



# Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

Approved March 19, 2014

Adopted April 15, 2014

Effective April 30, 2014



## **Acknowledgements**

### **Calvert County Board of County Commissioners**

Pat Nutter, President  
Steven R. Weems, Vice-President  
Gerald W. Clark  
Susan Shaw  
Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, Jr.

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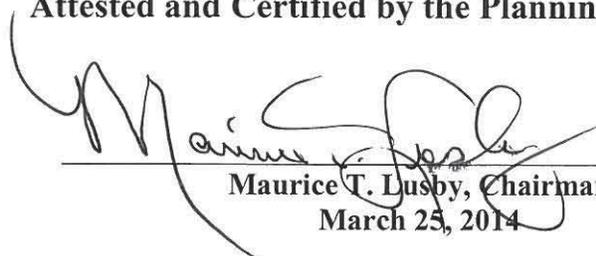
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**Attested and Certified by the Planning Commission**



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Maurice T. Lusby, Chairman  
March 25, 2014

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPEALING THE CALVERT COUNTY  
LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN AND ADOPTING  
A REVISED CALVERT COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND  
RECREATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5-905(b)(2) of the *Natural Resources Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, Calvert County is required to revise its land preservation and recreation plan every five years;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners did on March 20, 2007, adopt the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* by Resolution No. 07-07;

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive revisions have been proposed to the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*;

**WHEREAS**, on February 19, 2014, for which due public notice was published in one newspaper of general circulation in Calvert County, the Calvert County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing at which time the proposed *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* was discussed, the Planning Commission's recommended plan was considered, and public comment was solicited;

**WHEREAS**, after holding the public hearing, the Planning Commission made certain changes, including clarification of issues and the addition of definitions, and at a meeting on on March 19, 2014, approved the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, Approved March 19, 2014*, and recommended the same to the Board, by resolution;

**WHEREAS**, all procedural requirements regarding due public notice and subsequent action of the Board have been met;

**WHEREAS**, upon due consideration of the comments of the public and staff, the recommendations of the Planning Commission, and in furtherance of guiding public and private actions and decisions regarding land preservation, parks and recreation in Calvert County, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the County to adopt the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*;

**WHEREAS**, the Board having considered the Planning Commission's recommendation and all comments, has determined it is in the best interest of the citizens of Calvert County to adopt the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners met in public session on April 15, 2014, and determined to adopt the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, adopted March 20, 2007, being resolution No. 07-07, as amended, is hereby repealed.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, Exhibit "A"

hereto, is hereby adopted as the official land preservation, parks, and recreation plan for Calvert County, Maryland.

**BE IT FURTHERORDAINED**, that this Ordinance shall take effect on the date set forth below without publication of a fair summary.

**DONE**, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014 by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland sitting in regular session.

Aye: 3  
Nay: 2 - Shaw, Slaughterhaupt  
Absent/Abstain: 0

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT  
COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Maureen L. Frederick  
Maureen L. Frederick, Clerk

Pat Nutter  
Pat Nutter, President

Approved for legal  
sufficiency on March 26, 2014

Steven R. Weems  
Steven R. Weems, Vice-President

by:  
John B. Norris, III  
John B. Norris, III, County Attorney

Gerald W. Clark  
Gerald W. Clark

Susan Shaw  
Susan Shaw

Evan K. Slaughterhaupt Jr.  
Evan K. Slaughterhaupt Jr.

Received for Record April 30 2014  
at 11:59 o'clock PM Some day  
recorded in Liber KPS No. 44  
Page 269 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

John B. Norris, III

**RESOLUTION OF THE CALVERT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING THE CALVERT COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN AND RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF SAID PLAN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 5-905 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Calvert County is required to revise its land preservation and recreation plan every five years; and

**WHEREAS**, a revision of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A" (the "Plan" hereinafter), was prepared and was reviewed by the Calvert County Planning Commission and by all appropriate County Agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan was submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning for approval as required by law, and comments by the Departments have been incorporated into the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan shall serve as a guide to public and private actions and decisions to ensure the development of public and private property in appropriate relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, the Calvert County Planning Commission has considered the Plan and held a duly scheduled and advertised public hearing on the same, on February 19, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the record was left open for additional comments until March 4, 2014, and additional comments were received and considered by the Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission considers the Plan to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Calvert County Planning Commission hereby approves the **Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan** dated **March 19, 2014**, and

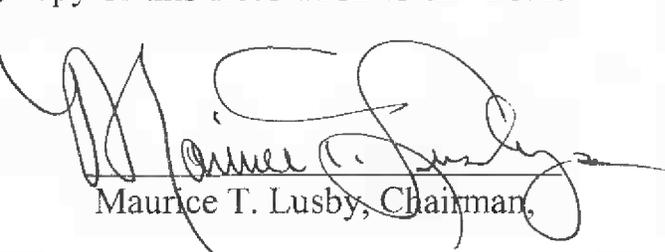
attached hereto, and recommends the same to the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County for adoption; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Planning Commission hereby transmits a signed copy of this Resolution to the Board of Commissioners of Calvert County.

Dated: 3/26/2014

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Commission Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maurice T. Lusby, Chairman.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Program Open Space Law, as most recently amended, requires the local governing body to prepare a local land preservation and recreation plan at least every five years and submit it to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning. The local plans provide a basis for the statewide Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

The Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation (LPP&R) Plan is supplemental to the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and is based upon the County's prior Land Preservation, Parks and Open Space Plans. The LPP&R Plan is based upon the goals and actions set forth in the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2004 and amended in 2010.

There are four elements of the Plan.

1. Recreation, Parks, and Open Space
2. Agricultural Land Preservation
3. Natural Resource Conservation
4. Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation

## **1. Recreation, Parks, and Open Space**

During the update of this plan, the supply of publicly-owned recreation sites was updated. The LPP&R Plan includes an analysis of the existing supply, present and future demand for recreation activities, and a needs analysis for 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025. The plan presents an inventory of County and municipal recreation sites and compares the current supply to the goal of providing 30 acres of recreation land per 1,000 persons. As of 2013, the County and the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach have provided 2,283 acres of local recreation and natural resource lands. The 2010 goal was to provide 2,662 acres. Thus, there was a deficit of 379 acres of recreation and natural resource lands. The 2025 goal is to provide 2,951 acres. In order to do so, the County and the municipalities will need to acquire 668 acres.

The needs analysis shows that there are deficits of recreation facilities for baseball/softball, basketball, tennis, outdoor pools, picnic shelters, skateparks, equestrian trails, kayak and canoeing launch sites, and swimming at beaches/rivers. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan sets forth four broad objectives, in the Recreation Section:

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

## **2. Agricultural Preservation**

Calvert farming is in a cultural and financial crisis, as it moves away from tobacco, the “money crop,” to other crops as part of Maryland’s tobacco buyout program. While approximately 63% of the county’s land is assessed as farmland, only 30% of the assessed farmland is producing enough farm income to be considered a farm by the Census of Agriculture. The LPP&R Plan reviews the current state of land preservation tools. The County has set a goal to preserve 40,000 acres of prime farm and forestland. Over 28,000 acres have been permanently preserved, as of July, 2013. At the current five year average of 325 acres preserved a year, it would take until 2047 to reach the preservation goal.

The LPP&R Plan sets forth three strategies for agricultural land preservation:

- Implement zoning changes to allow farmers to have additional uses for agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism uses.
- Continue to work with the Economic Development Department and the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission to develop and implement marketing programs to link farmers with buyers, take advantage of the brand campaign to “buy local,” and educate consumers about the benefits of buying from and supporting local farms.
- Continue to fund County Purchase of Development Rights and urge the state to do the same.

## **3. Natural Resource Land Conservation**

Calvert County’s unique geography provides an abundance of diverse natural resources: the cliffs of Calvert, numerous creeks leading into the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, and large areas of undeveloped forest. The LPP&R Plan provides an overview of current goals, polices, and implementation strategies at the State and County levels. Tools for protecting natural resources are described, ranging from land preservation to zoning.

The LPP&R Plan sets forth seven strategies for natural resource conservation:

- Continue to support and promote the County’s land use plan and policies outlined in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.
- Adopt a Greenways Map and use it to target areas that need to be protected. Include Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat. Use the map to identify greenways during the subdivision process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space.
- Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing informational brochures, making public presentations and developing programs for Channel 6 (public access cable television).
- Continue to hold regional meetings to explain land preservation options that are available to property owners.
- Promote eco-tourism by allowing natural resource related recreational businesses in the Farm and Forest District, consistent with resource and habitat protection.
- Continue the strong 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, Rural Legacy and Program Open Space).

- Adopt and implement a cost effective Calvert County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

#### **4. Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation**

Since its founding in 1654, Calvert County's settlement patterns and cultural development have been driven by its geography and use of the land and water. Even in pre-history, the climate, topography and marine environment left a unique and valuable imprint that remains today. This imprint can be seen in the county's broad array of historic resources, from buildings and bridges to boats and archaeological sites.<sup>1</sup>

The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan sets forth four goals:

- A. Adopt a historic/scenic roads ordinance.
- B. 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.
- C. Continue to record archaeological sites and add them to the Maryland Archaeological Sites Inventory.
- D. Adopt an archaeological site protection ordinance.

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<sup>1</sup> *Calvert County, Maryland, Historic District Design Guidelines*, December, 2000, Page 5



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# CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the purpose and presents the context of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPP&R Plan).

## A. Purposes of the Plan

The State of Maryland’s Program Open Space laws require the local governing bodies “to prepare a local land preservation and recreation plans with acquisition goals based upon the most current population data available from the Maryland Department of Planning and submit it to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning for joint approval according to the criteria and goals set forth in the guidelines....” (Annotated Code of Maryland Natural Resources, § 5-905 (b) (2), 2012. The local jurisdictions are to revise their plans at least every five years. The local plans provide a basis for the state’s Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. The Program Open Space law was enacted in 1969. This Calvert County LPP&R Plan is based upon prior Calvert County Land Preservation and Recreation Plans, most recently prepared in 1994, 2000, and 2006. This Plan is supplemental to the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2004 and amended in 2010. This LPP&R Plan for Calvert County was developed following the guidelines published in October, 2010 by the State of Maryland.

There are three elements of the Plan:

1. Recreation and Parks Element,
2. Agricultural Land and Natural Lands/Resources, and
3. Historic Preservation Element.

The purposes of the Plan include the following:

- Review goals and objectives of State and local programs for three principal elements: parks and recreation, agriculture, and natural resources;
- Identify where these goals and objectives are essentially the same, where they are complementary or mutually supportive, and where they are simply different;
- Evaluate the ability of implementation programs and funding sources for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify desirable improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Recommend to State and local legislatures, governing bodies and agencies changes needed to overcome shortcomings, achieve goals, and ultimately ensure good return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of current and future State and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs; and
- Ensure that public investment in local preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local comprehensive plans, associated implementation programs, State Planning Policy, and State and local programs that influence land use and development.

Specific objectives of the plan include the following:

- ❖ Identify the needs and priorities of current and future State and local populations for outdoor recreation;
- ❖ Achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs;
- ❖ Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local programs that influence land use and development;
- ❖ Identify desirable improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment; and
- ❖ Make recommendations to agencies, State and local legislatures, and administrators.

## **B. Local Agency Preparation of the Plan**

The Calvert County government is responsible for the preparation of the LPP&R Plan. The plan was developed by the County's Open Space Committee, composed of staff from the Parks and Recreation Division and the Natural Resources Division of the General Services Department, Finance and Budget Department, Economic Development Department, and the Community Planning and Building Department. The Community Planning and Building Department was responsible for coordinating the plan's development. The Parks and Recreation Division and the Community Planning and Building Department worked jointly in preparing Chapter III. Chapters IV and V were prepared by the Community Planning and Building Department. The County government worked with the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach in updating the 2006 LPP&R Plan. The County's Program Open Space liaison with the State is the Capital Projects Analyst of the Finance and Budget Department.

## **C. The Plan's Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process**

The LPP&R Plan is based upon the goals and actions set forth in the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for Calvert County. The Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Commission use the Comprehensive Plan as a guide when evaluating proposed projects or changes to the County and Town Center zoning ordinances.

## **D. Definitions Used in the Plan**

Definitions used in this plan are from the Maryland Department of Planning. Definitions, terms, programs and acronyms may be found in the Appendix. Terms include general terms and land classification terms.

## CHAPTER II – FRAMEWORK FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

### A. COUNTY PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

Calvert County is located 30 miles southeast of Washington, D.C., in Southern Maryland (refer to Figure II-1). Calvert County is a peninsula bounded on the south and east by the Chesapeake Bay and on the west by the Patuxent River. A bridge at the southern-most point connects Calvert County with St. Mary's County, and a bridge at Hallowing Point connects Calvert County with Charles County. The county contains approximately 220 square miles (about 140,000 acres) and is 35 miles long north to south, and varies in width between five and nine miles. There are two incorporated towns, both located in the northeast corner of the county, along the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake Beach was incorporated in 1886, and North Beach was incorporated in 1910. The county seat is Prince Frederick, located in the middle of the county. There are seven unincorporated Town Centers: Dunkirk, Owings, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, St. Leonard, Lusby, and Solomons.

