land Trust
- Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

The 2018 LPPRP noted program development strategies to guide natural resource conservation efforts. These strategies have been edited and expanded to reflect the County’s current efforts and priorities as follows:

- Support and promote the County’s land use plan and policies outlined in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.
- Adopt a Greenways Map and use it to target areas that need to be protected. Include Forest Interior Dwelling Species habitat. Use the map to identify greenways during the subdivision and park planning process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space. Reforestation should occur in greenways when possible.

**Calvert County Natural Resources Division**

**PARKS & NATURAL AREAS**

- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary
- Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- Flag Ponds Nature Park
- Gatewood Preserve
- Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- Hutchins Pond
- Kings Landing Park
- Nans Cove
- Lower Marlboro Wharf
- Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
- Ward Park Farm Recreation and Nature Park

- Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing callboxes to include within the Activity Guide and expanded methods of communication.
- Continue to hold regional meetings to explain land preservation options that are available to property owners.
- Promote ecotourism by allowing natural resource-related recreational businesses in the Farm and Forest District, consistent with resource and habitat protection.
- Continue County funding support for land preservation at the local level and encourage the continuation of funding programs at the state level (Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF, Rural Legacy, and Program Open Space).
- Continue to implement the Calvert County Watershed Implementation Plan.
- Evaluate existing facilities utilizing the current All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and relevant flood mitigation plans. Incorporate facilities not already addressed into plan updates to help ensure the flood hazard for all facilities is addressed.

# ■ AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

Rural preservation strategies can protect the rural landscape, give preference to active agricultural operations, and provide predictability for residents and landowners.<sup>4</sup> The County created one of the first land preservation programs in the State of Maryland and was adopted by County Commissioners in 1977. The County's first Agricultural Preservation District was created over 30 years ago, and the County has a certified agricultural land preservation program, which it follows on an annual basis.

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<sup>4</sup> Calvert County Comprehensive Plan; adopted 2019

■ Currently, Calvert has the most active transferable development rights (TDRs) program in the State. The TDR program allows a landowner to sell the development potential to another party. The sale requires the recording of restrictive covenants in land records permanently subjecting the property to development restrictions in perpetuity. Subject to County regulations, a TDR purchaser can use TDRs to attain higher lot density on another property.

The strategies identified in the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan that can continue or be initiated are below:

- Continue to allocate funding for the Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Program
- Require Development Rights be Used for Family Conveyance Lots
- Review Design Standards for Rural County Roads
- Create Green Corridors

The TDR program goal is to deter development of farms and forestlands to areas targeted for residential and commercial growth. The County’s program works toward a goal of 40,000 acres preserved by partnering with other local organizations including:

- Calvert Farmland Trust
- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Calvert Nature Society

The County also works together with other state preservation programs such as Rural Legacy, Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) , and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF).

## PROTECTED LANDS MAP AND DASHBOARD-CALVERT COUNTY

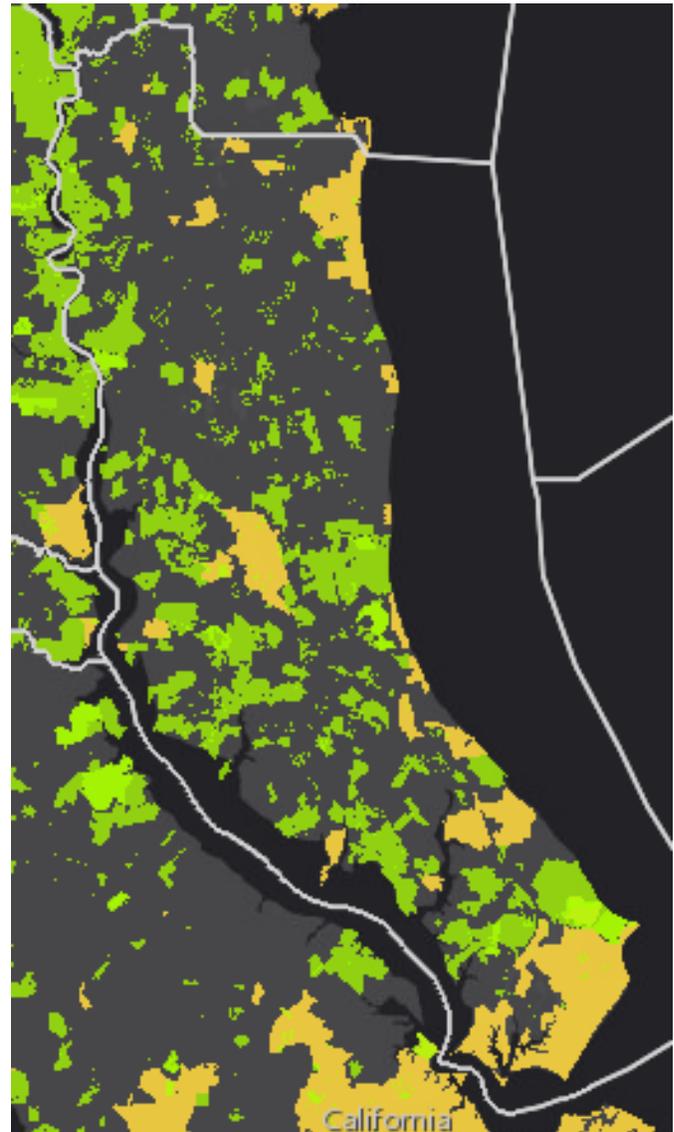
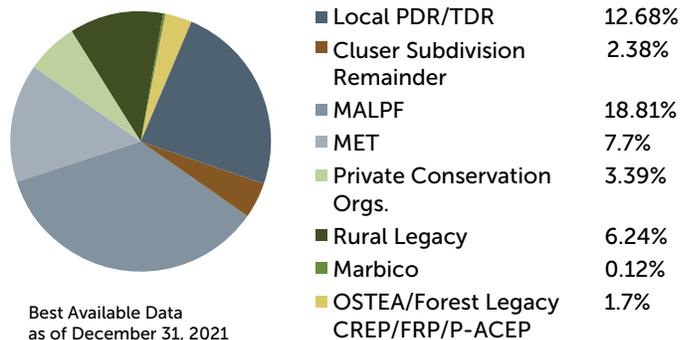


Figure 45  
Source: Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard



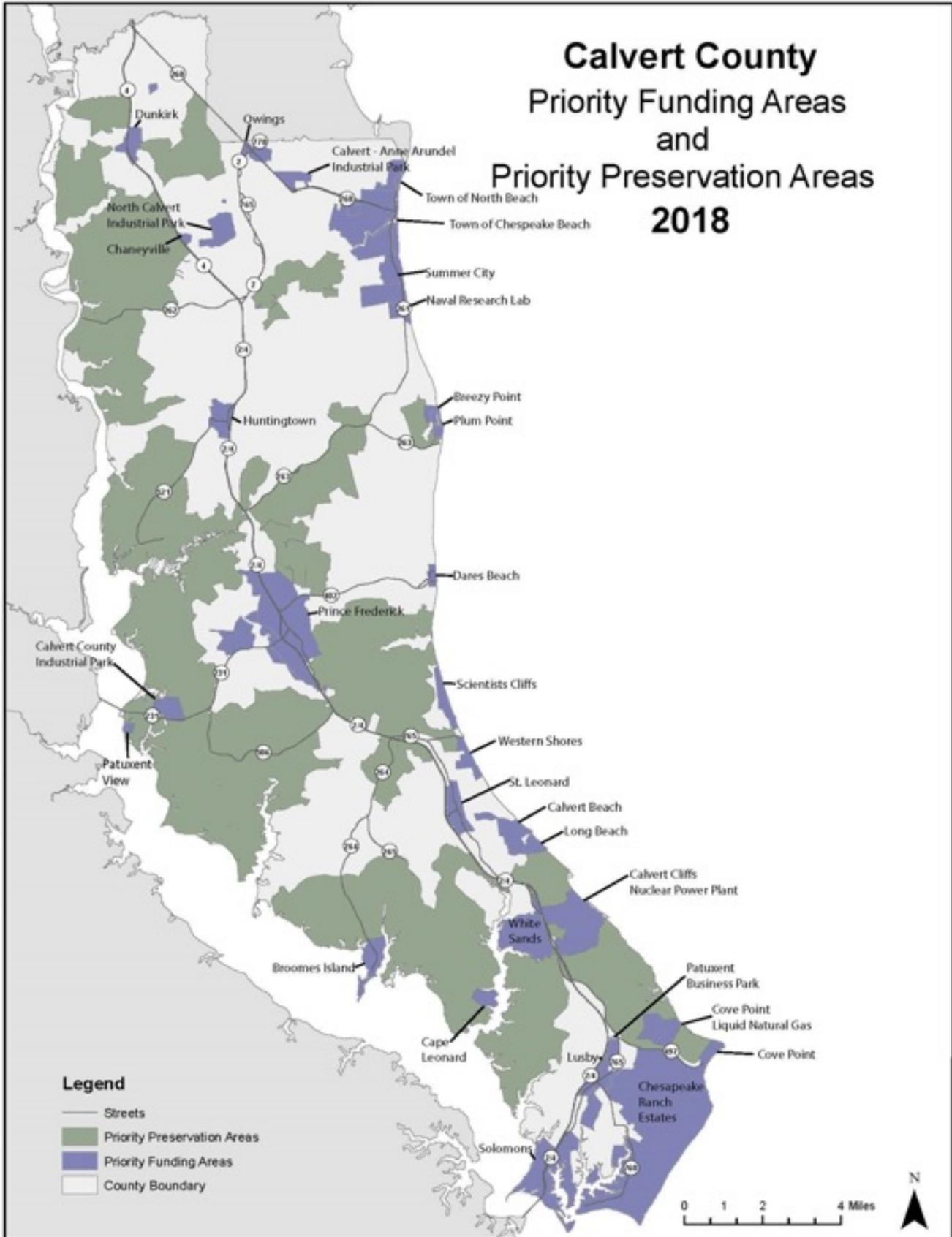


Figure 46: Priority Funding Areas and Priority Preservation Areas



**514**

Agriculture Preservation Districts have been created.



**23,850**

Acres have been permanently preserved.



**25,414**

TDRs have been certified.



**12,861**

TDRs have been used for development.



**3,119**

TDRs have been purchased and retired by the county.



**2,604**

TDRs retired by the county. 2,604 via LAR

Figure 47: Preservation numbers in the county

**Calvert County Planning & Zoning**  
**AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION DISTRICTS**

	APO's	Acres Not Preserved	Acres Preserved	TDRs Certified	TDRs availability for development	TDRs Used for development	TDRs retired for PAR	TDRs retired for LAR	FC TDRs Certified	FC TDRs available for development	FC TDRs used for Development	FC TDRs retired for PAR
County Preserved	514	245.21	23,850.890	25,414	6,830	12,861	3,119	2,604	513	68	416	29
NOT YET preserved	40	1,693.96	134.5	2,062								
NOT Certified	27	1,314.34	.25	0								
SML	190		69.870	642	188	354						
MALPF	34		4,581.7	0								
MET	4		1,106.32	0								
RL	20		2,324.97	284								
Private Land Trust	0											

Table 9

794 Total APD Applications (# APD) reviewed	903 #Private Conveyances
639 Total Approved APD Applications (# APDs)[CO Preserve, Not Certif, No Preserv, ST Preserve	271 Non-Armed Length Conveyances
	367 # PAR Conveyances
	25 # LAR Conveyances



Calvert County Farm

## 2022 Progress of 2018 Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

- 1** Preserve at least 40,000 acres of farm and forestland countywide.
  - 2018 reported County preserved total = 20,279
  - 2022 reported County preserved total = 23,850
  - Change in acres = +3,571
  - 2018 reported State preserved total = 7,323
  - 2022 reported State preserved total = 8,089
  - Change in acres = +766

The County has made progress through both the County’s preservation program and the available State programs toward its goal of 40,000 acres.

- 2** Continue to fund the Purchase and Retirement of Development Rights (PAR), and urge the State to do the same.

The PAR fund has continued to be fully funded.

- FY2018 – \$2,739,000
- FY2019 – \$3,385,000—cycle not approved by Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to move forward—requested additional research and analysis on how to set TDR price
- FY2020 – \$4,452,654
- FY2021 – Continued processing of FY2020 applications to work through funding
- FY2022 – \$1,530,000

\*Some fiscal years funding utilizes prior year’s fund balance when there were not enough PAR applications received to utilize all funds allocated for that fiscal year.

- 3** Support zoning changes that allow farmers to have additional uses for agritourism, ecotourism, and heritage tourism uses.

The County’s zoning ordinance permits or conditionally permits Agritourism Enterprises, Ecotourism Enterprises and Heritage Trail Displays within the Farm and Forest, Rural Community, Residential, Agricultural Preservation District and Historic Districts.

- 4** Continue to work with the Department of Economic Development and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to develop and implement marketing programs.

Calvert County’s Planning & Zoning Department continues to support economic development by working closely with the Department’s Agricultural Development Specialist as well as attend meetings and support SMADC.



# CULTURAL AND HISTORIC CONSERVATION INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan provides background information on the importance of preserving the County's natural, cultural, and historic assets. Within Chapter 5 of the plan is the heritage section. The cultural and historic heritage of the County lies within a solid foundation that residents have long celebrated—American and world history, landscapes, shorelines, the lives of Native Americans, the colonial settlement, the formation of the United States, and the wars and conflicts that once played out within the boundaries of the County.

- The general inventory of cultural and historical resources in Calvert County includes:
  - 1,535 properties surveyed by Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
  - 547 archaeological sites recorded countywide
  - 91 properties included in Historic Districts
  - 20 properties on the National Register of Historic Places
  - 2 properties designated local Historic Landmarks by the Town of North Beach

A comprehensive map illustrating state and locally designated historic sites and resources within the County can be found online at: <http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1537>.

**THERE ARE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SITES TO NOTE THROUGHOUT CALVERT COUNTY. AMONG THESE ARE:**

The Cove Point Lighthouse was built in 1828 by John Donahoo, who erected a brick conical tower along the plan he had used at several other sites in the Chesapeake Bay. In 1825, Congress had allocated funds to build a light at Cedar Point, four miles south at the mouth of the Patuxent River, but further consideration led to a decision to mark Cove Point and the shoal that jutted into the bay. A new appropriation in 1828 allowed construction of the light and keeper's house in the same year.<sup>1</sup>

The original Argand lamps were replaced in 1855 with a fifth-order Fresnel lens; this in turn was upgraded to a fourth-order lens in 1857. A fog bell added in 1837 was moved several times and mounted on both wood and iron towers before ending up on the roof of a wooden shed built in 1902 to house a foghorn. The foghorn equipment was moved in 1950 to a separate brick building, but the fog bell remains on the shed. Erosion was a significant problem but was eventually brought under control through a seawall initially constructed in 1892 and upgraded in 1913 and 1993.<sup>2</sup>



Cove Point Lighthouse



Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

1 Vera Foster Rollo. Maryland Today a Geography. p.8.

2 Nancy Miller (September 1972). "National Register of Historic Places Registration: Cove Point Light" (PDF). Maryland Historical Trust. Retrieved 2016-01-01.

The keeper’s house was enlarged in 1881 when it was converted to a duplex with housing for two keepers and their families, and again in 1925 when inside kitchens were installed. In 1950, a separate small house was built as home to a third keeper and his family.

Cove Point remains an active aid to navigation and is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 as Cove Point Lighthouse. The keepers remained until 1986 when the light was finally automated. The light was in good condition, with equipment remaining from prior years, when it was turned over to Calvert County in 2000. Since then, it has been administered by the Calvert Marine Museum, which allows access to the light and grounds in the summer months.

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Station was a standard-gauge railroad that ran approximately 28 miles from Washington D.C. to Chesapeake Beach Maryland. The station had an open passenger boarding area and was built in 1898. The first train left the station on June 9, 1900, and as the Great Depression began to take a toll on the rail system and visitors, the last train left the station on April 15, 1935. The station still stands today as a railway museum.<sup>3</sup>

**Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives noted below are from the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2019) and denote the importance of the cultural and historical significance of the County.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
<p><b>GOAL 1:</b> Identify, protect, and interpret the buildings, places, and archaeological sites that signify the heritage of the community.</p>	<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Promote the documentation and protection of Calvert County’s heritage.</p> <p>5.1.1.1 Continue to add undocumented sites to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and update the forms for properties that have been previously surveyed but have inadequate information.</p> <p>5.1.1.2 Continue to record archaeological sites and add them to the Maryland Archaeological Sites Survey and to update forms for recorded sites when new information is available.</p> <p>5.1.1.3 Continue preservation of sites and structures through the designation of Historic Districts and provision of assistance and support to property owners; encourage the designation of multi-property districts.</p> <p>5.1.1.4 Promote the adaptive reuse of existing building stock.</p> <p>5.1.1.5 Adopt an archaeological site protection ordinance that is applicable countywide.</p> <p>5.1.1.6 Adopt a historic/scenic roads ordinance.</p> <p>5.1.1.7 Research and develop strategies to mitigate the effects of environmental threats to cultural resources.</p> <p>5.1.1.8 Work to ensure adequate support of programs for the documentation of threatened sites and structures and for the publicizing of strategies and incentives that would encourage preservation of threatened resources.</p>

Table 10: Calvert County Comprehensive Plan Goals

<sup>3</sup> Source: [https://chesapeakebeachrailwaymuseum.com/?page\\_id=1396](https://chesapeakebeachrailwaymuseum.com/?page_id=1396) and [https://chesapeakebeachrailwaymuseum.com/?page\\_id=636](https://chesapeakebeachrailwaymuseum.com/?page_id=636).

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> Document and conserve Calvert County ways of life, the memory of the people.</p>	<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Support and encourage programs that focus on local history, cultural geography, and folklife.</p> <p>5.2.1.1 Continue to support and maintain existing archives and repositories of oral histories collected through the Historic District Commission.</p> <p>5.2.1.2 Continue to collect oral histories and make them available in electronic format to the Calvert Marine Museum, the Calvert County Historical Society, and the Southern</p>
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b> Develop heritage resources as cultural capital to connect the past to the future.</p>	<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Celebrate heritage as a means of creating and nurturing a sense of local identity.</p> <p>5.3.1.1 Work with agricultural, environmental, and land trust organizations to promote consideration of historical and archaeological resources in open space, or protection through easements or other preservation strategies.</p> <p>5.3.1.2 Work with Communications and Media Relations and the tourism office to ensure that information about heritage resources is shared.</p> <p>5.3.1.2 Support efforts to interpret and celebrate local heritage at historic sites, in the public schools, and at special events in the community and make information available to assist in those endeavors.</p>

**Implementation Program**

This section supports the vision and goals of PreserveMaryland II<sup>4</sup> a five-year plan produced by the Maryland Historical Trust that charts a way for the historic preservation community to work more effectively to protect the State’s historic and cultural heritage.

**VISION:** According to the plan, in 2018 public and private support resulted in the identification, documentation, and preservation of diverse places of historic and cultural significance. However, continued support is needed to ensure successful preservation against manmade and natural threats to cultural resources.

**STATE VISION GOALS:** Public agencies, private organizations, and individuals involved in preservation were called upon by the State to:

- Connect with broader audiences
- Improve the framework for preservation
- Expand and update documentation
- Build capacity and strengthen networks
- Collaborate toward shared objectives

<sup>4</sup> Source: PreserveMaryland II\_04-29-2020\_small.pdf

Calvert County promotes the following activities for implementation of the State and County goals, for conserving cultural and historic resources.

Those include:

- Cultural resources staff review development plans for effects on cultural resources.
- Staff record and document archaeological and historic architectural sites and update data on previously recorded sites.
- Staff participate in interjurisdictional review of proposed projects that trigger review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and relevant State programs. Staff utilize grants and local funding to complete cultural resource surveys and use that data to update the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and State archaeological site inventory data maintained by the Maryland Historical

Trust, and to enhance the understanding of Calvert County's past.

- Staff work with other County departments and with local nonprofit organizations to ensure that historic properties in their purview are appropriately managed, and assist in writing scopes of work, grants, and content for interpretation as needed.
- Staff participate in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and support the activities of the heritage area.
- Staff provide web-based cultural and historic site information, except for archaeological sites, the locations of which are not made public to protect the resources.



Hallowing Point Park

# ■ PARKS & RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION TABLE



**GOAL 1: Improve and enhance existing Calvert County Parks & Recreation facilities and amenities**

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE
<b>1.1.A</b> Appropriate funding mechanisms to meet identified needs for facility improvements and additions. These include and are not limited to: helping to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility throughout the entire system; improving athletic field fencing; increasing walking, running, hiking, and nature facilities; adding a splash pad, and improving restroom facilities.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>1.1.B</b> Look for opportunities to increase the public’s sense of safety, such as lighting, landscape design, and visibility of staff at all park facilities.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>1.1.C</b> Address deferred maintenance priority list based on the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) inventory and address needs within the Capital Improvement Plan.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>1.1.D</b> Complete park development projects as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan.	Ongoing
<b>1.1.E</b> Continue to evaluate athletic field potential for all fields for increased usage. Determine if additional turf fields should be added or redesigned with consideration of new surfacing options for future renovation, replacement, or construction of athletic fields.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>

Table 10: Parks and Recreation Recommendations and Action Table

**GOAL 2: Continue to improve programming and natural resource opportunities within existing and future parks and recreation areas**

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE
<b>2.1.A</b> Evaluate existing facilities utilizing the current All-Hazard Mitigation Plan relevant flood mitigation plans. Incorporate facilities not already addressed into plan updates and ensure the flood hazard for all facilities is addressed.	Ongoing
<b>2.1.B</b> Make open spaces a key consideration when procuring new property or redeveloping existing properties.	Ongoing
<b>2.1.C</b> As new programs and services are developed and implemented within Parks & Recreation, along with Natural Resources Division, continue to create a balance between passive and active recreation opportunities.	Ongoing
<b>2.1.D</b> Continue to engage and partner with the municipalities, businesses, and state and federal agencies in the County in current and future natural resource program planning efforts.	Ongoing

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE
<b>2.1.E</b> Continue to look for opportunities to expand special events throughout the County.	Mid-Term
<b>2.1.F</b> Continue to follow all Land Preservation goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan (4-17 Goals and Objectives: Goal 1)	Ongoing

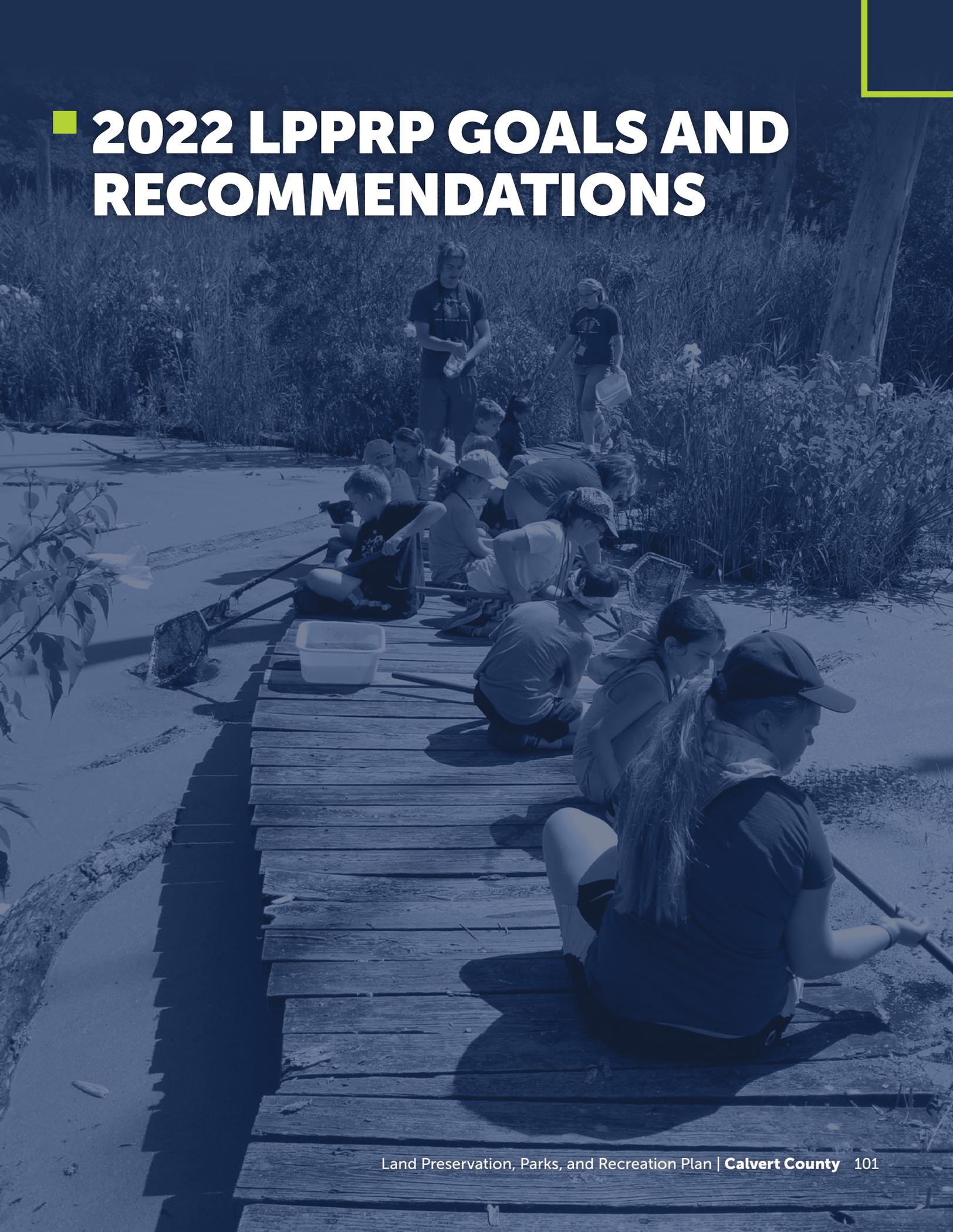
**GOAL 3: Continue to look for opportunities to develop new facilities and amenities**

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE
<b>3.1.A</b> Explore opportunities to acquire land suitable for the development of public water access facilities and water-based recreation opportunities to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>3.1.B</b> Continue with development of the Harriet E. Brown Community Center with consideration of adding a gymnasium, fitness room, and other community needs as identified through the community engagement process.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>3.1.C</b> Evaluate and prioritize replacement and renovation needs at all facilities. Continue to monitor use and satisfaction of groups who use park facilities through follow-up satisfaction survey.	Mid-Term
<b>3.1.D</b> Continue working with other agencies and the municipalities in the county to provide regional connectivity to neighborhoods, schools, parks, and the community.	Mid-Term
<b>3.1.E</b> Consider the development of a countywide bicycling and pedestrian master plan, and associated steering committee, to guide the development of a connected and sustainable trails network.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>

**GOAL 4: Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies**

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE
<b>4.1.A</b> Take measures to gauge the community on successful methods of communication and expand methods and frequency of communication.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>4.1.B</b> Research and implement strategies to improve the accuracy of park and facility availability and usage data.	Ongoing <i>Priority</i>
<b>4.1.C</b> Maintain accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) through the National Recreation and Parks Association.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.D</b> Work to assure staffing levels and pay rates are appropriate to meet current and future level of service demands. Continuously monitor staffing organization and adjust as needs arise.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.E</b> Continue to engage the community in current and future parks, recreation, and open space planning efforts.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.F</b> Continue to promote and create awareness of the programs and activities through the Department website and social media.	Short-Term
<b>4.1.G</b> Continue to engage young individuals in all aspects of the planning and implementation of plans and programs. Continue to monitor the demographic trends in Calvert County.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.H</b> Maintain GIS standards as established by the State for all parks.	Ongoing

# ■ 2022 LPPRP GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



GOALS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p><b>GOAL 1:</b> Preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas throughout the County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas with appropriate mitigation, planning efforts, capital improvements, and public outreach.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> Develop walkable communities with opportunities to improve connectivity and existing trail networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add trails and connectivity throughout existing parks and as part of future development or redevelopment. Continue to implement trails that are planned.</li> <li>• Develop plan to prioritize acquisition of property that may be utilized for public water access, and research opportunities in current facilities to increase the public’s access to water.</li> <li>• Continue to evaluate existing linear corridors, rights-of-way, and other potential areas for future trail development.</li> <li>• Seek to acquire rights-of-way and open space through zoning or subdivision entitlement process to utilize for future trail creation.</li> <li>• Create trails and paths within town center areas that connect with outlying parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Continue to create, support, and promote public water trails in Southern Maryland.</li> </ul>

Table 11: 2022 Goals and Recommendations



Hallowign Point Park

GOALS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b> Continue to maintain existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs that meet the needs of a diverse community and growing population with a focus on maintenance, communication, and diverse opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the County’s population grows, the inventory of parks and recreation assets and programs, as well as Department resources, should increase in a corresponding matter to help ensure the continued delivery of high-quality programs, facility maintenance, and infrastructure management.</li> <li>• Address aging infrastructure and level of service amenities, including staffing needs.</li> <li>• Evaluate and prioritize replacement and renovation needs at all facilities. Continue to monitor satisfaction of groups who use park facilities through a follow-up survey.</li> <li>• As part of the marketing plan, gauge the community on successful methods of communication while continuing to expand methods and frequency of communication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 4:</b> Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take measures to gauge the community on successful communication methods.</li> <li>• Research and implement strategies to improve the accuracy of park and facility availability and usage data.</li> <li>• Maintain accreditation by the CAPRA through the National Recreation and Parks Association.</li> <li>• Work to assure staffing levels and pay rates are appropriate to meet current and future level of service demands. Continuously monitor staffing organization and adjust as needs arise.</li> <li>• Continue to engage the community in current and future parks, recreation, and open space planning efforts.</li> <li>• Continue to promote and create awareness of the programs and activities through the Department website and social media.</li> <li>• Continue to engage young individuals in all aspects of the planning and implementation of plans and programs.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor the demographic trends in Calvert County.</li> </ul>



# ■ APPENDIXES

# APPENDIX A: TRENDS REPORT

## Parks and Recreation Influencing Trends

The following pages summarize key trends that could impact Calvert County over the next five to ten years.

In addition, Esri Business Analyst provides estimates for activity participation and consumer behavior based on a specific methodology and survey data to comprise what Esri terms "Market Potential Index." The following charts showcase the participation in fitness activities, outdoor recreation, and sports teams for adults 25 and older, compared statewide participation. Figure 37 notes that most adults believe that communities should invest within the parks and recreation infrastructure.

## ADA Compliance

On July 26, 1990, the federal government officially recognized the needs of people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act. This civil rights law expanded rights for activities and services offered by both state and local governmental entities (Title II) and non-profit/for-profit entities (Title III). Parks and

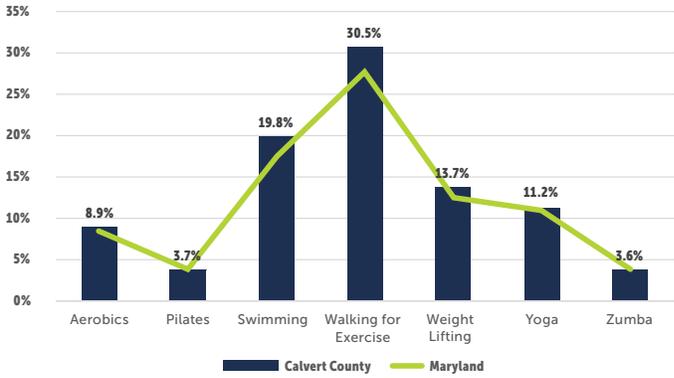


Figure 49: Adult Participation for Fitness Activities  
Source: Esri Business Analyst

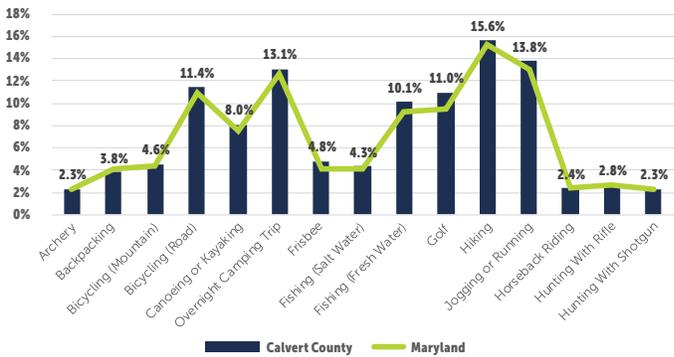


Figure 50: Adult Participation in Outdoor Recreation  
Source: Esri Business Analyst

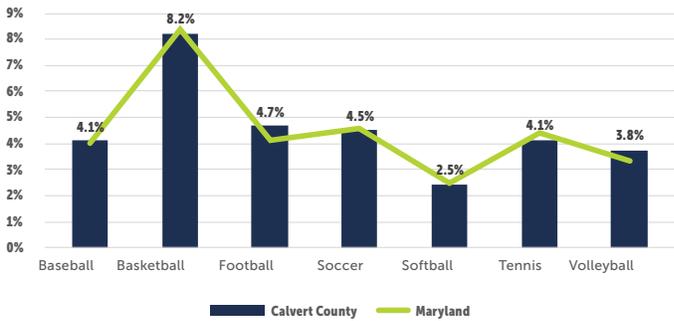


Figure 51: Adult Participation in Team Sports  
Source: Esri Business Analyst

**NRPA PARK PULSE**  
Communities Value Park and Recreation Infrastructure

Nearly all (92%) U.S. adults say it is important for their local government to invest in community infrastructure, including:

- Community centers
- Recreation centers
- Parks
- Senior centers

Seven in 10 people agree this community infrastructure is extremely or very important.

Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions open from the survey to the most light-hearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research. (www.wakefieldresearch.com)

Visit [nrpa.org/ParkPulse](http://nrpa.org/ParkPulse) for more information.

**NRPA** National Recreation and Park Association  
Because everyone deserves a great park

Figure 48: Investing in parks and recreation: Park pulse. National Recreation and Park Association. (2021, June 28). Retrieved May 31, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/investing-in-parks-and-recreation/>

recreation agencies are expected to comply to the legal mandate, which means eliminating physical barriers to provide access to facilities and providing reasonable accommodations with regard to recreational programs through inclusive policies and procedures.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Changes Are Coming to ADA – New Regulation Standards Expected for Campgrounds, Parks Beaches." Recmanagement.com, 2012, [recmanagement.com/feature\\_print.php?fid=201211fe03](http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201211fe03). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

■ Agencies are required to develop an ADA Transition Plan, which details how physical and structural barriers will be removed to facilitate access to programs and services. The ADA Transition Plan also acts as a planning tool for budgeting and accountability.