**Figure II-1: Location of Calvert County**



The topography of Calvert County is variable and rugged. An upland plain runs from the northwest to the southwest. On the Chesapeake Bay side, the upland ends in high cliffs of clay, gravel and sand that extend from the shoreline to heights of 125 to 135 feet. On the west, the upland areas slope toward the Patuxent River where rich farmland is found. The water generally drains from the central elevation towards the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River on either side of the county.

Calvert County is within the Lower Western Shore Watershed and the Patuxent Watershed. The two watersheds are separated along the central elevation in the county with the Lower Western Shore Watershed on the eastern most side of the county draining towards the Chesapeake Bay, and the Patuxent Watershed encompassing the western two-thirds of the county and draining towards the Patuxent River.

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<sup>1</sup> County profile information in Sections A and B based upon information in the Calvert County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2004, prepared by Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.

## B. CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

As of the 2010 Census, Calvert County's population was 88,737 people, as compared to Maryland's population, which was 5,773,552. Calvert County is the smallest county, in geographic area, in the state. Calvert County was the second fastest growing county in the State of Maryland between 1980 and 1990, and the fastest growing county in the State between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, the population density was 346 people per square mile. By 2010, the population density increased to 416 people per square mile. Refer to Figure II-2 for population for Maryland, Calvert County and the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach for the years 1990, 2000, and 2010. Figure II-2 also shows the percent change for each jurisdiction from 1990 to 2000 and from 2000 to 2010. The Calvert County Community Planning and Building Department estimates the population to be 92,250 as of January, 2013.

**Figure II-2 Population**

	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	Percent Change 1990- 2000	Percent Change 2000- 2010
State of Maryland	4,780,742	5,296,486	5,773,552	10.8	9.0
Calvert County	51,372	74,563	88,737	45.1	19.0
Town of Chesapeake Beach	2,419	3,189	5,753	23.9	80.4
Town of North Beach	1,157	1,880	1,978	38.5	5.2

In 2000, the county population age categories were spread out with 29.6 percent under the age of 18, 6.4 percent from 18 to 24, 31.7 percent from 25 to 44, 23.4 percent from 45 to 64, and 8.9 percent who are 65 years of age or older. The median age of the population in Calvert County was 36 years. In 2010, the county population age categories were 26 percent under the age of 18, 8 percent from 18 to 24, 24 percent from 25 to 44, 31 percent from 45 to 64, and 11 percent who are 65 years of age or older. The median age of the population in Calvert County was 40 years. The County government will take into consideration the needs and desires of residents of all ages. The trend is an aging population. In 2000, 32 percent of the population was age 45 or older. In 2010, 42 percent of the population was age 45 or older. There are many active senior groups which use the County's recreational facilities. As the population ages, the County will monitor and respond to the needs and desires as resources when developing recreational facilities and providing recreational programs.

The county population is projected to be 91,650 in 2015, 95,600 in 2020, and 98,350 in 2025 (refer to Figure II-3). Calvert County is using population data from the Maryland Department of Planning for this LPP&R Plan, as specified by the State's Program Open Space law.

**Figure II-3 Population Projections**

Year	2015	2020	2025
Calvert County Population Projections	91,650	95,600	98,350

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, March, 2012

The County's projected population has decreased due to a concerted effort by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to reduce the county's population at build-out. Instead of converting the county's prime forests and farms into building sites, these resources will be the basis for a thriving farming, forestry, recreation and retirement based economy. During the development of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, County planners projected the number of dwelling units at the build-out of the county. Under the 1995 zoning, the county had a theoretical build-out capacity of approximately 50,000 dwelling units. At the projected rate of growth, build-out, which assumed a modest decline over the current rates, would be reached in 2030. In 1999, after conducting a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits of reducing build-out and developing options for public review and comment, the County adopted a program to reduce build-out to 37,000 households. The reduction program included a combination of zoning ordinance changes with new funding and new incentives for voluntary land preservation. The residential build-out issue was revisited in 2003 and further actions were taken to meet the build-out goals established in 1999.

### **C. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FRAMEWORK**

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for the County. The overarching goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to "maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development,
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County."

The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of four chapters: Land and Water, People, Economy and Government. The Land and Water, People, and Government chapters include sections focused on specific topics. Agricultural preservation is discussed in the Land Use and Growth Management section of the Land and Water Chapter. Natural resources conservation is discussed in the Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas section of the Land Chapter and Water. Recreation has its own section in the People Chapter, as does heritage. Each section includes objectives, sustainability issues, and actions.

The Comprehensive Plan states that areas like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirements areas. This approach would help to:

- Conserve natural resources.
- Maintain a healthy environment.
- Promote the health and well-being of residents throughout the region.
- Reduce expenditures for public infrastructure.
- Maintain a regional source of agricultural and forest products.

In order to implement this strategy, the County's land use plan is to:

- Manage the amount and rate of residential growth.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.

- Develop town centers as attractive, pleasant, and convenient places to live, work, and shop.
- Direct commercial and industrial uses to appropriate locations and provide necessary infrastructure.
- Direct residential growth to appropriate locations and ensure a wide range of housing opportunities for all incomes and ages.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of residential communities.

# CHAPTER III – RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

## INTRODUCTION

### A. COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

This section describes the ways in which Calvert County’s land preservation and recreation goals and procedures support the goals of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the State goals for Recreation, Parks, and Open Space.

#### 1. Goals

##### a. State Goals for Recreation, Parks and Open Space

The State of Maryland has six primary goals for recreation, parks, and open space.

1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. 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 protect natural open spaces and resources.
5. 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.
6. 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.

##### b. Comprehensive Plan for Calvert County

Calvert County’s most recent Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2004 and amended in 2010. The Comprehensive Plan’s goal is to “maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development,
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.”

The Comprehensive Plan goal is expressed in a series of 10 visions. The vision that directly relates to recreation is “Our children are well prepared for the future. We are healthy in body, mind, and spirit.” The benchmark for the healthy aspect of this vision is, “The County provides 30 acres of public access open space per 1,000 residents.”

The Land Use & Growth Management Section in the Comprehensive Plan supports Maryland's twelve planning visions, first adopted in the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 and later modified by the Smart, Green, and Growing Act of 2009.

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

Calvert County's Comprehensive Plan sets forth four broad objectives in the Recreation Section:

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

The Comprehensive Plan contains actions that implement the objectives. There are five actions in the Recreation section (Actions II-56 through II-60):

II-56. Update the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as required by State law.

II-57. Continue the established standard of providing 30 acres of recreational open space per 1000 population.

- a. Give priority to preserving and acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available. Land banking is highly encouraged for this purpose.

**Standard:** Sites should provide access to the water, provide part of a greenway trail system and/or provide access to a unique natural, historic, or cultural feature and be capable of connecting with a town center and/or existing or proposed park site by way of an existing or potential trail system. Priority should be given to sites specifically identified in the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Additional and/or substitute projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Board of County Commissioners.

- b. Develop a full range of recreational sites and facilities serving town centers (especially after-school programs). Emphasize family-oriented activities and increase programs and activities for all ages.

**Standard:** Each town center should be capable of serving as a major focal point and recreation center for residents of the town and their surrounding areas. Major town centers (Prince Frederick, North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Solomons) should serve residents within their districts, and in some cases, the entire County. Each town center should have:

- A town park or "village green"
- An in-town trail and bikeway system that connects to extended greenways
- An outdoor public facility designed primarily for active team sports
- An indoor community center capable of providing a range of activities for all age groups.

In addition, the County needs a total of three public outdoor swimming pools in or near our major town centers (to serve the northern, middle, and southern parts of the County) and one public indoor swimming pool in or near Prince

Frederick. The Kings Landing pool will need to be replaced. The water park in Chesapeake Beach, while a very popular recreational amenity, should not count as one of the required swimming pools.

c. Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers by way of public greenways. Ensure that greenways do not go through private property without the express permission of the property owner.

**Standard:** Each town center should be connected to at least one key natural area/historic park by a trail system.

II-58. Continue to require onsite 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 convenient locations to those who paid the fees.

II-59. 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.

II-60. Develop and maintain interjurisdictional partnerships to promote recreational networks.

c. Relationship between State and County Goals

The County's goals are aligned with the State's goals. Both governments focus on making a variety of recreational opportunities available for all citizens and recognize that recreational sites are integral components of vibrant places to live, work and play. The State and County strive to provide recreation facilities that are conveniently located.

**2. Programs.** This section describes the programs and procedures Calvert County uses to acquire, develop and operate parks, recreational facilities, and open space, including the funding sources used to support these activities.

Planning

The Department of Community Planning and Building (CPB) coordinates planning activities within Calvert County Government, including those of the Planning Commission, the Board of Appeals and other boards and commissions. The department consists of four divisions: Development Review Division, Planning and Citizen Relations Division, Inspections & Permits, and Appeals, Variances and Exceptions. CPB administers the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and the building code. It provides information and guidance to the community and to the Board of County Commissioners concerning growth and development in Calvert County. Established in accordance with state law, the Calvert Planning Commission

serves as a citizen review board on county planning decisions. The seven-member commission, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, is both an advisory and a decision-making body. The Planning Commission:

- Reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the Comprehensive Plan, town center master plans and other policy plans necessary to guide county development.
- Makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding zoning of land, amendments to the ordinances, the development of public structures and services, land acquisitions and other development and growth related issues.
- Reviews and approves the recommendations for subdivision of land for residential and commercial use and proposed site plans for the future development of individual sites.

The Department of Community Planning and Building is the lead agency in the development of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPP&R Plan). Other County departments and divisions directly involved with the development of the LPP&R Plan include the Parks & Recreation Division (within the Department of General Services), Natural Resources Division (within the Department of General Services), Economic Development Department, and Finance & Budget Department.

The Parks and Recreation Division and the Natural Resources Division are responsible for active and passive recreation, respectively. The Parks and Recreation Division provides opportunities for healthful, enjoyable, lifetime leisure activities to our entire community through a comprehensive program of recreational activities in the community centers, the public schools and County parks. The division is also responsible for the management, maintenance and development of the County's active recreation parks. The Parks and Recreation Division employs 69.2 full-time equivalent staff (FY 2014). The Natural Resources Division preserves, manages, and operates natural resource areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division of Natural Resources manages the following areas/sites: Flag Ponds Nature Park, King's Landing Park, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, Hutchins Fishing Pond, Nan's Cove and Solomons Boat Ramp. The Natural Resources Division employs 13.7 full-time equivalent staff (FY 2014).

The Parks and Recreation Board is a 9-member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners "to aid and advise the Division of Parks and Recreation in the provision on recreational facilities and programs and the establishment of policy for the operation of the same." (Calvert County Board of Parks and Recreation Guidelines, 4/7/1989)

The Office on Aging, located within the Community Resources Department, provides services to the seniors of Calvert County as required by the Older Americans Act. Services offered include recreational, educational, leisure, and nutritional activities as well as volunteer opportunities for senior citizens. Senior centers are located in the north, middle, and southern areas of the county. The Commission on Aging advises the Office on Aging on how to better meet the needs of the county's senior citizens. Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, this 16-member Commission actively promotes the development of senior services and advocates for senior needs.

### Land Acquisition

Each year, the Department prepares the Program Open Space Annual Program. Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan or identified as potential acquisition or development projects by the Board of County Commissioners. The projects have not necessarily obtained final approval from the Board. Projects specifically requested by the municipalities, Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, are also listed. For projects other than those already listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan or requested by a municipality, the selection process begins when any individual or organization proposes a project for consideration. The proposal is forwarded to an in-house Open Space Committee composed of the representatives from the Departments of Community Planning and Building, Economic Development, Finance and Budget, and General Services (Parks and Recreation Division and the Natural Resources Division). The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether or not the project is consistent with the criteria listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The committee presents its findings to the Board of County Commissioners for action. Listing a project in the Annual Program is a first step towards implementing a project and is a requirement for Program Open Space funding.

### Facility Development

#### Development of Park Master Plans:

The County has prepared park master plans for each of the three district parks. These plans were developed in the mid- to late 1990s with public participation. Master plans for the three nature parks were completed between 1980 and 1990. In 2010, the master plan for the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The park master plans are being implemented through projects in the County's Capital Improvements Program.

#### Set asides under the Zoning Ordinance/Subdivision Regulations:

Prior to 1994, Calvert County required recreation areas in all new subdivisions for the use of residents within the subdivisions. However, a survey of recreation sites conducted in the late 1980s demonstrated that the vast majority of sites were not used and were not adequately maintained. Most residential subdivisions in Calvert County have fewer than 30 houses and, therefore, do not have enough people to support on-site recreation. This situation provided part of the rationale for substituting the on-site recreation requirement for a recreation excise tax, described below under "Funding").

All new residential dwellings are subject to a recreation excise tax. Recreation areas and facilities must be provided on-site in residential subdivisions with more than 50 dwelling units and all townhouse and multi-family housing developments, in addition to the payment of the recreation fee. The amount of acreage and the types of required facilities are based upon the number of dwelling units within each development. For residential subdivisions, the Planning Commission may, at its discretion, accept land or facilities in lieu of fees in cases where the land or facility is deemed suitable and appropriately located for parks, playgrounds, green spaces such as designated trails or greenways, or other recreational purposes. Residential subdivisions with 50 or fewer lots are not required to provide on-site recreation areas and facilities. Over the past five years, very few new subdivisions with more than 50 lots have been created.