### Administrative Trends in Parks and Recreation

County parks and recreation structures and delivery systems have changed, and more alternative methods of delivering services are emerging. Certain services are being contracted out and cooperative agreements with non-profit groups and other public institutions are being developed. Newer partners include the health system, social services, justice system, education, the corporate sector, and community service agencies. These partnerships reflect both a broader interpretation of the mandate of parks and recreation agencies and the increased willingness of other sectors to work together to address community issues. The relationship with health agencies is vital in promoting wellness. The traditional relationship with education and the sharing of facilities through joint-use agreements is evolving into cooperative planning and programming aimed at addressing youth inactivity levels and community needs.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the role of parks and recreation management has shifted beyond traditional facility oversight and activity programming. The ability to evaluate and interpret data is a critical component of strategic decision-making. An article posted in Parks and Recreation Magazine, February 2019, lists components that allow agencies to keep up with administrative trends and become an agent of change:<sup>3</sup>

- Develop a digital transformation strategy – How will your agency innovate and adapt to technology?
- Anticipate needs of the community through data – What information from your facilities, programs, and services can be collected and utilized for decision-making?
- Continuous education – How can you educate yourself and your team to have more knowledge and skills as technology evolves?
- Focus on efficiency – In what ways can your operations be streamlined?

According to Esri Business Analyst in 2021, Calvert County households spent an estimated \$67.7 million on fees, equipment, and other costs typically associated in recreation, sports, fitness and leisure activities. Out of that total, \$38.9 million was spent on entertainment/recreation fees and admissions, \$12.8 million was spent on membership fees for social/recreation/health clubs, \$8.2 million was spent on sports/recreation/exercise equipment, and \$7.8 million in fees was spent for recreational lessons.

- Embrace change as a leader – How can you help your staff to see the value in new systems and processes?
- Reach out digitally – Be sure that the public knows how to find you and ways that they can be involved.

### Adventure Programming

People used to look to travel or tourist agencies for adventurous excursions. However, more government agencies have started to offer exciting experiences such as zip lining, challenge/obstacle courses, and other risk-taking elements on a local level. These agencies may form partnerships with specialized companies to provide adventure packages. Private companies may hire and train their own staff, maintain equipment, and develop marketing campaigns. A lease agreement may grant the county a certain percentage of gross revenues.

### Agency Accreditation

Parks and recreation agencies are affirming their competencies and value through accreditation. This is achieved by an agency's commitment to 155 standards. Accreditation is a distinguished mark of excellence that affords external recognition of an organization's commitment to quality and improvement.

The National Recreation and Parks Association administratively sponsors two distinct accreditation programs: The Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions approves academic institutions, and the Commission on Accreditation for Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

<sup>2</sup> Brian Stapleton, "The Digital Transformation of Parks and Rec" Parks and Recreation, February 2019; <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/february/the-digital-transformation-of-parks-and-rec/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/february/the-digital-transformation-of-parks-and-rec/>

approves agencies. It is the only national accreditation of parks and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.

### Alternative Uses in Golf Courses

Agencies may decide to repurpose or add to traditional golf courses more creative spaces for new opportunities. While some of these modifications may require additional equipment or expenses, some offer innovative new programs with minimal costs. Below are primary ways that golf courses are utilizing and reactivating their spaces to draw more attention, participants, and revenue.

#### DISC GOLF

According to the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), disc golf has increased in participation significantly since its initial start in 1975. Approximately 92% of players are male and 8% female. In 2018, PDGA had 46,457 active members; 2,496 were under eighteen. In 2010, the number of disc golf courses worldwide was 3,276. In 2018, that number increased more than 150% to 8,364. Most of the play takes place in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

#### FOOTGOLF

A true mix of soccer and golf, FootGolf is a sport played on a golf course where the players' goal is to kick a soccer ball into a cup in as few shots as possible. The sport was invented in 2009 and most formal league play is managed through American FootGolf League. FootGolf is an international sport estimated to be played in over twenty countries.<sup>5</sup> According to the World Golf Foundation study on alternative golf experiences (2015), FootGolf is estimated to be in 445 facilities worldwide. Approximately 87% of participants are very likely to continue playing, and 81% are satisfied with FootGolf.<sup>6</sup>

#### 5K RUN/WALKS

One of the most well-known recreational activities is the road race. The most popular race distance is the 5k. Approximately 8.84 million people registered for 5ks in the United States in 2017, claiming 49% of all registrants (compared to the half-marathon at number two with 11% of all registrants). Women comprise about 59% of participants, and males comprise 41%.<sup>7</sup>

#### SPECIAL EVENTS AND WEDDINGS

Golf courses can provide an ideal venue for special events. With an often picturesque viewshed and well-maintained landscaping, golf courses are becoming more popular for events such as banquets, conferences, and weddings.

#### Aquatics and Water Recreation Trends

Aquatic facilities are locations where individuals may get exercise, participate in sports, and have competitive fun. Aquatic centers and county waterparks are one of the fastest-expanding divisions of the water leisure industry, according to the World Waterpark Association.<sup>8</sup> According to the 2021 Aquatic Trends Report, "16.7% of rec centers in 2020 said they had built a new aquatic facility in the past several years, compared to 6.1% in 2019."<sup>9</sup>

Even though these centers are one of the fastest-growing segments in the water leisure industry, their budget will still decide their ability to maintain their equipment, which facility design trends are implemented, and their ability to meet the needs of the community. Fortunately, even with the pandemic's impact, park and camp respondents predict their average running costs to be the same in 2022 as they were in 2019.<sup>10</sup>

Opportunities could include aquatic therapy and aerobics, which can also assist in healing from injuries. These facilities can transform a person's health, which is why the World Health Organization has stressed

4 "2018 Disc Golf Demographics," Professional Disc Golf Association. Accessed October 2019.

5 Linton Weeks, "FootGolf: A New Sport Explored in 19 Questions," NPR: <https://www.npr.org/sections/theprotojournalist/2014/03/13/288546935/footgolf-a-new-sport-explored-in-19-questions>, March 13, 2014.

6 "Alternative Golf Experiences," World Golf Foundation: [http://ngcoa.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/AGEReport\\_12.15.pdf](http://ngcoa.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/AGEReport_12.15.pdf), December 2015.

7 "U.S. Road Race Participation Numbers Hold Steady for 2017," Running USA, [https://runningusa.org/RUSA/News/2018/U.S.\\_Road\\_Race\\_Participation\\_Numbers\\_Hold\\_Steady\\_for\\_2017.aspx](https://runningusa.org/RUSA/News/2018/U.S._Road_Race_Participation_Numbers_Hold_Steady_for_2017.aspx), Accessed October 2019.

8 "Press." Waterparks.org, 2020. [www.waterparks.org/web/Press.aspx](http://www.waterparks.org/web/Press.aspx). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

9 Tipping, E. (2021, February). Just Keep Swimming: The 2021 Aquatic Trends Report. Recreation Management. <https://recmanagement.com/feature/202102SU01>.

10 Tucker, P., Gilliland, J., & Irwin, J. D. (2007). Splashpads, Swings, and Shade. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 98(3), 198–202. <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03403712>

that “children’s physical and social environments are significant determinants of their overall health and well-being.” Having access to an aquatic area often improves someone’s overall health when they take part in swimming, water aerobics, Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) yoga, aqua-yoga/balance programs, and/or water basketball, volleyball, or water polo.

The ADA mandates accessible access to aquatic centers. People with disabilities can utilize aquatic facilities with the assistance of zero-entry pool access, ramps, or chair lifts. Another water accessibility issue is one of racial disparity. Studies have shown that “64 percent of black children and 45 percent of Hispanic children have little to no swimming ability, compared with 40 percent of white children.” Facilities have outreach programs focused primarily on low-income, ethnic, and water-phobic populations to address these discrepancies and reach people who lack swimming skills due to a fear of water.<sup>11</sup>

Splash pads are a great service that can remedy situations where people are not eager to submerge themselves into the water but are still looking to cool off. This type of facility is more cost efficient, uses less water than a pool, requires less maintenance, requires lifeguards, and the initial construction of splash pads costs less than swimming pools. Splash pads oftentimes have longer hours and seasons than pools, so not surprisingly parents who were interviewed when frequenting parks expressed that they wished that wading pools had longer hours of operation as well as a longer outdoor season. The State of Maryland requires splash pads to meet the same guidelines as bathhouse facilities located at pools.

Pools and splash pads can also be compared by how they can improve revenue. A straightforward way to add revenue to an already existing splash pad is by building a pavilion for large parties to rent.

Pools can also add additional elements to increase their revenue such as pool zip lines, “ninja” climbing nets, and poolside rock climbing walls. The AquaZip’N,

AquaNinja, and AquaClimb are examples of these safe adventure elements that are trending. In addition, aquatic centers can consider fewer permanent amenities such as log rolls, giant inflatable obstacle courses, and screen projectors for “dive-in” movies.

### Before- and After-School Care Programs

Parks and recreation agencies offer before- and after-school care programs. These programs may include fitness/play opportunities, a healthy snack, and tutoring/homework services. According to an NRPA poll, 90% of U.S. adults believe that before- and after-school programs offered by local parks and recreation agencies are important.<sup>12</sup> According to the 2018 Out-of-School Time Report, approximately 55% of local parks and recreation agencies offer after-school programming. Parks and recreation professionals consider the top five benefits of afterschool programs provided to youth are:<sup>13</sup>

- Safe spaces to play outside of school
- Free or affordable places for health and wellness opportunities
- Opportunities to network and socialize
- Experience nature and outdoors
- Educational support and learning opportunities

### Bird Watching

In 2016, an estimated 45.1 million people participated in birdwatching, according to the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation.<sup>14</sup> Of all participants, 86% observed wild birds around their homes.

The most popular activity was feeding birds and other wildlife, at 70%, while observing birds and photographing them were also favored.

Approximately 30.5 million people participated in wildlife photography in 2016. Pennsylvania, located in the Mid-Atlantic region, was one of the highest populations that watched wildlife, at 35% participation, as seen in Figure 42.

11 Amico, L. (2019, April 10). 3 Emerging Trends in Aquatic Adventure Recreation. AquaClimb. <https://www.aquaclimb.com/blog/2019/4/10/3-emerging-trends-in-aquatic-adventure-recreation>.

12 Parks and Recreation: The Leaders in Before and After school Care, National Recreation and Parks Association. Accessed December 2019. <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/parks-and-recreation-the-leaders-in-before-and-after-school-care/>

13 2018 Out-of-School Time Report, National Recreation and Parks Association. Accessed February 2020: <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/c76ea3d5bcee4595a17aac298a5f2b7a/out-of-school-time-survey-results-report-2018.pdf>

14 2016 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation. [https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/nat\\_survey2016.pdf](https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/nat_survey2016.pdf).

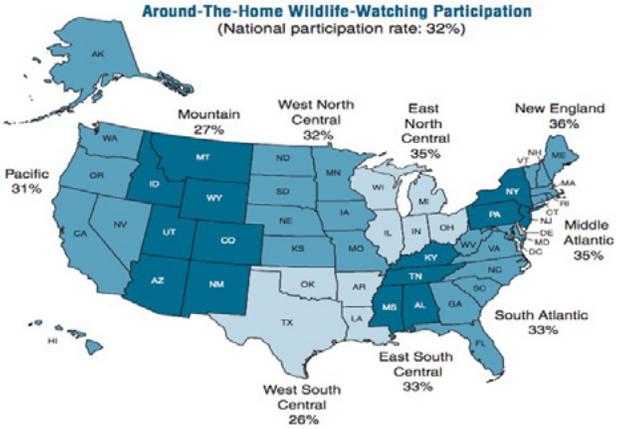


Figure 52: Participation in At-Home Wildlife-Watching  
Source: 2016 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey

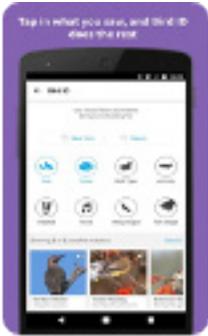


Figure 53: Audubon Bird Guide App  
Source: Audubon Bird Guide App, National Audubon Society

Smart phone apps offered from organizations, such as the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, offer beginners and birding veterans the opportunity to identify hundreds of bird species by size, color, activity, habitat, wing shape, voice, and tail shape. These tools offer unique new programming opportunities for passive recreation.

**Community Centers**

Community centers are public gathering places where residents may socialize, participate in recreational or educational activities, obtain information, and seek counseling or support services, among other things.<sup>15</sup> Studies have found a correlation between the outdoor leisure involvement that community centers provide and a person’s greater environmental concern.

15 Community centers. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020, January 21). <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/community-centers>.  
 16 National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. (2012, August). Powering Healthier Communities: November 2010 Community Health Centers Address the Social Determinants of Health.  
 17 Community centers. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020, January 21). <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/community-centers>.

The main impact from the addition of these centers is the improvement in community health, social connectivity, and mental well-being.

A national long-term study of over 17,000 teens who frequented recreation facilities found they were 75% more likely to engage in the highest category of moderate to strenuous physical exercise. Because these activities involve a considerable amount of effort, the benefits have been shown to include “reduced obesity, a diminished risk of disease, an enhanced immune system and most importantly, increased life expectancy.”<sup>16</sup>

Clubs and sports offered by community centers also strengthen social connections and reduce social isolation.<sup>17</sup> Along with an increase in social connectivity brought by community centers comes a sense of satisfaction with a person’s choice of friends and perceived success in life. The evidence strongly



Figure 54: Recreation Centers Play an Important Role in Communities Nationwide. National Recreation and Park Association. (2017, November 1). Retrieved May 31, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/investing-in-parks-and-recreation/>

suggests that this satisfaction can rise to higher levels if participation in outdoor recreation begins in childhood.

The following infographic demonstrates the potential for community services in offering non-traditional services

### Community and Special Events

Community-wide events and festivals often function as essential place-making activities for residents, economic drivers, and urban brand builders. Chad Kaydo, an experienced editor and content strategist, describes the phenomenon in the *Governing Magazine*: “officials and entrepreneurs see the power of cultural festivals, innovation-focused business conferences and the like as a way to spur short-term tourism while shaping an image of the host city as a cool, dynamic location where companies and citizens in modern, creative industries can thrive.”<sup>18</sup> According to the 2020 Event Trends Report by EventBrite, the following trends are expected to impact event planners and community builders in the coming years:<sup>19</sup>

- Focus on sustainability: Zero-waste events are quickly becoming an expectation. Some of the primary ways of prioritizing environmental sustainability include e-tickets, reusable, or biodegradable items, offering vegan/vegetarian options, encouraging public transport, and carpooling, and working with venues that recycle.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): Ensuring that the venue is inclusive to not only all abilities by offering ADA facilities, but also welcoming to all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds through signage, messaging, and the lineup of speakers. Ways to incorporate a focus on inclusivity include planning for diversity through speakers, talent, and subject matter, enacting a code of conduct that promotes equity, and provides scholarships to attendees.
- Engaging experiences: Being able to customize and cater the facility to create immersive events that bring together culture, art, music, and elements of a company’s brand will be critical in creating a more authentic experience.

### Conservation

One of the key pillars of parks and recreation is the role that it plays in conservation. Managing and protecting open space, providing opportunities for people to connect with nature, and educating communities about conservation are all incredibly important.

One of the key components of conservation is addressing climate change. Local parks and recreation departments can help by building climate-resilient communities through water management, green infrastructure, and sustainability. A report by NRPA in 2017 titled “Park and Recreation Sustainability Practices” surveyed over four hundred parks and recreation agencies and found the top five ways that local departments are taking action on conservation and climate change include:

- Alternative transportation – 77% reduce carbon footprint through offering transportation alternatives
- Watershed management – 70% adopt protective measures for watershed management
- Air quality – 53% plant and manage tree canopy that improves air quality
- Sustainable education – 52% educate the public about sustainability practices
- Stormwater management – 51% proactively reduce stormwater through green infrastructure<sup>20</sup>

### Cycling Trends

These activities are attractive as they require little equipment, or financial investment, to get started and are open to participation to all segments of the population. For these reasons, participation in these activities is often promoted as a means of spurring physical activity and increasing public health. The design of a community’s infrastructure is directly linked to physical activity—where environments are built with bicyclists and pedestrians in mind, more people bike and walk. Higher levels of bicycling and walking also coincide with increased bicycle and pedestrian safety and higher levels of physical activity. Increasing bicycling and walking in a community can have a major impact on improving public health and life expectancy.

<sup>18</sup> Kaydo, Chad. “Cities Create Music, Cultural Festivals to Make Money.” *Governing*, Governing, 18 Dec. 2013. [www.governing.com/archive/gov-cities-create-music-festivals.html](http://www.governing.com/archive/gov-cities-create-music-festivals.html). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

<sup>19</sup> “The 2020 Event Trends Report- Eventbrite.” Eventbrite US Blog, 2020. [www.eventbrite.com/blog/academy/2020-event-trends-report/](http://www.eventbrite.com/blog/academy/2020-event-trends-report/). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

<sup>20</sup> NRPA, “NRPA Report: Park and Recreation Sustainability Practices,” 2017. <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/climate-resilient-parks/>

## National bicycling trends:

- There has been a gradual trend of increasing bicycling and walking to work for over 15+ years.
- Infrastructure to support biking communities is becoming more commonly funded in communities.
- Bike-share systems, making bicycles available to the public for low-cost, short-term use, have been sweeping the nation since 2010. Twenty of the most populous U.S. cities have a functional bike-share system.
- Bicycle touring is becoming a fast-growing trend around the world, including the United States and Canada. "Travelers are seeking out bike tours to stay active, minimize environmental impact, and experience diverse landscapes and cityscapes at a closer level."<sup>21</sup>
- One of the newest trends in adventure cycling are fat bikes, multiple-speed bikes that are made to ride where other bikes cannot be ridden, with tires up to five inches wide that run at low pressure for extra traction. Most fat bikes are used to ride on snow, but they are also very effective for riding on any loose surface, like sand or mud. They also work well on most rough terrain or simply riding through the woods. These bikes offer unique opportunities to experience nature in ways that would not be possible otherwise.<sup>22</sup>

Agencies around the country are working to proactively regulate electric assist bikes, or e-bikes, on their trails and greenways. In September of 2019, the Department of the Interior's land agencies—including the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation—were ordered to allow e-bikes where other types of bicycles are allowed. According to this policy, e-bikes are no longer defined as motorized vehicles. Statewide, there are also regulations that should be considered at a local level regarding allowing electrical assisted bicycles on bike paths, pedestrian paths, and multipurpose trails. Agencies such as Boulder County in Colorado are implementing pilot programs to evaluate the potential

of e-bikes on trails and the impact that they have on the environment, other trail users, and wildlife.<sup>23</sup>

E-bikes are becoming commonplace on both paved and non-paved surfaces. For commuters, this option allows for a quick, convenient, and environment-friendly method of transportation. Speeds vary based on the type of e-bike, which is typically broken down into two classes:

- Class 1 e-bikes provide electrical assistance only while the rider is pedaling. Electrical assistance stops when the bicycle reaches twenty mph.
- Class 2 e-bikes provide electrical assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling. Electrical assistance stops when the bicycle reaches twenty mph.

## Economic and Health Benefits of Parks

"The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space," a report from the Trust for Public Land, makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:<sup>24</sup>

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Residential and commercial property values increase.

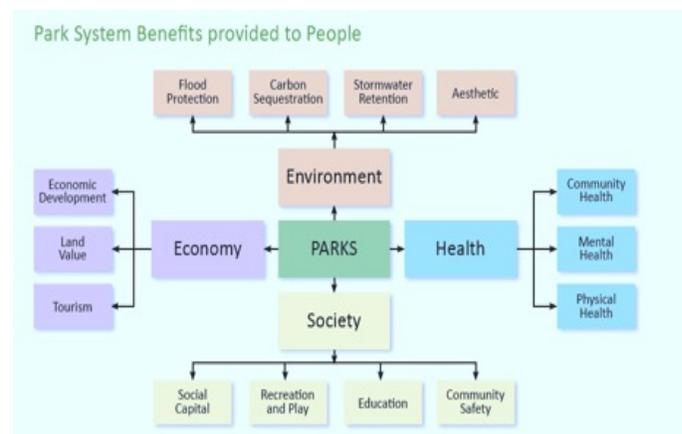


Figure 55: Park System Benefits Provided to People and Communities  
Source: Earth Economics, 2011

21 Hope Nardini, "Bike Tourism a Rising Trend," Ethic Traveler, <http://www.ethicaltraveler.org/2012/08/bike-tourism-a-rising-trend/>, accessed March 2021

22 Steven Pease, "Fat Bikes, How to Get the Most Out of Winter Cycling," Minnesota Cycling Examiner, <http://www.examiner.com/article/fat-bikes-the-latest-trend-adventure-cycling>, February 1, 2014.

23 "E-bikes on Open Space," Boulder County, <https://www.bouldercounty.org/open-space/management/e-bikes/>, Accessed December 28, 2020

24 "Benefits of Parks White Paper." The Trust for Public Land, 2018, [www.tpl.org/benefits-parks-white-paper](http://www.tpl.org/benefits-parks-white-paper). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and function as natural air conditioners.
- Trees assist with stormwater control and erosion.
- Crime and juvenile delinquency are reduced.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.

### Farmers Market

Parks and recreation agencies often have the role of connecting communities to local, fresh foods. In fact, local agencies are the largest providers of federally funded meals for the public. One in five agencies manages a farmers market. There are benefits in providing farmers' markets in the community. Beyond providing fresh foods to the public and promoting agricultural and economic benefits for farmers and vendors, markets also bring culture-building and engagement on a consistent basis.



Figure 56: Overview of NRPA Farmers' Market Report Source: 2019 NRPA Farmers Market Report

According to a study by the NRPA in 2019 of 296 agencies, approximately 67% of organizations host farmers' markets once a week, with 21% offering it two or three times a week. About four in five agencies use partnerships with nonprofits, farmers' organizations, other local government departments, community development organizations, and the local extensions office to enhance the success of the farmers' market.

### Generational Changes

Activity participation and preferences tend to vary based on demographic factors but can also differ based on generational preferences. According to the

GENERATION	BIRTH YEARS
Silent Generation	1928 – 1945
Baby Boomers	1946 – 1964
Generation X	1965 – 1980
Millennial	1981 – 1996
Generation Z	1997 – 2016
Alpha Generation	2017– 2024

Table 12: Generation by Age  
Source: Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center, the following birth years identify generations into the categories below.

#### THE SILENT GENERATION

The Silent Generation began life in the most difficult conditions, including the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, World War II, and economic and political uncertainty. This generation is conservative, careful, and conscientious. The members of this generation also often are thrifty, respectful, patriotic, loyal, and religious. This generation may be challenged by technology. The youngest have reached 75 years old and can be assisted by the social interaction that takes place at senior centers or with senior programs.

#### BABY BOOMERS

As Baby Boomers enter and enjoy retirement, they are looking for opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, cultural events, and other activities that suit their

lifestyles. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, Baby Boomers are predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults. Boomers are second only to Generation X and Millennials in participation in fitness sports in 2019.<sup>25</sup>

Boomers will look to parks and recreation professionals to provide opportunities to enjoy lifelong hobbies and sports. When programming for this age group, a customized experience to cater to the need for self-fulfillment, healthy pleasure, nostalgic youthfulness, and individual escapes are important. Recreation trends are shifting from games and activities that boomers associate with senior citizens. Activities such as bingo, bridge, and shuffleboard will be avoided because boomers relate these activities with old age.

### GENERATION X

Members of Generation X are in the peak of their careers, raising families, and growing their connections within the community. As suggested by the “2017 Participation Report” from the Physical Activity Council, members of Generation X were “all or nothing” in terms of their levels of physical activity, with 37% reported as highly active and 27% reported as completely inactive. As further noted in the report, over 50% of Generation X was likely to have participated in fitness and outdoor sports activities. An additional 37% participated in individual sports.

### THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

The Millennial Generation is considered those born between about 1981 and 1996, and in April 2016, the Pew Research Center reported that this generation had surpassed the Baby Boomers as the nation’s most populous age group.<sup>26</sup>

Millennials tend to be a more tech-savvy, socially conscious, achievement-driven age group with more flexible ideas about balancing wealth, work, and play. They prefer different park amenities and recreational programs compared to their counterparts in the Baby

Boomer generation. Engagement with this generation should be considered in parks and recreation planning. In an April 2015 posting to the National Parks and Recreation Association’s official blog, Open Space, Scott Hornick, CEO of Adventure Solutions suggests the following seven things to consider making your parks Millennial friendly:<sup>27</sup>

1. Group activities are appealing.
2. Wireless Internet/Wi-Fi access is a must – being connected digitally is a Millennial status-quo and sharing experiences in real time is something Millennials enjoy doing.
3. Having different experiences is important – Millennials tend to participate in a broad range of activities.
4. Convenience and comfort are sought out.
5. Competition is important, and Millennials enjoy winning, recognition, and earning rewards.
6. Facilities that promote physical activity, such as trails and sports fields, and activities such as adventure races are appealing.
7. Millennials own dogs and want places they can recreate with them.

In addition to being health conscious, Millennials often look for local and inexpensive ways to experience the outdoors close to home—on trails, bike paths, and in community parks.<sup>28</sup>

### GENERATION Z

As of the 2010 Census, the age group under age 18 forms about a quarter of the U.S. population. Nationwide, half of the youth population is ethnically diverse and 25% is Hispanic.

Generation Z, the youth of today, have the following characteristics:<sup>29</sup>

1. The most obvious trait is the widespread use of technology.

25 Physical Activity Council, Participation Report, 2019: <http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf>

26 Richard Fry, “Millennials overtake Baby Boomers as America’s Largest Generation”, Pew Research Center Fact Tank, April 25, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/25/millennials-overtake-baby-boomers/>, accessed May 2015.

27 Scott Hornick, “7 Ways to Make Your Park More Millennial Friendly”, Parks and Recreation Open Space Blog, August 19, 2015, <http://www.nrpa.org/blog/7-ways-to-make-your-parks-millennial-friendly>, accessed May 2016.

28 “Sneakernomics: How The ‘Outdoor’ Industry Became The ‘Outside’ Industry”, Forbes, September 21, 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mattpowell/2015/09/21/sneakernomics-how-the-outdoor-industry-became-the-outside-industry/2/#50958385e34d>, accessed May 2016

29 Alexandra Levit, “Make Way for Generation Z”, New York Times, March 28, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/jobs/make-way-for-generation-z.html>, accessed May 2016

2. Generation Z members live their lives online and love sharing both the intimate and mundane details of life.
3. They tend to be acutely aware that they live in a pluralistic society and tend to embrace diversity.
4. They tend to be independent. They do not wait for their parents to teach them things or tell them how to make decisions; they Google it.

**GENERATION ALPHA**

Children born in this generation are children of Millennials. They will be born entirely in the 21st century and considered the most technological demographic to date. Also known as iGeneration, they will grow up in a world that interacts with artificial intelligence and smart voice assistance in a completely natural way—not able to understand a world without such technology. By the time this generation reaches their twenties, they are likely to recreate the way they interact with their environments. They will have little to no fear of technology. Artificial intelligence is expected to be mainstream by the time the first Alphas reach their twenties and are expected to have significantly more leisure time than any other to date. Near the end of the planning horizon for this master plan, the Alpha generation will be reaching teen years. Every effort to accommodate this generation with high-quality, state-of-the-art technology in facilities and with programs will be necessary to reach this group.

**Golf**

Before 2020, golf nationwide was experiencing an overall decline in participation. However, the COVID-19 pandemic sparked additional interest and participation despite national shutdowns and uncertainties. The National Golf Federation produced an article that showed 24.8 million golfers in the U.S. in 2020, an increase of 500,000 and 2% over 2019. It is the largest net increase in 17 years. New players (both beginners playing their first round and lapsed golfers coming back to the game for the first time in years) numbered 6.2 million, the highest that number has ever been. Last year also saw the largest percentage increase in beginning golfers and the biggest gain in youth golfers coming to the game since Tiger Woods’s 1997 Masters win.

**36.9 Million**  
 Played Golf

**3 Million**  
 Played Golf for  
 the first time

**3.1 Million**  
 Juniors played golf

**502 Million**  
 Rounds of Golf Played

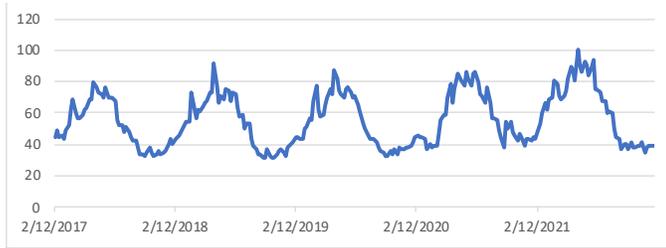
Women golfers also were part of the 2020 surge, jumping 450,000 or 8% year-over-year and making up a quarter of all golfers with a count of six million. That is the highest number over the last five years.

The National Golf Federation also counts total golf participants by factoring in off-course experiences as well, and that number swelled the overall count to 36.9 million, up 8% year-over-year and a 20% gain in the last five years.<sup>30</sup>

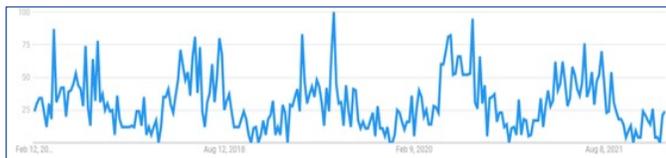
Disc golf is a very popular and growing trend particularly in urban parks that have the acreage and tree cover to implement beautiful nature courses. It is a very inexpensive sport to participate in as well as inexpensive to build and operate. Disc golf is considered a family and multigenerational activity for all ages. Miniature golf and Top Golf are both fast-growing trends, particularly in urban settings as a family and multigenerational activity for all ages.

30 Stachura M. The numbers are official: Golf’s surge in popularity in 2020 was even better than predicted. Golf Digest. Published April 7, 2021. Accessed January 19, 2022. <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/national-golf-foundation-reports-numbers-for-2020-were-record-se#:~:text=The%20NGF%20count%20showed%2024.8,net%20increase%20in%2017%20years.&text=Last%20year%20also%20saw%20the,since%20Tiger's%201997%20Masters%20win>

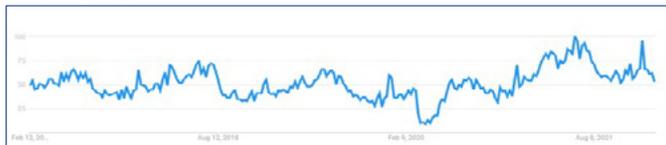
### GOLF INTEREST IN THE LAST 5 YEARS



### GOLF DRIVING RANGES



### TOP-GOLF



### MINI-GOLF

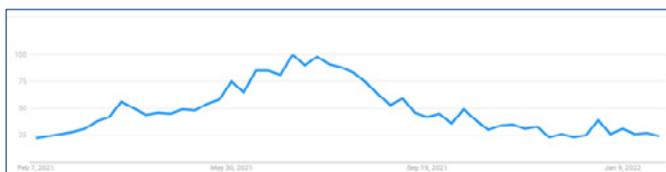


Figure 57: Google Search Trends of Golf and Related Variations (2017 – 2022)<sup>31</sup>

## Marketing and Social Media

Awareness of parks and recreation services is critical to the success of any agency. According to a study in collaboration with the NRPA and GP RED of approximately 35,000 responses, one of the primary reasons patrons do not participate in programs and services is lack of awareness.

In today's modern world, there is ample opportunity to promote and market parks and recreation services. Marketing activities begin with a needs assessment that details how the community prefers to receive information. Then, a marketing plan should be developed that is catered to the agency's resources,

including staff, time, and budget. This plan should guide the agency for one to three years.

Technology has made it easier to reach a wide, location-dependent audience that can be segmented by demographics. However, it has also caused a gap in the way parks and recreation agencies are able to communicate. Agencies around the country have previously not dedicated substantial funding to marketing; however, it is becoming a critical piece to receiving participants.

Without dedicated staff and support, keeping up with social media trends—which seem to change daily—is difficult. Furthermore, with an overarching desire to standardize a county's brand, there may be limitations to the access and control that a parks and recreation agency has over its marketing. Professionals must become advocates for additional resources, training, and education. Having a strong presence on social networks, through email marketing, and through traditional marketing will help enhance the perception from the community.<sup>32</sup>

## Nature Programming and Nature-Deficit Disorder

Playing in nature is an educational opportunity that has numerous benefits, from increasing active and healthy lifestyles, to developing a conservation mindset, to understanding the ecosystems and wildlife that depend on them.<sup>33</sup> According to the report "Nature Play & Learning Places: Creating and Managing Places where Children Engage with Nature," a genuine need exists in today's society for learning spaces that spark creative play with natural materials, such as plants, vines, shrubs, rocks, water, logs, and other elements.

In 2005, Richard Louv introduced the term "nature-deficit disorder," which describes the effects of urbanization, technological advances, and social changes. Scientific evidence suggests that this disorder contributes to emotional and physical illnesses, including attention difficulties, obesity, nature illiteracy, and an "epidemic of inactivity."<sup>34</sup> Environmental education, provided by non-profits and parks and

31 Google Trends, Search Terms: Golf, Top Golf, Golf Driving Ranges, Mini Golf, February 2017 – February 2021, <https://trends.google.com/>  
"The NRPA Park and Recreation Marketing and Communications Report | Research | Parks and Recreation Magazine | NRPA." Nrp.org, 2015, [www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/january/the-nrpa-park-and-recreation-marketing-and-communications-report/](http://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/january/the-nrpa-park-and-recreation-marketing-and-communications-report/). Accessed 16 Nov. 2021.

32 Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation

33 Children and Nature Network, "Nature Deficit Disorder" Accessed January 2020: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/about/nature-deficit-disorder/>

34 Children and Nature Network, "Nature Deficit Disorder" Accessed January 2020: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/about/nature-deficit-disorder/>

recreation agencies, can help combat nature-deficit disorder by sparking curiosity in the outdoors, either through structured nature programming or through unstructured Nature Play. Nature Play is defined as “a designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences.”

Nature Play spaces can provide valuable lessons for children, not only about learning their natural environment and appreciation for nature, but also for personal development. These spaces, like playgrounds, provide safe spaces to take risks and understand behavioral outcomes.

One of the most essential elements in planning Nature Play spaces is to conduct a risk assessment to reduce the unnecessary potential of injury. For instance, natural objects such as logs and boulders may be placed strategically for climbing but consider where the child might land if he or she were to fall or jump off. Similarly, trees can be used as natural climbing features, with consideration to removing shrubs and nearby smaller trees below. Nature Play can happen in forest-based schools, play zoos, gardens, and summer camps. American Camp Association reported that there are approximately 5,000-day camps that currently operate in the U.S.<sup>35</sup>

### Older Adults and Senior Programming

Older adults and seniors are choosing to maintain active lifestyles and recognize the health benefits of regular physical activities. With the large number of adults in these age cohorts, many communities have found a need to offer more programming, activities, and facilities that support the active lifestyle this generation desires.