If properties along the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail and the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail were to be subdivided, the County government would seek to have the railway beds included in the developments' open spaces areas and accessible to the public.

#### Specialized Recreation Programs provided at facilities

The County provides specialized recreation programs, including providing public boat access to the Patuxent River, fishing piers on the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay, a campground facility along the Bay, a skatepark at Dunkirk District Park, dog parks in Dunkirk District Park and on Grays Road, an 18-hole golf course with driving range and clubhouse in Lusby, an indoor aquatic center in Prince Frederick, and outdoor pools at Cove Point Park and Kings Landing Park. The Navy Recreation Center Solomons provides recreation for Department of Defense personnel and retirees. The 295-acre center is operated by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department of the Naval District Washington. The Navy Recreation Center provides “a wide array of lodging, including campgrounds, cottages, bungalows, cabins and apartment rentals. Recreational facilities such as picnic pavilions, a recreation center, a 124-slip marina, fishing pier, swimming pools, beach, miniature golf, driving range, basketball courts and tennis courts are just a few of the recreational amenities available” (Naval District Washington). Access is limited to Department of Defense personnel.

#### Joint use agreements with public and private schools, colleges and other institutions

The Calvert County government has memorandum of understanding with the Calvert County Board of Education for the use of school buildings and athletic fields after school hours. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding assigning maintenance responsibilities for 22 fields at 11 schools to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

#### Trails

Many of Calvert County's parks provide networks of trails. Kings Landing Park and Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm provide equestrian trails. The municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach provide boardwalk trails along the Chesapeake Bay, and Chesapeake Beach provides the Chesapeake Railway Trail that runs along Fishing Creek. The State provides trails at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Calvert Cliffs State Park, and Hall Creek and Huntingtown Wildlife Management Areas. The private land trusts have trail networks for hiking. The American Chestnut Land Trust spearheaded the creation of the Prince Frederick to Bay Overlook Trail (PF2BAY Trail), which opened in 2013. The trail is a 6-mile natural surface hiking trail that extends from the Prince Frederick Town Center through northern side of the Parkers Creek watershed to location overlooking the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of Parkers Creek. The trail traverses land owned by the Department of Natural Resources, the County government (purchased with Rural Legacy funds), and the American Chestnut Land Trust (including a parcel purchased with funding from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. The trailhead is located approximately 800 feet from Prince Frederick's Main Street, on Saint John Vianney Roman Catholic Church's property. Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust has trails on the Hemlock Creek Forest & Wildlife Preserve that may be accessed during nature walks organized by the trust.

Most parks provide trails that are ADA-compliant. Any new trails established by the County government will be evaluated to provide the maximum amount of universal access as feasi-

ble. For example, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm’s master plan calls for a universal access path to the Rice House and another planned path leading to the Cypress Swamp.

Calvert County is a narrow, linear county, defined by a rolling topography incised by steep stream valleys leading to the Chesapeake Bay or the Patuxent River, which creates challenges for the maintenance and development of trails. The planning, design and construction of sustainable trail systems is of high importance to protect the land and water resources.

Several local, state and national trails are located within or along Calvert County, connecting a diversity of recreational, natural, and cultural sites. Trails provide a combination of on-road, off-road and on-water experiences, including:

- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail – This trail traverses four states and the District of Columbia. The trail was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 2006 and is the nation’s first water trail. More information is available online from the National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/cajo/index.htm>. The National Park Service has published a boater’s guide, which is also available online: <http://www.smithtrail.net/things-to-do/water-trail-adventures#boaters>. The trail extends along Calvert’s Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River shorelines. Land-based places in Calvert County stretch from the Chesapeake Railway Museum in Chesapeake Beach to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons.
- Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail – This trail encompasses Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and includes both land and water routes covering 560 miles. The trail was established by the U.S. Congress in 2008. The water course of the trail extends along Calvert’s Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River shorelines. The land route in Calvert County extends from Hallowing Point to the mouth of St. Leonard Creek and on to Solomons. More information is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/stsp/index.htm> and <http://starspangledtrail.net/>.
- National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom – The U.S. Congress established the national network program in 1998. The network is administered by the National Park Service. The Maryland Office of Tourism and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom published Maryland’s African-American Heritage Travel Guide. Numerous sites within Calvert County are in the Maryland Travel Guide, including sites in Chesapeake Beach, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, Solomons, Saint Leonard, and Sunderland. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is on the national Network to Freedom. Both the travel guide and the Networks to Freedom Guide are available online from the Maryland Office of Tourism, <http://visitmaryland.org/pages/africanamericanheritage.aspx>.
- Chesapeake Gateways Network – The mission of the Chesapeake Gateways Network is to “Through a partnership system of parks, refuges, museums, historic sites and water trails spanning the watershed, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network helps the American public access, enjoy, understand and appreciate the natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources and values of the Chesapeake and its rivers and engage in their stewardship.” The gateways program is administered by the National Park Service. Information is available online at <http://www.baygateways.net/>.
- Fossils and Farmscapes Ramble – This trail is featured in the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission’s *Southern Maryland Trails: Earth, Art, Imagination*

guidebook. This driving trail extends from North Beach and Chesapeake Beach in the northeast to Solomons in the south, and includes destinations on both the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. The guidebook is available online at <http://www.somdtrails.com/index.html>.

- Patuxent Wine Trail –This trail is sponsored by the Maryland Wine Association and includes wineries in Calvert, St. Mary’s and Prince George’s counties. Details are available online at <http://www.marylandwine.com/wine-trails>.

These trails provide heritage tourism, eco-tourism and resource-based recreation opportunities. These trails connect to other counties via the Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge (MD 4), the Patuxent River Bridge (MD 231) and Southern Maryland Boulevard (MD 4).

Two trails are based upon the County’s railroad heritage: the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail (first segment constructed) and the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail. These trails will provide connections from the municipalities/Town Centers to the rural areas, extending east-west and north-south. More information about these two trails is provided in this chapter in the potential acquisition projects and potential development project sections.

#### Waterway access

While Calvert County is the smallest county in the State of Maryland, its peninsular shape creates many miles of shoreline. The County is bordered on the east and south by the Chesapeake Bay and on the west by the Patuxent River. There are approximately 143 of miles shoreline. The Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, the County, and the State each provide public access to tidal waters. One of the Objectives of the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan is to “Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.” A list of waterway access sites is provided in Appendix A. Waterway access includes such sites where a person can launch or tie up a vessel (motorized, sail, or human powered, like a canoe or kayak), swim, fish, or access a beach. It does not include waterfront sites that provide water views but no access to the water. In addition to water access provided by the three levels of government, commercial marinas and campgrounds provide access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2012, there were 7,411 boats registered to Calvert County residents, a 33% increase from 2004. Of the 7,411 boats, about half were trailered (3,585). In 2004, there were 5,581 registered boats, and in 2000 there were 5,156 registered boats. The number of vessels with a homeport of Calvert County increased from 972 in 2000, to 1,035 in 2004, to 3,536 in 2012. In 2012, there were 3,536 boats with Calvert County registered as their homeport. Boats kept at home on trailers are not included in the count. In 2012, there were 299 boats with a homeport of Calvert County that were documented with the U.S. Coast Guard. Documentation is a national registration for vessels that are at least five net tons. (Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2005 and 2013)

#### Facilities for particular populations such as youth, elderly and disabled

Facilities for youth, such as playground equipment, are provided in the district parks and at the smaller community parks, such as the Dowell Community Center in St. Leonard. Dunkirk District Park includes a skate park for skateboarding. The Town of North Beach’s 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park includes a tot lot, and the North Beach Community Center is the home for the

Boys and Girls Club and Calvert County Parks and Recreation. The Town of Chesapeake Beach operates the Chesapeake Beach Water Park, which opened in 1995. The outdoor pool at Cove Point Park Family Aquatic Center, which opened in the summer of 2006, has a wading pool and a leisure pool and waterslide especially for children, in addition to a lap pool.

The County government operates three senior centers in the northern, central and southern areas of the county: Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick, Southern Pines Senior Center in Lusby, and North Beach Senior Center in North Beach. The centers offer recreational, educational, social, and wellness programs that include but not limited to: computer labs, craft and educational classes, health and nutrition education, fine art classes, intergenerational activities, wide-range of exercise classes, free fitness rooms, billiards, cards, counseling, support groups, health screenings, special event celebrations/activities, well-balanced lunches, and trips/cultural events. Each senior center has a senior council, which actively promotes programming and activities. The senior councils also raise funds for special activities and equipment.

The County provides specialized classes for a range of abilities. The County employs two certified therapeutic recreation specialists who provide programming for individuals with various disabilities ranging from developmental to physical to aging. The County is working toward making all facilities accessible. Buildings and sections of the parks are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

#### Environmental education

The County government provides a broad range of educational programs to the general public. Guided tours, general public nature interpretative programs, and environmental education for organized groups are offered year round, serving over 12,000 youth and families in FY 2012. Calvert County's nature sites are major destinations for residents and visitors. During FY 2012-2013, over 61,000 people visited the three primary sites: Flag Ponds Nature Park, King's Landing Park, and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary.

CHESPAX is the environmental education program for the Calvert County Public School System. CHESPAX is a unique program in which the Board of Education staff works closely with local, state and regional partner agencies to provide hands-on environmental education experiences for the students of Calvert County. The Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River and other natural settings serve as living laboratories for students to use their science content and process skills to learn to make responsible decisions regarding the natural environment. Students and teachers work with CHESPAX staff on a variety of special projects including energy conservation, the Green Schools program, Schoolyard Habitat improvements or serving as a resource for science fair projects and other environmentally related efforts. The CHESPAX staff is based at Kings Landing Park in Huntingtown. (Board of Education, 2005) Educational field experiences are provided for students in grades 1 through 7. The program is a cooperative effort among the Board of Education, Calvert County Natural Resources Division, Calvert Marine Museum, and Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

#### Integration with economic development and tourism

The Calvert County Department of Economic Development actively promotes Calvert County's parks and natural sites as destinations for both residents and tourists. The department

lists both public and private recreation sites in the Visitors Guide (printed and online versions), on the county's web site [www.cal.co.md.us](http://www.cal.co.md.us), and on the Department's web site [www.ChooseCalvert.com](http://www.ChooseCalvert.com). The Calvert County Visitors Guide provides a list of major events and all events are listed on the calendar of events at [www.ChooseCalvert.com](http://www.ChooseCalvert.com). The department coordinates the inclusion of county activities to Maryland's online calendar of events at [www.VisitMaryland.org](http://www.VisitMaryland.org) and is the clearinghouse for the county sites that are included in the state's annual publication, Destination Maryland, published by the Maryland Office of Tourism. Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties have established a regional tourism group, Destination Southern Maryland, through which the counties work to market the region as a destination to tourists. The group has developed a regional brochure and website, [www.DestinationSouthernMaryland.com](http://www.DestinationSouthernMaryland.com), which lists parks and natural resources throughout Southern Maryland.

On a regional basis, Calvert County is a partner in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium. The Consortium's mission is to enhance the economic activity of Southern Maryland through combining quality heritage tourism and small business development with preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation and education. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area is a combination of historic sites, museums, recreational areas, farms and wineries, along with the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area, which includes large portions of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, is also responsible for marketing the three-county area as a visitor destination. The Heritage Area and its marketing partners have produced the comprehensive regional map and guide, *Destination Southern Maryland*, and another map, *The War of 1812 in Southern Maryland*, along with a traveling exhibit about that war in our region titled, *The Enemy at Our Door!* In addition the SMHAC marketing group has created a web site, a video of the region and numerous advertisements.

The County also participates in the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The Network is comprised of over 130 sites throughout the Bay region; 10 sites listed for Maryland's Western Shore (a nine county region) are located in Calvert County. Calvert's Gateways include nature preserves (Parkers Creek Watershed Nature Preserve, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, and Calvert Cliffs State Park), museums (Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, and Calvert Marine Museum), the Solomons Visitor Information Center, and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. The Bay Gateways Program has provided grant funds to provide exhibits at many of Calvert's Gateway sites. Information is available on line at [www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net).

#### Information technology used to support public awareness of recreational opportunities

The County uses the web to promote visitation to the parks and for providing information about classes, activities, and park facility information. The program guide is published four times a year. It is posted to the web and a hardcopy is mailed to all Calvert County postal patrons (approximately 36,000) four times a year.

- *How does the County invest Program Open Space funds in parks, recreation and open space to complement and support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans, including the eight visions of State Planning Policy?*

The County prepares a Program Open Space Annual Program, described in detail above in the Land Acquisition section.