Public parks and recreation agencies are increasingly expected to be significant providers of such services and facilities. The NRPA developed the Healthy Aging in Parks initiative to support parks and recreation agencies in serving older adults in the community. This initiative is based on the needs of older adults, including physical fitness, socialization, transportation,

and other quality-of-life desires. Primary strategies of the Healthy Aging in Parks initiative are as follows:

- Promote participation in physical activity through providing social engagement
- Provide safe environments—both inside and outside—that limit barriers for participation
- Utilize evidence-based interventions to increase support and manage chronic diseases

Parks and recreation agencies can assist the aging demographic in staying healthy through providing programs and facilities. According to an NRPA survey, nine in ten local parks and recreation agencies offer services for older adults. Surveys reveal that agencies are most likely to offer the following services:

- Exercise classes (91%)
- Field trips, tours, vacations (70%)
- Arts and crafts classes (67%)
- Opportunities to volunteer in recreation centers (58%)
- Special events and festivals (58%)
- Group walks (53%)
- Opportunities to volunteer in parks (48%)
- Paid job opportunities to lead exercise classes or work in recreation centers or at parks (47%)

For underserved older adults, parks and recreation agencies can be a critical resource, providing low-cost meals, low-cost or free fitness programs, and transportation services. However, organizations are faced with barriers that inhibit the ability to offer these programs, with the top responses being facility space shortage (58%) and inadequate funding (50%). To overcome these obstacles, agencies will often develop relationships with partners in the community that might specialize in serving the older adults.

Primary partners include:

- Area agencies on aging (58%)
- Retirement communities (44%)
- Senior meals providers (42%)
- Hospitals and doctors' offices (39%)
- Local health departments (39%)
- Health insurance companies (38%)

<sup>35</sup> Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature.* Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation

- Community-based organizations (faith based, YMCAs, etc.) (38%)

### Outdoor Fitness Trails

A popular trend in urban parks for health, wellness, and fitness activities is to install outdoor fitness equipment along trails. The intent of the outdoor equipment is to provide an accessible form of exercise for all community members, focusing on strength, balance, flexibility, and cardio exercise. These fitness stations—also known as “outdoor gyms”—are meant for adults but can be grouped near a playground or kid-friendly amenity so that adults can exercise and socialize while supervising their children. The fitness equipment can also be dispersed along a nature trail or walking path to provide a unique experience to exercise in nature. Educational and safety signage should be placed next to equipment to guide the user in understanding and utilizing the outdoor gyms.

### Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation has become a thriving economic driver, creating 4.3 million direct national jobs in 2020 and generating \$689 billion in consumer spending. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimated that the outdoor recreation economy comprised 1.8% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, accounting for more than \$374.3 billion.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the outdoor recreation industry. Although the full extent of that impact is not known yet, one of the primary data points pertains to outdoor recreation employment, which decreased in all fifty states in 2020. According to the BEA, the top three conventional outdoor recreation activities in 2020 were boating/fishing, RVing, and hunting/shooting/trapping.<sup>36</sup>

In the State of Maryland, the outdoor recreation economy generates:

- 69,377 direct jobs
- \$2.2 billion total outdoor recreation value added
- \$1 billion in wages and salaries
- 1.3% of GDP

### Riparian and Watershed Best Practices

The ability to detect trends and monitor attributes in watershed and/or riparian areas allows planners opportunities to evaluate the effectiveness of their management plan. By monitoring their own trends, planners can also identify changes in resource conditions that are the result of pressures beyond their control. Trend detection requires a commitment to long-term monitoring of riparian areas and vegetation attributes.

The U.S. EPA suggests the following steps to building an effective watershed management plan:

- Build partnerships
- Characterize the watershed
- Set goals and identify solutions
- Design and implementation programs
- Implement the watershed plan
- Measure progress and adjust

See [water.epa.gov](http://water.epa.gov)<sup>37</sup> for more information from the U.S. EPA.



<sup>36</sup> “Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. And States, 2020 | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).” Bea.gov, 2020, [www.bea.gov/news/2021/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2020](http://www.bea.gov/news/2021/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2020). Accessed 16 Nov. 2021.

<sup>37</sup> “Implement the Watershed Plan – Implement Management Strategies,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/datait/watershedcentral/plan2.cfm>

## Sports Trends

The “2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report” details the changes in fitness, team, and individual sports over the last decade. Fitness activities—aquatic exercise, impact/intensity training, rowing machines, stationary cycling, swimming for fitness, yoga, etc.—are the most participated activity and have been for the past five years. For the first time since 2016, team sports increased in participation. An increase in basketball (the most played team sport) and outdoor soccer (the third most played team sport) has helped fuel this growth. Overall, team sports have over twenty-nine million youth participants. BMX biking is one of the fastest-growing extreme sports, gaining 10% participation in 2019, followed by skateboarding (increase of 7%).<sup>38</sup>

## Teen Programs

Local parks and recreation agencies are often tasked with finding opportunities for teen programming apart from youth sports and interacting with those their own age. Agencies are developing creative multi-generational activities that might involve seniors and teens assisting one another to learn life skills. Activities such as meditation, yoga, sports, art, and civic engagement can help teens develop life skills and engage cognitive functions.

Agencies that can help teens build career development skills and continue their education are most successful in promoting positive teen outcomes and curbing at-risk behavior.<sup>39</sup> As suicide is the second-highest cause of deaths among United States teens, mental health continues to be a priority for this age group.

## Trails and Health

Studies have shown a direct correlation between how close people live to a connected system of trails and their level of physical activity in a community. Trails can provide a wide variety of opportunities for being physically active, such as walking/running/hiking, rollerblading, wheelchair recreation, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. Active use of trails results in positive



health outcomes and is an excellent way to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyle changes. In a study released in 2014, results indicate health benefits for those who lived up to 2.5 miles from a biking or walking infrastructure; those who lived within one mile were getting 45 minutes more exercise per week on average.

The American Heart Association has found that for every \$1 spent on building trails, \$3 is saved medical costs. The health benefits are equally high for trails in urban neighborhoods as for those in state or national parks. Data from the American Trails Association indicates that all trail use is beneficial for physical health.<sup>40</sup> A trail in the neighborhood creating a “linear park” makes it easier for people to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, whether for recreation or non-motorized transportation. Urban trails need to connect people to places they want to go, such as schools, transit centers, businesses, and neighborhoods.

<sup>38</sup> “2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report.” Sfia.org, 2020, [www.sfia.org/reports/802\\_2020-Sports%2C-Fitness%2C-and-Leisure-Activities-Topline-Participation-Report](http://www.sfia.org/reports/802_2020-Sports%2C-Fitness%2C-and-Leisure-Activities-Topline-Participation-Report). Accessed 1 Nov. 2021.

<sup>39</sup> Kardys, Jack “Park Afterschool Programs: A Vital Community Resource” National Recreation and Park Association. June 2019, <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/june/park-afterschool-programs-a-vital-community-resource/>.

<sup>40</sup> “Health Benefits of Trails – American Trails.” Americantrails.org, 2014, [www.americantrails.org/health-benefits](http://www.americantrails.org/health-benefits). Accessed 1 Nov. 2021.

## APPENDIX B: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The Calvert County demographic profile was developed to provide an analysis of household and economic data in the area, helping to understand the type of parks and recreation components that might best serve the community.

Data referenced throughout this report was primarily sourced from Esri Business Analyst as of November of 2021. Maryland Department of Planning prepared the population data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s data. In addition, when applicable, other sources—such as the American Community Survey and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings—were referenced for specific information related to community health and well-being and are based on nationwide data.

### Population

Calvert County had a population of 92,783 in 2020, according to U.S. Census Bureau data prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning. In 2010, U.S. Census Bureau reported the population as 88,737, representing a 4.6% as noted in MDP’s 2020 and 2010 Census Population by Jurisdiction table.

Esri Business Analyst also utilizes the U.S. Census Bureau and estimated that the population in 2021 is 96,904. Esri estimates that in 2026, the population could reach approximately 99,900 residents.

### Age Distribution

According to Esri Business Analyst, the median age in Calvert County was 41.4 years old, older than the State of Maryland (39.6) and the United States (38.8). The median age is projected to increase slightly to 42.2 in 2026.

The primary age group in Calvert County was 50 to 64 years old, with 23.1% of the population falling into this cohort. In general, the State of Maryland and the United States skewed to a younger population, comprising a larger portion of those between 20 and 44 years old.

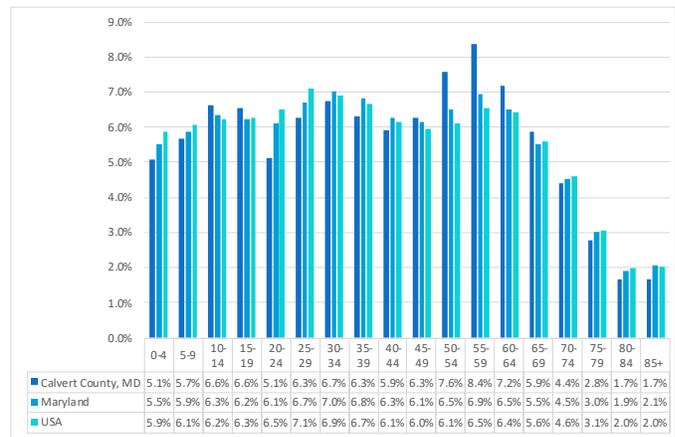


Figure 58: Age Distribution in Calvert County Compared to Maryland and the United States

Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

**92,783**  
Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020; Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning

**41.4**  
Median Age

Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

Table 10 below demonstrates the change in age groups among residents. The age groups that saw the most growth from 2010 to 2021 was those between 25 and 39 years old, as well as those between 55 and 69 years old. The age group of 45 to 49 experienced the most significant decline, from 10% in 2020 to 6.3% in 2021.

AGE GROUP	2010	2021
Age 0 – 4	5.6%	5.1%
Age 5 – 9	7.1%	5.7%
Age 10 – 14	8.2%	6.6%
Age 15 – 19	7.9%	6.6%
Age 20 – 24	5.5%	5.1%
Age 25 – 29	5.0%	6.3%
Age 30 – 34	4.9%	6.7%
Age 35 – 39	5.8%	6.3%
Age 40 – 44	8.4%	5.9%
Age 45 – 49	10.0%	6.3%
Age 50 – 54	8.6%	7.6%
Age 55 – 59	6.9%	8.4%
Age 60 – 64	5.4%	7.2%
Age 65 – 69	3.8%	5.9%
Age 70 – 74	2.5%	4.4%
Age 75 – 79	1.9%	2.8%
Age 80 – 84	1.4%	1.7%
Age 85+	1.3%	1.7%

Table 10: Generation by Age  
Source: Pew Research Center

### Diversity in Calvert County

Understanding the race and ethnic character of county residents is important, as it is reflective of the diverse history, values, and heritage of the community. This type of information can assist the county in creating and offering recreational programs that are relevant and meaningful to residents. In addition, this type of data when combined with the level of service analysis can be used in finding gaps and disparities when it comes to equitable access to parks.

Based on historical data, Calvert County is increasingly becoming more diverse over time. In 2010, 2.75% of the population identified as Hispanic. In 2021, 4.99% of the population identified as Hispanic, compared to 11.32% in the State of Maryland, and 18.92% in the United States.

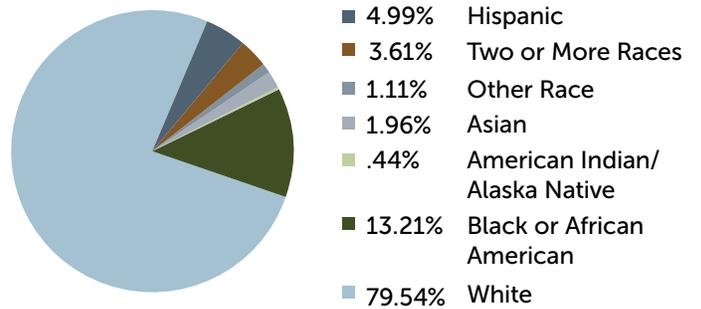


Figure 48: Race Comparison for Total Population in Calvert County  
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**WHY EQUITY IS AT THE CENTER**

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) believes that quality parks and recreation opportunities are essential to individual and community health, well-being, and resilience. NRPA estimates that as many as 100 million people—30 percent of the U.S. Population do not have ready access to the lifesaving and life-enhancing benefits parks and recreation provide.

Source: Equity action plan - national recreation and park association. (2021). Retrieved June 3, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/39a68ad8bfc5433f81c5de414d16cd7c/2021nrpaactionplan-final.pdf>

Education levels within Calvert County represent a very diverse spread within percentages of educational levels attained. Approximately 42% of the population have received some level of higher education with 15% who have pursued a graduate or professional degree. Residents who have received a high school diploma and GED/Alternative Credential represent over one-quarter of the population at 31%. Those who have not received a high school diploma or completed less than 9th grade represent 5% of the Calvert County residents.

**EDUCATION LEVELS**

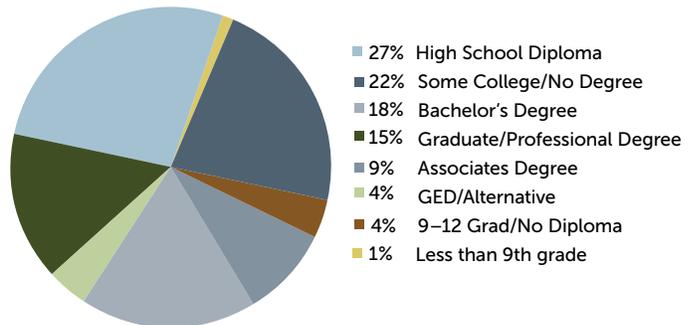


Figure 49: Education Levels Within the County

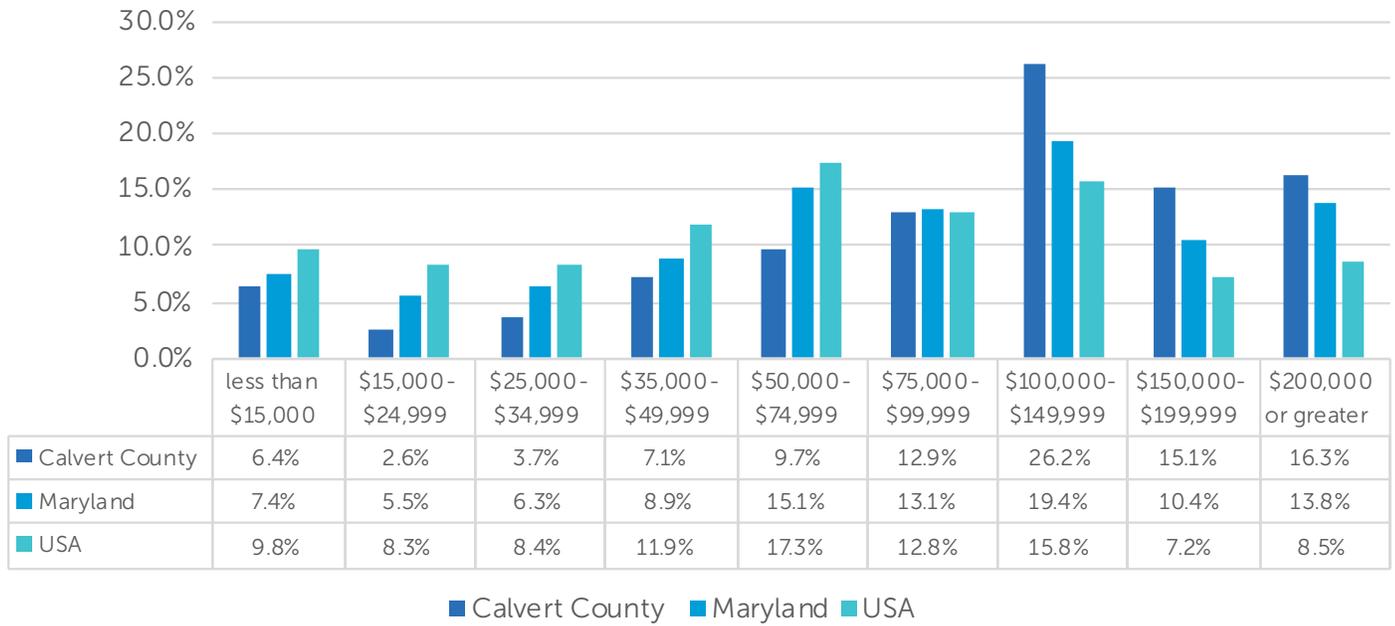


Figure 50: Median Household Income Distribution  
 Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**\$110,025**  
 Median Household Income  
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**\$385,342**  
 Average Household Value  
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**4.59%**  
 Households Below Poverty Level  
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

### Household Overview

Approximately 4.59% of county households were under the poverty level in 2019, with a median household income in 2021 of \$110,025. Household incomes in the county were higher than the State of Maryland (\$86,104) and the United States (\$64,730). Over 26% of residents earned between \$100,000 and \$149,999 annually.

### Employment

In 2021, an estimated 6.5% of Calvert County’s population was unemployed, higher than the State of Maryland (6.3%) average and the United States (6.2%) average. Approximately 67% of the population was employed in white-collar positions, which encompass jobs where employees typically perform managerial, technical, administrative, and/or professional capacities. About 22% of the county’s population was employed in blue-collar positions, such as construction, maintenance, etc. Finally, 11% of residents were employed in the service industry.

Residents within the county rely on transportation methods. It is estimated that in 2019, almost 40,000 residents chose to drive alone to work, while another 6% carpooled. At the time, only 7% worked from home. Data during and after the pandemic in 2020 was

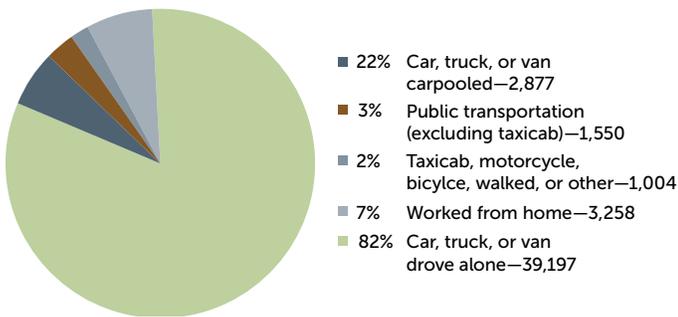


Figure 51: Means of Transportation to Work by Vehicles Available  
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

not yet available at the time of this report. Of those residents who did travel to work, approximately 18% spent seven plus hours a week commuting.

### People with Disabilities

Approximately 22.85% households in Calvert County in 2019 had one or more persons with some sort of difficulty with hearing, vision, cognition, ambulation, self-care, and/or independent living.

### Health and Wellness

Understanding the status of a community’s health can help inform policies related to recreation and fitness. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings and Roadmaps provided annual insight on the general health of national, state, and county populations.

Calvert County was ranked in the highest range among counties in Maryland; in 2020, it ranked fifth out of 23 Maryland Counties for Health Outcomes. Figure 54 on the following page provides additional information regarding the county’s health data as it may relate to parks, recreation, and community services.<sup>1</sup>

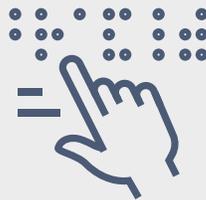
The strengths indicated below are those areas where Calvert County ranked higher than top U.S. or state performers. The areas to explore are those where the county ranked lower than top state or U.S. performers.



**6.5%**

Unemployment Rate

Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**22.85%**

Households with One or More Persons with a Disability

Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst



**5th**

For Health Outcomes

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<sup>1</sup> “How Healthy Is Your County? | County Health Rankings.” County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2021, www.countyhealthrankings.org/. Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.

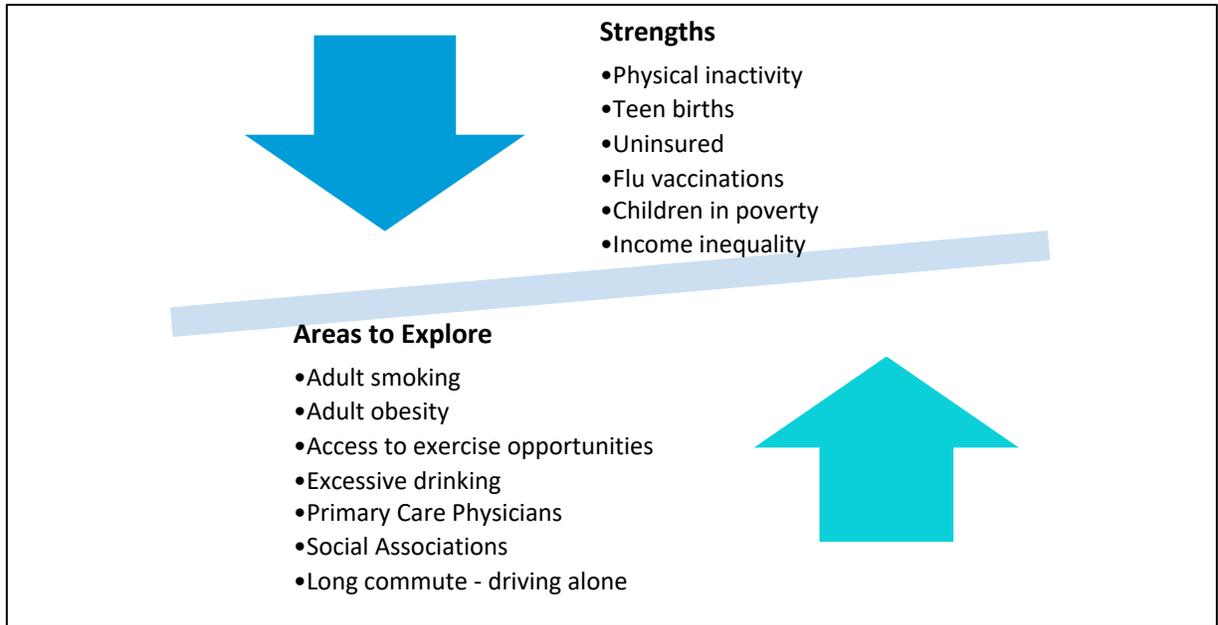


Figure 54: Calvert County Health Rankings Overview  
 Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps<sup>2</sup>

### Parks and Recreation as Wellness Hubs

Parks and recreation agencies are adapting to serve as Community Wellness Hubs, places for community members to improve health outcomes and enhance quality of life.

Whether by providing access to healthy foods, physical activity, social connections, or nature, local parks and recreation departments can increase their communities' health. Numerous studies continue to indicate the health benefits of outdoor spaces, recreation programs, and community centers.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association:

- Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for both adults and youth.

- Adolescents with easy access to multiple recreation facilities were more physically active and less likely to be overweight or obese than adolescents without access to such facilities.
- Increasing access to recreation facilities is an essential strategy for preventing childhood obesity.
- Organized park programs and supervision may increase use of parks and playgrounds and increase physical activity, particularly among youths.
- Park renovations can increase vigorous physical activity among children and increase the use of certain types of facilities, including playgrounds and skate parks.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "How Healthy Is Your County? | County Health Rankings." County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2021, [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/). Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.  
<sup>3</sup> "Parks and Recreation as Community Health and Wellness Hubs | Health and Wellness | Parks and Recreation Magazine | NRPA." Nrp.org, [www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/november/parks-and-recreation-as-community-health-and-wellness-hubs/](http://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/november/parks-and-recreation-as-community-health-and-wellness-hubs/). Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.

## APPENDIX C: STATISTICALLY VALID & OPEN LINK SURVEY REPORT

### Calvert County, MD

### 2021 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Survey Final Report



January 2022



## Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Key Findings
- Demographics
- Living in Calvert County
- Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation
- Current Usage
- Importance/Quality of Life
- Future Recreational Activities, Facilities and Programs
- Communication

## Introduction

- The purpose of this study was to gather feedback to better understand the community’s needs and desires for better land preservation along with parks and recreation facilities, programs and services.
- The survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist Calvert County in developing a plan to reflect the community’s needs and desires.



2022 LAND PRESERVATION  
PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

## Methodology

### Primary methods:

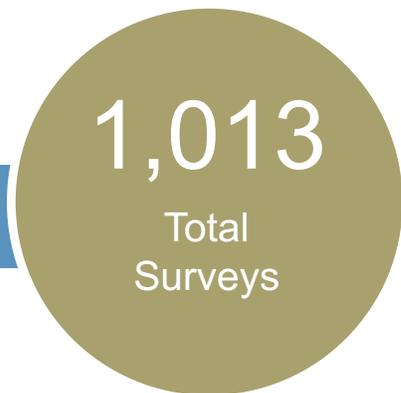
1 = Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)

Mailed postcard and survey with an option to complete online through password protected website.

2 = Open Link Survey

Online survey available to all residents of Calvert County.

3,847 Postcards & Surveys delivered



438 - Invitation Surveys Completed  
+/- 4.6% Margin of Error

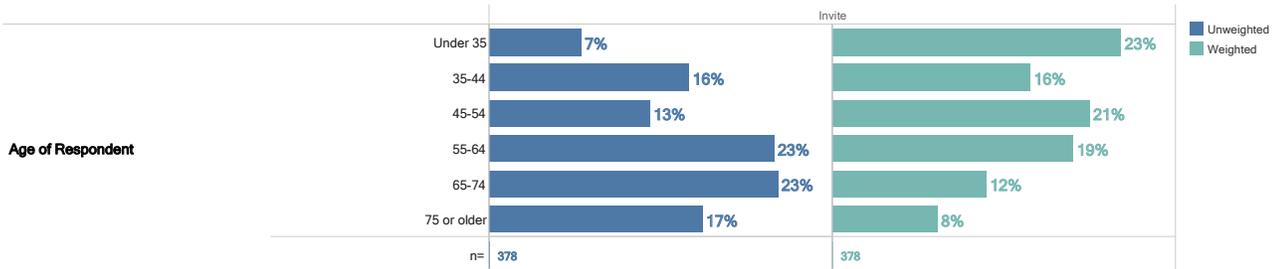


575 - Open Link Surveys Completed

# Weighting the Data

The underlying data from the survey were weighted by age to ensure appropriate representation across the age spectrum and ensure the input of younger residents is proportional to their share of the population. Using U.S. Census Data, the value of each response was adjusted so that the age distribution of the survey sample more closely matches the actual profile of Calvert County. The figure below shows the Invite sample before weighting and after weighting. No weighting was applied to the Open link sample.

**Calvert County 2021 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) Survey**  
 Invite Sample - Weighted vs. Unweighted



# Key Findings



### Living in Calvert County

Residents have a long tenure in the County with about half of respondents residing in Calvert County for 20 years or more. The largest share of Invite survey respondents reside in Chesapeake Beach (18%) or Huntingtown (12%).



### Transportation to Parks

Recreation amenities are relatively close to Invite respondents with 59% saying they travel 1-9 miles to get to recreation locations.



### Satisfaction

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very satisfied, 58% of Invite respondents rated their current satisfaction with recreation amenities a 4 or 5. The average rating was 3.6, indicating some area for improvement.



### Future Needs

Important areas for improvement according to the Invite sample include trail-based recreation, nature/wildlife related recreation, and water-based recreation.



## Key Findings



### Park Usage

Invite respondents participate in more passive recreational activities such as walking, birdwatching and going to the beach. Respondents are active park users. About a quarter of Invite respondents said that they have visited active recreation parks and trails/open space 11 or more times in the past year.



### Communication

There is room for improvement to better leverage communication efforts and information dissemination about parks and recreation to further create awareness in Calvert County. On average, respondents rated communication a 3.3 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very effective. Majority (70%) use the Activity Guide for information and would also prefer to receive information through email (along with the activity guide).



### Importance/Quality of Life

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very important, Invite respondents rated agriculture and land preservation priorities very highly at a 4.3 or above. Trail-based recreation, wildlife/nature recreation, and water-based recreation are of high importance. For parks, recreation and trails, Invite respondents place the highest importance on maintaining current amenities followed by new trails and recreational opportunities.



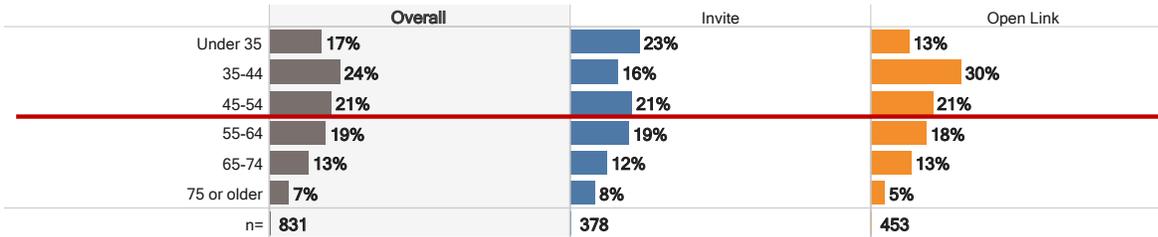
## Demographics



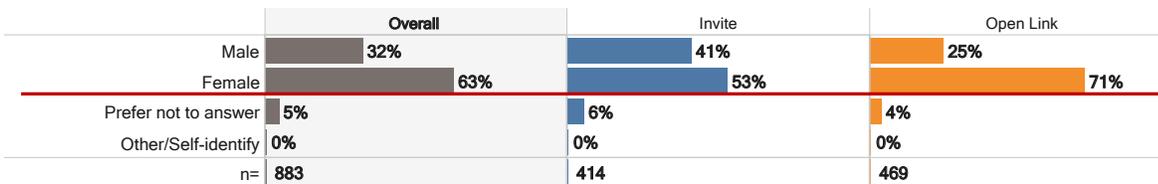
## Age & Gender

Respondent age and gender.

Q: Age of Respondent by "Source"



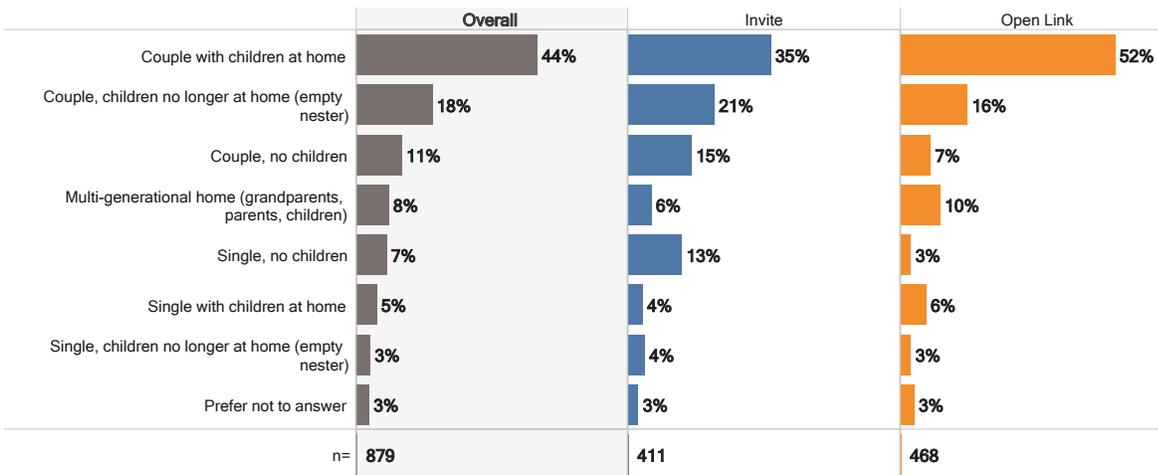
Q: Please indicate the gender with which you identify: by "Source"



## Household Makeup

Household status.

Q: Which of these categories best applies to your household? by "Source"



## Residence & Dog Ownership, ADA Requirements

Q: Do you own or rent your residence? by "Source"

	Overall	Invite	Open Link
Own	91%	91%	90%
Rent	5%	4%	5%
Prefer not to answer	3%	3%	4%
Other	1%	1%	1%
n=	881	413	468

Q: Do you or a member of your household own a dog? by "Source"

	Overall	Invite	Open Link
Yes	52%	46%	57%
No	46%	52%	40%
Prefer not to answer	2%	1%	3%
n=	880	410	470

Q: Does your household have a need for ADA-accessible (Americans with Disabilities) facilities and services? by "Source"

	Overall	Invite	Open Link
No	88%	88%	88%
Yes	8%	9%	8%
Prefer not to answer	4%	4%	4%
n=	877	408	469

11



## Ethnicity & Race

Respondent ethnicity and race.

Q: Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? by "Source"

	Overall	Invite	Open Link
No	87%	89%	85%
Prefer not to answer	9%	8%	10%
Yes	4%	3%	5%
n=	875	406	469

Q: What race do you consider yourself to be? (Check all that apply) by "Source"

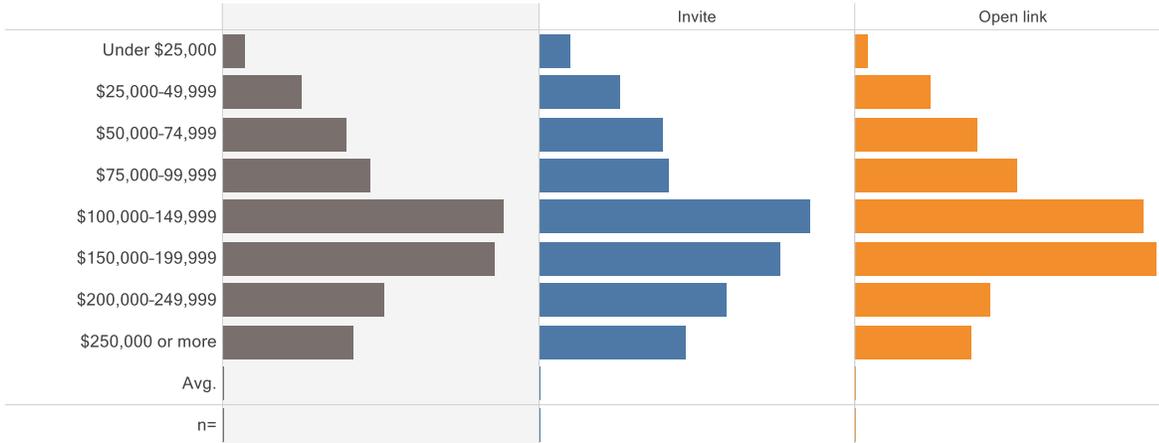
	Overall	Invite	Open Link
White	78%	76%	80%
Prefer not to answer	13%	11%	14%
Black or African American	9%	12%	7%
Some other race	2%	2%	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian	1%	1%	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%
n=	880	410	470

12



# Income

Household income.



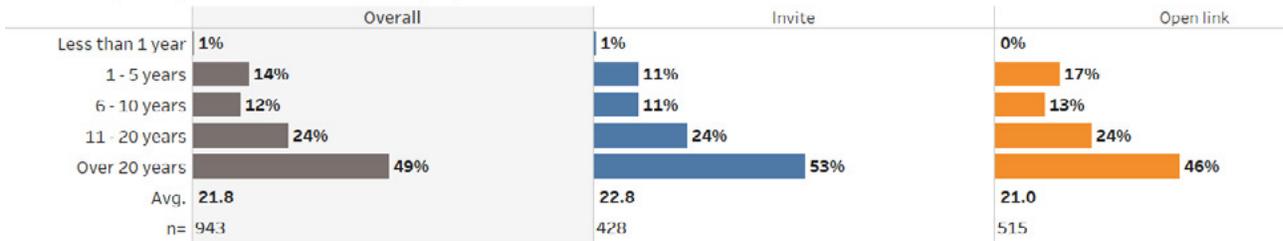
# Living in Calvert County



## Length of Time in Calvert County

About half of respondents have lived in Calvert County over 20 years and about a quarter have lived in the County for 11-20 years. There are fewer new residents to the County, with 15% who have lived in Calvert County for less than a year to 5 years.

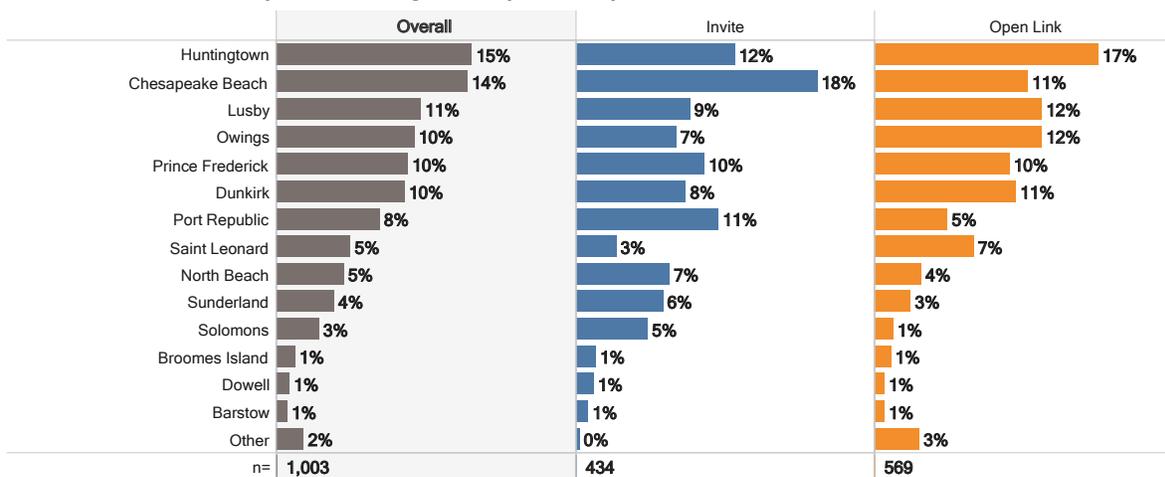
Q: How long have you lived in Calvert County? by "Source"



## Location of Residence in Calvert County

Respondents are fairly spread out across the County with the largest share from the Invite sample coming from Chesapeake Beach (18%), followed by Huntingtown (12%), and Port Republic (11%). Comparatively more respondents to the Open Link reside in Huntingtown (17%), followed by Lusby (12%), and Owings (12%).

Q: Where in Calvert County or surrounding area do you live? by "Source"



# Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation



## Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

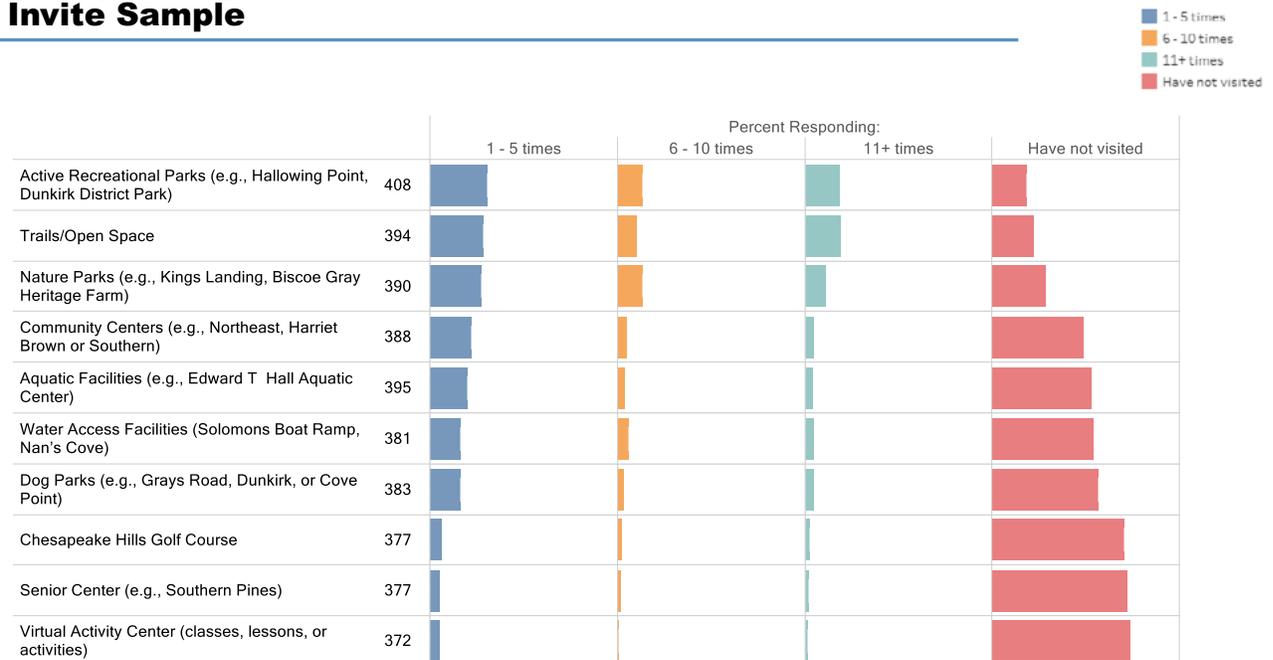
Overall, respondents are fairly satisfied with the availability of recreational opportunities within the County, with over half (52%) of respondents rating a 4 (somewhat satisfied) or 5 (very satisfied). The average rating overall was 3.6 with the Invite sample rating the recreational opportunities slightly higher than the Open Link Sample.



# Current Usage



## Frequency of Use Invite Sample



## Frequency of Use Open Link Sample

Q: Have you or members of your household visited any of the following Calvert County locations during the past 12 months? by "Open Link Sample"

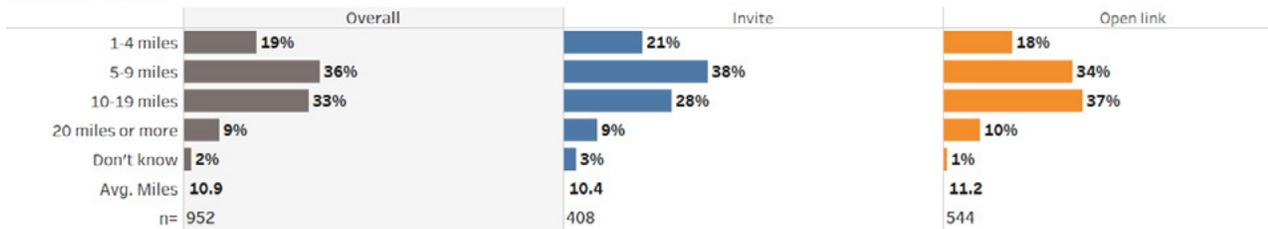


Rating Category	n=	Percent Responding:			
		1 - 5 times	6 - 10 times	11+ times	Have not visited
Active Recreational Parks (e.g., Hallowing Point, Dunkirk District Park)	536	26%	15%	48%	11%
Trails/Open Space	527	35%	18%	17%	31%
Nature Parks (e.g., Kings Landing, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm)	528	41%	11%	13%	35%
Community Centers (e.g., Northeast, Harriet Brown or Southern)	528	30%	14%	14%	42%
Aquatic Facilities (e.g., Edward T Hall Aquatic Center)	531	27%	8%	16%	48%
Water Access Facilities (Solomons Boat Ramp, Nan's Cove)	518	19%	5%	3%	73%
Dog Parks (e.g., Grays Road, Dunkirk, or Cove Point)	517	17%	4%	6%	73%
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	519	13%	2%	3%	82%
Virtual Activity Center (classes, lessons, or activities)	517	7%	1%	1%	90%
Senior Center (e.g., Southern Pines)	520	7%	2%	2%	90%

## Distance Traveled to Most Visited Facility

Overall, most respondents travel 5-9 miles to get to recreation locations, with about one-third traveling 10-19 miles. As expected, recreation locations are closer for Invite respondents with 21% traveling 1-4 miles.

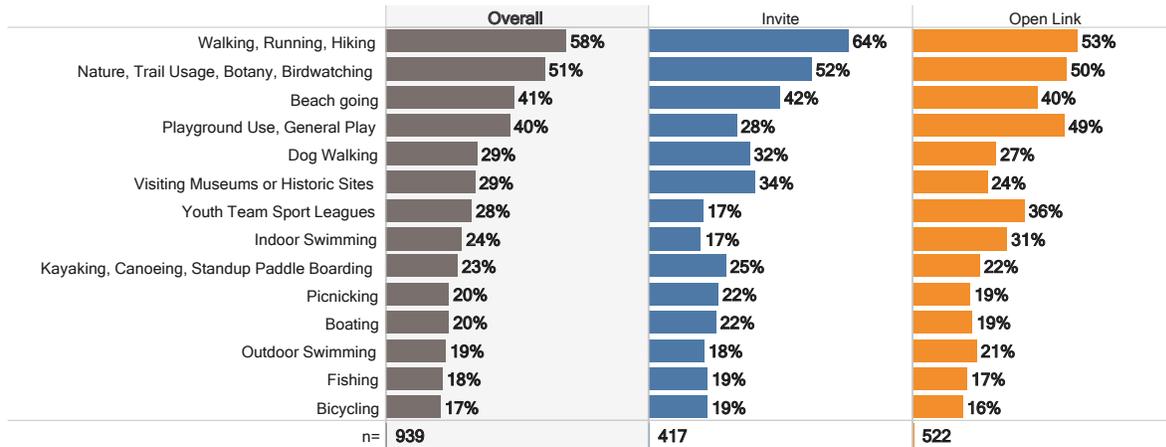
Q: Referring to previous list of Calvert County recreation locations, how far do you or your household travel to your most visited facility (one way)? by "Source"



## Participation in Recreational Activities or Services Slide 1 of 2

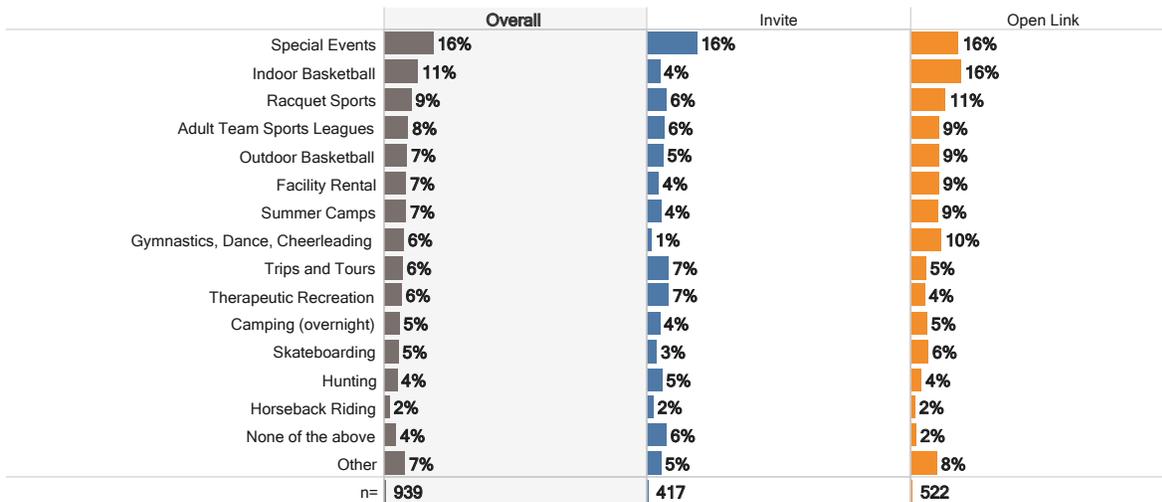
The most frequently reported activities include more passive recreational activities such as walking, spending time in nature, and beach going. Least popular include horseback riding, hunting, and skateboarding.

Q: In what recreational activities or services in Calvert County have you participated during the past 12 months? (Check all that apply) by "Source"



## Participation in Recreational Activities or Services Slide 2 of 2

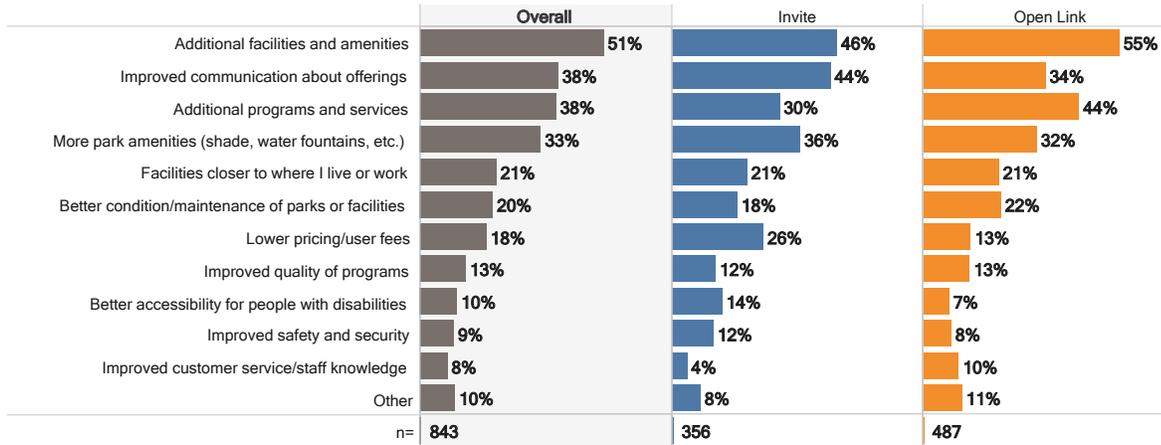
Q: In what recreational activities or services in Calvert County have you participated during the past 12 months? (Check all that apply) by "Source"



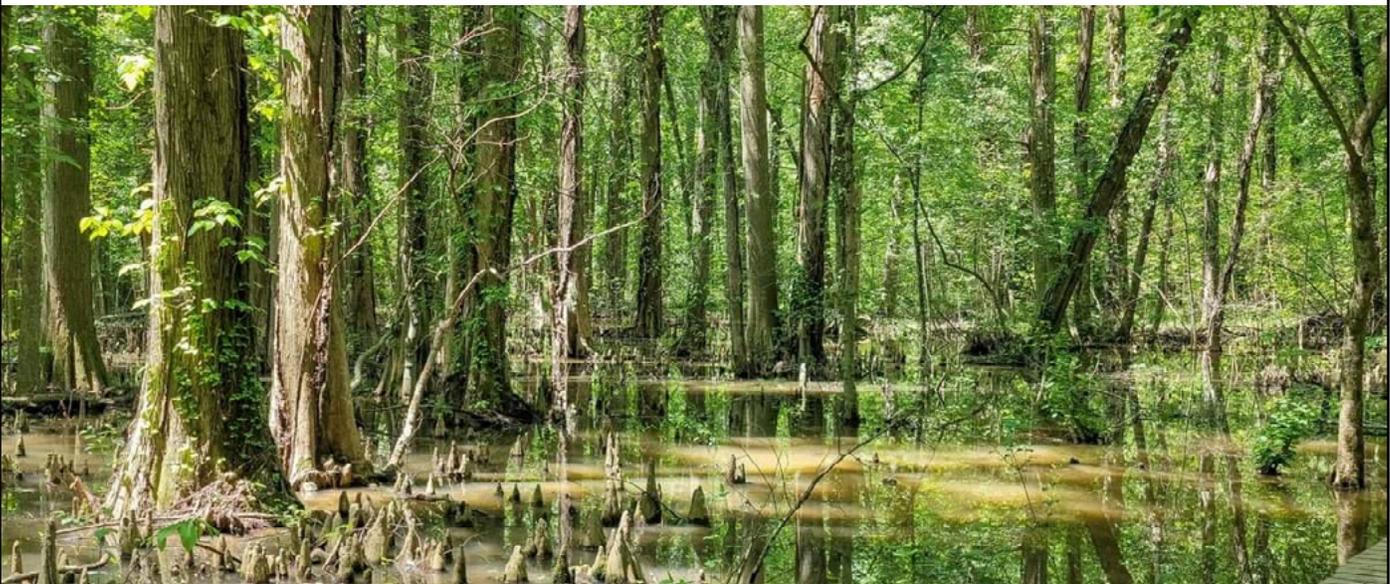
## Most Important Areas to Increase Participation

According to respondents, additional facilities and amenities and improved communication would help to increase their participation. Open Link respondents are more interested in additional facilities and programs than Invite respondents. More Invite respondents say that lower pricing would increase their participation than Open Link.

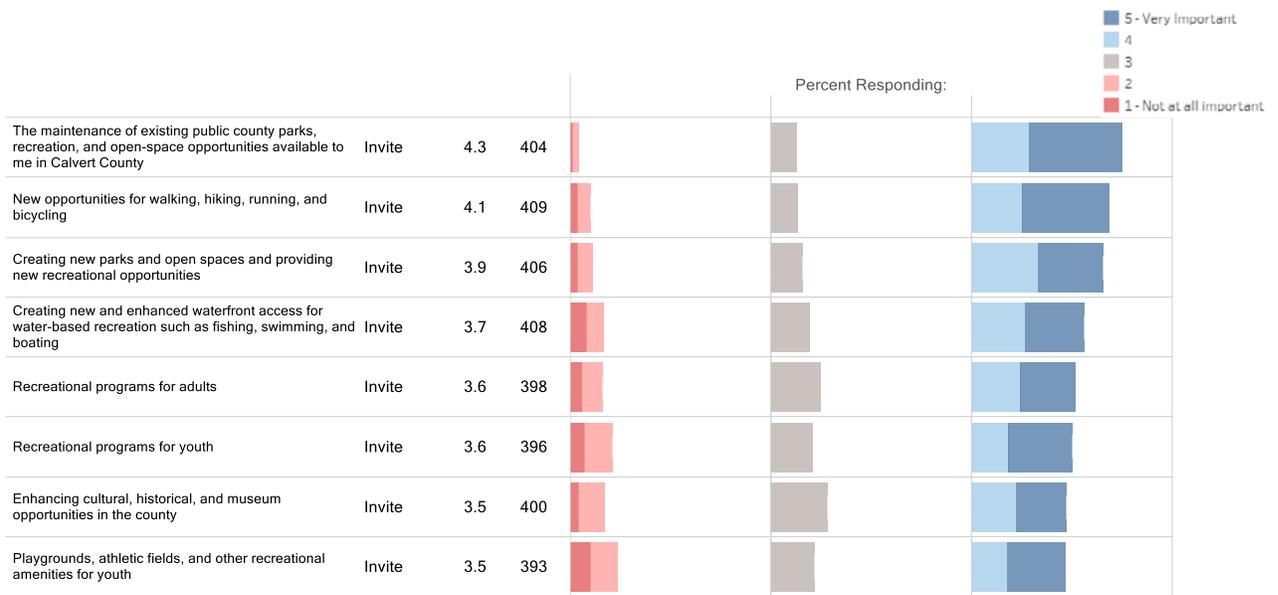
**Q: What are the most important areas that, if addressed, would increase your participation in recreational activities, facilities, and programs? (Check all that apply) by "Source"**



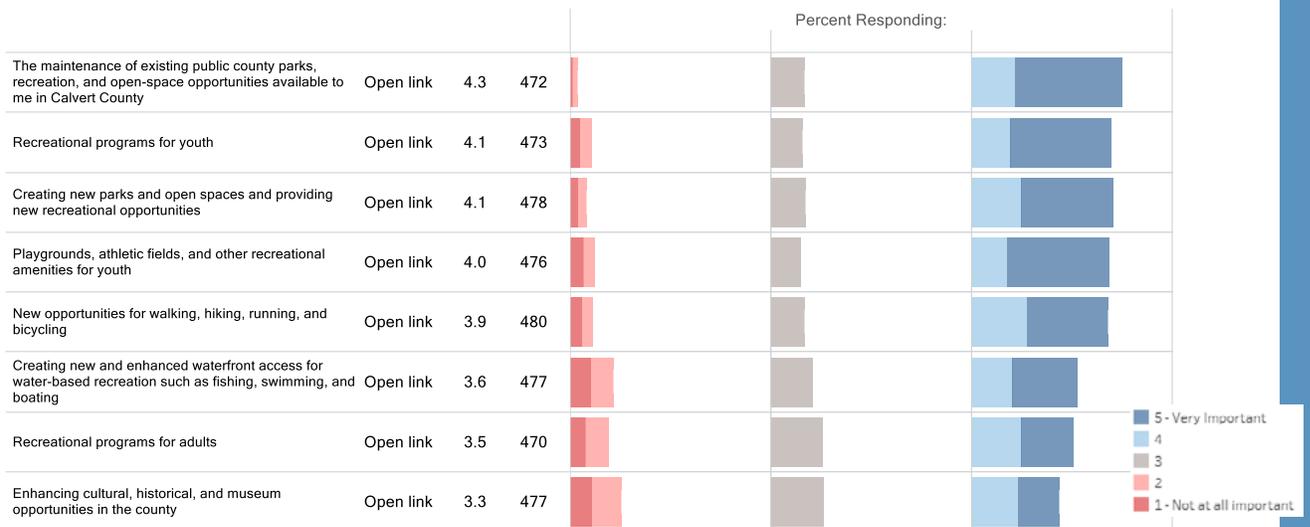
## Importance/Quality of Life



## Importance of Parks, Recreation and Open Space By Invite Sample

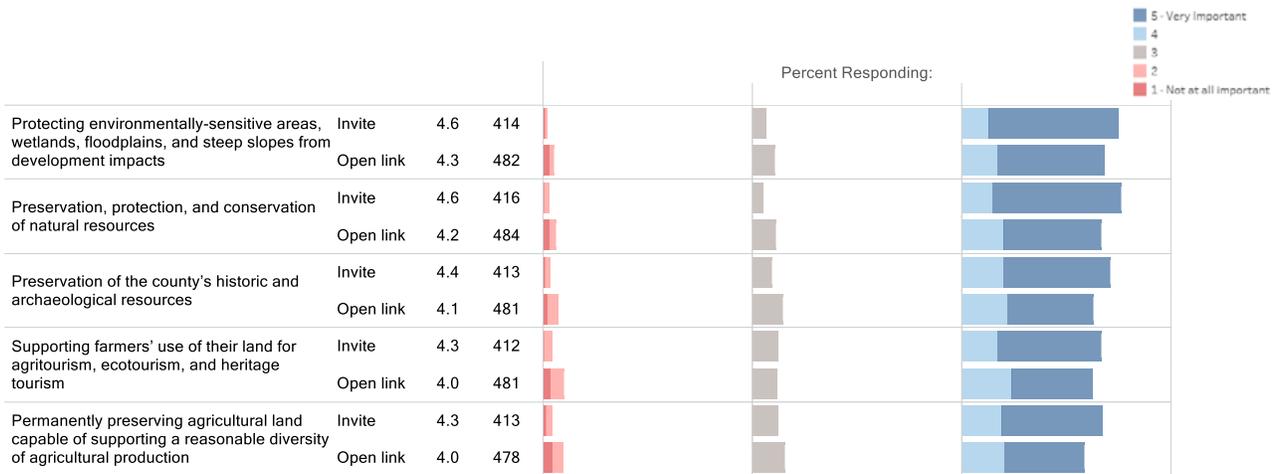


## Importance of Parks, Recreation and Open Space By Open Link Sample



## Importance of Agricultural and Land Preservation

Agricultural and land preservation is of high importance to respondents and more so for Invite respondents. On all questions, 79% or more Invite respondents rated either a 4 as “somewhat important” or 5 “very important”.

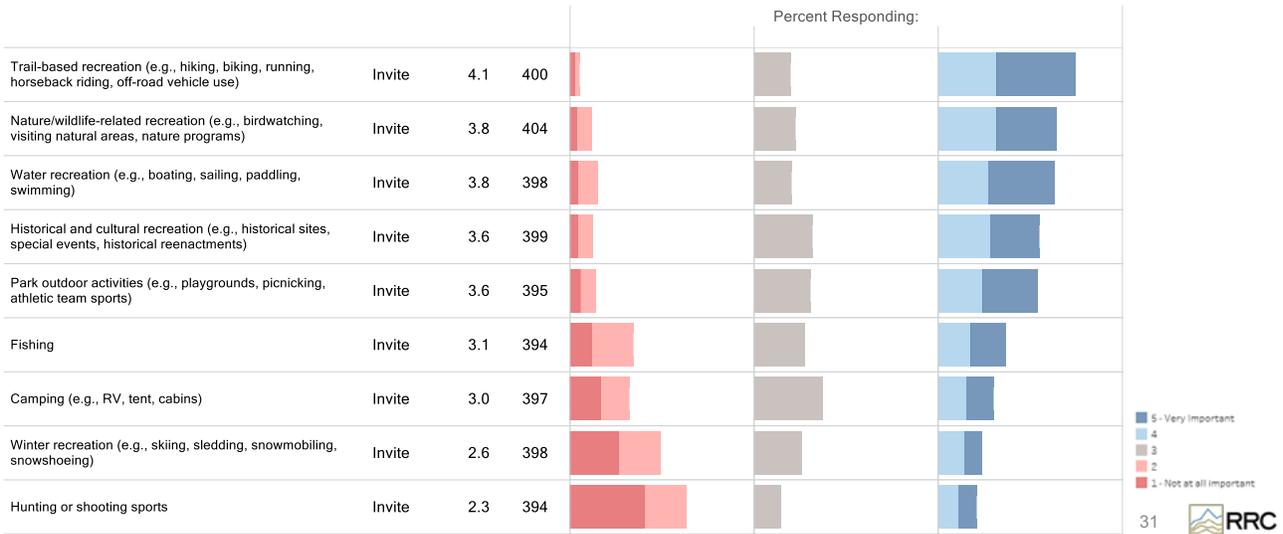


## Future Recreational Activities, Facilities, and Programs



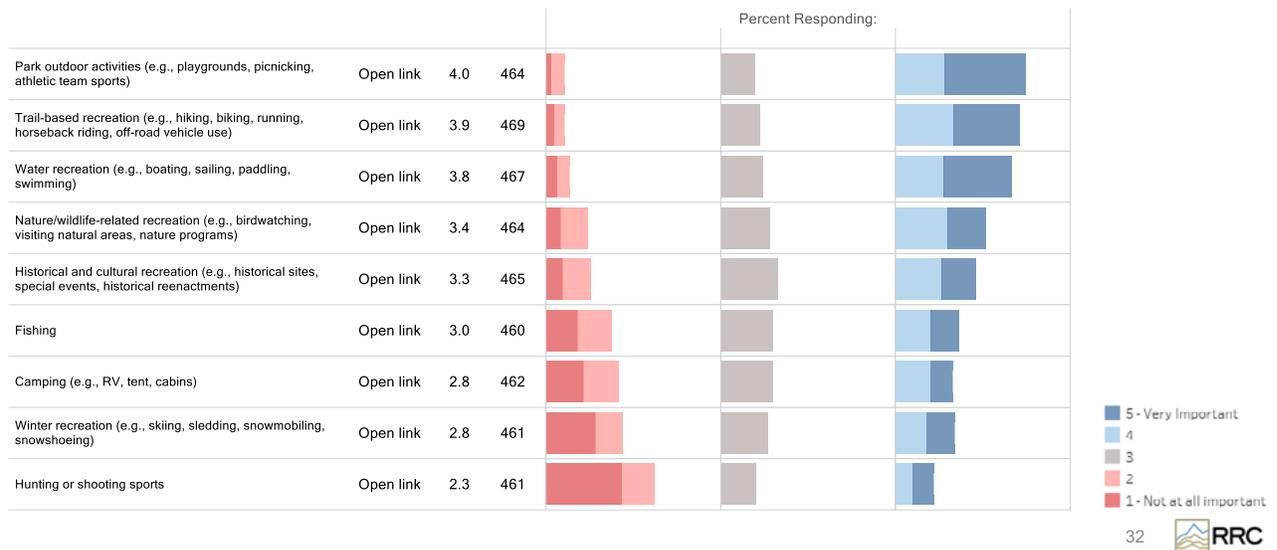
## Important Needs for Outdoor Recreation Areas By Invite Sample

Important areas for improvement according to the Invite sample include trail-based recreation, nature/wildlife related recreation, and water recreation.



## Important Needs for Outdoor Recreation Areas By Open Link Sample

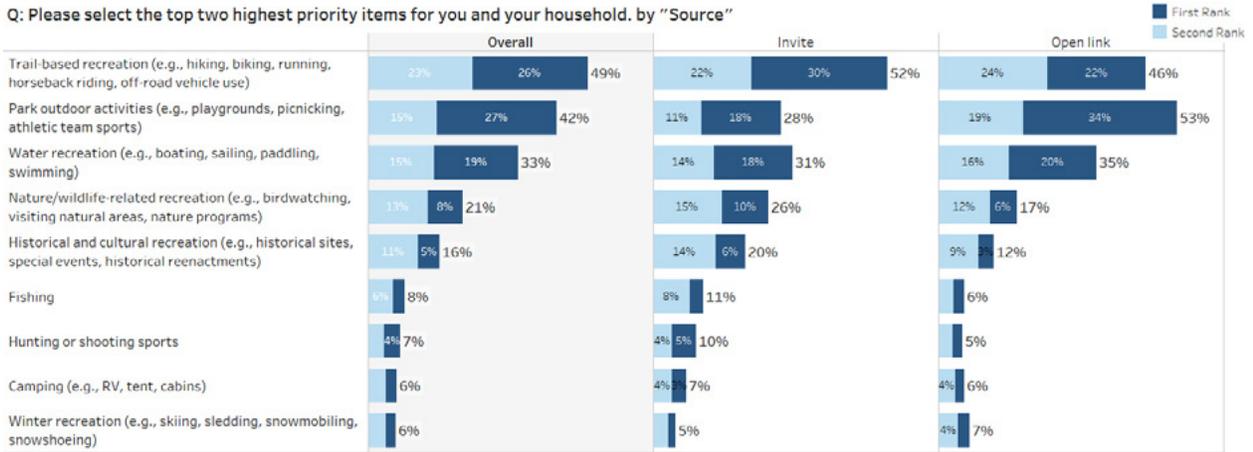
Open Link respondents are more interested in park outdoor activities



## Top 2 Most Important Needs for Outdoor Recreation

Trail-based recreation is the top priority for both the Invite and Open Link respondents. Invite respondents place a greater importance on nature/wildlife-related recreation and historic/cultural recreation.

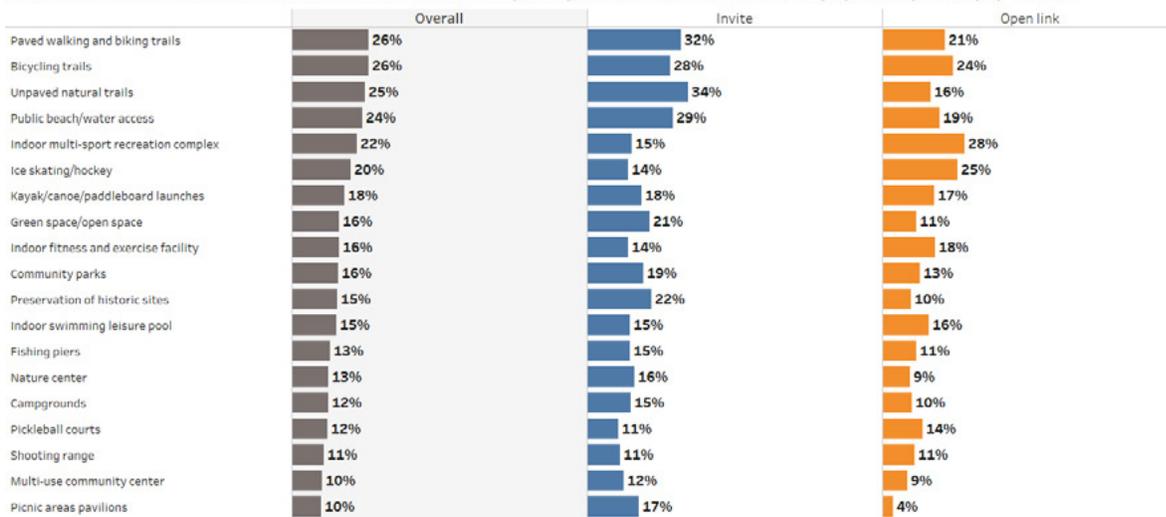
Q: Please select the top two highest priority items for you and your household, by "Source"



## Additional Recreational Amenities Slide 1 of 2

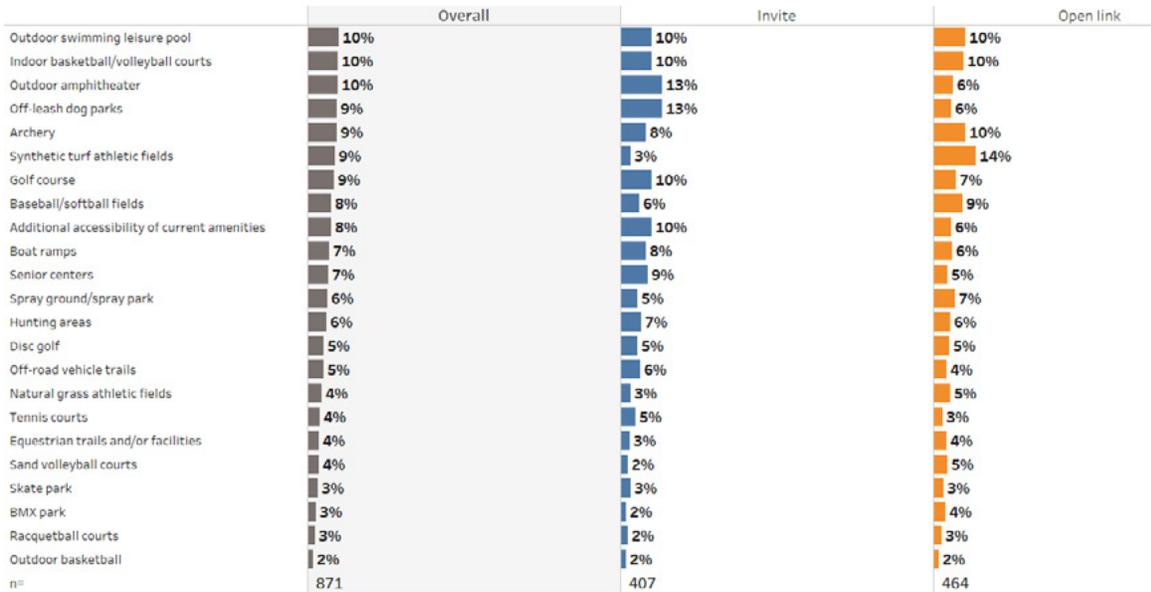
Trails and beach/water access are the top priorities for additional amenities with the Invite sample.