- *How does the County attempt to ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers; help to protect natural open spaces and resources; and complement community design and infrastructure?*

The County's action plan includes developing a full range of recreational sites and facilities serving town centers. The town centers are the County's primary designated growth areas, and are designated as Priority Funding Areas under the State's "Smart Growth" Areas Act of 1997, Chapter 759 of the Laws of Maryland of 1997. Priority Funding Areas are geographic growth areas defined under State law and designated by local jurisdictions to provide a map for targeting State investment in infrastructure. The State Act allows counties to designate Priority Funding Areas based upon land use, water and sewer service, and residential density criteria. There are nine Town Centers designated in Calvert County: the municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, and the seven Town Centers of Dunkirk, Owings, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, St. Leonard, Lusby and Solomons. The Town Centers are fairly evenly distributed along the County's approximately 35-mile length (refer to Figure III-1 Calvert County's Priority Preservation Areas and Growth Areas Map). Priority Preservation Areas are areas "capable of supporting profitable agricultural and forestry enterprises; be governed by local policies that stabilize the land base so that development does not convert or compromise agricultural or forest resources; and be large enough to support the kinds of agricultural operations that the county seeks to preserve" (Key Planning Legislation from the 2006 Session, Provided by The Maryland Department of Planning and The Maryland Department of the Environment). The County requires the residential subdivisions over 50 dwelling units and townhouse and multi-family residential developments to provide recreation land and facilities. In most cases, the excise tax that is collected for the recreation fund must be spent within the municipality or election district from which they are collected, except in certain instances. (The Excise Tax is described in detail in "Funding" section of this chapter.)

The 2010 Comprehensive Plan states that priority is to be given "to preserving and acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available." (Action II-57 on Page 78). The County has used the State's Rural Legacy Program to purchase easements on properties and to acquire four properties totaling over 450 acres. The four acquired properties help preserve habitat in the Battle Creek and Parkers Creek watersheds.

The Zoning Ordinance requirements specify certain standards to ensure that on-site recreation sites are suitably located and appropriate to the age groups and population to be served.

- *How does the County set priorities for recreational land acquisition and facility development to make existing communities and planned growth areas more desirable, thereby*

*encouraging private investment in those areas commensurate with the priorities of the comprehensive plan?*

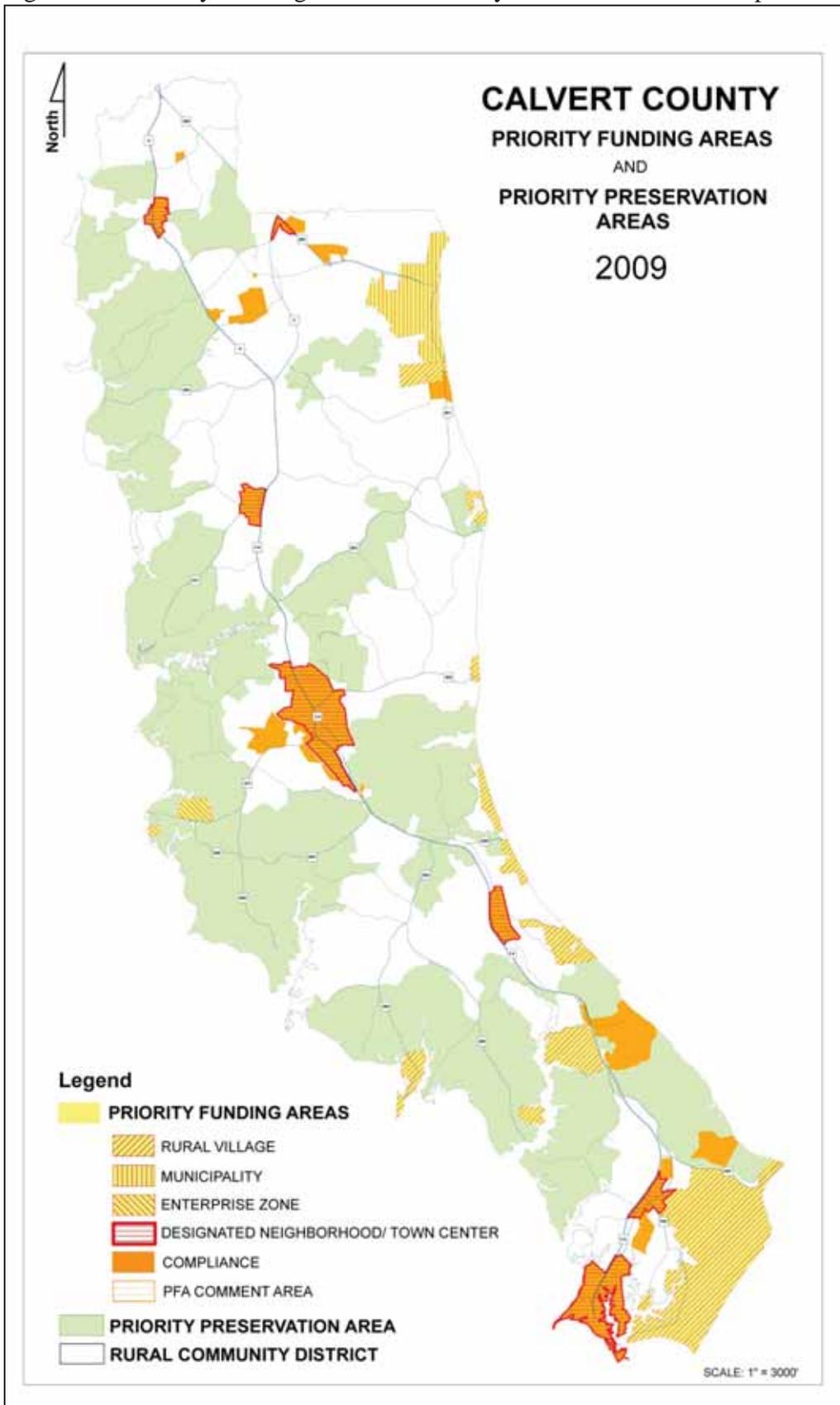
The County has established a priority that “the town centers are to serve as focal points for community-based recreation. Recreational sites and facilities will not only help shape and define the character of town centers, but they will also help attract new residents to towns instead of out into the countryside. They will also make recreation more accessible to more people, particularly young people and the elderly who may not have convenient access to cars.” (2010 Comprehensive Plan, Page 77)

- *How does the County seek to ensure a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities are readily accessible to all of its citizens?*

The County has the Comprehensive Plan, the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, the Town Center Master Plans, and the Capital Improvements Program to ensure a variety of recreational opportunities are readily accessible to our citizens. As noted in this Chapter’s introduction section, the Comprehensive Plan includes the objective, “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.” (Page 74) Regarding physical access to the parks, County bus service is available to Cove Point Park and the Hall Aquatic Center.

Many of the parks located in the seven town centers and the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach are accessible by foot and bicycle.

Figure III-1 Priority Funding Areas and Priority Preservation Areas Map



Funding

**Capital Funds:**

Recreation acquisition and development projects are funded through four main sources: an excise tax for recreation, general obligation bonds, the County’s general fund, and the County’s local share apportionment from the State’s Program Open Space. The County historically has spent between 3% and 5% of the capital project budget on recreational uses. Table III-1 shows the percentages of recreation funding through the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2006-2013.

**TABLE III-1 Percentage of Capital Budget Spent on Recreation**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Percentage (%) of Capital Budget Spent on Recreation</b>
2006	10% *
2007	11% *
2008	4%
2009	3%
2010	3%
2011	4%
2012	5%
2013	3%

\* Includes \$19.9 million indoor aquatic center construction.

The percentage of each funding source in the 2013-2019 Capital Improvements Program is 19% from the excise tax, 18% from general obligation bonds, 35% from the general fund, and 28% from Program Open Space and other sources.

*Recreation Funded through Excise Tax*

In 2001, the Board of County Commissioners replaced impact fees collected for schools, recreation and solid waste with an excise tax. Effective May 21, 2003, the amount of tax charged was increased and the list of intended uses broadened. An excise tax of \$1,300 on new residential structures is collected for recreation. The tax, which is based upon each household’s share of the recreation standard (30 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons), is collected at the time building permits are issued. In most cases, the funds must be spent within the election district or municipality from which they are collected. Funds may only be spent outside a municipality from which they were collected if the town government approves the expenditure of the funds for the benefit of a location outside the municipality. Funds may only be spent outside of an election district from which they are collected if the Board of County Commissioners finds that the expenditure outside the district, or within a municipality within the district, would benefit the inhabitants of the district. Funds may be borrowed from one election district for another district. The excise tax may be waived or reduced if the developer of a subdivision provides a recreation site that is accepted by the County. The Board of County Commissioners may grant a full or partial waiver of the tax applicable to new construction of affordable housing. In 2013, the recreation portion of the excise tax remains at \$1,300 per residential structure or unit. These funds have significantly enhanced the County’s ability to address capital needs in recreation without incurring new debt.

### *Revolving Loan Fund*

The Board of County Commissioners established the Revolving Loan Fund in 1994 for the purpose of making funds available to non-profit land trusts as a loan to preserve open space within the county. Payments are to be repaid to the fund for future loans. Priority is given to projects that provide public access.

### *Program Open Space (POS)*

Each year counties receive a funding apportionment from Program Open Space, a program administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of POS is to assist counties in acquiring and developing recreational open space and facilities. Half of the annual allocation may be used for land acquisition and may fund up to 100% of the acquisition cost. The other half of the allocation may be used for either land acquisition or development for up to 75% of the cost. Projects must comply with the goals of the Maryland Land Preservation Plan and be approved by the State. However, counties are given broad discretion in determining their own recreational needs.

Calvert County's POS funding apportionments from 2000 to 2012 totaled over \$6 million (refer to Table III-2). Over \$10 million in POS funding has been used to acquire and develop recreational sites and facilities in Calvert County since the program began in 1970. Program Open Space also has a stateside component. Stateside Program Open Space funds have been used to purchase Calvert Cliffs State Park, Kings Landing Park, Breezy Point Park, Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, two boat ramps and, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, land within the Parkers Creek watershed.

**Table III-2 Program Open Space Funding for Calvert County**

Fiscal Year	Apportionment from the State
2000	\$ 407,743
2001	\$ 429,990
2002	\$ 512,588
2003	\$ 209,274
2004	\$ 224,000
2005	\$ 182,018
2006	\$ 541,478
2007	\$1,619,537*
2008	\$1,154,193*
2009	\$ 175,706
2010	\$ 74,298
2011	\$ 410,775
2012	\$ 186,210
Total	\$ 6,127,810

\* Years 2007 and 2008 include funding for the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center.

### *Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds*

Federal funds have been distributed to the states, and subsequently from the states to the counties. Land & Water Conservation Funds have been used to develop recreational facilities.

ties in Calvert County. Federal Land & Water Conservation funds have been used in all three district parks: Dunkirk, Hallowing Point, and Cove Point, as well as Flag Ponds Nature Park and the Hall Aquatic Center.

#### *Calvert County Youth Recreational Opportunities Fund*

This special fund was created by the State Legislature in 2012 and is administered by the Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the revenue received from gaming in Chesapeake Beach and North Beach is returned to Calvert County to the purpose of increasing recreational opportunities for youth in the county. The funds were used to purchase two parcels in Dunkirk. See the description for the Calvert County Youth Recreation Facility on Ward Road in the potential development section.

#### *Grant Sources*

Calvert County government and the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach have obtained grant funds in the past and will continue to seek grant funds in the future from public and private sources. Potential sources of State grants include the Maryland Department of Transportation's Sidewalk Retrofit Program, for constructing sidewalks along State roads to parks, and the Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

#### **Operating Funds**

The County has a special revenue fund, the Parks & Recreation Fund. Revenues are collected in the form of program revenues, rents and concessions, camping, general admission and miscellaneous income. Revenue is received from Breezy Point Beach and Campground, Marley Run Park, Kings Landing and Cove Point pools, the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, and through a substantial number of programs. Funds are charged on a program or admission basis for those utilizing these recreational activities. The actual revenue in fiscal year 2011 was \$2.87 million, which included a General Fund contribution of approximately \$295,000. The estimated revenue in Fiscal Year 2014 is \$2.99 million. The County established a self-sustaining fund for the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course. Currently, the operations and debt service incurred for capital projects is paid through this fund which is repaid from revenues generated by user fees. The FY 2013 operating budget for the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course is approximately \$984,000.

Operating Funds within the Department of General Services (which includes the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Natural Resources) are available for the operation and maintenance the County's recreational facilities, including trails, fields, buildings, pavilions, boardwalks, piers, etc. Funds may also be allocated within the Capital Improvement Plan for larger and more substantial renovation or construction projects. The FY 2013 operating budget for parks and recreational activities provided by the Division of Parks and Recreation was approximately \$3.5 million. The FY 2013 operating budget for the Division of Natural Resources was approximately \$776,000.

## **B. NEEDS ANALYSIS AND COUNTY PRIORITIES FOR LANDS, FACILITIES, & REHABILITATION**

This section details Calvert County's priorities for land acquisition, facilities, and rehabilitation. The County updated its inventory of the supply of recreation and natural resource lands, analyzed the demand for recreation activities based upon two state surveys, and prepared the needs analysis based upon the supply and demand. The needs analysis results are best estimates, based upon interests of the survey respondents in Southern Maryland. The mid- and long-range priorities may change based upon the changing interests of County citizens.