Q: What additional recreational amenities are most needed for you or your household in Calvert County? (Select up to five) by "Source"



## Additional Recreational Amenities Slide 2 of 2

Q: What additional recreational amenities are most needed for you or your household in Calvert County? (Select up to five) by "Source"



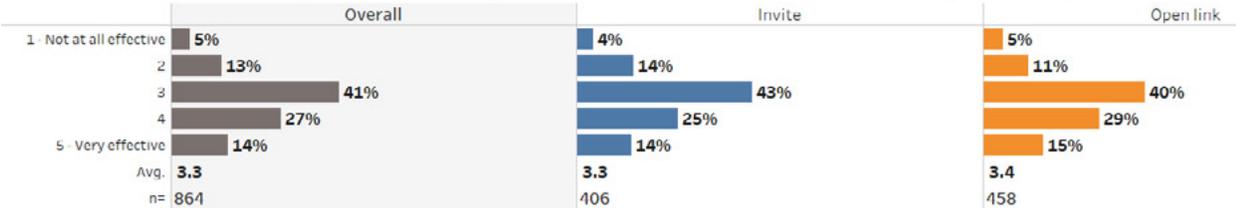
## Communication



## Effectiveness of Communication

Overall, there is some room for improvement regarding communication. The average response was a 3.3.

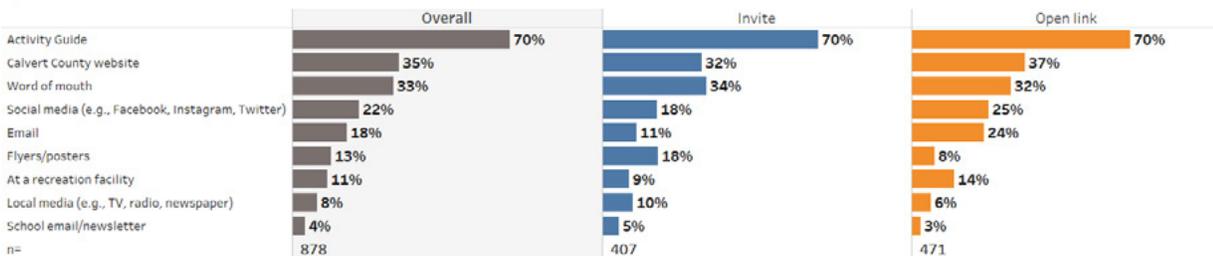
Q: How well does Calvert County communicate with you about recreational activities, facilities, and programs? by "Source"



## Communication Methods

Most respondents use the activity guide to receive information on recreation in the County. About a third of respondents use the Calvert County website and another third rely on word of mouth. Very few receive information from a school email/newsletter.

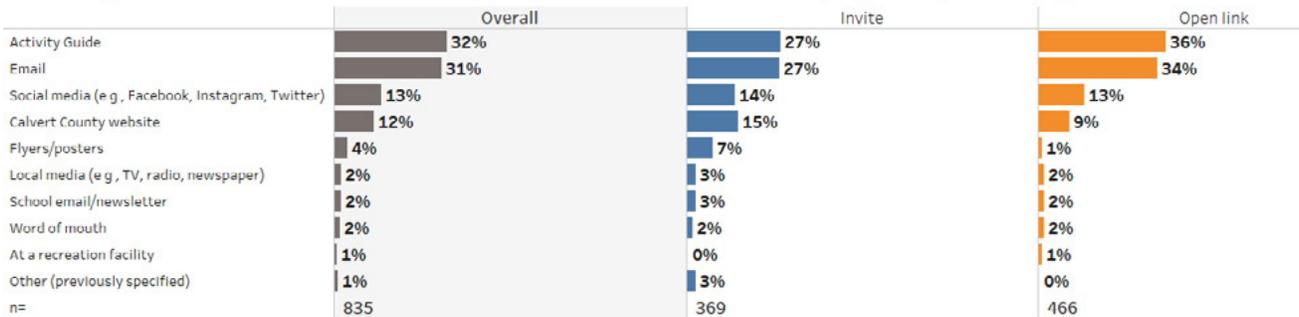
Q: How do you currently receive information on recreational activities, facilities, and programs offered by Calvert County? (Check all that apply) by "Source"



## Best Communication Method

The Activity Guide and email are the preferred methods of communication followed by social media.

Q: How do you want to receive information about recreational activities, facilities, and programs? (Select one) by "Source"



## Comments/Suggestions

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments about recreational activities, facilities, and programs in Calvert County. A random selection of verbatim responses is shown below. See Appendix for full listing of comments provided.

- Paved paths would be such an improvement! We currently go out of county to bike ride on long trails.
- Our family travels out of the county for access to baseball fields. We'd love to see more fields in the county. Also, we would like to have a disc golf course.
- Safe, paved pathways throughout the county that can be used by walkers, runners/joggers, and bicyclers, ultimately where we can walk from one end of the county to the other.
- I wish the preservation of natural space and the availability of such spaces for visitors was on a par with the development of ball fields.
- I appreciate the very well-maintained trails at Calvert Cliffs State Park.
- Facebook, Instagram and other social media are also good options as long as the info is consistent with the website and phone line.
- Be able to sign up for text messages from the county about park and rec opportunities.



RRC Associates  
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RRCAssociates.com  
303-449-6558



## APPENDIX D: FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### Potential Funding Support

BerryDunn guided the Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation staff through a potential funding source exercise that identified the department's funding sources.

### Potential Funding Sources and Strategies

BerryDunn has compiled the following list of potential funding sources and strategies for public parks and recreation, identified through over 22 years of consulting with agencies across the United States. These sources and strategies are provided for agencies to review for potential use in their own communities.

The following strategies were identified as the most potential options for the county's Department of Parks & Recreation for potential new or expanded revenue and cost savings strategies and maximizing efforts to meet the needs of the community. BerryDunn identified forty-eight funding sources that could be continued or considered.

### Traditional Parks and Recreation Operations and Capital Development Funding Sources

Local governments can employ a variety of mechanisms to provide services and make public improvements. Parks and recreation operating, and capital development funding typically comes from conventional sources such as sales, use, and property tax referenda voted upon by the community, along with developer exactions. Operating funds are typically capped by legislation; might fluctuate based on the economy, public spending, or assessed valuation; and might not always keep up with inflationary factors. In the case of capital development, "borrowed funds" sunset with the completion of loan repayment and are not available to carry over or re-invest without voter approval. Explained below are the salient points of traditional funding sources. These strategies may be currently in use to by your agency.

### Traditional Tax and Exactions-Based Funding Resources

#### GENERAL OR OPERATING FUND (IN USE)

Parks and recreation services are typically funded by an agency's General or Operating Fund, which can be comprised of property tax, sales tax, and other compulsory charges levied by a government for

financing services performed for the common benefit of a community. These funds may also come from resources such as inter-governmental agreements, reimbursements, and interest and may include such revenue sources as franchise taxes, licenses and permits, fees, transfers in, reserves, interest income, and miscellaneous other incomes.

#### PROPERTY TAX (IN USE)

Property tax revenue often funds parks and recreation special districts and may be used as a dedicated source for capital development. When used for operation funding, it often makes the argument for charging resident and non-resident fee differentials.

#### SALES TAX (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)

This revenue source often funds public parks and recreation agencies either partially or fully. Sales tax revenue is very popular in high-traffic tourism agencies and with cities, counties, and state parks. Special Districts cannot exact sales taxes, which often calls into question the issue of charging resident and non-resident fee differentials.

#### SIN TAX (IN USE)

This revenue source often partially funds public parks and recreation agencies and is derived from casinos, tobacco tax, and/or marijuana tax (where legalized). Sin tax revenue is popular in states (where it is legal) with high-traffic tourism agencies and with cities, counties, and state parks. Special Districts cannot exact sin taxes, which often calls into question the issue of charging resident and non-resident fee differentials.

### Development Funding

#### DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES (IN USE)

##### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)

Different from cities that are direct beneficiaries of these funds, Special Districts (or local improvement districts) are the beneficiaries of pass-through funding from cities or counties, which have responsibility for their interests. Special Districts cannot exact or collect the land dedication or the fee-in-lieu on their own.

#### PARK LAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE (IN USE)

Park land dedication requirements typically state that all residential subdivisions of land (and often commercial), with exemptions, are to provide for parks

by either dedicating land, paying an in-lieu fee (the amounts may be adjusted annually), or a combination of the two.

## **Traditional Parks and Recreation Earned Revenue Resources**

### **FEES AND CHARGES**

#### **DAILY ADMISSION AND ANNUAL PASS SALES OR VEHICLE PERMITS (IN USE)**

Daily and annual pass fees can apply to regional parks and aquatics centers. The consultant team recommends consideration of bulk discount buying of daily admission fees marketed as monthly, seasonal, 3-month, 6-month, and/or annual passes.

#### **REGISTRATION FEES (IN USE)**

This revenue source is for participating in programs, classes, activities, and events that typically require preregistration to ensure a place. These services may or may not have limited space. These participant fees attempt to recover most if not all the direct expenses and are often revenue positive due to market demand.

#### **TICKET SALES/ADMISSIONS (IN USE)**

This revenue source is for accessing facilities for self-directed or spectator activities such as splash parks, ballparks, and entertainment activities. Fees may also be assessed for tours, entrance or gate admission, and other activities, which may or may not be self-directed. These user fees help offset operational costs or apply to new projects.

## **Alternative Parks and Recreation Operations and Capital Development Funding Sources**

Alternative funding sources include a variety of different or non-conventional public sector strategies for diversifying the funding base beyond traditional tax-based support. The following is a list of known industry funding practices, potential sources, and strategies, as compiled by the BerryDunn staff. Strategies may currently be used by your agency but might not be used to maximum effectiveness or capacity. Those not currently in use should be considered for specific relevance to a project or the operation.

NOTE: Not every funding mechanism on this list might be allowable by law, as the laws, regulations, statutes, ordinances, and systems of governance vary from city to city, county to county, and state to state. The authority to put forth referenda or institute exactions must be researched for validity within your city and

state, as this list is comprised of the financial practices from across the nation. Referenda are passed by simple majority of those who vote, while others require a larger percentage to pass. In certain circumstances, referenda are passed by the majority of eligible voters versus just those who vote.

## **Loan Mechanisms**

### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (IN USE)**

Bonded indebtedness issued with the approval of the electorate for capital improvements and public improvements.

### **REVENUE BONDS (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Bonds used for capital projects that will generate revenue for debt service where fees can be set aside to support repayment of the bond. These are typically issued for water, sewer or drainage charges, and other enterprise-type activities.

### **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

These bonds are payable from the proceeds of special assessments such as local improvement districts.

## **Alternative Service Delivery and Funding Structures**

### **YOUR AGENCY MAY ALREADY BE USING THESE STRATEGIES.**

#### **ANNUAL APPROPRIATION/LEASEHOLD FINANCING (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

This is a more complex financing structure that requires use of a third party to act as an issuer of the bonds; this third party would construct the facility and retain title until the bonds are retired. For example, an agency can enter into a lease agreement with the third party with annual lease payments equal to the debt service requirements. The bonds issued by the third party are considered less secure than general obligation bonds of an agency and are therefore more costly. Since a separate corporation issues these bonds, they do not impact an agency's debt limitations and do not require a vote. However, they also do not entitle an agency to levy property taxes to service the debt. The annual lease payments must be appropriated from existing revenues.

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENDOWMENT MODEL – OPERATING FOUNDATION (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

John L. Crompton<sup>1</sup> discusses government using the Commercial Property Endowment Model, citing two case studies in the United Kingdom and Mission Bay Park in San Diego, California, as an alternative structure to deliver parks and recreation services. A non-profit organization may be established and given park infrastructure and/or land assets to manage as public parks and recreation services along with commercial properties as income-earning assets or commercial lease fees to provide for a sustainable funding source. This type of social enterprise is charged with operating, maintaining, renovating, and enhancing the public park system and is not unlike a model to subsidize low-income housing with mixed-use developments.

**INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENTS (IN USE)**

Contractual relationships could be established between two or more local units of government and/or between a local unit of government and a non-profit organization for the joint usage/development of sports fields, regional parks, or other facilities.

**PRIVATIZATION – OUTSOURCING THE MANAGEMENT (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Typically used for food and beverage management, golf course operations, ball field, or sports complex operations by negotiated or bid contract.

**PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a government agency, or a private business and a government agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue-producing parks and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.

Creating synergy based on expanded program offerings and collaborative efforts can be beneficial to all providers as interest grows and people gravitate to the type of facility and programs that best suit their recreational needs and schedules. Potential strategic alliance partnerships where missions run parallel and mutually beneficial relationships can be fostered could include the following:

- YMCA (Possibly Consider)

- School Districts (In Use)
- Medical Centers or Hospitals (In Use)
- Boys and Girls Club (In Use)
- Kiwanis, Optimists, VFWs, Elks, Rotary, and other service and civic organizations (In Use)
- Chamber of Commerce (In Use)
- Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (In Use)
- Homeowner or Neighborhood Associations (In Use)
- Youth Sports Associations (In Use)
- Adult Sports Associations (In Use)
- Neighboring Counties/Communities (In Use)
- Private Alternative Providers (In Use)
- Churches (In Use)
- Professional Sports Teams/Organizations (In Use)
- Amusement Parks (e.g., Disney World) (In Use)
- Senior Citizen Groups (AARP, Silver Sneakers) (In Use)

A Sample Partnership Policy can be provided to Calvert County.

**Community Resources**

The following subsections summarize research findings on potential funding sources that could enhance capital expenditures for capital repair, renovation, and new construction and operating budgets for an agency. These findings do not recommend any funding strategy over another. The economic conditions within the service area may vary with time, and your agency should explore the best means of achieving its goals toward the operations of the agency, the programs, and the facilities on an ongoing basis.

**ADVERTISING SALES (IN USE)**

Advertising sales are a viable opportunity for revenue through the sale of tasteful and appropriate advertising on items such as program guides, scoreboards, dasher boards, and other visible products or services. This could be a viable strategy in the future if appropriate opportunities present themselves, such as the acquisition of scoreboards, etc. Current sign codes should be reviewed for conflicts or appropriate revisions.

<sup>1</sup> Spring 2010 Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Volume 28, Number 1, pp 103-111

**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS (IN USE)**

An agency can solicit this revenue-funding source itself or work with agencies that pursue and use this type of funding. Sponsorships are often used for programs and events where there are greater opportunities for sponsor recognition (greater value to the sponsor).

A Sample Sponsorship Policy can be provided to Calvert County.

**FUNDRAISING (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Parks and recreation agencies have special fundraisers annually to help cover specific programs and capital projects. These events can include selling bricks, benches, pavers, tiles, and commemorative tree plantings, etc.

**CROWDFUNDING (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Parks and recreation agencies are beginning to incorporate crowdfunding efforts alongside traditional fundraising strategies. NRPA has implemented a Fund Your Park crowdfunding platform. It is free to members, donations are tax deductible, and NRPA staff provide support.<sup>2</sup>

**GRANTS (IN USE)**

Grants often supplement or match funds already received. For example, grants can be used for program purposes, information technology infrastructure, planning, design, seed money, and construction. Due to their infrequent nature, grants are often used to fund a specific venture and should not be viewed as a continuous source of funding.

**FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS (IN USE)**

These grants help buy long-lasting physical assets, such as a building. The applicant organization must make the case that the new acquisition will help better serve its Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation. Fund providers considering these requests will not only be interested in the applicant's current activities and financial health but also inquire about the financial and program plans for the next several years. Fund providers do not want to allocate resources to an

organization or program only to see it shut down in a few years because of poor management.

**GENERAL PURPOSE OR OPERATING GRANTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

When a grant-maker gives an operating grant, it can be used to support the general expenses of operating. An operating grant means the fund-provider supports the overall mission and trusts that the money will be put to good use. Operating grants are much harder to procure than program or support grants.

**MANAGEMENT OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS (IN USE)**

Unlike most project grants, a technical assistance grant does not directly support the mission-related activities of an agency. Instead, this type of grant supports management or administration and the associated fundraising, marketing, and financial management needs.

**PROGRAM-RELATED INVESTMENTS (PRIS) (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

In addition to grants, the Internal Revenue Service allows foundations to make loans—called PRIs—to nonprofits. PRIs must be for projects that would be eligible for grant support. They are usually made at low or zero interest. PRIs must be paid back to the grant-maker. PRIs are often made to organizations involved in building projects.

**MATCHING GRANTS (IN USE)**

Grant-makers will provide funding only on the condition that an amount equal to the size of the grant can be raised from other sources. This type of grant is another means by which foundations can determine the viability of an organization or program.

**PLANNING GRANTS (IN USE)**

When planning a major new program, an agency may need to spend a good deal of time and money conducting research. A planning grant supports this initial project development work, which might include investigating the needs of constituents, consulting with experts in the field, or conducting research and planning activities.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Kara Kish, MPA, CPRE, CPSI, article in Parks and Recreation Magazine, December 2015. [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org).

**PRIVATE GRANT AND PHILANTHROPIC AGENCIES (IN USE)**

Resources are available that provide information on private grant and philanthropic agency opportunities. A thorough investigation and research on available grants is necessary to help ensure mutually compatible interests and to confirm the status of available funding. Examples of publicly accessible resources are summarized below.

- Information on current and archived Federal Register Grant Announcements can be accessed from The Grantsmanship Center at: <http://www.tgci.com>.
- Another resource is the Foundation Center’s RFP Bulletin Grants Page on Health at: <http://foundationcenter.org>.
- Research [www.ecivis.com](http://www.ecivis.com) for a contract provider of a web-based Grants Locator system for government and foundation grants specifically designed for local government.

**PROGRAM OR SUPPORT GRANTS (IN USE)**

A program or support grant is given to support a specific or connected set of activities that typically have a beginning and an end, specific objectives, and predetermined costs. Listed below are the most common types of program or support grants.

**SEED MONEY OR START-UP GRANTS (IN USE)**

These grants help a new organization or program in its first few years. The idea is to give the new effort a strong push forward so it can devote its energy early on to setting up programs without worrying constantly about raising money. Such grants are often for more than one year and frequently decrease in amount each year.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (IN USE)**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is America’s most important program to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nation. The program works in partnership with federal, state and local efforts to protect land in our national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, national trails, and other public lands; to preserve working forests and ranchlands; to support state and local parks and playgrounds; to preserve battlefields and other historic and cultural sites; and to provide the tools that communities need to meet their diverse

conservation and recreation needs. The years-long effort to permanently authorize and fund LWCF, which culminated in the enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act in August 2020, further underscored the need for a comprehensive database of LWCF investments. Every state runs its State and Local Assistance Program in a slightly unique manner, so any interested municipal or county parks personnel should contact their Land and Water Conservation Fund State Liaison Officer (typically someone at a state’s department of fish and game, environmental protection, or conservation and recreation) for more information.

**NAMING RIGHTS (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Agencies throughout the country have successfully sold the naming rights for newly constructed facilities or when renovating existing buildings. Additionally, newly developed, and renovated parks have been successfully funded through the sale of naming rights. The cost for naming rights offsets the development costs associated with the improvement. People incorrectly assume that selling the naming rights for facilities is reserved for professional stadiums and other high-profile team sport venues. However, the trend of selling naming rights has expanded in recent years to include public recreation centers and facilities as viable sales opportunities.

Naming rights can be a one-time payment or amortized with a fixed payment schedule over a defined period. During this time, the sponsor retains the “rights” to have the park, facility, or amenity named for them. Also, during this time, all publications, advertisements, events, and activities could have the sponsoring group’s name at the venue. Legal professionals should negotiate the naming rights to help ensure that the contractual obligation is equitable to all agents and provides remedies to change or cancel the arrangements at any time during the agreement period.

**PHILANTHROPIC (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Philanthropy can be defined as the concept of voluntary giving by an individual or group to promote the common good and to improve the quality of life. Philanthropy takes the form of donor programs, capital campaigns, and volunteers/in-kind services.

The time commitment to initiate a philanthropic campaign can be significant. If an agency decides

to implement a capital fundraising campaign and current resources that could be dedicated to such a venture are limited, it may be recommended that the agency outsource some or most of this task to a non-profit or private agency experienced in managing community-based capital fundraising campaigns. Capital campaigns should be limited to large-scale capital projects the community desires, but for which dedicated funding is not readily available.

#### **FOUNDATION/GIFTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

These dollars are received from tax-exempt, non-profit organization. The funds are private donations to promote specific causes, activities, or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, etc.

#### **FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS (IN USE)**

These groups are typically formed to raise money for a single purpose that could include a park facility or program that will benefit a particular special interest population or the community.

#### **GIFT CATALOGS (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Gift catalogs provide organizations the opportunity to let the community know what their needs are on a yearly basis. The community purchases items from the gift catalog and donates them to an agency.

#### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS/IN-KIND SERVICES (IN USE)**

This revenue source is an indirect source in that persons donate time to assist an agency in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces cost in providing the service and builds advocacy for the system. To manage a volunteer program, an agency typically dedicates a staff member to oversee the program for the entire agency.

#### **ADOPT-A-PARK/ADOPT-A-TRAIL (IN USE)**

Programs such as adopt-a-park can be created with and supported by the residents, businesses, and/or organizations located in the park's vicinity. These programs allow volunteers to actively assist in improving and maintaining parks, related facilities, and the community in which they live.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK WATCH (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

To reduce costs associated with vandalism and other crimes against property, an agency may consider a neighborhood park watch program. This program develops community ownership of an agency's facilities.

#### **GIFTS IN PERPETUITY (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

#### **IRREVOCABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than a million dollars in wealth. They will leave a portion of their wealth to an agency in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over a period. A portion of the interest is then available to use to support specific parks and recreation facilities or programs the trustee designates.

#### **LIFE ESTATES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

This revenue source is available when someone wants to leave their property to an agency in exchange for their continued residence on the property until their death. An agency can usually use a portion of the property for parks and recreational purposes, and then use all of it after the person's death. This revenue source is very popular for individuals who have great wealth, and their estate will be highly taxed at their death. Their benefactors will have to sell their property because of probate costs. Life Estates allow individuals to receive a good yearly tax deduction on their property while leaving property for the community. Agencies benefit because they do not have to pay for the land.

#### **MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Maintenance Endowments are set up for organizations and individuals to invest in ongoing maintenance improvements and infrastructure needs of specific/targeted facilities. Endowments retain money from user fees, individual gifts, impact fees, development rights, partnerships, conservation easements, and for wetland mitigations.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FEES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEES (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

These fees are in addition to the set user rate for accessing facilities such as sport and tournament venues and are used to support capital improvements that benefit the facility user.

**DEVELOPMENT SURCHARGE/FEE (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Agencies have added a surcharge on every transaction, admission, or registration to generate an improvement or development fund.

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL (IN USE)**

This revenue source is generated from the rental of equipment such as tables and chairs, tents, stages, bicycles, roller blades, boogie boards, etc., that are used for recreation purposes.

**FLEXIBLE FEE STRATEGIES (IN USE)**

This pricing strategy would allow an agency to maximize revenues during peak times and premium sites/areas with higher fees and to fill in excess capacity during low-use times with lower fees to maximize play.

**LIGHTING FEES (COULD EASILY BE USED)**

Some agencies charge additional fees for lighting as it applies to leagues, special-use sites, and special facilities that allow play after daylight hours. This fee may include utility demand charges.

**PERCENT-FOR-ART LEGISLATION (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

Percent-for-art legislation dedicates a percentage (usually 0.5% to 2%) of publicly funded capital improvement projects for art in public places, usually in, on, or adjacent to the project, building, or park being constructed or improved. This guarantees funding for public art projects and that public art projects will be planned with each new improvement. This can also be conceived as an Art-in-the-Park program.

**PROCESSING/CONVENIENCE FEES (IN USE)**

This is a surcharge or premium placed on electronic transfers of funds, automatic payments, or other conveniences.

**RECREATION SERVICE FEE (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

The Recreation Service Fee is a dedicated user fee that can be established by a local ordinance or other government procedure for the purpose of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. The fee can apply to all organized activities that require a reservation, or other purposes as defined by an agency. Accepted activities that are assigned a service fee include adult basketball, volleyball, and softball leagues; youth baseball, soccer, and softball leagues; and special-interest classes. The fee, above and beyond the user fee, allows participants to contribute toward the construction and/or maintenance of the facilities used.

**RECREATION SURCHARGE FEES ON SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS, CLASSES, MASTERCARD, VISA (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

This fee is a surcharge on top of the regular sports revenue fee or convenience fee for use of MasterCard and Visa. The fee usually is no more than \$5.00 and is usually \$3.00 on all exchanges. The money earned would be used to help pay off the costs of improvements or for operational purposes.

**RESIDENCY CARDS (IN USE)**

Non-residents may purchase "residency" annually for the privilege of receiving the resident discounts on fees, charges, tours, shows, reservations, and other benefits typically afforded to residents only. The resident cards can range in price but are often at least equivalent to what a resident pays in taxes annually to support operations, maintenance, and debt service.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSFER – TAX/ASSESSMENT/FEE (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

As agencies expand, the need for infrastructure improvements continues to grow. Because parks and recreation facilities add value to neighborhoods and communities, agencies have turned to a real estate transfer tax/assessment/fee to help pay for acquisition and needed renovations. Usually a transfer tax/assessment/fee amount is a percentage on the total sale of the property and is assessed each time the property transfers to a new owner. States have laws prohibiting or restricting the institution, increase, or application of this tax/assessment/fee.

### **ROOM OVERRIDES ON HOTELS FOR SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Agencies have begun to keep a percentage of hotel rooms reservation fees that are booked when the agency hosts a major sports tournament or special event. The overrides are usually \$5.00 to \$10.00 depending on the type of room. Monies collected would help offset operational costs for hosting the events.

### **SECURITY AND CLEANUP FEES (IN USE)**

An agency may charge groups and individuals security and cleanup fees for special events other type of events held at facilities.

### **SELF-INSURANCE SURCHARGE (COULD EASILY BE USED)**

Agencies have added a surcharge on every transaction, admission, or registration to generate a self-insured liability fund.

### **SIGNAGE FEES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

This revenue source charges people and businesses with signage fees at key locations with high visibility for short-term events. Signage fees may range in price from \$25 – \$100 per sign, based on the size of the sign and location.

### **UTILITY ROUNDUP PROGRAMS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Parks and recreation agencies have worked with local utilities on a roundup program whereby a consumer can pay the difference between their bill and the next highest even dollar amount as a donation to the agency. Ideally, these monies would be used to support utility improvements such as sports lighting, irrigation cost, and HVAC costs.

## **Contractual Services**

### **CELL TOWERS AND WI-FI (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Cell towers sited in strategic park locations are another potential source of revenue an agency might consider. Typically, agencies engage in this service as a means of enhancing overall operational cost recovery.

Another type of revenue for a facility or complex can come from providing sites for supporting Wi-Fi technology. In California, the State Park System is providing wireless Internet access and is charging \$7.95 for 24 hours of connectivity (approximately \$.33 per

hour) within its service area. California has connected eighty-five state parks with SBC Communications. For more information, contact California State Parks at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). [2015/16 update: It is unclear whether California is still charging for this service; this is being further researched]

### **CONCESSION MANAGEMENT (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Concession management is the retail sale or rental of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. Through contracting, the agency either receives a percentage of the gross sales or the net revenue dollars from the revenue above direct expenses. Net proceeds are more difficult to monitor.

### **MERCHANDISING SALES OR SERVICES (IN USE)**

This revenue source comes from the public or private sector on resale items from gift shops, pro-shops, restaurants, concessions, and coffee shops for either all the sales or a defined percentage of the gross sales. Typically, agencies engage in this type of service as a convenience to their patrons and as a means of enhancing overall operational cost recovery.

### **PRIVATE CONCESSIONAIRES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Contracts with private-sector concessionaires provide resources to operate desirable recreational activities. These services are typically financed, constructed, and operated by a private business or a non-profit organization with additional compensation paid to an agency.

## **Permits, Licensing Rights and Use of Collateral Assets**

### **AGRICULTURAL LEASES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

In some agency parks, lowland property along rivers or excess land may be leased to farmers for crops.

### **BOOTH LEASE SPACE (IN USE)**

Some agencies sell booth space to sidewalk vendors in parks or at special events for a flat rate or based on volume of product sold. The booth space can also be used for sporting events and tournaments.

### **CATERING PERMITS AND SERVICES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

A catering permit is a license to allow caterers to work in the system on a permit basis with a set fee or percentage of food sales returning to the agency.

Agencies have their own catering service or an authorized provider list and receive a percentage of dollars from the sale of food.

**FILMING RIGHTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Agencies issue permits so that park sites may be used for commercial film and photography activities. The production company pays a daily fee for the site plus the loss of revenue the agency would incur during use of the community space.

**LAND SWAPS (POSSIBLY CONSIDER)**

An agency may trade property to improve access or protection of resources. This could include a property gain by the agency for non-payment of taxes or a situation where a developer needs a larger or smaller space to improve its profitability. The agency would typically gain more property for more recreation opportunities in exchange for the land swap.

**LICENSING RIGHTS (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

This revenue source allows an agency to license its name on all resale items that private or public vendors use when they sell clothing or other items with its agency’s name on it. The normal licensing fee is 6% to 10% of the cost of the resale item.

**MANUFACTURING PRODUCT TESTING AND DISPLAY OR RESEARCH (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

An agency may work with specific manufacturers to evaluate their products in a park, recreation facility, or in a program or service. The agency may assess the product under normal conditions and report the results back to the manufacturer. Examples include lighting, playground equipment, vehicle tires, mowers, irrigation systems, seed, and fertilizers, etc. The agency may receive the product free but must pay for the costs of installation and for tracking results.

Research fees may be charged to allow research on park lands or related to equipment used at parks. Companies may pay to have their equipment installed and evaluated to prove durability and user satisfaction.

Product placement fees may also be an option, whereby a company not only donates its equipment but also pays to have the equipment used at a public facility.

**SPECIAL-USE PERMITS (IN USE)**

Special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The agency receives either a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service provided.

**SUBORDINATE EASEMENTS – RECREATION/ NATURAL AREA EASEMENTS (IN USE)**

This revenue source is available when an agency allows utility companies, businesses, or individuals to develop a type of an improvement above ground or below ground on its property. Subordinate easements are typically arranged over a set period, with a set dollar amount allocated to the agency annually.

**Surplus Sale of Equipment by Auction (In Use)**

Agencies often have annual surplus auctions to get rid of old and used equipment, generating additional income on a yearly basis.

**ENTERPRISE FUNDS (IN USE)**

These funds establish business units that are self-sustaining through fees and charges. Debt service and all indirect costs should be allocated or attributed to enterprise funds. Any excess revenue generated is maintained by the fund for future needs and cannot be used by another fund or department. Examples include premier sports tournament complexes.

**LAND TRUSTS (IN USE)**

Land trusts can help secure and fund the cost of acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for greenway purposes. This may also be a good source for the acquisition of future lands.

**POSITIVE CASH FLOW (IN USE)**

Depending on how aggressively an agency incorporates marketing and management strategies, there may be a positive fund balance at the end of each year. While current facilities, projections, and fee policies do not anticipate a positive cash flow, the climate can change. The ending positive balance could be used, for example, to establish a maintenance endowment for agency recreation facilities, to set aside funds for capital replacement and/or repair, or to generate a fund balance for contingency or new programming opportunities.

## Cost-Saving Measures

In addition to aligning cost recovery with goals, charging appropriate fees, and using traditional and alternative funding mechanisms, cost-saving measures can improve the overall cost recovery picture for an agency.

### CHANGE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS/PRACTICES (IN USE)

- Add one extra day onto the mowing interval, thus reducing the amount of mowing in a season.
- Evaluate and determine actual maintenance needs and schedules for upkeep of different facilities and landscape features/types. Evaluate resource needs (equipment, staff, etc.) and production rates of staff/equipment for the system's regularly occurring maintenance work and prioritize maintenance program needs, schedules, and relevant resource allocations.
- Consider turf management strategies by turf use/wear—high-intensity use and maintenance needs (such as sports fields) versus low-intensity use areas such as lawns along the edge of a woodlot or roadway. Usually, areas of turf are regularly maintained because “they have always been mowed”; by changing the maintenance strategy to not mowing or not regularly mowing such areas, less time/resources need to be dedicated to mowing overall.
- Naturalizing areas of lawn that are not needed is a “going green” type of practice that also reduces maintenance needs/costs.
- Buildings/Facilities
  - Evaluate needs and consider in-house versus contracted maintenance workers for different needed services/trades.
  - Standardize equipment, fixtures, and relevant materials.
  - Determine whether facilities are in such disrepair that continuing to invest limited funding in them is no longer practical.
  - In designing new facilities, vet simple sustainability factors (such as orienting the building to maximize solar gain to reduce lighting and heating costs).
- Add energy-efficient fixtures and low-flow water fixtures; eliminate throwaway products like paper towels and replace with energy-efficient hand dryers.
- Strategically locate trash and recyclable containers to reduce cost of having staff empty these and spend

time picking up trash/recyclables that patrons do not properly dispose of.

- Reduce cleaning frequency of office spaces and centralize trash and recyclables into one location in employee work areas to save housekeeping costs.
- Consider having staff complete multiple tasks at the same time (e.g., emptying recyclables and trash while doing rounds or inspections).
- Educate users to better utilize existing facilities and resources to reduce costs (e.g., clean up after themselves).
- Equipment and Supplies
  - Purchase better equipment that last longer and requires less maintenance; saving money on the front end does not always result in cost savings overall.
  - Standardize equipment (such as vehicles, grounds equipment, and tools, etc.) to increase efficiency in training staff to use it, and to simplify and reduce costs associated with parts inventory and maintenance/repair programs (e.g., a mechanic places one order for 10 air filters for one type of lawnmower and gets a bulk price from one vendor, versus ordering 10 different filters for 10 different mowers from multiple vendors and keeping track of it all)
  - Consider leasing vehicles or other heavily used equipment; it can be more cost effective for an organization to lease vehicles or equipment and rotate the fleet regularly versus allocating resources to maintain and repair aging fleets of vehicles/equipment that have higher likelihood of breakdowns and associated loss of production time.
- Use volunteers to assist with housekeeping and maintenance.
- Solicit in-kind donation of time and services in exchange for maintenance assistance.

### CONTRACT RENEGOTIATE OR RE-BID (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)

At every opportunity, review contracts to help ensure the county is not paying more than it has to or are receiving the maximum amount of revenue possible.

**COST AVOIDANCE (IN USE)**

An agency must maintain a position of not being everything for everyone. It must be driven by the market and stay with its core businesses. By shifting roles away from being a direct provider of facilities, programs, or services, an agency may experience additional savings. This process is referred to as cost avoidance. The estimated savings could be realized through partnering, outsourcing, or deferring to another provider in the provision of a service and/or facility. One example is purchasing in bulk.

**Greening Trends**

**ROOFTOP GARDENS AND PARK STRUCTURES (DEFINITELY CONSIDER)**

Rooftop gardens create respites in a densely built environment and help reduce the urban heat island effects. In addition, the lack of availability and affordability of urban real estate has continued the trend of building parks over parking garages and other structures.

**GREEN PRACTICES**

- Use light, water, and motion sensors (In Use)
- Conduct energy audits (In Use)
- Update to energy-efficient ballasts, motors, appliances (In Use)
- Use electric and hybrid vehicles (Definitely Consider)
- Use greywater (Possibly Consider)
- Use solar and wind energy (Definitely Consider)
- Implement green operating practices (In Use)

Agencies miss the easiest green practices in their everyday operating procedures and policies. These include administrative procedures, best operating standards, and sustainable stewardship performance measures. Industry best practices outlined below (Table 11) may be currently and successfully employed by the county.

## APPENDIX E: CALVERT COUNTY – FY2022 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE

### Calvert County Parks & Recreation Planning Objectives

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Calvert 2040, adopted in 2019, sets forth an overall goal and four broad objectives in the Parks and Recreation section. Key actions in the 2019 plan are noted below as sub-bullets. These actions were in the prior Calvert County Comprehensive Plan as objectives. They have been updated and included in the 2019 plan as actions.

- Increase the amount of land area dedicated to recreation and natural resources.
- 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.
  - Enhance the 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.
  - Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.
  - Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Increase the variety of uses of community facilities.
- Expand community involvement in recreational programming.

Calvert County's most recent LPPRP was adopted in May 2018. The purpose of the plan is to maintain the county's eligibility to participate in Maryland's Program Open Space and to guide the county's management and enhancement of its public parks, open spaces, and preserved land for the next five years.

The Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces chapter of the plan sets forth three goals and fourteen recommendations.

**GOAL 1:** Continue to maintain and develop parks, recreation facilities, and programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing population in Calvert County.

**GOAL 2:** Develop an interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the county to link places people live, work, play, and visit in Calvert County and southern Maryland.

**GOAL 3:** Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.

The 2018 LPPRP and the prior two plans are available online <http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/LPPRP>.

### Annual Program Project Selection Process

Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the Calvert County LLPRP 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 LLPRP 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 comprised of the Capital Projects Analyst and representatives from the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Planning & Zoning, and the General Services Division within the Public Works Department. The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether the project is consistent with criteria listed in the Calvert County LLPRP. 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 Improvement Plan for consistency with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. \*The County does not have acquisition projects in the CIP. Those projects are included in the POS plan which is submitted annually to the state.

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Robert S. McCord, Secretary  
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

## Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

July 23, 2021

Ms. Hilary Bell  
Deputy Director, Land Acquisition & Planning Unit  
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Bell:

We have reviewed Calvert County's Fiscal Year 2022 Program Open Space Annual Program. The Annual Program contains the following land acquisition and park development/rehabilitation projects.

Land Acquisition		
Sponsor	Location	Acres
County	A-1 Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites	2
County	A-2 Flag Ponds Nature Park, Addition	70
County	A-3 Patuxent Waterfront Park	60
County	A-4 War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner Trail	32
County	A-5 Parkers Creek Watershed	TBD
County	A-6 Huntingtown Center Park	6
County	A-7 Hallowing Point Park	40
County	A-8 Huntingtown District Park	100
County	A-9 Northeast Sector Park	100
County	A-10 St. Leonard District Park	100
County	A-11 Dunkirk Community Center	1
County	A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition	1.1
County	A-17 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	6.2
County	A-18 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail	209+
County	A-19 Parks with Water Access	TBD
County	A-21 Shared Use Trails	TBD
County	A-22 Natural Resources Expanded Protection	200+
County	A-28 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed	200+
County	A-12 Chesapeake Railroad Right-of-way – requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-13 North Beach 2nd & Greenwood Pocket Park—requested by municipality	0.125
County	A-14 North Beach Town Park—requested by municipality	.30
County	A-15 North Beach Nature Trail (A & B) System—requested by municipality	19.71

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County	A-20 North Beach Community Garden—requested by municipality	1
County	A-23 Old Bayside Road Trail—requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-25 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch—requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-29 Bayside Walkway and Overlook	TBD
County	A-30 Public Outlooks	TBD

Park Development/ Rehabilitation		
Sponsor	Location	Project
County	D-3 Dunkirk District Park	Design of tennis pickleball complex, replacement playground and splash pad
County	D-4 Cove Point District Park	Upgrades to Cove Point Pool – replace decking
County	D-6 Dominion Energy Regional Park	Phased construction of Park based on master plan recommendations
County	D-7 Harriet E. Brown Community Center	Design
County	D-9 Breezy Point Beach Park and Campground	Protective breakwaters and beach restoration, drainage improvements, construction of new office, replacement/extension of fishing pier, replacement of seawall in campground
County	D-11 Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	Design of new clubhouse
County	D-15 Kings Landing Park	Provide parking, new management and/or strategic plan
County	D-16 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center	Existing interior and exterior exhibits to be renovated, new exhibits to be developed including design, fabrication and installation, stormwater management for drive and parking area, exterior signage and trail improvements, boardwalk repairs, development of an ADA compliant trail.
County	D-23 Flag Ponds Nature Park	Exhibit design plan for construction of interpretive resources of the park
County	D-30 Gatewood Preserve	Upgrades to existing pier, improve ADA access, floating dock, convert residence into nature center
County	D-2 Hallowing Point District Park	Construction of restroom (replacement)
County	D-8 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	Improvements to the natural surface trails, development of the Battle Creek boardwalk, and construction of barns and other farm buildings
County	D-10b Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail - Calvert	Continuation of rail trail development
County	D-12 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail (Prince Frederick portion)	Develop pedestrian/bicycle trail
County	D-18 Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park	Phase I construction
County	D-22 Shared Use, Natural Surface Trails County-wide	Trail plans at existing facilities and new locations
County	D-27 Water Access-Boating, Fishing, and Crabbing	Repair, renovate existing facilities and construct new structures
County	D-29 Main Street Green Space	Develop sidewalk, recreational amenities, and connections to shopping center
County	D-31 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed	Develop nature trail system and associated facilities
County	D-32 King Calvert Rural Legacy	Develop natural surface trails and elevated boardwalks, create a nature play space and outdoor classroom
County	D-32 Paved Shared Use Trails County Wide	Feasibility studies, planning studies
County	D-10a Fishing Creek Park and Chesapeake	Master connectivity plan completed in 2021

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	Beach Railway Trail – requested by municipality	incorporates expansion of trails and neighborhood greenways that connect to the railway trail by boardwalk, sidewalk, and foot paths
County	D-19 Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park – requested by municipality	Town and ACE restoring wetlands for recreation, wildlife observation, photograph, flood control, etc.
County	D-20 North Beach 2nd and Greenwood Pocket Park – requested by municipality	Playground equipment, water fountain, park benches
County	D-21 Sunrise Garden – requested by municipality	Maintenance, enhancement, and improvements to park
County	D-24 Old Bayside Road Trail Phase I and II – requested by municipality	Phase I - creation of first 1,500 feet of trail; Phase II – creation of additional 3,500’ of trail
County	D-26 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch	Create canoe and kayak launch
County	D-34 Chesapeake Beach Senior Playgrounds – requested by municipality	Newly renamed “Miller-Loveless Park at Kellam’s Field” to include green space, stormwater buffer gardens, shade structures, revitalized play area for children and designated low impact work out area for adults
County	D-37 B Street Overlook – requested by municipality	Create outlook

Most of the acquisition and development projects have appeared in previous Annual Programs and appeared in the “Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation” table of Calvert County’s 2013 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) or Appendix G “Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program” of the 2017 LPPRP. The following acquisition and development projects are not included:

- A-21 Shared Use Trails, A-23 Old Bayside Road Trail, and A-29 Bayside Walkway and Overlook. These projects are consistent with Goal 2 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*Develop an interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the County to link together places people live, work, play, and visit in Calvert County and Southern Maryland.*”
- A-22 Natural Resources Protection – Acquisition of lands to support the conservation and stewardship of the County’s natural heritage and provide increased capacity to offer compatible outdoor recreation opportunities at existing county owned and managed facilities. This is consistent with the 2017 LPPRP strategies to “*target areas that need to be protected...increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection...*”.
- A-28 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed and D-31 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed – The acquisition of the undeveloped forests of the Upper Hellen Creek Watershed were identified as a priority to develop a natural trail system and associated facilities. This is consistent with Goal 2 (noted above) and the strategy to “*target areas that need to be protected...*”.
- A-30 Public Outlooks (overlooks) and D-37 B Street Overlook (Town of Chesapeake Beach) – This is consistent with Goal 3 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay...*”.
- D-6 Dominion Energy Regional Park – In FY2018 the County acquired through donation, 100 acres in Lusby. Combined with 79 acres already owned by the County, this location will be a future regional park. The regional master plan project was initiated in FY2019 and was adopted in August 2020. In FY2021, a multi-phase plan was developed for a shared use natural surface trail system. Development of this park is consistent with Goal 1 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*continue to maintain and develop parks, recreation*

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*facilities, and programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing population...” and to “target the development of any new indoor and outdoor sports fields or courts, and/or other active recreation components in or near town centers.”*

In accordance with Natural Resources Article 5-905(b)(3), Calvert County has requested \$25,000 of its acquisition funds to be used for LPPRP update planning purposes.

While prior LPPRP’s have included acquisition and municipal projects, the 2017 LPPRP did not include either in Appendix G “Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program”. Planning recommends that both be included in the next update of the LPPRP.

By enhancing parks and recreation facilities for its population, Calvert County’s 2022 POS Annual Program supports Maryland’s twelve Planning Visions, state and county goals for parks and recreation, and local comprehensive plans.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Deborah Herr Comwell, PLA, ASLA, CC-P©  
Resource Conservation Planner, Planning

cc: Chuck Boyd, Jason Dubow, and Sarah Lipkin Sularz: Planning  
Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE, Director Calvert County Parks & Recreation

**APPENDIX F: PARKS & REC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND PARKS AND RECREATION	PROJECT NUMBER	PRIORITY	REC/ NON-REC	SHORT-TERM		MID-RANGE		LONG-RANGE		TOTAL FY 2023 - FY 2028	CAPITAL PROJECT FUND
				FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028		
<b>Parks, Pools &amp; Community Centers</b>											
Baseball/Softball Field infield Renovations	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$504,000	\$491,000	\$0	\$995,000	Baseball/Softball Field infield Renovations
BGE Field	4340	1	NON-REC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	BGE Field
<b>Broomes Island Recreation Area</b>											
Playground Equipment Replacement	4342	2	NON-REC	\$95,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,000	Playground Equipment Replacement
<b>Breezy Point</b>											
Shoreline Restoration	432202	1	NON-REC	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000	Shoreline Restoration
Parking and Drainage	TBD	1	NON-REC	\$0	\$0	\$875,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$875,000	Parking and Drainage
Seawall Replacement	TBD	2	NON-REC	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	Seawall Replacement
Building Additions & Upgrades	TBD	2	NON-REC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,000	\$455,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	Building Additions & Upgrades
Fencing	TBD	3	REC	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Fencing
Pier Extension	TBD	3	REC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$285,000	\$285,000	Pier Extension
Breezy Point - Camping Pump out Station	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	Breezy Point - Camping Pump out Stations
<b>Field Lighting Program</b>											
Fencing and Backstops	431301	1	REC	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	Field Lighting Program
	431300	1		\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$400,000	Fencing and Backstops
<b>Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</b>											
Course Renovations	4312	1	NON-REC	\$200,000	\$289,000	\$320,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$1,759,000	
<b>Cove Point Park</b>											
Cove Point Pool Improvements shading/repairs	4310	2	REC	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$850,000	Cove Point Pool Improvements shading/repairs
CPP Park improvements based on Masterplan	4310			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	CPP Park improvements based on Masterplan
CPP Storm Water				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	CPP Storm Water
<b>Dominion Energy Park (Offsite area A)</b>											
	431400	1		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Dominion Energy Park (Offsite area A)
<b>Dunkirk District Park</b>											
Splashpad	431602	3	NON-REC	\$400,000	\$2,185,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,585,000	Splashpad
Stormwater conveyance repair	4316			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$144,000	\$0	\$144,000	Stormwater conveyance repair
Pathway lights	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$430,000	\$430,000	Pathway lights
Restroom (new)	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Restroom (new)
<b>Hall Aquatic Center - HVAC</b>											
	4750	3	NON-REC	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000,000	Hall Aquatic Center - HVAC
<b>Hall Aquatic - Pool Improvements</b>											
	4750			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	Hall Aquatic - Pool Improvements
<b>Hall Aquatic Center - Replaster Pool</b>											
	4750			\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Hall Aquatic Center - Replaster Pool
<b>Hall Aquatic - Roof</b>											
	4750			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,100,000	Hall Aquatic - Roof
<b>Hall Aquatics - Stormwater</b>											
				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	Hall Aquatics - Stormwater
<b>Hallowing Point Park</b>											
Basketball Courts	4320	2	NON-REC	\$0	\$857,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$857,000	Basketball Courts
Drainage for Fields 11-12	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Drainage for Fields 11-12
Paved Pathway and Lights	4320			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$921,000	\$0	\$0	\$921,000	Paved Pathway and Lights
2nd Entrance				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	2nd Entrance
Stormwater conveyance repair	4320			\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	Stormwater conveyance repair
<b>Kings Landing</b>											
Pool Improvements	TBD	2	REC	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	Pool Improvements
<b>Marley Run Erosion Control</b>											
	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,075,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,075,000	Marley Run Erosion Control
<b>Southern Community Center Playground</b>											
	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	Southern Community Center Playground
<b>Solomons Water Access</b>											
	TBD			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Solomons Water Access
<b>Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park</b>											
				\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$8,000,000	Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
Harriet E Brown Comm Center (Watson)	4338			\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000	Harriet E Brown Comm Center (Watson)
<b>Total Parks, Pools &amp; Community Centers</b>				\$10,915,000	\$5,752,000	\$4,925,000	\$4,345,000	\$2,880,000	\$7,325,000	\$36,142,000	<b>Total Parks, Pools &amp; Community Centers</b>
				23	24	25	26	27	28	ENTERED INTO MASTER SHEET 9.23.21	
<b>FY22 Adopted Budget</b>				\$5,478,100	\$3,667,000	\$1,650,000	\$4,010,000	\$2,901,000	\$0	\$17,706,100	<b>Total of FY21 Adopted Budget for Parks &amp; Recreation</b>

Project Name	PROJECT NUMBER	SHORT-TERM		MID-RANGE		LONG-RANGE		TOTAL FY 2022 - 2027		
		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028			
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>										
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>										
<b>Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center</b>										<b>Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center</b>
Exhibit Renovation	4451	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	Exhibit Renovation
Building Renovation	4451	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Building Renovation
Boardwalk	4451	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	Boardwalk
Stormwater Management	4451	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Stormwater Management
Aging Infrastructure	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Aging Infrastructure
Swamp Pond Repairs	4451									Swamp Pond Repairs
<b>Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm</b>										<b>Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm</b>
Master Plan Implementation	4455	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Master Plan Implementation
George Rice House	4455	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	George Rice House
Stormwater Management	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Stormwater Management
<b>Countywide Nature Trails</b>	4461	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	<b>Countywide Nature Trails</b>
<b>Flags Ponds Nature Park</b>										<b>Flags Ponds Nature Park</b>
Beach Shelter	4453									Beach Shelter
Boardwalks	4453	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	Boardwalks
Exhibits	4453	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Exhibits
Aging Infrastructure	TBD	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Aging Infrastructure
Roadway & Stormwater	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Roadway & Stormwater
Fishing Shanty	4453									Fishing Shanty
<b>Hughes Tree Farm</b>										<b>Hughes Tree Farm</b>
Aging Infrastructure	4450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Aging Infrastructure
<b>Kings Landing Park</b>										<b>Kings Landing Park</b>
Cabins and Campgrounds	4452	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Cabins and Campgrounds
Trails and Boardwalk	4452	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	Trails and Boardwalk
Visitor Services & Event Improvements	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$725,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$725,000	Visitor Services & Event Improvements
Aging Infrastructure	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Aging Infrastructure
Stormwater Systems	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	Stormwater Systems
<b>Gatewood Preserve</b>										<b>Gatewood Preserve</b>
Property Improvements	4458	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	Property Improvements
Stormwater Replacement	TBD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	Stormwater Replacement
<b>Subtotal Natural Resources</b>		<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$825,000</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,045,000</b>	<b>Subtotal Natural Resources</b>
<b>FY21 Adopted Budget</b>		<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$340,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$825,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$1,615,000</b>	No Calculation
<b>Difference FY21 to FY22</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>				<b>\$180,000</b>	Calculation

## APPENDIX G: FY2021 PARKS AND RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a list of the county's Parks and Recreation accomplishments for FY2021:

- Completed internal process to become an accredited Parks and Recreation Agency.
- Launched Department of Parks & Recreation Instagram page.
- Launched Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Facebook page.
- Adopted Master Plan for Dominion Energy Regional Park and updated Master Plan for Cove Point Park.
- Transitioned the playing surface on some fields at Solomons Town Center Park, Cove Point Park, and Dunkirk Park from Bermuda to a mixed stand of Bermuda and Kentucky Bluegrass called "Bluemuda" and were the first to pioneer this system in the region.
- Established walking trail with water view access at Solomons Town Center Park.
- Hired department's first Park Planner.
- Created Aquatic Maintenance Mechanic position.
- Added four pickleball courts to tennis courts at Hallowing Point Park.
- Hosted county's first Pickleball Tournament with 184 matches over a two-day period.
- Hosted Drive-Through Halloween event at Hallowing Point Park (first public event since start of pandemic).
- Staff acted creatively to offer as many experiences as possible to the community through the pandemic for properly distanced in-person activities, from golf course and pool use to outdoor summer camp to a virtual activity center.
- Installed new park signs at back entrance of Hallowing Point Park and Marley Run.
- Installed retaining walls at Marley Run and Cove Park playground to reduce erosion.
- Significantly finished projects scheduled for completion by summer 2021: Dunkirk Playground; irrigation at Hallowing Point fields 7, 8, 9; drainage improvements at Hallowing Point Park field 12; lighting upgrades to Hallowing Point fields 11 and 12 and Cove Point field 1.
- Completed design for Hallowing Point bathroom replacement.
- Installed split-rail fencing at Cove Point Park entrance.
- Registered over 600 individuals for Breezy Point Blast Off for 2021 event.
- BOCC adopted a Special Events Policy.
- BOCC adopted a Volunteer Policy.
- Hosted 29th annual Chesapeake Hills Golf Classic in October 2020; this event was also one of the first golf tournaments hosted locally following COVID-19 protocols.
- Worked collaboratively with the Calvert County Health Department to safely allow sports participants to return to play during the COVID-19 pandemic. Provided guidance to all local youth sports organizations for safe return to play guidelines. Developed a COVID-19 Affidavit for all users to sign in order to utilize facilities.
- Successfully offered a modified fall youth soccer season in 2020. Calvert County was one of the first recreational leagues in the state of Maryland to successfully offer youth soccer to our patrons.
- Sponsored a Pickleball Skills Clinic featuring the #1 Pickleball player in the world and U.S. Pickleball Open winner, Ben Johns. All three sessions of the clinic sold out within weeks of opening registration. The event shined a spotlight on Calvert County and the growing popularity of pickleball.
- With removal of North Beach Recreation Center from the Department of Parks & Recreation inventory, successfully transitioned pickleball to Mt. Hope Community Center.
- Collaborated with the Calvert Marine Museum to provide a "Night at the Museum" event that provided individuals with special needs and their families with exclusive access to the museum and free rides on the Tension boat in October and May.

- Collaborated with Ann Marie Gardens to provide a “Special Needs Night” event that provided individuals with special needs and their families with exclusive access to view the Garden in Lights, as well as provided various holiday activities.
- Collaborated with Calvert County Public Schools Special Education Department a variety of Calvert County Early Intervention Service Agencies to provide a webinar entitled “Effective Collaboration: How Do the Pieces Fit Together?”
- Implemented online reservation system for pool lanes, therapy pool, and basketball reservations at Northeast Community Center.
- Conducted public input process for new Harriet E. Brown Community Center project.
- Completed construction of 40’ x 80’ pole barn at the golf maintenance building.
- Completed construction of restroom on #13 tee box.
- Finished Phase 2 of golf course fencing.
- At Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, increased revenue over the last year by \$300,000 and increased rounds over last year by 8,000.
- Added seven additional golf outings this year and hosted first Department of Parks & Recreation FootGolf Tournament at Chesapeake Hills.
- Continued to pass all inspections for concessions, pools, campgrounds, and child care facilities.
- Increased the number of staff who are certified pool operators, offered multiple lifeguarding certification courses, and increased offerings for water fitness and swim lessons due to demand.
- 343 volunteers recorded 5,076 hours, valued at \$135,986.
- Naturalists led 172 programs attended by 1,260 children and adults.
- Brought on six interns in who helped with education programs—both in-person and virtual research projects and independent projects.
- In coordination with Economic Development, developed Calvert County Birding Trail.
- Created education partnerships with University of Maryland and George Mason University.
- Joined as official partners of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.
- Created and implemented invasive species management plans for Flag Ponds Nature Park and Kings Landing Park.
- Expanded meadow management program with controlled burns and focusing on “Meadow Maze” at Kings Landing Park.
- Created GPS trail routes for Hughes Tree Farm and Gatewood Preserve.
- Repaved Solomons Boat Ramp.
- Natural Resources participated in many research projects, including for American kestrels, saw-whet owls, dragonflies, and monarch butterflies, and has been recognized statewide and regionally for its efforts.
- Natural Resources volunteers responded to 83 calls to capture and transport 20 different species of birds (including a bald eagle), as well as three turtles and a beaver.
- Completed several trail projects at Flag Ponds Nature Park.
- Replaced decking and railing on Kings Landing Pier.

## APPENDIX H: STATEWIDE & CALVERT GOALS

The Strategic Plan of Calvert County outlines goals and objectives that are developed in accordance with the County's Comprehensive Plan, the LPPRP, and State Goals for Parks and Recreation as well as Natural Resource Land Conservation, and Agricultural Land Preservation.

The Recreation & Parks Programming Plan for the Department identifies eight areas that are the departmental goals and objectives that are noted below with some being tied to the goals of the state.

- Meet present and future needs of the community
- Enhance services and facilities
- Improve processes and efficiencies
- Develop collaborative solutions
- Develop engaged citizenry
- Conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources
- Build the team
- Develop skills and competencies

The county continues to develop Town Center plans in which recreation, connectivity, and natural resource amenities have been included. Maintaining a community with an image that is both desirable and preferred for new residents and development while protecting the agricultural lands and natural resources is of great importance to the county and works in synchronicity with the goals of the state. Creating that "fair balance" of a vibrant economy and community while maintaining the historical, agricultural, and natural resources is a priority for the county. Additional objectives of the County can be found in the Calvert County Parks & Recreation Programming and Strategic Plans within Appendix K.

### 1: State Goals for Parks and Recreation

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.

- Use state investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

### 2: State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
  - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
  - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
  - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
  - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands;
  - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
  - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).

- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
  - Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs
  - Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.
  - Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
    - Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
    - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations;
    - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
    - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
    - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.
- 3:** State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation
- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;
  - Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;
  - To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;
  - Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;
  - Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;
  - Work with local governments to achieve the following:
    - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
    - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
    - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
    - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
    - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.

## State Priorities and Goals for the Next Five Years

- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs.
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
  - Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
  - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations;
  - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
  - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
  - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.

### A-3: State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;
- Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;
- Work with local governments to achieve the following:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
  - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
  - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
  - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
  - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and the practice of stewardship, **so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.**

## APPENDIX I-CCPR RECREATION PROGRAMMING PLAN



### Recreation Programming Plan Fiscal Year 2021-2023 July 2020 – June 2023

#### Review of Plan

The review of any plan is an essential component in the overall planning process. CCPR's proactive philosophy anticipates community and constituent needs and budgetary constraints rather than reacting to them. The Recreation Programming Plan will be reviewed and updated as needed by the Recreation Division and department leadership staff every three (3) years.

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Approved by:  
Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE  
Parks and Recreation Director  
July 1, 2020

**Recreation Programming Plan  
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## INTRODUCTION

Calvert County Parks and Recreation (CCPR) operates an extensive recreation program. According to the 2019 attendance records, over 80,000 individuals participated in recreation programs that year and thousands more visit our facilities or attend special events hosted or sponsored by CCPR. Recreation program users consistently give CCPR high marks for both the quality and variety of our offerings.

Key findings in the 2018 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) show that Calvert County residents consider the rural character, natural landscape and waterways, as well as having parks and opportunities for recreation close to home as significant contributors to their high quality of life. This sentiment and commitment to enhancing these local attributes for the public benefit are essential components of the county's guiding plans and documents and are supported by the key findings of the planning process. Key findings represent the synthesis of all data collection and analysis and serve as the basis of the goals and recommendations presented for enhancing parks, recreation and open space experiences for the public in Calvert County over the next five years.

CCPR is far from alone in the provision of recreation programs. Residents have ready access to a wide variety of recreational opportunities offered by other public agencies, private non-profit organizations and private for-profit companies. An inventory of community resources resulted in a list of over 100 different recreation providers offering services to Calvert County residents. Recognizing that CCPR is one provider among many, the Recreation Program Plan defines CCPR's role as a recreation provider within this system. The Plan establishes a set of priorities for CCPR and sets a pricing policy to guide the investment of public resources in support of recreation programs.

To provide program-level analysis and short-term strategic direction, CCPR maintains a compilation of Core Program plans focused on specific divisions, facilities, and programs. These plans are updated as necessary to support a relevant and effective response to ever-changing community needs. The last step in the planning process is a series of Program Plans that guide the creation of programs to show the need, goals, benefits, and continuance determination. These plans are an outgrowth of the higher-level planning documents and include performance measures that are continually tracked for evaluation purposes.

This document is structured to progress from the general to the specific. The Recreation Program Plan works in conjunction with other key CCPR documents, including the LPPRP, Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 82 of Calvert County Code, CCPR Marketing and Outreach Plan, and CCPR Strategic Plan. The opening sections discuss the role that recreation plays in the community and the nature of CCPR's existing recreation system. This is followed by a discussion of the vision and principles which have guided plan development. The next section describes overarching goals for CCPR's involvement as a recreation provider. Finally, the document outlines actions to undertake and implement these policies.

**Calvert County, Maryland**

This demographic profile was completed using the most updated information available as of April 2017 from the Maryland Department of Planning State Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. A minor inconsistency in the estimated total population of the county in 2015 was noted between the American Community Survey (total population estimate: 90,114) and Maryland Department of Planning Community Survey (total population estimate: 91,650). A summary of demographic highlights is noted below, followed by a more detailed demographic analysis.

**2015 Calvert County General Demographic Profile 2015**

Population 91,650  
 Median Age 40.6  
 Households 31,155  
 Median Household Income \$95,828

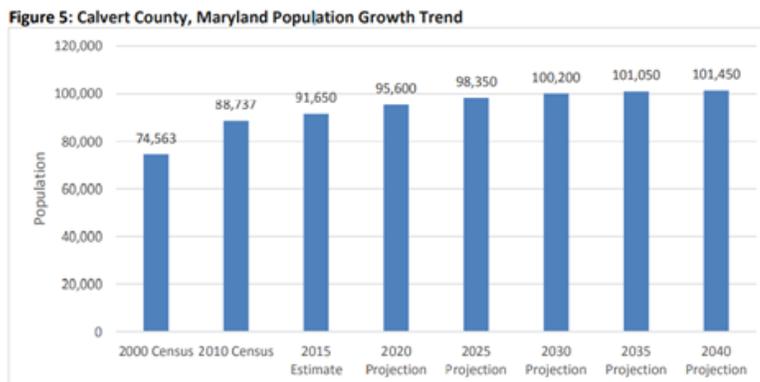
Source: Maryland Department of Planning and American Community Survey

**Key general 2015 demographic comparisons – County, State, and National:**

- The median age of Calvert County residents was 40.6 years, higher than the median age for Maryland (38.4) and slightly higher than median age in the United States (37.6).
- The median household income for Calvert County residents in 2015 was estimated to be \$95,828. This is higher than both the median incomes of residents statewide (\$74,551) and nationally (\$53,889).
- Almost evenly split, Calvert County’s estimated population residents was male (49 percent) and female (51 percent). The populations of Maryland (48.4 male, and 51.6 percent female), and the United States (49.2 percent male and 50.8 percent female), are also roughly evenly divided between the sexes.

**Population and Demographic Trends Population Projections**

Although Calvert County cannot predict future population growth with certainty, it helps to make growth projections for planning purposes. Figure 5 from the LPPRP contains actual population figures based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census for Calvert County, the 2015 estimated population from the Maryland Department of Planning, and population projections through 2040 from the Maryland Department of Planning. Based on this data, the county’s population has been experiencing steady growth, with this trend predicted to continue through 2040. Between 2015 and 2025, the Maryland Department of Planning has projected Calvert County’s population to increase by 6,700 new residents with an annual growth rate of less than one percent.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, and Maryland Department of Planning

## CCPR Department Overview

CCPR's Recreation Programming Plan is an essential tool in assessing current and future:

- Program and facility viability;
- Constituent support;
- Sources of revenue to support programs and services including grants, public and private partnerships; and
- Program and facility analysis and evaluation.

The wide range of recreation programs and services provided by CCPR has been developed in accordance with the Department's vision, mission and values.

### Vision

The Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation strives to enhance the health, economy and well-being of our community through sustainable practices, leisure opportunities and environmental stewardship.

### Mission

In partnership with Calvert County residents, the Department of Parks and Recreation cultivates programs, parks and services that positively impact quality of life; preserve natural and cultural resources; promote economic stability; and satisfy community needs for opportunities in recreation, wellness, knowledge, and connecting with nature.

### Values

The department values being able to SERVE. The acronym SERVE means many things, for CCPR it provides the guiding principles for the Department's values which focus on the following:

- **Sustainability:** The act of safeguarding people and property, caring for resources, preserving nature and quality of life, economic stability, conservation of our landscapes and wildlife, efficiency in our work and stewardship to the community.
- **Engagement:** Being energized about what we do, involved in our community and in improving our work, being positive, motivated to meet the needs of our community and fellow employees, and working collaboratively to find solutions.
- **Respect:** Showing appreciation for support, considerate and empathetic to those that need our assistance, cooperative in our daily interactions, and by being perceptive and proactive to a possible need.
- **Vision:** The act of being innovative, enthusiastic, forward thinking with a knowledge of the overall mission and vision of the Department.
- **Excellence:** Providing quality programs and services, showing integrity in all that we do, taking ownership of the good and the bad, being transparent and accountable for our actions.

### ADA Statement

Calvert County Government complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Calvert County makes reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements.

### Organizational Philosophy

The philosophy of CCPR is to offer year-round diversified recreation services and to ensure that all citizens have equal opportunity for participation. The department keeps pace with the recreational needs of its constituents and responds positively to citizen input. In spite of the rapid growth of Calvert County, we continue to strike a balance between development and the protection of natural resources. Our parks are filled with people who reflect the demographics of Calvert County. Their participation fosters in them a sense of ownership in our community; which in turn, generates social involvement and environmental stewardship. Our department values professionalism, family centeredness, safety, and fiscal responsibility.

The department's philosophy for cost recovery is to meet the recreational needs of Calvert County in the most effective and efficient manner possible ensuring that all residents have equal opportunity and choice in participation, while providing those services at an appropriate cost. Residents and visitors to our park facilities interact with first-rate employees who practice fiscal responsibility with county resources in their everyday work. Our facilities and programs enjoy brand recognition and institutional status among the variety of recreational opportunities available within the County.

## Core Programs

The Department is a complex organization with four divisions that provides community programming; Natural Resources, Parks & Safety, Recreation, and Special Facilities.

### Natural Resources Division

Dedicated to preserve, manage and operate natural resource areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. Calvert County nature parks are peerless examples of the ecological diversity found in the Southern Maryland Region. Each offers significant opportunities for outdoor learning and recreation. Nature parks offer the opportunity for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, boating, agricultural heritage, and exploration.

Natural Resources partners with the following:

- **Calvert Nature Society** is a 501c3 "friends" group that supports the Division
- **CHESPAX** environmental education programs for grades K, 1, 3, & 5
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **Chesapeake Bay Gateways** Network

### Parks & Safety Division

CCPR supports and maintains 40 properties and 22 school recreation facilities totaling 2,293.53 acres. As noted in the 2017 LPPRP, Calvert County park facilities fall into nine categories and include: Mini Parks (1), Neighborhood Parks (3), Community Parks (7), District Parks (3), Regional Parks (1), School Recreation Parks (22), Special Use Areas (13), Open Space/Natural Resource Lands (10), Undeveloped Sites (4). *Note: that the number of sites listed may differ from the total number of parks as more than one category may be applicable to a single facility.*

- **Mini Parks-** The smallest designation of county designated park types. Mini parks are generally one acre or less in size and designed to address a location specific recreation need. This includes the Solomons Mini-Park & Comfort Station.
- **Neighborhood Parks-** These are designed to be the recreational and social hub of a neighborhood and include small open space areas and/or developed recreation facilities. These parks are generally less than ten acres in size. This includes Broomes Island School, King Memorial Park, and Twin Shields Recreation Area.
- **Community Parks-** These parks are designed to meet the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving open spaces and natural landscapes. They typically include athletic fields for sports as well as playgrounds, picnic facilities, basketball and tennis courts, dog parks and trails for hiking and cycling. This includes Solomons Town Center Park, Grays Road Dog Park, Grover Field, Marley Run Recreational Area, Kellams Field, Twin Shields Recreation Area, and BGE Field.
- **District Parks-** These facilities not only draw visitors from Calvert County but also attract tourists from outside the county and state. They are designed to serve as large, active recreation hubs in each of Calvert County's three election districts. These sites provide fields, courts, and associated recreation infrastructure for team and individual sports and recreation activities. These parks include Dunkirk District Park, Hallowing Point Park, and Cove Point Park. All three facilities boast multiple athletic fields, tennis, pickleball and basketball courts, playgrounds and picnic areas.
- **Regional Parks-** These parks are designed to serve the needs of a large portion of the county and provide developed recreation facilities, such as sports fields and associated

- infrastructure, and/or preserved natural areas and open spaces. Regional parks are generally larger than 50 acres in size. This includes Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park.
- School Recreation Parks- These facilities are the portion of a school or public educational institution available for public recreation use outside of normal school operating hours and usage. Limitations on public access and use varies by school site in accordance with agreements with the Calvert County Board of Education and CCPR. This includes twenty-two (22) sites for indoor recreation activities, and eleven (11) sites for outdoor recreation activities.
  - Special Use Areas- Facilities that serve a specific, single purpose. These sites include facilities such as pools, campgrounds, boat ramps, community centers and golf courses. Some of these facilities are relied on to be at least partially self-sufficient and produce enough revenue to not adversely impact ad valorem tax dollars. Those facilities include Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Breezy Point Beach & Campground, all aquatic facilities and concessions.
  - Open Space/Natural Resource Lands- by protecting the forests, waterways, and other habitats, these parks provide opportunities for the public to explore, discover and learn about the natural heritage of the county. These areas preserve natural systems, unique landscapes, and/or local areas of unique social or ecological value. These areas offer outdoor recreation opportunities compatible with the natural landscape, cultural heritage, and ecological values of the site. These include Kings Landing Park, Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, Gatewood Preserve, Hutchins Pond, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Nan's Cove, and Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park.
  - Undeveloped Sites- These properties are acquisitions that are planned to become future park facilities when funding is available for development. These include Dominion Energy Regional Park.