### **1. Supply**

The County's geographic information system (GIS) includes layers of information such as orthophotography from 2011, topography, property boundaries, and addresses. Data is provided to private property owners and commercial entities based upon an approved pricing schedule and is provided at no cost to local, State, and Federal governments, Calvert County Public Schools, public utilities providing services within the county, land trusts, and other specified entities. County staff uses the GIS data to identify and evaluate potential acquisition properties.

As of 2005, Calvert County had a total of 4,282 acres of recreation and natural resource land. Table III-3 lists these lands by type and shows the amount of acreage each contributes. For State definitions of park/land classifications, refer to Appendix B. A detailed list is provided in Appendix C. For locations of recreation facilities in Calvert County, refer to Figure III-2.

**Table III-3 Recreation and Natural Resource Land by Type**

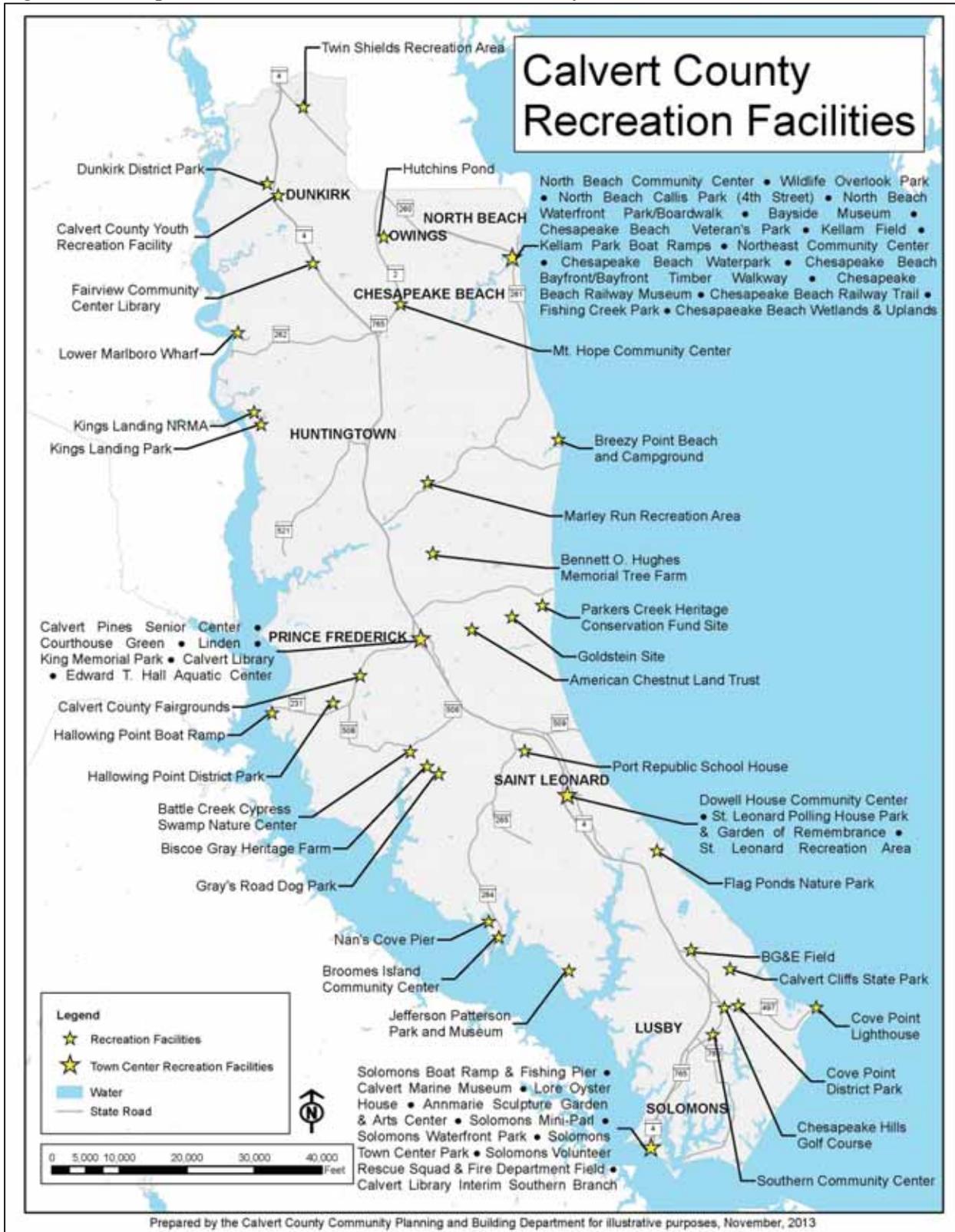
Type	Number	Acres	Examples
Mini-park	5	3	Chesapeake Veteran’s Park, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Courthouse Green
Neighborhood park	5	26	Broomes Island Community Center, Twin Shields Recreational Area, Hutchins Fishing Pond
Community park	11	111	Dowell House, Kellam Memorial Recreational Park, North Beach Community Center
Regional park	4	483	District Parks: Calvert County Youth Recreation Facility, Cove Point, Dunkirk, and Hallowing Point
Special use areas	14	286	Breezy Point Beach & Campground, Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, Calvert Library, senior centers, community centers
Educational recreational areas	18	170	Elementary school recreational areas, middle and high school ballfields
Natural resources/open space	11	1,583	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Fishing Creek Park, Fowler Road Open Space, Walton Beach, Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park
Historical/cultural area	6	19	Calvert Marine Museum, Cove Point Lighthouse, Linden
Private open space	5+	2,009	American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature & Education Society, subdivision recreational acreage
Total	77	4,690	

## 2. Demand

This Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is an update of the plan adopted in 2006. As of 2013, the most recent available state surveys were those conducted in 2003, which were the source for determining the baseline demand for the 2006 plan. Calvert County used these two state surveys in determining demand for recreational facilities for the 2013 plan update. In addition to these surveys, input from the public meetings held in early 2005 (see Appendix H) and input from County and town staff in 2013, were used in determining supply, demand, and need. Supply was updated based upon an inventory of recreational facilities in spring, 2013; demand and need were calculated based upon population projections for 2015, 2020, and 2025. It is important to note that the State surveys from 2003 were the latest available. While the 2003 statewide surveys included survey responses for the Southern Maryland region, they may not provide an accurate picture of the needs in Calvert County. For example, currently, some areas of the county are well served for field sports, while other areas of the County have a deficit.

The public provides comments on the County’s provision of recreation sites and programs on an on-going basis, including the opportunity to comment on Calvert County’s Program Open Space Annual Program. The County staff works with youth sport leagues, home owner associations, community associations, and the Parks and Recreation Board.

Figure III-2 Map of Recreation Facilities in Calvert County



*Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland: A Survey of Households in Maryland and Seven Sub-State Regions* was published in May 2003 (Norris, Donald F., and Royce Hanson). *State Park and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion* was also published in May 2003 (Norris, Donald F., and Royce Hanson).

The *Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities* survey was conducted in January 2003 and comprised a random sample of 400 households in the Southern Maryland region (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties). "The survey provided information on the levels and frequency of participation by household members and individuals in 83 park and recreation activities as well as opinions about the adequacy of 11 different kinds of park and recreation facilities in their counties." (Page viii)

#### Executive Summary Highlights:

- In general, people reported that they and members of their households were frequent users of local parks and recreation facilities.
- Over two thirds of Maryland *households* contain members that walk and someone in three of every five households attends a fair or festival in a local park.
- More people engaged in individual, family or group activities than participated in organized sports.
- Attending fairs and festivals (55.8%), walking (49.5%), swimming (45.6%) picnicking (37%), visiting playgrounds (34%), and going to outdoor concerts (26.9%) engaged the largest percentages of *individuals* across the state.
- Fishing made the top ten lists in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Upper Eastern Shore.
- Power boating was among the ten favorite activities of individuals in Southern Maryland.
- Dog exercising beat out basketball in Western Maryland, Suburban Baltimore, Southern Maryland, and Upper and Lower Eastern Shore.
- Large percentages of Western Maryland (64%) and Southern Maryland (62.8%) said their counties did not have enough bike lanes.
- A large majority of Southern Marylanders (61.8%) said there were not enough swimming pools in their counties. (Pages viii and ix)

#### Southern Maryland Highlights

- Fishing from a boat, power boating, and pleasure biking are among the top ten activities for Southern Maryland households.
- The favorite activity for households with children is attending fairs or festivals.
- More households with children have members that play golf than play basketball.
- Basketball is the highest ranked court sport, at 16<sup>th</sup> for all households, 22<sup>nd</sup> for adult households and 12<sup>th</sup> for households with children.
- Baseball, ranked 20<sup>th</sup> for all households, is the highest ranked field sport. It ranks 15<sup>th</sup> among households with children, just below soccer.
- Fewer people play soccer than baseball, but they play it more frequently.
- Almost as many respondents (61.8%) said there were not enough swimming pools as said there were not enough bike lanes (62.8%). More than seven of every ten from households with children said there were not enough swimming pools.
- More than half of all respondents and 69 percent of those from households with children said there are not enough indoor recreation facilities.
- Half of those living in households with children said their counties did not have enough trails and pathways. (Page 72)

The survey included 400 households (226 adult households and 174 households with children), representing 1,135 individuals (445 from adult households and 690 from households with children). Survey results for the most popular activities are shown in Tables III-4, III-5, and III-6 (Survey Pages 73-74).

**Table III-4: The Ten Most Popular Park and Recreation Activities of Southern Maryland Households**

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Walking	64.8	1	61.1	1	69.5	2
Attending Fairs or Festivals	61.8	2	53.1	2	73.0	1
Swimming Pool	50.5	3	41.2	3	62.6	4
Swimming Beach/River/Lake	48.0	4	39.8	4	58.6	5
Visiting Playgrounds	40.8	5	23.0	10	63.8	3
Picnicking	37.3	6	30.1	5	46.6	6
Fishing from Boat	32.0	7	28.8	6	36.2	7
Attending Outdoor Concerts	30.0	8	28.8	7	31.6	11
Power Boating	26.5	9	23.9	9	29.9	13
Pleasure/ Recreational Biking	25.5	10	18.1	13	35.1	8

**Table III-5: Other Park and Recreation Activities Attracting Participants from More Than 10 Percent of Southern Maryland Households**

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Hiking	23.8	11	24.3	8	23.0	19
Golf	23.5	12	15.0	14	34.5	9
Fishing from Shore/Bank	22.3	13	13.3	15	33.9	10
Dog Exercising	22.3	14	23.0	12	21.3	21
Nature/Gardening Programs	21.8	15	23.0	11	20.1	22
Basketball	18.3	16	9.3	22	29.9	12
Hunting	17.8	17	12.8	16	24.1	17
Jogging	16.0	18	10.2	20	23.6	18
Weight Training	15.8	19	12.8	17	19.5	23
Baseball	15.3	20	6.6	27	26.4	15
Soccer	14.0	21	3.1	37	28.2	14
Running	13.0	22	6.2	29	28.2	14
Horseshoes	12.5	23	12.4	18	12.6	30
In-Line Skating	12.5	24	2.2	41	25.9	16
Fishing from Pier	12.5	25	8.0	25	18.4	24
Softball	12.3	26	9.3	21	16.1	27
Tent Camping	11.0	27	5.8	31	17.8	25
Nature Walks	10.0	28	8.8	23	11.5	33

**Table III-6: Park and Recreation Activities Attracting Participants from 2 to 10 Percent of Southern Maryland Households**

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Tennis	9.8	29	8.4	24	11.5	31
Aerobics/ Fitness Classes	9.5	30	8.0	26	11.5	32
Football	8.5	31	4.4	32	13.8	28
Bird Watching	8.5	32	10.6	19	5.7	47
Target Shooting	8.0	33	5.8	30	10.9	35
Skate Boarding	7.5	34	0.4	58	16.7	26
Downhill Skiing	7.0	35	1.8	44	13.8	29
Ice Skating	6.8	36	3.5	35	10.9	34
Volleyball	6.3	37	4.0	34	9.2	36
Sailing	6.3	38	6.6	28	5.7	46
Canoeing	6.3	39	4.4	33	8.6	40
Skeet or Trap Shooting	5.5	40	2.7	39	9.2	39
Trail Riding	5.3	41	2.2	42	9.2	38
RV Camping	5.0	42	2.7	40	8.0	41
Mountain Biking	4.8	43	3.5	36	6.3	43
Roller Skating	4.3	44	0.4	59	9.2	37
Water Skiing	4.3	45	1.8	43	7.5	42
Kayaking	3.5	46	2.7	38	4.6	48
Lacrosse	3.3	47	1.3	45	5.7	45
Archery	3.0	48	0.4	65	6.3	44
Racquetball	2.3	49	1.3	46	3.4	51
Snow Boarding	2.3	50	0.4	63	4.6	49
Field Hockey	2.0	51	0.4	54	4.0	50

### 3. Needs Determination

Twelve activities, including the four specified by the State (athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts and tennis courts) were analyzed to compare the supply with the demand. Field sports were separated into spring and fall. Other activities analyzed include pools (outdoor), picnic shelters, playgrounds, skateparks, equestrian trails, fishing from pier, kayaking & canoeing, and swimming at beach/river/lake.

Table III-7 summarizes the results. The detailed analysis tables are shown in Appendix D.

Table III-7: Summary Needs Report of the Twelve Activities

Activity	Facility Type	2013 Existing Facilities	2013 Unmet Need	2025 Unmet Need
Baseball/Softball	Diamonds	22	18	21
Field Sports – Spring	Fields	23	0	0
Field Sports – Fall	Fields	35	0	0
Basketball	Courts	7	10	11
Tennis	Courts	13	0	1
Pools (outdoor)	Pools	2	3	3
Picnic Shelters	Picnic Shelters	8	7	8
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	9	0	1
Skateparks	Skateparks	1	5	5
Equestrian Trails	Trail Miles	3.5 County, plus 8 miles on State land	4	6
Fishing from Pier	Fishing Spots (8 feet per fishable spot)	260	0	0
Kayaking & Canoeing	Public Launch Sites & Ramps	19	1	3
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	Miles of Beach	1.3	0.3	0.4

The existing recreational facilities for baseball/softball, field sports, basketball, tennis, pools, picnic shelters, playgrounds and skateparks are those that the County government owns or leases. There are additional facilities available, for example, on the Board of Education’s property. These, however, were not included since they are not available except during non-school hours and may be pre-empted for educational facility needs (i.e., placement of temporary trailers).

**4. County Priorities for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation**

Table III-8 a shows the County’s and the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach’s priorities for land acquisition, development, and rehabilitation from 2013 through 2025. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan gives priority to acquiring key countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available. Land banking is high encouraged.

These priorities were developed in concert with the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Chesapeake Beach’s 2002 Comprehensive Plan, the seven Town Center Master Plans, prior Calvert County Land Preservation & Recreation Plans, the park master plans, the State surveys, and the results of the supply, need and demand analysis. The towns of Chesapeake Beach’s and North Beach’s priorities have been included, as reported in the FY 2014 Program Open Space Annual Report.

Table 8 b lists State Goals and Calvert County Objectives that would be met by these acquisition and development recommendations. Following the tables are descriptions of the acquisition and development projects. The location column describes where the projects would be/are located, county-wide, general description, or specific locations, such within which Town Center/municipality or Zip Code area.

**Table III-8 a: Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation Priorities**

Projects for Acquisition

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2014) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2017) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2020) Cost (\$1,000s)			
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	
Canoe Launch Sites	County creeks	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	\$150	2								\$150		
Flag Ponds Nature Park	Lusby	Acquire key natural sites	\$1,400	70								\$1,400		
Patuxent Waterfront Park	Patuxent River	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	\$2,000	60								\$2,000		
War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail	County-wide	Acquire key cultural sites & Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers	\$400	32								\$400		
Parkers Creek Watershed	Prince Frederick/Port Republic	Acquire key natural sites	Not Identified (N/I)	N/I										
Huntingtown Town Center Park	Huntingtown	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	\$250	6								\$250		
Dowell House Property Addition	St. Leonard	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	\$160	0.23								\$160		
Hallowing Point Park Addition	Prince Frederick	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$600	40								\$600		
Huntingtown District Park	Huntingtown	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100								\$2,000	\$10,000	
Northeast Sector Park		Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100								\$2,000		

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2014) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2017) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2020) Cost (\$1,000s)			
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	
St. Leonard District Park	St. Leonard	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100								\$2,000	\$10,000	
Dunkirk Community Center	Dunkirk	Each Town Center should have an indoor community center	\$1,000	1				\$				\$1,000		
Calvert Marine Museum Addition	Solomons	Acquire key cultural sites	\$1,300	1.1								\$1,300		
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	Prince Frederick	Acquire key natural sites		6.2								\$400		
Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail	County-wide	Acquire key historic sites	Not identified	209±										
Chesapeake Bay Parks	Not identified	Acquire key natural sites	Not identified	N/I										
Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-way	Chesapeake Beach	Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers	Not identified	N/I										
North Beach 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Greenwood Pocket Park	North Beach	Develop a full range of recreational sites serving Town Centers	\$120	0.125									\$12	
Town Park	North Beach	Develop a full range of recreational sites serving Town Centers	\$250	0.3									\$250	
North Beach Nature Trail System	North Beach	Each Town Center should have trail to connect to extended greenways		19.71										\$75
North Beach Community Garden	North Beach	Develop a full range of recreational sites serving Town Centers	\$50	1									\$50	
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Heritage Trail	County-wide	Acquire key cultural sites and connect county-wide parks to each other and to Town Centers	Not identified	N/I										

Projects for Development

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2014) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2017) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2020) Cost (\$1,000s)			
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	
King Memorial Park	Prince Frederick	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	Not identified											
Hallowing Point Park	Prince Frederick	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$515,800		\$257.9			257.9						
Dunkirk District Park	Dunkirk	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	Not identified											
Cove Point Park	Lusby	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$202					\$202						
Solomons Town Center Park	Solomons	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$241		\$241									
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	Lusby	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$220		\$220									
Calvert County Youth Recreation Facility	Dunkirk	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$150		\$150									
Kings Landing Park	Huntingtown	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$310		\$241				\$69					
Equestrian Trails County-wide	County-wide	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$438						\$438					
Prince Frederick Community Center	Prince Frederick	Each Town Center should have an indoor community center	Not identified											
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	Prince Frederick & Port Republic	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$750		\$350				\$400					
Breezy Point Beach & Campground	Chesapeake Beach	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	Not identified											

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Estimated Short-Range (2014) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range (2017) Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range (2020) Cost (\$1,000s)			
					Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Building Renovation & Addition	Prince Frederick	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$170		\$170									
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Exhibit Renovation	Prince Frederick	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$189		\$189			\$189						
Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail (Prince Frederick portion)	Prince Frederick	Each Town Center should have trail to connect to extended greenways	Not identified											
Solomons Boat Ramp	Solomons	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	\$700		\$200			\$500						
Fishing Creek Park and Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail	Chesapeake Beach	Each Town Center should have trail to connect to extended greenways	\$1,900										\$1,900	
Kellam's Field Skate Park	Chesapeake Beach	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$250		\$250									
Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park	North Beach	Each Town Center should have trail to connect to extended greenways	Not identified											
2 <sup>nd</sup> and Greenwood Pocket Park	North Beach	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	Not identified											
3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Park	North Beach	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	Not identified										\$873	

**Table III-8 b: State Goals Met by Acquisition and Development Recommendations**

**State Goals:**

1. Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
2. Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
3. Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
4. 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 protect natural open spaces and resources.
5. 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.
6. 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.

**County Goals (Objectives):**

7. Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County.
8. Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.
9. 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.
10. Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.

Project	Short-Range	Mid-Range	Long-Range	State Goal(s) Met	Local Goal(s)	Notes
Canoe Launch Sites			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 8, 9	Acquisition will provide public access to the water
Flag Ponds Nature Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9	Acquisition will protect open space
Patuxent Waterfront Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 8, 9	Acquisition will provide public access to the water
War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9, 10	Acquisition/development of a trail system to connect Town Centers to extended greenways
Parkers Creek Watershed			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9	Acquisition will protect open space
Huntingtown Town Center Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will provide outdoor facility for active team sports
Dowell House Property Addition			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will provide additional area for existing community center
Hallowing Point Park Addition			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Acquisition will allow provision of additional ballfields
Huntingtown District Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Acquisition will provide opportunity for a regional park
Northeast Sector Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Acquisition will provide opportunity for a regional park
St. Leonard District Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Acquisition will provide opportunity for a regional park
Dunkirk Community Center			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will meet standard for Town Center to have community center
Calvert Marine Museum Addition			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm Addition			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9	Acquisition will protect open space
Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9, 10	Acquisition/development of a trail system to connect Town Centers to extended greenways

Project	Short-Range	Mid-Range	Long-Range	State Goal(s) Met	Local Goal(s)	Notes
Chesapeake Bay Parks			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 8, 9	Acquisition will provide public access to the water
Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-way/Fishing Creek Park and Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9, 10	Acquisition/development of a trail system to connect Town Center to extended greenways
North Beach, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Greenwood Pocket Park		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will provide a recreational area within walking distance of town residents
North Beach, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Park		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 8, 9	Development will provide a passive recreation area within walking distance of town residents & provide views of the Chesapeake Bay
North Beach, Town Park		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will provide a passive recreation area within walking distance of town residents
North Beach, Nature Trail System			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9, 10	Acquisition/development of a trail system to connect Town Center to extended greenways
North Beach, Community Garden		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will promote outdoor recreation and provide healthy food
King Memorial Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9, 10	Development will provide a passive recreation, cultural event venue, and playground in the heart of the county seat
Hallowing Point Park		√		1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will expand and improve an existing park
Dunkirk District Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will expand and improve an existing park
Cove Point Park		√		1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will expand and improve an existing park

Project	Short-Range	Mid-Range	Long-Range	State Goal(s) Met	Local Goal(s)	Notes
Solomons Town Center Park	√			1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Development will expand and improve an existing park
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	√			1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will expand and improve an existing park
Calvert County Youth Recreation Facility	√			1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Development will expand active and passive recreation opportunities for youth
Kings Landing Park	√			1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Enhancement of existing natural resources park
Equestrian Trails County-wide		√		1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will provide a network of horse trails and enhance existing facilities
Prince Frederick Community Center		√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Acquisition will meet standard for Town Center to have community center
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm		√	√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will create a living laboratory to experience agricultural practices and provide public access to the water
Breezy Point Beach & Campground			√	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Development will enhance/maintain public access to the water
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Building Renovation & Addition	√			1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Renovation will enhance visitor experience and provide space for staff and volunteers
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Exhibit Renovation	√			1, 2, 3, 4	7, 9	Renovation will enhance the visitor experience
Solomons Boat Ramp	√	√		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Renovation will enhance/maintain public access to the water
Kellam's Field Skate Park	√			1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Development will provide recreation opportunities for youth, including those within walking distance
Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7, 9	Restoration of wetlands will improve environment and provide opportunities for recreation

Project	Short-Range	Mid-Range	Long-Range	State Goal(s) Met	Local Goal(s)	Notes
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Heritage Trail			√	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	7, 9, 10	Acquisition/development of a trail system to connect Town Centers to extended greenways

## **POTENTIAL ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

### **Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites**

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

### **Flag Ponds Nature Park**

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

### **Patuxent Waterfront Park**

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

### **War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**

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

### **Parkers Creek Watershed**

This project is viewed as an intergovernmental cooperative effort to acquire and protect this unique watershed. As of May 2009, nearly 4,000 acres have been preserved through actions taken by the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy and private property owners. Calvert County has assisted these efforts through its Transferable Development Rights program and Revolving Loan Fund.

### **Huntingtown Town Center Park**

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

### **Dowell House Property Addition - St. Leonard**

The County purchased the Dowell House several years ago using POS funding. The house now functions as a community center for the Town of St. Leonard, offering meeting space, picnic tables and a playground in the back yard. Acquiring this property will allow us to expand the use of the community center and offer adequate parking.

### **Hallowing Point Park Addition - Hall Property**

The purchase of this property will add 40 acres to an existing 81-acre district park and enable the County to meet a strong demand for additional athletic fields. The property is level and well-suited to active recreational use.

### **Huntingtown Community Park**

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

### **Northeast Sector Park**

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

### **St. Leonard District Park**

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

### **Dunkirk Community Center**

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

### **Calvert Marine Museum Addition**

This project would add 1.10 acres of waterfront land and a pier to the museum campus. The additional land will allow museum to install a marine railway for use by the historic bugeye, *Wm. B. Tennison*, extend the boardwalk along the waterfront, and increase water-based activities. Because the water is deeper in front of this property, the museum could invite larger vessels to the museum. The museum proposes using private funds to purchase the house for administrative space and restroom and showers for visiting boaters.

### **Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm**

In order to provide 24 hour on-site presence on the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm to ensure protection of livestock, a residence will be required. One option is to renovate the George

Rice house. The other option, should it become available, would be to purchase the original Gray family residence of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. In addition to the residence, there is a barn and several outbuildings.

### **Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail**

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

### **Chesapeake Bay Parks**

Public access to the Chesapeake Bay is limited to beaches and parks in the Towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, Breezy Point Beach Park, Flag Ponds Nature Park, and Calvert Cliffs State Park. The County is seeking new sites to provide a range of public access opportunities: scenic views of the bay, boat and fishing access, and beach combing opportunities, in addition to making improvements to existing facilities to increase public access to the water.

### **Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way**

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

### **North Beach Town Park**

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

### **North Beach Nature Trail (A & B) System**

Section A plan for the Trail is to extend the observation area of the overlook to the Burnt Oaks community by connecting the overlook and Frederick Avenue through a recently acquired parcel of land.

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

### **North Beach Community Garden**

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

### **North Beach 2<sup>nd</sup> & Greenwood Pocket Park**

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

## POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### **King Memorial Park**

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

### **Hallowing Point Park**

Hallowing Point Park is one of three district parks in the County. The County is in the process of implementing the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2013 construction will begin on a new playground and associated parking. In FY14 new parking lots will be constructed to serve fields 3, 5 and 6.