### Recreation Division

#### Community Centers

Throughout the county, seven community centers provide indoor space for our community members to utilize for pursuing programs and services to meet their health, recreational and leisure needs. Rooms are available to reserve by the community for special events and meetings. Recreation Coordinators and community center staff organize programs in each district to meet the needs of our community. Community centers are organized by districts, to include:

- Northern District - supported by Northeast Community Center and North Beach Recreation Center.
- Central District - supported by Mt. Hope Community Center, Harriett Elizabeth Brown Community Center and the Phillips House.
- Southern District - supported by Southern Community Center and the Dowell House.

#### Sports, Community & Well Being

The Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being not only organizes youth and adult sports leagues, but also develops new programs and events that engage people of all ages in being more active and living healthier. This office oversees the following:

- Sports leagues for youth and adults;

- Picnic reservations at county parks;
- Athletic field reservations at county parks (47 fields) and public elementary and middle schools (35 fields);
- 12 Tennis/Pickleball Court reservations and programming;
- Background screenings for volunteer coaches; and
- Sports classes, programs and camps.

#### **Therapeutic Recreation Services**

Provides recreation opportunities for community members with disabilities, to provide the following:

- Enhance self-awareness and community resource exploration;
- Promote independence through personal choice of leisure pursuits;
- Provide participants with a sense of enjoyment, satisfaction and fulfillment while participating in community recreation programs; and
- Provide recreation programs that encourage activity, skill development and socialization.

#### **Events and Marketing**

The Events and Marketing Coordinator oversees external special events on county property; plans and manages county events; facilitates marketing for CCPR; solicits sponsorships and is responsible for public/customer relations. Special event oversight includes assisting external departments, agencies, or citizens with the special event permitting process and ensuring compliance with policies and procedures before, during and after events. County event planning and management encompasses the development, planning and execution of signature large scale events intended for a countywide audience. In conjunction with the county's Communications and Media Relations Office, the coordinator promotes CCPR's facilities, programs, activities and events through social, print and other media outlets and manages department website content. The coordinator develops sponsorship opportunities and solicits sponsors to support department initiatives, programs and facilities. For both special events related concerns, comments and questions submitted through social media platforms, the coordinator serves as the department's primary point of contact for public/customer relations and is accountable for responding and following up to these inquiries.

## Special Facilities Division

### Aquatics

CCPR Aquatics facilities include one indoor aquatic facility and two seasonal outdoor aquatic facilities. The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, located in Prince Frederick, is the only indoor competition pool in Calvert County and is open year-round. In a central area of Calvert County, this pool features a 50-meter by 25-yard competition pool, leisure pool with water slides and a heated therapy pool. Cove Point Pool, located in Lusby, is an outdoor seasonal pool. This pool, in the southern area of Calvert County, features a lap pool, wading pool, and leisure pool with water slides. Kings Landing Pool is an outdoor seasonal pool located within a nature park in Huntingtown, in the county's northern area.

### Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

Designed by Jim Thompson, Chesapeake Hills opened in 1968, the course features Bermuda grass fairways on gently rolling hills surrounded by towering trees. Several lakes and creeks meander through the course, providing scenic beauty and golfing challenges. This facility is located in Lusby, in the southern area of the county and is the only golf course, public or private, in Calvert County. The Chesapeake Hills course features 6,545 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 72.3 based on difficulty for scratch (on par or better) golfers and it has a slope rating of 126. For reference, a golf course of standard playing difficulty has a slope rating of 113, and slope ratings range from a minimum of 55 (very easy) to a maximum of 155 (extremely difficult).

### Breezy Point Beach and Campground

On the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, this facility features a half-mile of sandy beach with netted swimming areas, 200-foot fishing pier, playground, concession stand, camp store, bathhouses, grills, shaded picnic areas, as well as 72 seasonal and 17 daily campsites. Breezy Point is located in Chesapeake Beach, in the northern area of the county. The facility is open May-October for daily admissions and camping.

### Concessions: Countywide

Multiple CCPR facilities feature concessions. Concessions at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course through the restaurant and bar are year-round, while Breezy Point Beach and Aquatic concessions are seasonal operations. A broad spectrum of concessions within our parks has moved to food trucks, with consideration to expand that opportunity to other athletic fields. In 2018, a Concessions Manager was hired to address upgrading the food service structures at all facilities into a comprehensive concession program.

## Community Opportunities/Participant Involvement

Recreation is an essential service in establishing and maintaining a healthy and livable community. Availability and accessibility to recreational opportunities provide a host of positive benefits and outcomes. Programming and facilities that promote physical and mental wellbeing, that bring citizens together in positive, supportive and fun environments, and create memorable experiences for families are critical to the future of the community.

In order for CCPR to provide quality facilities, programs and services, a service delivery model is used. This model recognizes CCPR's goals. In order to meet these goals, in some cases, CCPR will serve as a direct provider of programs, services and facilities. In other instances, CCPR will serve as a facilitator for the development and/or provision of programs and services. Occasionally, CCPR will encourage outreach through partnerships with existing agencies to offer programs and services. As a direct provider, facilitator, or through community partnerships and outreach, CCPR will consider the most effective, efficient and expedient delivery of services to the County. This model of delivery provides a sustainable framework from which to operate.

### **Self-directed Programs and Services**

CCPR offers a wide variety of opportunities for self-directed recreation to Calvert County residents and visitors. CCPR park facilities provide recreation space and equipment that allows patrons to choose activities that meet their recreational needs and personal interests. The CCPR website and interactive maps assist the public in the search for facilities that have specific amenities that fit their interests or which location is convenient for them (Appendix G).

### **Leader Directed Programs and Services**

CCPR offers a variety of leader-directed programs and services. Through this type of programming, CCPR is able to impart knowledge, information, values and skills of the leader to those individuals participating in these types of programs. These programs and more are advertised in the quarterly CCPR Activity Guide.

### **Facilitated Programs and Services**

CCPR's long history of facilitating programs stems from members of the community who want to offer recreational programming where there is a mutual benefit to both CCPR and to the community to have such offerings. Where physical resources lack, CCPR will contemplate all available opportunities to collaborate and partner with individuals, community groups, and organizations to complement existing recreational opportunities.

Though there are times when it may be best suited for CCPR to be the provider of certain offerings, there are many times when CCPR is better suited as the facilitator. This is where members of the community are encouraged to come forward and act as program providers. In addition, CCPR promotes contracted instructor programs by listing them in the CCPR Activity Guide.

### **Cooperative Programming**

CCPR understands the need for cooperative programming and strives to meet the needs of the community through increased leisure and recreational opportunities. These collaborations are essential to provide additional recreational, cultural, environmental and educational activities to the community.

### **Outreach to Diverse Underserved Populations**

While Calvert County is considered an affluent area of Maryland, there are pockets of communities that are considered underserved and the focus of many of our programs and services. Calvert County has identified multiple barriers that may prevent certain populations from participating in programs and services. Below are examples of ways that CCPR has addressed these barriers:

- *Financial Barriers* – Inability to pay for services
- *Geographic Barrier* – Distance between the desired program or service and the home
- *Cultural Barriers* – Lack of opportunities to celebrate cultural heritage
- *Social Barrier* – Lack of desired programs or services
- *Physical Barrier* – physical, social or mental challenges that may inhibit participation in a program or service

### **Community Education for The Leisure Process**

CCPR educates the community about the importance of constructive leisure time and the value of parks and recreation to individuals through a variety of formal instruction and informal contacts with community members. In collaboration with the Calvert County Department of Communications and Media Relations and Department of Economic Development, CCPR has assisted in the production of programming that showcases destinations, events and things to do in Calvert County including and highlighting CCPR parks. Samples of these include the Calvert County Visitor Guide, promotional Zoom backgrounds, and productions by the State of Maryland on scenic byways. CCPR partnered with CMR's Tourism Specialist to introduce Mason Dixon Outdoor Travel Writers Association to the nature parks and eco-tourism opportunities.

CCPR endeavors to educate the community about the importance of leisure through regularly disseminated brochures, press releases, special events, public presentations, and other creative outlets. The CCPR Activity Guide, published four times a year, is available online and at all community centers, the main office, the indoor aquatic center. It is also mailed to all Calvert County households which is approximately 40,000 homes. CCPR has developed a Marketing and Outreach Plan that was adopted in 2019 to address needs in regard to educating the public about CCPR programs, offerings and mission.

### **Community Health and Wellness Education and Promotion**

In an effort to promote health and wellness in Calvert County and build a healthier community, CCPR has developed and implemented a variety of strategies and programs not only for County residents and visitors, but for County employees as well. Within the Recreation Division of CCPR is the office of Sports, Community & Well-being. This office serves as the liaison for wellbeing activities with CCPR. This office offers many activities benefiting health & wellness to include:

- Employee Wellness
- Summer Camp Programs
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Senior Services

### **Change Dynamics**

The department maintains a complete inventory of parks, with acreages, park type designation, and facilities. This inventory is reviewed annually and updated as needed to include every five years as a part of the LPPRP. In addition, the department uses standards per capita based on acres or drive time for specific facilities as benchmarks to inventory fields, courts, etc., and assess need. These are generally established in accordance with state and national standards.

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan establishes goals, objectives, and policies to guide development. Several elements of the Comprehensive Plan impact and are impacted by department services and facilities. These elements include land and water resources, which encourages the preservation, protection, and conservation of natural resources; recreation, which encourages the development of trails, water access, and a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs; and public facilities and general services, which provides for public facilities to support planned growth and ensure that buildings and grounds are built with multiple public uses in mind.

## Connection to Strategic Plan

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan outlines the general management, assesses the business climate, addresses goals and objectives as well as outlines resources for the Department. The Strategic Plan is developed in accordance with the Calvert County Strategic Plan, Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, and the LPPRP. The Strategic Plan is updated every five (5) years by the Parks & Recreation Director and leadership staff. The Strategic Plan identifies the Department's top priorities and is also reviewed annually by leadership staff in order to make mid-course corrections if needed. This allows for the opportunity to re-evaluate various components of the Plan and revise plans and systems in order to provide for synchronicity in all County efforts.

The plan identifies eight areas that are the departmental goals and Objectives:

- Meet Present and Future Needs of Community
- Enhance Services and Facilities
- Improve Processes and Efficiencies
- Develop Collaborative Solutions
- Develop Engaged Citizenry
- Conserve, Protect, and Enhance Natural Resources
- Build the Team
- Develop Skills and Competencies

### **Meet Present and Future Needs of Community**

- Complete master plan development for properties known as “Offsite Area A” and the “Watson Property.” Mid Term
- Update master plan for Cove Point Park. Short Term
- Develop a priority list for updates to remaining park master plans and begin implementation of updating plans. Mid Term
- Complete Phase 1 construction at Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park and begin design of Phase 2. Long Term
- Complete Chesapeake Hills Golf Course renovation master plan. Long Term
- Develop and construct a clubhouse building and course restroom facilities at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course. Long Term
- Explore options to expand Capital Outlay budget, equipment replacement and deferred maintenance funding. Mid Term
- Explore non-traditional funding opportunities department-wide. On Going
- Produce an optimum mix of programming that provides for all recreation needs of the community creating lifelong participants. On Going

### **Enhance Services and Facilities**

- Establish and utilize customer satisfaction surveys for all facilities and programs with annual analysis of results. On Going
- Develop a special events program to address permitting special events within Calvert County. Mid Term
- Develop plan for consistency and efficacy of park informational and wayfinding signage. Mid Term
- Increase the quality, playability, and safety of the playing surfaces throughout the parks through better drainage, irrigation, specialized equipment and properly trained

staff. On Going

- Provide more opportunities for modern day sports enthusiasts such as Pickleball, futsal, e-sports, cycling, and more. On Going
- Explore opportunities for more year around activities and amenities. Mid Term
- Develop and implement plan to install outdoor lighting structures at more fields to increase playability. Long Term
- Assess accessibility for participants of all ability levels to program opportunities and develop plan for accommodation. Long Term
- Develop trail system at Hughes Tree Farm. Short Term
- Install the floating dock at Lower Marlboro wharf. Short Term
- Complete the renovations at Solomons Boat Ramp for improved ADA boating and kayak access. Short Term
- Provide youth group rentals of the cabins at Kings Landing Park. Short Term

#### **Improve Processes and Efficiencies**

- Identify and obtain more avenues for staff to become and stay connected to intranet/internet to achieve efficiencies and improve processes and customer service. Mid Term
- Develop a parks & recreation chapter within the Calvert County Code of Public Laws. Mid Term
- Maintain childcare, pesticide, pool, alcohol, and other certifications and licenses. On Going
- Maintain compliance with federal, state, and county agency standards at golf course, aquatic facilities, concessions and child care facilities (summer camps). On Going
- Develop comprehensive policies and procedures manual and review annually. Short Term
- Develop “Revenue & Fee” policy and manual with annual review to maximize cost recovery while meeting the needs of the community for affordable services. Mid Term
- Create consistency throughout the department in relation to forms, applications, customer service, and available avenues for participation. On Going
- Expand program evaluation process to ensure the best use of staff time and funding. Short Term

#### **Develop Collaborative Solutions**

- Develop collaborative marketing strategies with the Departments of Communication & Media Relation and Economic Development. On Going
- Maximize recreation, leisure, and health opportunities and leverage funding opportunities through cooperative partnerships. On Going
- Work with schools for community service hours / volunteer hours. On Going
- Fully implement the Youth Sports Provider Program. Mid Term
- Submit application and work collaboratively with all county departments to become a CAPRA accredited agency. Long Term
- In collaboration with Community Services, develop a strategy to increase transportation opportunities to park facilities through the county. Mid Term

#### **Develop Engaged Citizenry**

- Develop a comprehensive marketing and branding plan to guide the efforts of the Department. Short Term

- Develop outreach to educate the public on benefits of Parks & Recreation. Mid Term
- Be involved in countywide website redesign. Long Term
- Increase and enhance quality of social media presence department-wide and among specific designated special facilities. On Going
- Further develop and expand marketing efforts to expand reach throughout Calvert County and regionally to better inform the public. On Going
- Provide more opportunities for the public to interact with staff. On Going
- Utilize an integrated service delivery model that creates and sustains a base of users that drive program attendance and improve staffing. Long Term
- Improve the volunteer experience within the department by defining roles, skills needed/required, evaluation, and recognition and ensure that volunteers are seen as authentic representatives of the department. On Going

#### **Conserve, Protect, and Enhance Natural Resources**

- Explore opportunities to acquire properties for land preservation, public water access and trail development. On Going
- Explore options to increase water access on County owned or maintained properties. On Going
- Expand nature programming into new areas such as community centers, active parks, and Flag Ponds beach that utilize natural features and amenities at each site. Mid Term
- Enhance promotion of ecotourism opportunities. On Going
- Develop a meadow management protocol, to include mowing, invasive species control, and restoration efforts, to enhance and increase habitat for grassland species such as Barn Owls, American Kestrels, Monarchs, and pollinators such as native bees. Mid Term
- Construct the living shoreline at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Mid Term
- Renovate the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center to improve visitor experience. Long Term

#### **Build the Team**

- Obtain positions based on five year re-organization plan that address current staffing deficiencies and future needs which includes new facilities coming online. Long Term
- Measure turnover and track information on staff that leaves using exit interviews. On Going
- Continue to expand leadership transparency and communication initiatives. On Going
- Enhance the use and effectiveness of the Parks & Recreation Recognition Committee (PARRC). Mid Term
- Develop a recruitment plan for hard to hire seasonal positions. Mid Term
- In cooperation with Human Resources, develop plan for employee wellness. Mid Term
- Expand employee volunteer opportunities to support community efforts and participation in department outreach. Mid Term

#### **Develop Skills and Competencies**

- Provide opportunities for professional development through workshops, training, professional seminars, and conferences. On Going
- Provide opportunities for more staff to become CPRP and CPRE certified. On Going
- Explore cross-training opportunities department wide. Long Term
- Identify and provide training for new technologies to improve processes and efficiencies. On Going

- Create consistency in employee evaluations that provide objectives based on the Strategic Plan. Short Term

Short Term = Up to one year.

Mid Term = One to three years.

Long Term = Three to five years.

On Going = A continuous process.



## Program Planning Model and Framework

CCPR's guidelines for managing a variety of programs based on the foundation of play, leisure, and recreation are found in the department's mission statement as well as those of the National Recreation and Park Association, The Maryland Parks and Recreation Association, The President's Council on Physical Fitness, Special Olympics International, American Association for Sport and Physical Education and many others.

CCPR makes every effort to provide programs and services that meet the community's needs for recreation. The variety of programming can be easily seen on our Programming Matrix (Appendix F). The services and programs provided have been developed to support our mission, vision and core values.

### Program and Service Determinants

Recreation staff utilize our Program and Service Determinants Tool to ensure that we are providing programs for our community in a systematic and studied approach. This tool follows the guidelines of the Six (6) Program and Service Determinants.

- a. Conceptual Foundation of play, recreation and leisure
- b. Organizational agency mission, vision, values, goals and objectives
- c. Constituent interests and desired needs
- d. Creation of constituent-centered culture
- e. Experiences desirable for clientele
- f. Community Opportunities

### Conceptual Foundations of Play, Recreation and Leisure

Recreational experiences are more than just an enjoyable way to spend a few minutes or hours. A quality recreation experience will also provide opportunities for the participant to express their creativity, develop their sense of self-worth, and make choices that will enhance their overall sense of well-being and quality of life. Programs do not, in themselves, create a recreation experience, instead, they provide opportunities for the participant to interact with the social, physical and natural environments; thus, allowing the participant to shape the recreation experience based on their own expectation, needs, and interests. Recreation is an activity in which a person engages for a positive purposeful end.

CCPR staff understands that quality recreation programs should be designed to promote a degree of freedom, choice, or voluntary engagement. We are promoting lifelong leisure learning and want to assist our constituents in building independent leisure lifestyles. The programs should have a stated purpose or objective and encourage creative, spontaneous self-expression. Participants should not only feel a sense of happiness while actively participating in the program but should carry that sense of well-being with them into the future. The program should give them a chance for self-discovery and to develop individual skills such as leadership, the ability to share and to be able to get along well with others. In other words, a quality recreation program will provide opportunities for the pursuit of joy and pleasure, excitement, challenge, and individual expression. Each recreation program set planned by the department has goals that address these fundamental concepts.

CCPR also has a role in providing therapeutic services, for individuals with various special needs. Therapeutic recreation programming is designed to encourage skill development, enhance self-awareness, promote independence and provide the participant with a sense of enjoyment, satisfaction, and fulfillment to increase their quality of life. The Therapeutic Recreation Services staff provide individualized, specialized and inclusive services and assists in making reasonable accommodation for persons with differing abilities who may need assistance in order to participate fully in programs offered.

Most quality recreation programs have a secondary purpose, which is the building of family, community, or special interest groups. Everyone recognizes the recreational value of a child playing soccer on a youth team, but many overlook the value of the interactions that are happening simultaneously among the parents, grandparents and significant others in the bleachers or younger siblings in the adjacent playground. Bringing people together to share an enjoyable experience who would have otherwise not had any opportunity or reason to interact, is one of the best ways to break down barriers, develop new friendships and create a sense of community. Similarly, helping participants connect with other people who share their interests can be the catalyst to developing life-long friendships. By providing opportunities for these interactions to occur, CCPR directly contributes to the development of strong families, neighborhoods, special interest groups and ultimately the entire community. The benefits of quality parks and recreation is endless.

#### **Constituent Interests and Desired Needs**

Calvert County, Maryland, like most communities across the country, is home to a diverse population of people from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds, ages, interests, abilities, and income levels. CCPR programming must embody this diversity and strive to provide the opportunities our constituents are looking for. Surveying and program evaluation are critical tools in program planning and assessment. Surveys and evaluations are delivered both electronically and in hard copy to our constituency and the results are compiled and evaluated to shape future programming.

#### **Creation of a Constituent-centered Culture**

Calvert County takes transparency and community involvement very seriously. As many programs and facilities are funded by tax dollars from either property tax or self-taxing, sales tax or bond referendum, it is important to involve the public in important decisions. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serves as a Board of County Commissioners appointed entity tasked with recommending programs, facilities, land acquisition and other considerations back to the Board of County Commissioners. It is our duty to ensure that constituents stay well informed and updated on parks and recreation related items and to secure public input through as many avenues as possible.

#### **Experiences Desirable for Clientele**

CCPR takes tremendous pride in our facilities and our services. In order to provide the highest quality experience for residents and visitors, we keep our facilities well stocked, clean, staffed, maintained, and safe. To help us in achieving that goal, CCPR has several monitoring and feedback systems in place to evaluate the satisfaction of our users and track results. CCPR uses participant and user surveys to gather data on the quality of the provided experience as well as future recommendations for services. This feedback is reviewed

quarterly.

**Community Opportunities**

CCPR determines what programs and facilities are desired by our community through careful preparation and review of the LPPRP, compliance with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, input from our constituency and a review of market trends in support of new program and/or facility development. Input on the recreation programming and facility needs of our community are determined through public hearings, community surveys, program evaluations, user comments and recommendations, and citizen support organizations. CCPR also reviews park usage reports to determine recreation and leisure trends specific to our community.

Information on broader leisure and recreation trends are found through market research of national and state trends as well as review of community allies and competitors, state and discussed and analyzed for feasibility at regular department staff meetings.

**BOCC Goals and Objectives**

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) set a broad range of goals and objectives for all departments in the county in the Annual Adopted Budget. The following broad goals and objectives have been set for CCPR for FY2021.

BOCC GOALS	OBJECTIVES
Culture of Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in Community Events</li> </ul>
Essential Services and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a high level of customer service to the public</li> </ul>
Educational Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide curriculum based educational field experiences for all 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Calvert County Public Schools throughout the school year</li> <li>• Offer a comprehensive volunteer program</li> </ul>
Parks and Recreation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a wide variety of recreational programs</li> <li>• Provide high quality recreational facilities including the Indoor Aquatic Center and Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</li> <li>• Schedule at least 130 outdoor recreation and environmental programs at each nature park</li> </ul>
Fiscal Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a six-year plan for the Gatewood Preserve including staffing and budget requirements</li> </ul>
Environment, Heritage and Rural Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a sense of place, reflect the character, history and natural environment of the community</li> </ul>

**Recreation Core Programming Goals and Objectives**

In addition to the broad BOCC goals and objectives, CCPR has set the following standards for our recreational programming that is provided to our community. CCPR strives to provide quality programs that meet the needs of the community, maximize resources, promote our core values and provide the community a variety of opportunities to participate in both self-directed and leader-directed activities.

AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVE	EXAMPLES
Sports and Community Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide recreation opportunities that build life-long health and wellness skills</li> <li>•Provide a diverse Community Sports Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide activities that improve health and wellness</li> <li>•Provide outlets for creative expression</li> <li>•Provide a variety of Sporting Activities</li> <li>•Provide activities that are accessible</li> <li>•Provide training to volunteer coaches</li> </ul>	Tennis, Pickleball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, kickball, baton Twirling, TR Healthy Lifestyles
Recreation Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide recreation activities to learn and/or retain skills or concepts</li> <li>•Provide programs that are accessible</li> <li>•Increase and/or maintain annual participation levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide Education and Development Opportunities</li> <li>•Provide outlets for creative expression</li> <li>•Provide reasonable accommodations for participants to be fully included</li> <li>•Provide resources to obtain inform of accessible programs</li> <li>•Provide Economically affordable programs</li> <li>• Provide programs that are based on community need</li> <li>•Develop new programs based on new trends and/or community demand</li> </ul>	Arts and Crafts, Dance( Be Bopping Babies, Beginner Tap and Ballet, American Belly Dance, Beginners Country Line Dancing), Education and Development (TOPS Club, Financial Education, Life Insurance Intro, Intro to Medicare), Fitness (Kids in Motion, Yoga, Zumba, Jazzercise, Pilates, Tai Chi Boot Camp), Martial Arts ( Kuk Sool Won, Judo, Shido Karate, Self defense

<p>Therapeutic Recreation Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide meaningful recreational opportunities for individuals with Special Needs and Disabilities</li> <li>•Maintain or improve quality of Life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide adapted gross motor activity programs to enhance physical functioning</li> <li>•Fun, structured activity in a learning/nurturing environment</li> <li>•Increase learning and leisure opportunities</li> <li>•Enhance Social and emotional development</li> <li>•Provide Community Integration</li> <li>•Provide programs to encourage Social interaction</li> <li>•Provide activities to learn and retain concepts</li> </ul>	<p>TR Tots, TR Fun Sports Development, Career Explorations, Adult Social Club, Wacky Wednesday,</p>
<p>Special Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To create engaging events for the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Facilitate positive community relations</li> <li>•Host events that are accessible to all members of the community</li> </ul>	<p>County Wide Easter Egg Hunt, County Wide Hallowing Event, Breezy Point Beach Blast Off</p>
<p>Aquatics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide Learn to Swim opportunities to a wide variety of ages and abilities</li> <li>•Promote Fitness and wellness through aquatic classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Acquire additional swim lesson instructors</li> <li>•Provide Water Safety Instructor Training</li> <li>•Acquire additional water fitness instructors</li> <li>•Collaborate with other departments to promote active lifestyles</li> </ul>	<p>Swim lessons (Parent and Child, Little Swimmers, Fundamentals, Stroke Development, Teen, Adult, Adapted), Water Fitness (Awesome Aqua, Fit N’Fun, Aqua Zumba, Aqua Bootcamp, H2O Conditioning, Motivated to Move), TR Tot Swim, TR Swim Team Conditioning, TR Warm Water Stretching</p>
<p>Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Promote the economy and wellbeing through sustainable practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Instituting Sustainable turf management practices</li> <li>•Create revenue through leisure opportunities for the community</li> </ul>	<p>Beginner Golf , Intermediate Golf, Footgolf, Golf Leagues, Golf Tournaments, Land Management</p>

<p>Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide quality environmental education activities</li> <li>•Provide environmentally compatible recreation activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide 130 programs for a range of audiences</li> <li>•Hold programs at each of the Nature Parks throughout the year</li> <li>•Offer trainings, workshops and opportunities for citizens to volunteer</li> <li>•Maintain &amp; develop trails to meet needs of hikers and equestrian</li> </ul> <p>Coordinate initiatives to promote water access and eco-tourism</p>	<p>EDUCATION: Baby Birding, Spring Log Roll, Going GREEN For St. Patrick's Day, Swamp Walk, Snakes Are Not Worms, Animal Stories Campfire, Tracks &amp; Signs 101, Recycled Bird Feeders, Scales And Scutes, Earth Day Nature Play, Nests, Roots to Shoots, Owl Eyes &amp; Fox Ears, Seine The Bay, Ward Farm Spring Hike, Mud Pies, Horseshoe Crab Walk, Homeschool Fridays, Mud Monsters Spring Adventure, Eagle Hike,</p> <p>VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: City Nature Challenge 2021, Raptor Road Surveys, Barn Owl Nest Box Monitoring 2021, Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Plastic, Aluminum, and Glass Recycling, Fishing Line Recycling, Wood Duck Nest Box Monitoring, Dragonfly Surveys, Saw-whet Owl Data Management, Wildlife Rescue Transport Team, Horseshoe Crab Survey: Calvert County and Beyond, Orchid Conservation, Bluebird Trail Monitoring,</p> <p>TRAILS: Trail Maintenance Workshop: Hughes Tree Farm, Trail Construction: Gatewood Preserve</p> <p>ECOTOURISM: #PatuxentChallenge, <a href="http://www.patuxentchallenge.org">www.patuxentchallenge.org</a></p>
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### **CCPR Program Plan**

Upon determination that a program meets the criteria to be offered to the community, staff will then complete a Recreation Program Plan. Program plans are utilized to consolidate all measurement information into one document for activities offered by CCPR (Appendix D). Each plan details program needs, S.M.A.R.T. goals, an activity outline, safety precautions, marketing needs, as well as an itemized budget of expense and revenue that is sited in the Pro Forma (Appendix E). The Pro Forma Program Operating Statement breaks down all applicable direct costs and possible revenues once staff determines fees and service classification outlined in the Revenue and Fee Manual.

- Tier 1 – Basic Community Benefit (No cost recovery)
  - Playgrounds, special events, unreserved use of facilities.
- Tier 2 – Basic Select Programs (Partial cost recovery)
  - Therapeutic Recreation summer camps, indoor pool membership.
- Tier 3 – Select Programs (Full cost recovery)
  - Fitness programs, swim lessons, youth sports (internal).
- Tier 4 – Exclusive Programs (Revenue producing cost recovery)
  - Concessions, private facility rentals, standard summer camps, outdoor pool entry.

### **Program and Service Statistics**

CCPR recognizes and embraces the value and importance of review and evaluation of statistics to understanding citizen's needs and to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services delivered. CCPR collects a wide range of statistical data on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis to keep track of key performance indicators. Statistical information is collected from several sources, including but not limited to, Website Analytics, Facebook Page Analytics, Instagram insights, surveys, and sales.

While the Department strives to serve all residents of and visitors to Calvert County, the typical customer possesses one or more of the following characteristics: is concerned about physical and mental wellness; is interested in the natural environment; is civic-minded; has a need for non-school-hour programming; is seeking a social outlet; or is seeking a recreation or leisure opportunity. In general, residents and visitors hold high expectations for the quality and cleanliness of the department's facilities and for the degree of customer service they receive. In addition, customers expect affordable prices and exceptional value regarding the services the department offers.

### **Recreation and Leisure Trends Analysis**

The LPPRP is reviewed and updated every 5 years. The current LPPRP was last updated and adopted by the BOCC in 2018 and contains an extensive trends analysis. The analysis highlights relevant regional, and national outdoor recreation trends from various sources that may influence Calvert County recreation planning for the next several years. These include demographic, facility, programming, funding and marketing trends.

Trends are also discussed in CCPR's three-year Marketing and Outreach Plan. Created in 2019, this plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed to include updating trends to include demographics and market coverage. This is in the section labeled "Situation Assessment".

In addition, CCPR continuously keeps track of and assesses recreation leisure trends by attending conferences and participating in various boards and associations such as NRPA, NACPRO AND MRPA. It is the Recreation Division Chief's responsibility to understand the current trends, analyze them, and design and develop programs based on those trends and consistent with the recreational needs of the community. To do so, the Recreation Division Chief meets regularly with the leadership team and key Recreation staff to discuss those trends.

### Products and Services

The Department offers a wide variety of products and services throughout Calvert County. These include:

- Maintenance of parks and green spaces including athletic and multipurpose fields, trails and boardwalks.
- Aquatic facilities including a state-of-the-art indoor aquatic center in Prince Frederick, a full-service waterpark in Lusby, and community pool in Huntingtown.
- Recreation, therapeutic recreation, and nature programming provided by staff, contractual vendors and third party contracted organizations.
- Development of capital improvements including the construction, maintenance, and enhancements of facilities.
- Operation of community centers that provide age appropriate programming to include summer camp programs.
- Maintenance and operation of a variety of hard courts including tennis, basketball, volleyball, skate parks, and pickleball.
- Athletic services to include youth and adult sports such as basketball, football, kickball, softball, tennis, field hockey, golf, soccer, swimming, baseball and lacrosse through staff, contracted vendors or third party contracted organizations.
- Variety of special events that celebrate health and leisure pursuits.
- Outlets for boating, canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding.
- Camping, fishing, hiking, biking, and equestrian activities.
- Concession services for athletic fields, beach and aquatic facilities.
- Volunteer and research opportunities.
- Wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Rental facilities for use by the community for meetings and special occasions.
- Protection of natural habitats, conservation, and restoration.

Besides the vast amount of services offered by CCPR, our community offers a wide variety of services. The following is a Community Inventory of providers that offer recreational services to our community.

**Community Inventory****Alternative Service Providers**Agriculture / Events

231 Farm and Outdoor Sports  
 Calvert County Extension Services (4-H)  
 Canaan Farms  
 Chesapeake Beach Resort & Spa  
 Future Farmers of America  
 Lucky Cricket Farm  
 Spider Hall Farm  
 Tyde Wydd Farm

Aquatics

Calvert Aquatics Club  
 College of Southern Maryland – St. Mary's  
 Chesapeake Beach Waterpark  
 PG Sportsplex

Arts & Dance

Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet  
 American Bellydance LLC  
 Annemarie Garden  
 Artworks @ 7th  
 BADD Company LLC  
 CalvART Gallery  
 Calvert School of Dance  
 Carmen's Gallery  
 Cassidy Music  
 Celtic Society of Southern Maryland  
 Center Stage Dance Inc  
 Garrett Music Academy  
 Julie Rogers Studio of Dance  
 JPozz Music  
 Medart Galleries  
 No Tyme to Cook  
 Pottery Patch  
 Sacchetti Music  
 San Gabriel's Guitar Studio  
 Sherry's Dance Studio  
 Wine and Design Kids and Parents Painting

Athletic Facilities

Bethel Way of the Cross  
 Calverton School  
 Cardinal Hickey Academy  
 CSA Fieldhouse / Field

Athletic Facilities Cont.

Church by the Chesapeake (soccer fields)  
 Dunkirk Baptist Church  
 First Baptist Church of Calvert County  
 Gray's Field (near Mt. Harmony)  
 Lord Calvert Bowl  
 Middleham & St. Peters Episcopal Church  
 Navy Recreation Center NRC  
 Our Lady Star Church  
 Plum Point Rd. Field  
 Saint John Vianney Church  
 St. Paul United Methodist Church

Athletics Programs

Bayside Blues Girls Softball  
 Beach Buccaneers  
 Calvert All Stars Cheer & Tumble  
 Calvert Babe Ruth  
 Calvert County American Little League  
 Calvert Cannons Lacrosse  
 Calvert Cutters Baseball  
 Calvert Elite Soccer  
 Calvert Flag Adult / Youth  
 Calvert Fury Girls Softball  
 Calvert Men's / Women's Softball  
 Calvert Soccer Association  
 Calvert Tide Baseball  
 Chesapeake Orioles Baseball  
 Christian Men's Softball  
 Dunkirk Warriors  
 Huntingtown Hurricanes  
 Jennies Chesapeake Gymnastics Club  
 John McGuffin Basketball  
 Lord Calvert Bowl  
 Northern Calvert Little League  
 Owings Outlaws Football  
 Prince Frederick Eagles Football  
 Solomons Steelers Football  
 Southern End Football Alliance  
 Southern Maryland Bulldogs Football

Boating / Water Sports

The Amazing Ocean (Dive Instructor)  
 Bunky's Charter Boats, Inc.