### **Dunkirk District Park**

Dunkirk District Park is one of three district parks in the county. The County is in the process of implementing the Dunkirk Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park.

### **Cove Point Park**

Cove Point Park is one of three district parks located in the County. Funding will be needed to implement the master plan for the build-out of the park. Future facilities may include a skate park, roller hockey courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails. An outdoor swimming pool, restrooms, concession stands and parking were completed in 2006.

An accessible playground was completed in fall 2007. In FY 2009 a new restroom was constructed. Future improvements include a skate park and picnic areas. In FY 2013 the tennis courts were renovated.

### **Solomons Town Center Park**

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

### **Southern Community Center**

In 2013, the southern branch of the Calvert Library moved from the community center to an interim location in Solomons. The area vacated by the library is being renovated for additional senior, recreational and community use.

### **Equestrian Show Ring at Kings Landing Park**

In FY 2007, POS funding was used to construct a 150-foot by 300-foot ring for casual riding and equestrian shows. Associated with the ring was the construction of a 12-foot by 16-foot roofed judges' stand with electric service. A parking area was defined. Water hydrants were installed to provide water for the animals. With increased usage, the County may expand the facility.

### **Equestrian Trails County-wide**

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

- Trails at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm: County-owned property adjacent to Battle Creek Nature Center. A master plan was completed in 2010 for this property. A feasibility study has identified a trail location that would provide a 90-minute ride. In 2011, an entry drive, parking for horse trailers, and trails were constructed.
- Trails and Trailer Parking at Cammack Property: The County in cooperation with Maryland Department of Natural Resources expanded the parking area of the Cammack property adjacent to Kings Landing Park for horse trailers.
- Trails at Kings Landing Park: There is currently a limited area for horseback riding at Kings Landing. It may be possible to connect Kings Landing Park to the Cammack Property for trail riding.
- Trails at Flag Ponds Nature Park: The potential for horse trails at Flag Ponds is tied to acquisition of the remaining adjoining property and/or an easement agreement with Constellation Energy.

### **Prince Frederick Community Center**

A recreation center similar to the Northeast Center in Chesapeake Beach and Southern Community Center in Lusby is needed to serve central Calvert County. A parcel has

been identified adjacent to the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in the Prince Frederick Town Center.

### **Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm**

Rural Legacy funds were used to acquire the Biscoe Gray property in 2002. This 206-acre site is part of a 1,500 acre greenbelt along Battle Creek and includes farm fields and barns representing Calvert County's long-standing farming tradition. A tobacco barn that would have been destroyed was moved to the site and restored. In FY 2009, Calvert County received a Preserve America grant. In 2010 a master plan was adopted for the 196-acre portion of the property between the county road and Battle Creek. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm is to be a "living laboratory to explore, understand, and experience Calvert County Agricultural practices and lifeways throughout its history...." An access drive, parking area and horse trails have been completed. In 2012, a Maryland African American Heritage Preservation Grant was received to rehabilitate the George E. Rice House. An entry drive will be constructed in 2013 to provide public access. Other priority projects include canoe/kayak access and ecological and cultural interpretation.

### **Breezy Point Beach & Campground**

Breezy Point Park is approximately 13 acres in size and includes 2,000 feet of Bayfront beach with access to Plum Point Creek. In addition to the wide beach area, the property includes a fishing pier, bathhouse, 100 trailer sites, playground, volleyball court(s), snack/concession stand, and large shaded picnic area. Most of the planned major improvement projects have been completed. However, additional funding may be required in future years. In FY 2010 a major renovation of campground's electrical and water was initiated. In FY13 improvements included replacement of swim area groins, extension of campground beach groins and replacement of northern boundary fence and groins.

### **Calvert County Youth Recreation Facility on Ward Road**

In FY13 the County purchased 209 acres adjacent to the Dunkirk Town Center to build additional playing fields, hiking trails, restrooms, concession facilities, maintenance facilities and other facilities as the property will allow. In FY14 a master plan for the development of the property will be developed. The purchase of the property (yet to be named) was made possible through the Calvert County Youth Recreational Opportunities Fund. This special fund was created by the State Legislature in 2012 and is administered by the Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the revenue received from gaming in Chesapeake Beach and North Beach and is returned to Calvert County to the purpose of increasing recreational opportunities for youth in the county.

### **Fishing Creek Park and the first segment of a ROW Trail - Chesapeake Beach**

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

residential subdivisions to the center of town. The Town of Chesapeake Beach has completed the first segment of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail connecting the residential subdivisions of Richfield Station and Bayview Hills to the center of Town and allowing access to the natural beauty of Fishing Creek and the surrounding tidal marsh.

### **Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail – Calvert County**

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

### **Chesapeake Hills Golf Course**

The County took ownership of the 149-acre Chesapeake Hills Golf Course in Fall 2008 (\$3,019,356 County funds). Several improvements were undertaken in FY 2010 including rehabilitation of the clubhouse exterior, and improvements to the golf course. Construction of a new maintenance facility was completed in FY 2012. In FY 2013 installation of a pump station and new golf course irrigation project were completed. In FY 2014, the #2 green is planned to be renovated.

### **Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail**

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

### **Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Building Renovation and Addition**

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

### **Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Exhibit Renovations**

The existing exhibits, over 10 years old, need to be replaced and/or renovated to maintain and further the mission of the Natural Resources Division. The construction of the new animal display exhibits will be completed in 2013. Minor changes to the exhibit displays are ongoing. New exhibits will entice and educate visitors as well as serve the many school groups that come to the facility.

### **Northeast Community Center**

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

### **Kings Landing Park**

Tom Wisner Hall (formerly Patuxent Hall) is used throughout the year for meetings, weddings receptions, etc. However, there is no defined parking to support these activities. This project will provide parking for approximately 100 vehicles. Some outdoor

lighting is planned for safety during night-time activities. This parking must be compatible with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and has to be made of pervious materials. Seven cabins remain from when the park was the summer camp site for the Baltimore YMCA. Funding is being sought to rehabilitate the cabins for overnight camping cabins, classrooms for interpretive programs, and day-use shelters.

### **Kellam’s Field Skate Park**

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is currently seeking design proposals for a skate park located on the north side of the Kellam’s Field complex. The facility will incorporate street and vertical style elements and be between 7,500 and 10,000 sq. ft.

### **Solomons Boat Ramp**

The Solomons Boat Ramp is in need of renovation. Both the ramp and boat piers need extensive work. From a safety and public service standpoint, at least one of the boat piers should be floating so that easy boat access can be maintained regardless of tide, and provide an ADA-accessible facility.

### **Wetlands Wildlife Observation Park in North Beach**

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

### **2<sup>nd</sup> & Greenwood Pocket Park**

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Street Park**

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

## **C. ACQUISITION (ACREAGE) GOAL**

In 1983, the County officially adopted the State’s recommended standard of 30 acres of County-provided recreational open space per 1,000 persons. “There are three categories of preserved acreage that count towards this goal: local acreage, a portion of local natural resource acreage, and a portion of qualifying State and Federal acreage.” (Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning, October 2003, Page 48) A minimum of 30 acres per 1,000 persons must come from locally owned recreational lands. One-

third of certain types of natural resource land can be counted towards the goal. “Private Open space may be counted if the land is permanently preserved as open space, is accessible to members of the community in which it is situated, and can be reasonably construed as helping to meet the public demand for open space” (Page 49). “If needed, up to 15 acres per 1,000 persons of State and Federal Lands present in the county, in excess of 60 acres per 1,000 persons, can be used to meet the default recommended acreage goal.” (Page 49)

Based upon the standard of 30 acres per 1,000 persons, for the 2010 population of 88,737, the County should provide 2,662 acres in 2010. This amount increases to 2,951 acres in 2025, an increase of 289 acres over 15 years. Refer to Table III-9 for acreage goals for, 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025.

**Table III-9: Calvert County’s Recreational Acreage Goals**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Population Estimate/ Projection</b>	88,737	91,650	95,600	98,350
<b>Acreage Goal</b>	2,662	2,750	2,868	2,951

Sources: The 2010 population is from the U.S. Bureau. The population projections are from the Maryland Department of Planning.

Note: The methodology for calculating the acreage goals is set forth in the Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning, October 2010.

As of July, 2013, Calvert County is providing 2,283 acres of recreation and natural resource land. This amount is short of the 2015 goal by 379 acres. The County and Towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach will need to acquire an additional 668 acres in order to meet the 2025 goal of providing 2,951 acres. Refer to Table III-10 for future acreage needs in 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025.

**Table III-10 Calvert County’s Future Recreational Acreage Needs**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Current /Projected Population</b>	<b>Recreation and Open Space Acreage Goal</b>	<b>Local Recreation Acreage</b>	<b>Local Natural Resources Land</b>	<b>Applicable State and Federal Land</b>	<b>Total Acreage of 2013</b>	<b>Acreage Required to Meet Goal</b>
<b>2010</b>	88,737	2,662	1,080	1,203	0	2,283	379
<b>2015</b>	91,650	2,750	1,080	1,203	0	2,283	467
<b>2020</b>	95,600	2,868	1,080	1,203	0	2,283	585
<b>2025</b>	98,350	2,951	1,080	1,203	0	2,283	668

Notes:

Column 4 is 1/3 of the total local natural resource acreage that meets the State’s qualifications.

Column 5 shows zero acres. While there are 4,746 acres of State and Federal recreation lands in Calvert County, only qualified acreage above 60 acres per 1,000 persons (60 acres x 89 thousand people, or 5,340 acres) can be used to meet the acreage goal. Since there are 3,454 acres of qualified acreage, none may be used towards the acreage goal.

As of 2010, Calvert County had a total of 4,690 acres. However, only 2,283 acres of recreation and natural resource is counted towards the state goal. Only one-third of the natural resource and private open space is counted, based upon the State recreational acreage goal formula.

The Project Selection Process for acquisitions and development projects begins with the Action Plan identified in both the Recreation Chapter of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The Action Plan outlines a comprehensive recreation strategy that brings existing and future recreational sites and facilities into an interconnected recreation network, capable of serving a full spectrum of ages, interests and abilities (refer to Page III-3).

On the basis of the Action Plan, potential acquisition and development projects are identified and listed in this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. Projects that may be eligible for Program Open Space (POS) funding are also listed in the POS Annual Program. The Annual Program is developed Projects must be listed in the Annual Program in order to be eligible for Program Open Space Funding.

During the Annual Capital Improvement Budget Review Process, the Capital Projects Analyst (who also serves as the POS liaison) meets with Calvert County's Open Space Committee, comprised of representatives from the county government's Department of General Services (Parks and Recreation Division and Natural Resources Division), the Department of Economic Development (Tourism Division) and the Department of Community Planning and Building to review projects identified in this Plan and the POS Annual Program. Selected projects are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in the draft Capital Improvement Budget for review. Those that are approved for funding are listed in the approved CIP and reviewed annually.

The Open Space Committee maintains an ongoing search for properties that meet one or more of the objectives identified in the Action Plan. Members of the committee evaluate potential sites and make their findings known to the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Calvert County's shortfall of recreational acreage will be reduced as land is acquired. It is important to note, however, that any acquisition of natural resource land will only contribute 33% of the acreage towards the goal since only a portion of such land may be included based upon the State standard. Since Calvert County is a growing rural county, with many notable natural features, such as the Calvert Cliffs and the Chesapeake Bay, many of the County's acquisitions are for natural resource lands.

#### **Public Land Not Included in the Current Acreage Supply**

County Land: A considerable amount of recreation land and open space acreage exists in Calvert County that under the State's standard may not be counted towards meeting the acreage goal. Only one-third of County-owned natural resource areas and historic cultural areas count towards the County's goal. For example, only one-third of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, 69 of the 206 acres, counts toward the goal.

State Land: In Calvert County, there are 4,451 acres of State park land managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Federal Land: While the Navy Recreation Center Solomons provides 295-acres of recreation for Department of Defense personnel and retirees, this acreage is not included in the acreage account since it does not meet the State’s criteria of qualifying acreage.

#### **D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Calvert County government provides many opportunities for public involvement in the planning for parks, recreation, and open space. The County’s policy document, the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, which includes a section on recreation, was developed with extensive citizen involvement. The County mailed a 32-page summary of the draft plan to every postal patron in the County, over 36,500 patrons, in the summer of 2004. The County Commissioners adopted the Comprehensive Plan in 2004. Amendments were adopted in 2010, following a public process, including an open house in August, 2009, and a public hearing in September, 2009. The amendments primarily addressed three recent state laws:

- Agricultural Stewardship (2006, House Bill 2) – added a Priority Preservation Element to the list of elements counties may include in their comprehensive plans and made it mandatory for those counties with a certified Agricultural land preservation program;
- Land Use – Local Government Planning (2006, House Bill 1141) – added the requirement that local jurisdictions include a water resources element to local comprehensive plans; and
- Smart, Green and Growing legislation (2009, Senate Bill 273) – requires local jurisdictions to include the State’s Planning Visions in their local comprehensive plans and implement the visions through local zoning ordinances and regulations.