Boating/Water Sports Cont.

Chesapeake Bay Charters  
 Chesapeake Bay Outdoors LLC  
 Chesapeake Boat Rentals  
 Chesapeake Windsail Cruises  
 Daydreamer Sportfishing  
 Katherines Charter Fishing  
 Megalodon Adventures  
 Miss Susie Charters  
 Narayders Charters  
 Paddle or Pedal, North Beach  
 Patience Sportfishing  
 Patuxent Adventure Center  
 The Sailing Academy  
 Sail Solomons  
 Scuba Center and Outdoor Rec  
 Solomons Boat Rental  
 Style Cruises

Child Care

3 Bs Little Buddies Family Childcare LLC  
 Bright Beginners Child Care  
 Busy Bee Nursery  
 Calvert Nursery School  
 Carter's Webb Learning Center  
 Creative Kids Learning Center  
 Dawns Early Light Early Childhood Center  
 Friendly Daycare Center  
 The Grapevine Early Learning Center  
 Grover Place Childcare Inc  
 Huntingtown Early Learning Center  
 Inspired Minds Early Childhood Education Center  
 Judy Center  
 Kids Campus Early Learning Center  
 Laceys Little Learners  
 Learning Ladders Child Development Center  
 Little Ones Family Day Care  
 Little Protégés Early Learning Centre  
 Noahs Ark Learning Center Inc  
 Prime Time Childrens & Youth Activity Center  
 Serenity Child Care Center  
 Sleepy Hollow Daycare  
 Smart Start Learning Center

Children's Services

Adventure Point Youth Activity Center  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of SoMD (Lusby)  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of SoMD (North Beach)  
 Boy Scouts  
 Calvert Collaborative for Children & Youth  
 Calvert County Libraries  
 East John Youth Center  
 Girl Scouts  
 Kids Place

Equestrian

Dakota's Legacy Horseback Riding  
 Linda's School for Wayward Horses  
 Patuxent Run Stables  
 River Stable

Fitness and Wellness Centers

Barefoot Wellness  
 Blue Earth Yoga  
 Calvert Crossfit  
 Cross Fit Merit  
 Elite Fitness  
 Evolution Training Athletics  
 Fitness For Less LLC  
 Fitness Works Health & Wellness LLC  
 Full Spectrum Fitness  
 GoatToBeZen Yoga  
 GROW Yoga  
 Poston's Fitness for Life  
 Results Fitness  
 Sculpted Fitness Studio  
 Skipjack Crossfit  
 World Gym

Golf

Breton Bay Golf Course  
 Mellomar Golf Course  
 Wicomico Shores Golf Course

Historical Sites

All Saints Episcopal Church  
 Christ Church  
 Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
 Huntingtown United Methodist Church  
 Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church

Historical Sites Cont.

Middleham Chapel  
 Old Wallville Shcool  
 Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse

Martial Arts

Black Belt Academy of Prince Frederick  
 Calvert MMA Academy  
 Elite Martial Arts Academy  
 Master Parks TaeKwon Heroes Martial Arts

Museums

Annmarie Gardens  
 Bayside History Museum  
 Bruce Snake Gabrielson's Surf Art Gallery  
 and Museum  
 Calvert Marine Museum  
 Cove Point Lighthouse  
 Drum Point Lighthouse  
 Railway Museum  
 Spaceflight America Museum and Science  
 Center

Natural Resources

American Chestnut Land Trust  
 Bayfront Park / Brownie's Beach  
 Calvert Cliffs State Park  
 Calvert Nature Society  
 Chesapeake Ranch Estates Campground  
 Jefferson Patterson State Park & Museum  
 Patuxent Adventure Center-bike, kayak and  
 paddle board rentals  
 Seahorse Beach  
 Wetland Overlook Park

Senior Services

Calvert County Office on Aging  
 Calvert Pines Senior Center  
 North Beach Senior Center  
 Southern Pines Senior Center

Theater/Theatre

Flagship Cinemas Calvert Village  
 New Direction Community Theater  
 Special Players  
 Twin Beach Players

Therapeutic Recreation

Adult Day Care of Calvert County  
 ARC of Southern Maryland  
 Barstow Acres Children Center  
 Bay Shore  
 The Autism Project  
 The Center of Life Enrichment  
 The Springdell Center  
 Melwood

Trails

Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail  
 American Chestnut Land Trust

Winery's/ Brewhouse

Calvert Brewing Company  
 Calvert Taphouse  
 Cove Point Winery  
 Fridays Creek Winery  
 Perigeauz Vineyards and Winery  
 Running Hare Vineyard  
 Scorpion Brewery  
 Solomons Island Winery

### **Fees and Charges Policy**

The CCPR Revenue and Fee Policy and Manual are intended to establish a standardized approach in assessing fees for residents, non-residents, and organizations for the use of county facilities and programs which will meet established goals and objectives. This policy provides a guideline for determining what each user should pay and maintains fees at a fair market value in order to encourage participation, while minimizing the burden on the county taxpayer.

The foundation of CCPR is to offer year-round diversified recreation services, and to ensure that all citizens have equal opportunity for participation. However, since the demand upon the department is greater than the ability to appropriate public funds to support that demand, it becomes necessary to charge fees and pursue other supplementary revenues and resources. Fees and charges for parks and recreation services are only one revenue source for the department. Fees and charges will supplement those other resources, not replace them, nor be used to diminish government's responsibility to provide open space and leisure opportunities. Rather, fees and charges will be viewed as a method to allow the Department to continue to offer basic services and enhance the means to develop new programs and services. The general benefit of services made possible through fees and charges must exceed any detriment imposed by the fees, and collections must be practical and economical.

It is the responsibility of CCPR to offer a comprehensive recreation program and to provide safe access to public park land. The development of a sound and consistent standard operating revenue and fee adoption procedure will provide supplementary revenues to tax dollars. These are vital sources of revenue to reduce subsidization levels. Fees must be viewed as a method of continuing and expanding the ability to provide quality recreation and parks services at a level that is fair and equitable to both participants and nonparticipants. These guidelines are used as a tool to establish program fees:

- Tier 1 – Basic Community Benefit (No cost recovery)
- Tier 2 – Basic Select Programs (Partial cost recovery)
- Tier 3 – Select Programs (Full cost recovery)
- Tier 4 – Exclusive Programs (Revenue producing cost recovery)

Fees are charged to the general public, individuals and groups, to the extent reasonable to recover all, or a portion of, direct and/or indirect costs associated with the delivery of programs, services or events. The purposes of fees are (1) to obtain revenue to supplement or completely replace maintenance and operational costs, (2) to reduce the program impact on the general fund, (3) to enable the department to provide facilities or programs for which funds might not otherwise be available, and in some cases, (4) to provide sufficient revenue to cover costs and provide surplus revenue for expansion of programs and services, and to remunerate capital investments. Public funds are used for basic services and to acquire, improve, and manage basic park land and recreation facilities. Examples of basic services and use of facilities where fees would not be charged would include, but are not be limited to, the following: general park maintenance, gardens, trails, playgrounds as well as unreserved use of tennis courts, shelters, picnic areas and open space.

### Measurement, evaluation and data collection

CCPR understands the inherent importance of conducting systematic evaluations on its programs, services and facilities. By conducting these routine assessments of department operations, CCPR is taking an informed approach to ensuring it is providing quality programs, services and facilities for the community to enjoy.

CCPR recognizes and embraces the value and importance of review and evaluation to secure the continuous improvement of all areas. We utilize a variety of assessment tools to evaluate the operation, efficiency and effectiveness of those programs, services and facilities and a systematic evaluation processes in order to determine the effectiveness of programs, service areas, and facilities and serve as a guide for future activities and programs.

Given CCPR's broad scope and the diversity of services, this plan is not solely about developing catchy ways to advertise our products or grow demand; it is a hybrid that also includes organizing the department to deliver essential services as effectively as possible. The department clearly recognizes that prior successes cannot be taken for granted and that constantly improving service delivery is hard work. Therefore, the department needs to continually evaluate and modify the current structures and resources to ensure the program operates in a relevant and effective manner.

A Financial Evaluation Pro Forma is completed to evaluate the budget of specific programs. The Pro Forma totalizes and compares expenses with revenues and the back provides other relevant information such as attendance, sponsorships, description of the activity, staff assignments, performance measures, advertising and comments. This evaluation tool is extremely valuable since it provides department managers with a comprehensive overview of the results obtained from the implementation of a program.

A CCPR Program Plan is utilized to evaluate and modify the determination and creation of programs. In the plan, each area is able to identify specific program needs and resources, identify activity components to include specific goals, and document desired outcomes. This plan also identifies the marketing and evaluation methods that will be utilized to support and sustain the developed activities.

Surveys are conducted periodically to determine customer satisfaction and evaluate the prices and conditions of CCPR facilities. These surveys are also used to identify new services, programs and amenities residents and visitors would like to have offered by CCPR. In addition to the information that revenue reports and customer satisfaction surveys provide separately, their joint analysis has helped CCPR identify the reason behind revenue declines and implement solutions.

### Summary

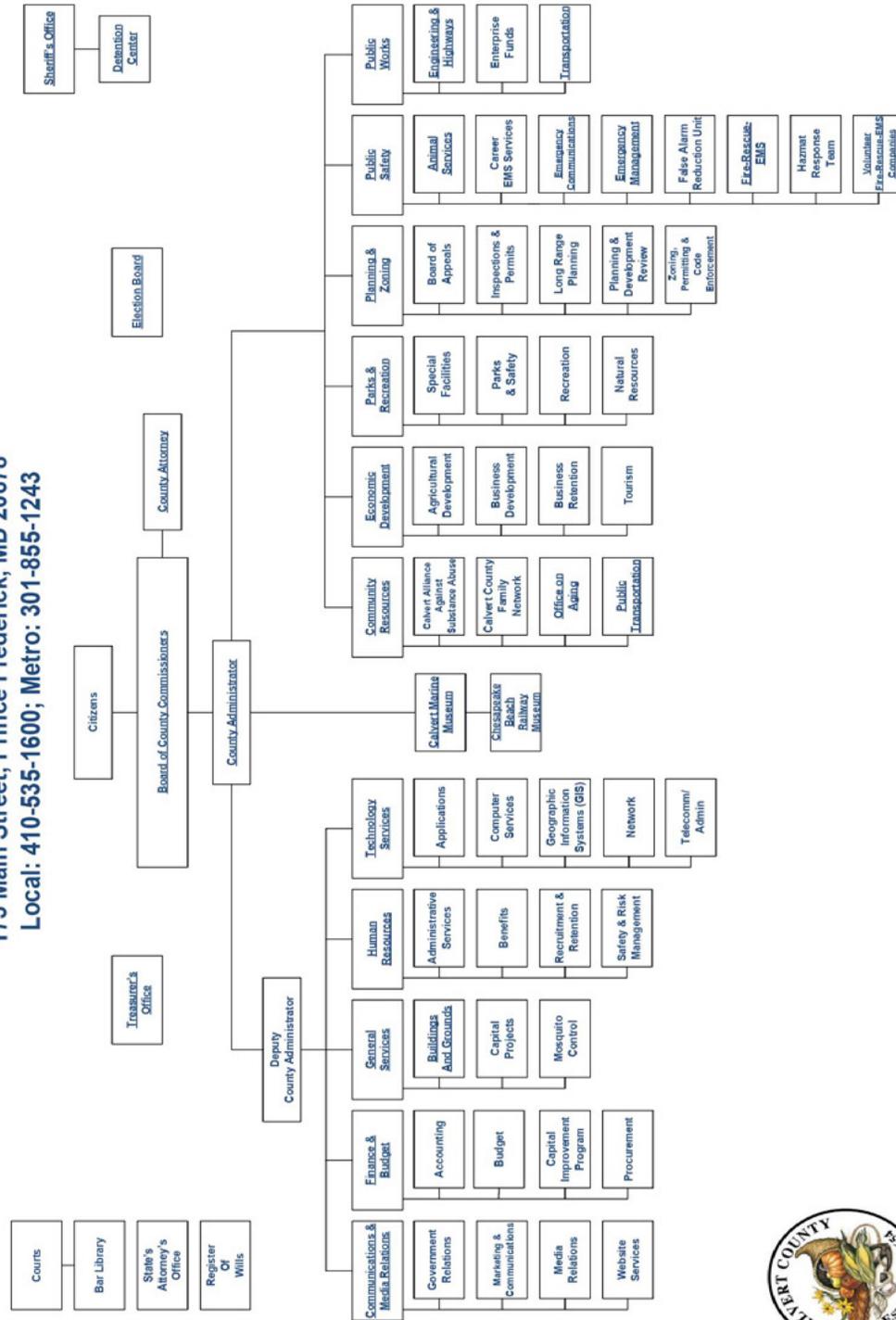
Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, the primary reason for a person choosing a place to live was employment opportunities. Businesses were positioned based on the most advantageous location of materials and transportation options and workers located to those places. Today, information-based workers are no longer selecting where they live based on their employment, rather, they choose places to live based on the perceived quality of life.

Calvert County is uniquely positioned to attract a diverse and a highly skilled population due to the attraction of a rural lifestyle away from the bustle of the city life of Washington D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis. Current and potential residents demand a high quality of life and want healthy,

livable communities. Recreation is an essential service in establishing and maintaining a healthy and livable community. Availability and accessibility to recreational opportunities provide a host of positive benefits and outcomes. Opportunities and facilities that promote physical and mental wellbeing, that bring citizens together in positive, supportive and fun environments, and create memorable experiences for families are critical to the future of the community.

APPENDIX A

**Calvert County Government**  
 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
 Local: 410-535-1600; Metro: 301-855-1243



APPENDIX B



Board of County Commissioners



Earl "Buddy" Hance  
Commissioner



Mike Hart  
Commissioner



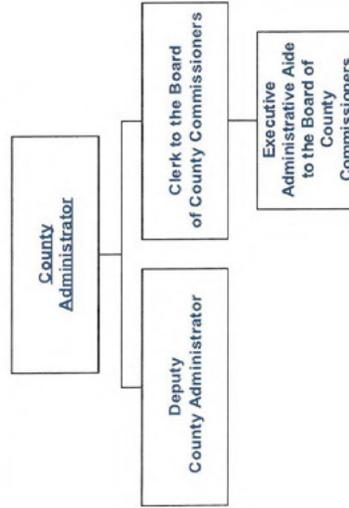
Thomas E. "Tim"  
Hutchins  
Commissioner



Kelly D. McConkey  
Commissioner



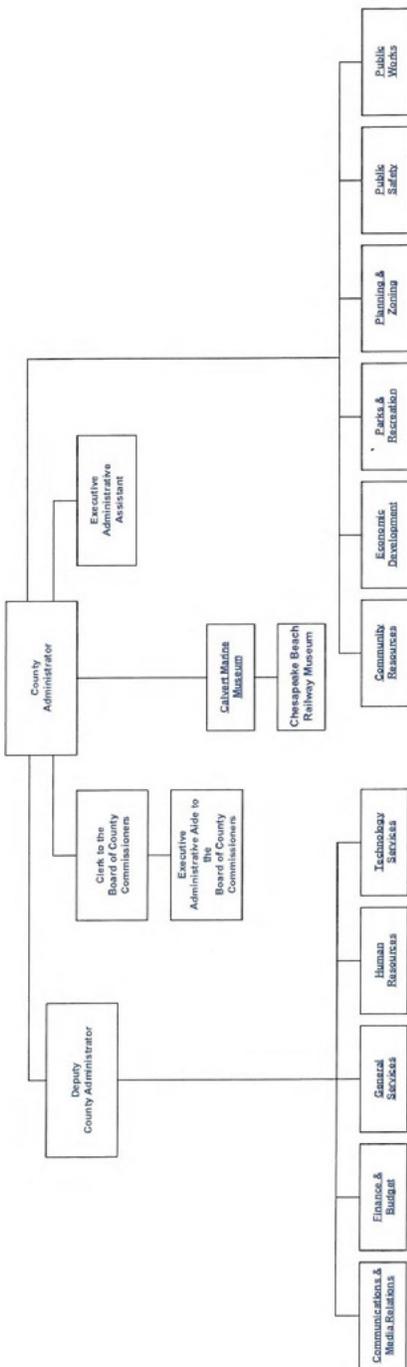
Steven R. Weems  
Commissioner



APPENDIX C



Office of the County Administrator



## APPENDIX D

## CCPR PROGRAM PLAN/EVENT SAMPLE

Trails & Trivia With TR

This program is designed to offer families and friends of individuals with special needs the opportunity to visit a nature park and learn about specific natural resources in a fun, relaxed environment.

This program is a collaboration between TRS and the Calvert County Natural Resources Division.

**Age Level:** All ages, family

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grouping:** By Individual, family or group, socially distance between groups  
15 visitors are allowed in the park at one time

**Length:** 2 hours

**Location:** Kings Landing Park

**Activity Instructions:**

1. Participants will follow directions of CCPR Natural Resources and TR staff to keeping socially distanced.
2. Provide participants with pre-determined interactive materials and direct them to designated walking trails
3. Masks are encouraged outside, but not required unless you are in an area where you can't maintain 6' distance
4. Maintain at least 6' from other family groups; family groups cannot mix
5. Public restroom available at the pier, by Pavilion 1, and within Wisner Hall (must sign in)
6. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and are to bring water if desired
7. Reinforce appropriate social interactions.
8. Participants may not be required at times to wear a mask due to:
  - a. May have a disability or medical condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask.
  - b. Is less than 5 years of age.
9. All staff will wear mask while participants are present.

Program Goal:

- *To offer a program that supports Calvert County's essential institutions and provides the participant with the opportunity to view how to preserve Calvert County's natural heritage and enhance their environmental stewardship.*

Objectives: 3 (S.M.A.R.T. – specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound, Strategic Goals)

- Therapeutic Recreation Services will collaborate with the Division of Natural Resources to design a program that encourages individuals with special needs and their families to visit a natural resources park within Calvert County at least once a year.

- Participants will engage with the natural resources of Calvert County by actively or passively participating in program.
- Participants will demonstrate appropriate social skills and adhere to all general rules and policies of CCPR while on park property.
- Participants and staff will comply with all current health protocols of maintaining 6-foot social distance from members outside their household and wearing proper face coverings when appropriate from arrival through departure.

Resources Needed: (include staffing, materials, tools, marketing, etc.)

**STAFFING**

2- Full-time Therapeutic Recreation Division staff member

1 Part Time TR Recreation Aide

**MATERIALS FOR EVENT**

1. First Aid Kits containing gloves, bandages and ice packs, M95 mask and gown.
2. Trivia and/or interactive learning materials for each family group
3. Sanitizing products for cleaning supplies
4. Mask worn for event

**MARKETING**

Y/N	Item / Service	# of Items	Date needed by	Y/N	Item/Service	Date needed by	# of Items
Y	CCG CCPR Facebook	1	2/1/21				
	CMR Constant Contact				Banner		
	CMR News Release				Flags		
	CMR Outreach			1	Table Cloth		
	Rec Connect				Give- Away		
	Media Request			?	CCPR Tent		

Program Expenses/Attach Proforma

Item	Description	Amount	Notes
Program Staff	2 Full Time TR 1 PT TR Aide Kings Landing Park Staff		
Program Supplies/Materials	Trivia/Interactive Materials for families		
Promotion Materials			
<b>TOTAL PER EVENT</b>			
Cost Per Participant			

Safety/Emergency Procedures: (attach document if necessary)

Standard Calvert County Government risk management and safety guidelines would apply. Any injuries or incidents would be documented using proper forms and submitted through Risk Management as needed.







PROGRAMS	TYPE	LIFE STAGE						SCOPE				GROUP SIZE		FEE SCHEDULE				OUTREACH				PROGRAM PROMOTION						DATA		LOCATIONS						
		Self Directed	Leader Directed	Pre-School 2-5 yrs	Youth 6-12 yrs	Teen 13-17 yrs	Adult 18+	Senior 55+	Mixed ages	Physical	Intellectual	Social	Creative	Health and Wellness	Individual	Small Group (5-<50)	Large Group (>50)	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Scholarship	Therapeutic Services	Activity Guide	Fliers	Website	Social Media	Press Release	Schools		Word of Mouth	Survey Data	SMART Goals/Objectives			
Soccer		X																																HPP, DDP, LPP		
Volleyball																																		NBRC		
Basketball																																		NBRC		
Golf																																		CHGC		
Open Gym																																				
Basketball																																		NECL, NBRC, CLPS		
Pickleball																																		NECL, NBRC, CLPS		
<b>Sport Leagues</b>																																				
Baseball League																																			CPD, DDP, LPP	
Basketball League																																		CLPS		
Football League																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Pickleball League																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Tennis League																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Volleyball																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Wrestling																																		CCPS		
Soccer League																																		CLPS		
Flower League																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Field Hockey League																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Lacrosse League																																		CPD, DDP, LPP		
Swim Teams																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Golf Lessons																																		CPD, DDP, HPP		
Golf League																																		HAL/CPD		
<b>Workshops</b>																																				
Life Insurance																																			NECC	
Medicare																																			NECC	
Financial																																				
<b>Special Events</b>																																				
Breese Point Boat Off																																			HPP	
Halloween																																			HPP	
Easter																																			HPP	
Tips																																				
<b>Seasonal/Quarterly</b>																																				
Golf Tournament																																				NECC, NBRC, MHCC, HEACC, HI, SCC, DH, Hall, CPP, K, PP, TRS, FNP, BQ/CS, KLP, WFNP, CHGC



APPENDIX G

Parks and Facilities Matrix

	Baseball Fields	Basketball Courts	Camping	Canoe/Kayak Launch	Fishing	Fitness Center	Fossil Hunting	Game Room	Golf Course	Gymnasium	Sports Fields	Off-Leash Pet Area	Paths/Trails	Picnicking	Picnic Shelters	Playgrounds	Pro Shop	Reservations	Restrooms	Skate Park	Snack Stand	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Vending Machines	Hours of Operation	
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp																									H	
BGE Field	○										○									○						C
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm													○													H
Breezy Point Beach & Campground			○		○	○								○	○			○	○			○	○			F
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course									○									○		○		○				H
Cove Point Park & Pool	○	○									○	○	○	○	○	○				○		○	○	○	○	G
Dominion Energy Regional Park											○									○						C
Dowell House																	○		○							H
Dunkirk District Park	○	○									○	○	○	○	○	○				○	○	○	○	○	○	G
Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center						○													○	○			○	○		H
Flag Ponds Nature Park				○	○	○								○	○					○			○			H
Gatewood Preserve													○													H
Grays Road Dog Park												○									○					D
Grover Field	○										○						○			○						B
Hallowing Point Park	○	○									○				○	○				○		○		○	○	G
Harriet E. Brown CC		○						○											○	○					○	H
Hughes Memorial Tree Farm													○													H
Hutchins Pond					○																					H
Kellams Field											○															H
Kings Landing Park & Pool			○	○	○									○	○	○				○		○	○	○	○	H
Lower Marlboro Wharf				○	○																					H
Marley Run Recreational Area	○										○										○					B
Mt. Hope CC		○															○	○	○							H
Nan's Cove				○	○																					H
North Beach Recreation Center	○						○	○								○				○	○					H
Northeast CC	○						○	○												○	○				○	H
Phillips House																				○	○					H
Solomons Boat Ramp					○																					H
Solomons Town Center Park											○				○	○					○					H
Southern CC								○						○						○	○					A
Twin Shields Recreation Area											○									○						B

HOURS OF OPERATION

- A** Mid-March to Mid-November: 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Off season: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- B** Mid-March to Mid-November: 8:30 a.m. to Dark  
Off season: Closed
- C** Mid-March to Mid-November: 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Off season: Closed
- D** Year Round: Daylight to dark
- E** Memorial Day to Labor Day: Hours set annually
- F** May 1 to Oct. 31: Contact the facility or check the website for schedule
- G** Mid March to Mid November 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Off Season: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- H** Contact the facility or check the website for schedule

## APPENDIX H



## Parent Code of Conduct Pledge

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation believes that parents play a vital role in their child's development and participation in youth sports. Unfortunately, some parents and the spectators associated with their families don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or non-verbal, positive or negative, can have a lasting emotional effect on youth. Furthermore, parent and spectator behavior can adversely affect the behavior of their children and the overall attitude of their team and families.

In order to ensure that Good Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and mutual Respect among Players, Coaches, Officials, and Spectators, the following Parent Code of Conduct has been established by the Department. The standards of behavior identified in this code are not intended to be all inclusive. The participants should be aware that any behavior not specifically described herein but failing to meet the spirit and intent of this Code may subject those involved to disciplinary action at the discretion of CCPR.

- Demonstrate a positive and respectful attitude toward players, parents, coaches and officials.
- Encourage the definition of success by measuring a child's personal development and enjoyment and not by wins or losses.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge and respect of the rules of the game and teach others to do the same.
- Promote appropriate behavior regardless of the circumstances the game presents.
- Never use abusive or insulting language to any person.
- Refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon their team, club, league or Calvert County Parks & Recreation
- Never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- Support and respect the coaches and players from both teams and the officials.
- Comply with the rules, policies, and procedures as set by CCPR.
- Allow and trust the coaching staff to perform to the full extent of their coaching abilities without hindrance or opinions.
- If concerns need to be addressed to the coach, I will wait 24 hours then address her or him at an appropriate time and place and never before, during or immediately after a game.
- I will never approach an official, coach or player before, during or after a game. If I have a concern, I will follow the appropriate chain of command which is Coach first, then CCPR if necessary.

By participating in any CCPR sponsored program, I understand and agree that any failure to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines may result in disciplinary action against me and could result in loss of spectator privileges for a period of time to be determined by CCPR. Length of which is at the sole discretion of CCPR depending on the severity of the incident. I also agree to abide by all rules, policies and procedures as set forth by CCPR.

**Until the pledge is signed, dated and returned, your family will not be able to participate or observe practice or play!**

I have read and agree to the terms listed above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX I



## Players Code of Conduct Pledge

The Department of Calvert County Parks & Recreation is privileged to be able to offer Sports programs and leagues for area Youth & Adults. CCPR feels that these programs and leagues are an integral part of childhood development and the lifetime love of sports and maintenance of good health, values & vitality through adult hood. As such, CCPR expects the highest standards of sportsmanship, integrity and conduct from all participants.

In order to ensure that Good Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and Mutual Respect among Players, Coaches, Officials, and Spectators, the following Players Code of Conduct has been established by the Department of Calvert County Parks & Recreation. The standards of behavior identified in this code are not intended to be all inclusive. Players should be aware that any behavior not specifically described herein but failing to meet the spirit and intent of this Code may subject those involved to disciplinary action at the discretion of CCPR.

- First and foremost, I will respect the game as well as my team mates, opponents and officials regardless of race, gender or ability.
- I will attend all practices and games that I can and give 100% effort at all times.
- If I cannot attend a practice or game, I will notify my coach well in advance.
- I will at all times demonstrate a positive and respectful attitude toward the players, parents, coaches and officials of both teams despite the circumstances of the game.
- I will encourage my team mates as well as my opponents to do their best and congratulate them on their effort.
- I will not use profanity or implore any techniques at practice or games that could be detrimental to the health and well-being of myself or my opponent.
- I will insist that the environment in which I play, be drug, tobacco and alcohol free.
- I will encourage my parents, family and or guardians to attend as many practices and games with me in order to share my youth sports experience and, allow them to take advantage that time in order to improve their own health & well-being.
- Last but not least, I will participate in sports in order to improve my overall ability and health and to share that opportunity with my family and friends.

By enrolling in CCPR Programs & Leagues, I understand and agree that any failure to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines may result in disciplinary action against me and could result in loss of playing privileges for a period of time to be determined by CCPR. Length of which is at the sole discretion of CCPR depending on the severity of the incident. I also agree to abide by all rules, policies and procedures as set forth by CCPR.

**Until the pledge is signed, dated and returned, your family will not be able to participate or observe practice or play!**

I have read and agree to the terms listed above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent if under 18 years of age.

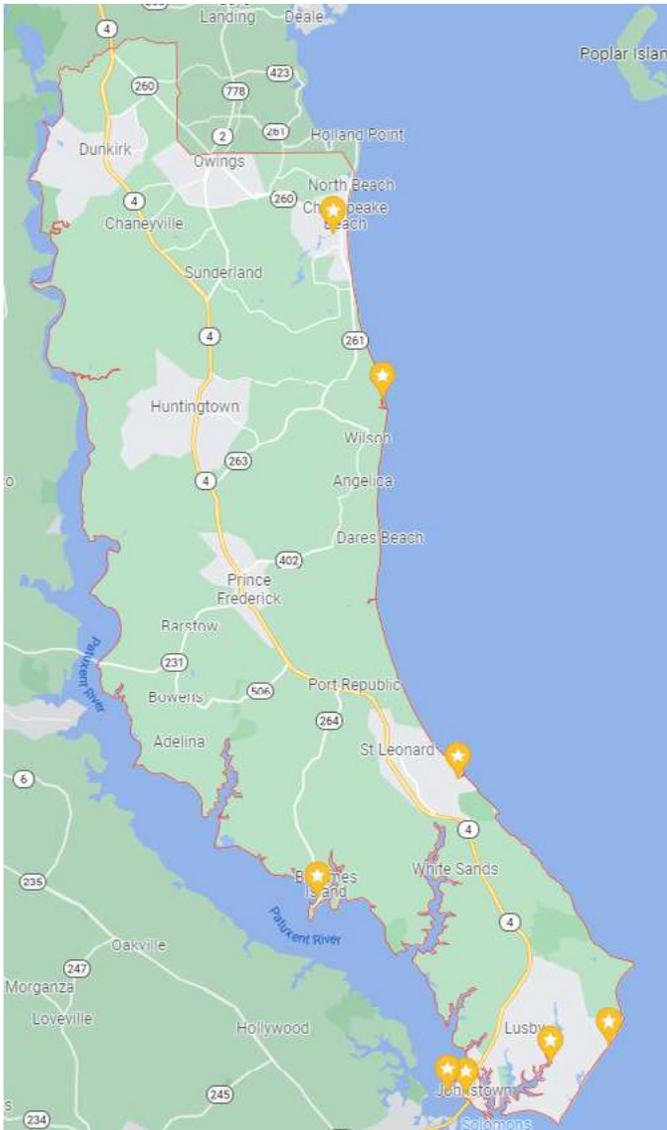
## APPENDIX J: NON-COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### Recreational facilities that are not Owned or Operated by the County.

Calvert County residents enjoy several County owned and operated Park and Recreation facilities. Additionally, there are number of large and small privately owned facilities that offer services to the residents throughout the county.

### Aquatic and Waterfront Facilities

Following providers offer facilities such as Boat Ramps, Boat slips, canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier along with accessory facilities such as parking, restrooms and concession stands. The Solomon's Pool Complex is the only non-county facility that offers outdoor swimming pool and accessory facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic tables and picnic shelter.



Navy Recreation Center Solomon's Fishing Pier  
Solomons, MD 20619

Solomon's Pool Complex  
Patuxent Dr, Solomons, MD 20688

Driftwood Beach  
12234 Beach Dr, Lusby, MD 20657

Point Patience Marina  
1st St, Solomons, MD 20688

Len's Marina  
1st St, Solomons, MD 20688

Abner's Marina & Boat Ramp  
3741 Harbor Rd, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

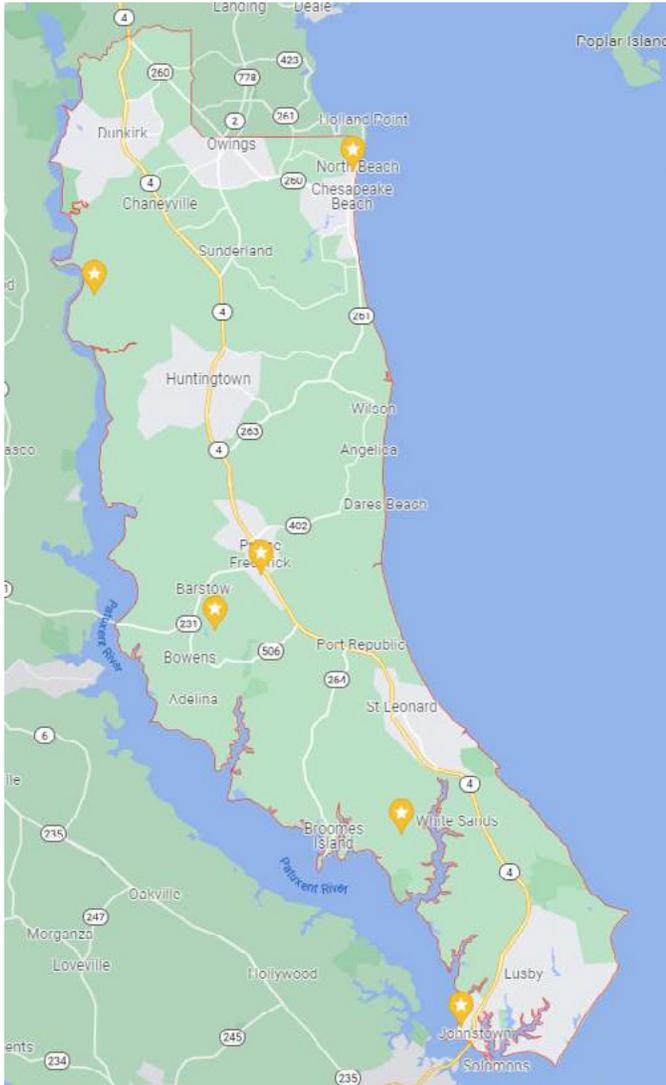
Mill Creek Marine Marina  
12565 Rousby Hall Rd, Lusby, MD 20657

Flag harbor Yacht Haven Marina  
1565 Flag Harbor Blvd, St Leonard, MD 20685

Breezy Point Marina  
5230 Breezy Point Rd, Chesapeake Beach,

### Outdoor Sports, Recreation and Athletic Facilities

Following providers offer facilities such as baseball fields, multipurpose athletic fields, basket balls, playgrounds, tennis, golf course, camping sites, trails along with accessory facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables etc.



- Navy Recreation Center Solomon's Fishing Pier  
Solomons, MD 20619
- Solomon's Pool Complex  
Patuxent Dr, Solomons, MD 20688
- Driftwood Beach  
12234 Beach Dr, Lusby, MD 20657
- Point Patience Marina  
1st St, Solomons, MD 20688
- Len's Marina  
1st St, Solomons, MD 20688
- Abner's Marina & Boat Ramp  
3741 Harbor Rd, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
- Mill Creek Marine Marina  
12565 Rousby Hall Rd, Lusby, MD 20657
- Flag harbor Yacht Haven Marina  
1565 Flag Harbor Blvd, St Leonard, MD 20685
- Breezy Point Marina  
5230 Breezy Point Rd, Chesapeake Beach,



# ■ LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS, AND RECREATION PLAN