During the development of the previous Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, the public was invited to participate in a series of public presentations held in 2005. Invitation letters were sent to an extensive list of citizen and civic organizations, homeowners and neighborhood associations, County-appointed boards and commissions, recreational leagues, land trusts, public and private schools, and other groups interested in recreation, natural resources conservation, and land preservation. (See Appendix G for the full list of invitees). The County staff offered to give presentations to the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach. The Town of North Beach requested a presentation, which was held in April 2005.

The draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan was presented to the public at a public meeting on April 4, 2006. The meeting was advertised in the local papers. Invitations to the meeting were sent those who had been invited to the public meetings held in 2005 and to individuals who attended the 2005 public meetings. County staff presented the draft Plan to the North Beach Town Council on April 13, 2006, and the Chesapeake Beach Town Council on April 20, 2006. Copies of the draft Plan (February 28, 2006) were distributed at the public presentations and sent to adjacent jurisdictions, and the draft was available on the County’s website. The draft plan was provided to Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Department of Planning. The Calvert County Planning Commission approved the plan, and the Board of County Commissioners adopted the plan in December, 2006.

Maryland’s *Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning* (October, 2010) state, “Because the 2005 LPPRPs were so comprehensive, the plan requirements for the 2012 local LPPRPs are much more limited” (*Guidelines*, Page 1). County staff made

public presentations at the Chesapeake Beach and North Beach town council meetings in May, 2013. Staff met with the Calvert County Planning Commission in May, June and July, 2013 to discuss updating the plan. The Planning Commission endorsed adding the optional element on cultural and historic resource conservation.

# CHAPTER IV – AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

## INTRODUCTION

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, land in farms in Calvert County was 26,443 acres, down 8% from the acreage in 2002. Likewise, the number of farms decreased by 7% to 274 farms in 2007. Average farm size changed very little, at 97 acres in 2007.

Approximately 89,441 acres or 63% of the County is assessed as farmland according to the Department of Assessment and Taxation. Of the assessed acres, forestry is the largest type of agricultural use in Calvert County. Tree farms are more than just forested acres. Tree farms have developed an approved Forest Stewardship Plan and actively work to implement the plan. Forestry is one of the best and most productive uses for much of the county's slopes and soil types. Out of the land that is assessed as agriculture, only 30% of the assessed farmland is producing enough farm income to be considered a farm by the Census of Agriculture. This is partly because of the high percentage of forested agriculture land, which might only harvest timber once a generation and, therefore, would not show up on the Census for most years. However, even after the active tree farms are taken out of the equation, the numbers show that many farms in Calvert are not earning a lot of farm income and that there is a lot of potential for increased agriculture crops.

This idle or under farmed land is a symptom of the cultural and financial crisis that Calvert farming is in as it moves away from its "money crop" to other crops as part of Maryland's tobacco buyout program. The County is very active in land preservation programs. The Calvert County and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission's work on Southern Maryland's crop diversification efforts have been providing a modicum of stability. For Calvert County the market value of production rose 25% between Agricultural Census years 2002 and 2007, but is still less than what it was in the Agricultural Census of 1997.

### A. AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION GOALS

County Goals are reflected in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, Calvert County, Maryland. Two of the six Objectives of the Land Use & Growth Management section directly address agricultural preservation (Page 1).

- As an alternative to functioning primarily as a "bedroom community", adopt policies that will promote the County as a desirable location for high-technology industries, vacation destination, farming and aquaculture region, resource protection area (i.e., "greenbelt"), and retirement community.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.

The Comprehensive Plan (Page 2) also sets forth a vision of how the region could develop to create a more sustainable community:

A better alternative to the current pattern of development within metropolitan areas is to concentrate on making the cities and existing suburbs good places

to live, shop, work, and go to school. When additional land is needed to accommodate population growth, it should be developed according to sound principles of community design within or adjacent to existing urban centers. Areas like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirement areas.

### County Acreage Goal

Ever since the first Calvert County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1966, one of the County's primary goals has been the preservation of its rural character. In 1978, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board set a goal of preserving 20,000 acres. In 1997, Calvert County celebrated the enrollment of 20,000 acres of prime farm and forestland in County and State land preservation programs. A goal to preserve an additional 20,000 acres was adopted that year. To help meet the new goal, the County allocated an additional \$2,000,000 per year toward land preservation including an additional \$500,000 added to the Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund, \$500,000 in local support for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation program, and \$1,000,000 for a new County leveraging program (an installment purchase program). The County was able to maintain those high levels of funding until the economic collapse starting in 2008. Currently the County continues to allocate funds to land preservation efforts including the purchase and retirement of development rights to the best of its fiscal ability. The County continues to also actively participate in the Maryland Rural Legacy Program.

The County's current goal is to permanently preserve a minimum of 40,000 acres of prime farm and forestland through County, State, and federal land preservation programs. This higher goal of preserving 40,000 acres was established in 1997.

#### **Figure VI-1:** State Goals:

- 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.
- Preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2020.
- 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:
  - Establish preservation area, 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 the public-at-large.

### The County's Goals in Relation to the State's Goals

Calvert goals complement state goals. The County intends to direct growth away from designated farm and forest areas to designated growth areas. The County recognizes that its role in the metropolitan region should not be to serve as a bedroom community. Rather, it should serve as a greenbelt and a source of farm products and recreation for urban areas. To be effective, the County has to be proactive to offset market pressures.

### Current Conditions:

Much of Calvert County was developed in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's in large lot developments. By 2002, over 33,200 acres of the county were developed as low density, medium density and high density residential, much of those in rural areas (see Table IV-1 which is based on data from MDP/iMap). In addition, in 2002 there were approximately 9,800 acres developed as very low density residential. By 2010 the low, medium and high residential land use had grown to approximately 35,700 acres, and very low density residential had increased to approximately 800 acres. The 1997 Comprehensive Plan called for the County to take a comprehensive look at residential build-out and propose ways to reduce build-out and achieve other planning objectives, including the goal of preserving 40,000 acres of agricultural and forestry land. The Plan also called for strengthening the Transferable Development Right (TDR) program. To implement the plan, the County completed two down zonings and greatly strengthened the TDR program. The County has worked hard to facilitate crop and marketing alternatives.

**Table IV-1: Land Use in Calvert County 2002-2010**

	<i>Land Use in Acres</i>		<i>Land Use Change</i>	
	<i>2002</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2002-2010</i>	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Low Residential	9,756	10,569	813	8.3%
Low Density Residential	27,284	29,260	1,976	7.2%
Medium Density Residential	5,444	5,985	541	9.9%
High Density Residential	442	543	100	22.6%
Commercial	1,027	1,234	207	20.1%
Industrial	682	785	103	15.1%
Other Developed Lands/ Institutional/ Transportation	2,429	3,116	687	28.3%
<b>Total Developed Lands</b>	<b>47,065</b>	<b>51,492</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
Agriculture	21,230	19,622	-1,607	-7.6%
Forest	65,695	62,819	-3,126	-4.7%
Extractive/Barren/Bare	47	278	231	494.9%
Wetland	2,856	2,932	75	2.6%
<b>Total Resource Lands</b>	<b>90,077</b>	<b>85,651</b>	<b>-4,426</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>
Total Land	137,143	137,143		
Water	83,833	83,833		

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, 2010 data set<sup>1</sup>

**B. CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

Calvert’s strategy began with designating preservation areas in the Comprehensive Plan. It continued with the adoption of effective land preservation tools to preserve land and land use tools in the Zoning Ordinance in 1999 and then in 2003. It progresses with farming assistance to encourage farming.

**1. Designated Preservation Areas.** The 2010 Comprehensive Plan identifies Priority Preservation Areas. These Priority Preservation Areas are the Farm and Forest District, as of May 1, 2006. They are depicted in green on the County’s Zoning Map (refer to Figure VI-2: 2006 Zoning Map). The Comprehensive Plan includes the action, “Reserve the Farm and Forest District (Priority Preservation Areas) for farming and natural resource-related uses and direct residential growth away from these areas.” The County’s objective to preserve its prime farmland and contiguous forests is implemented through the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. As reflected in Table IV-2, approximately 57,000

<sup>1</sup> The data was created by interpretation of aerial photographs and satellite imagery. The 2010 data was derived from high resolution aerial imagery from the National Agricultural Imagery Program, <http://www.planning.maryland.gov/PDF/OurWork/LandUse/Methodology/MappingProcess.pdf>.

acres are Priority Preservation Areas (FFD). Most of the 28,000 acres preserved are in this area.

House Bill 2 (HB 2) from the 2006 Maryland legislative session required counties to designate Priority Preservation Areas in order to obtain state certification of their agricultural land preservation program and required the addition of a Priority Preservation Area element to the local comprehensive Plan. Calvert County did both of these with the adoption of the 2010 amendments to the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan.

<b>Table IV-2: Calvert County Zoning Acreage</b>		
<b>Zoning District</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Farm and Forest District (FFD)	57,000	43.58
Rural Community District (RCD)	50,000	38.22
Residential –	12,000	9.17
Industrial (I-1)	2,700	2.06
Rural Commercial (RC)	200	0.15
Marine Commercial (MC)	20	0.02
Town Centers (TC)	5,100	3.90
Employment Center/Town Center	800	0.61
Zoned Tidal Wetlands (WL)	3,000	2.29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130,820</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: This table includes zoned land. Land not zoned, such as roads, is not included.

SOURCE: Calvert County Department of Community Planning and Building

**Figure IV-2: 2006 Zoning Map**

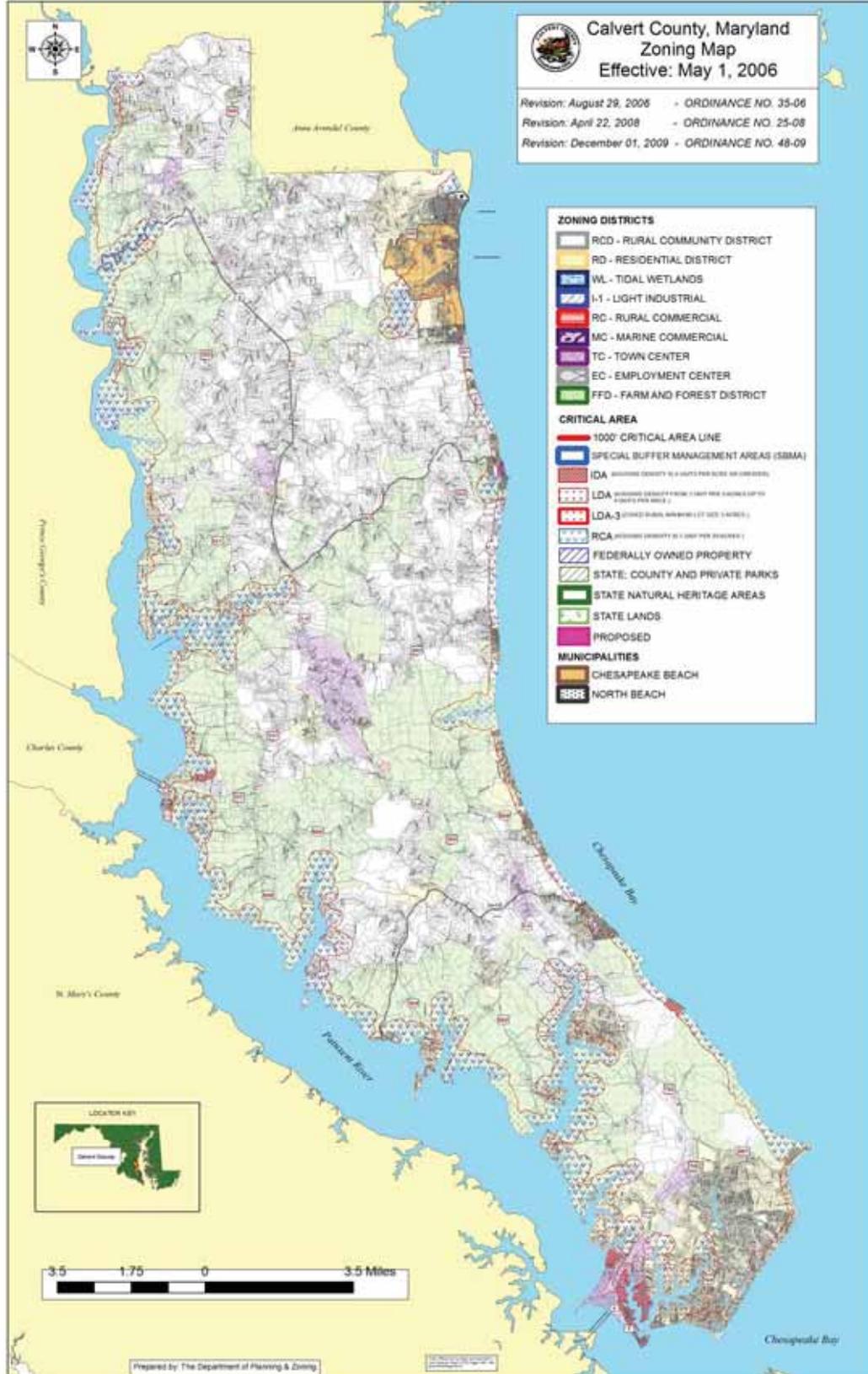
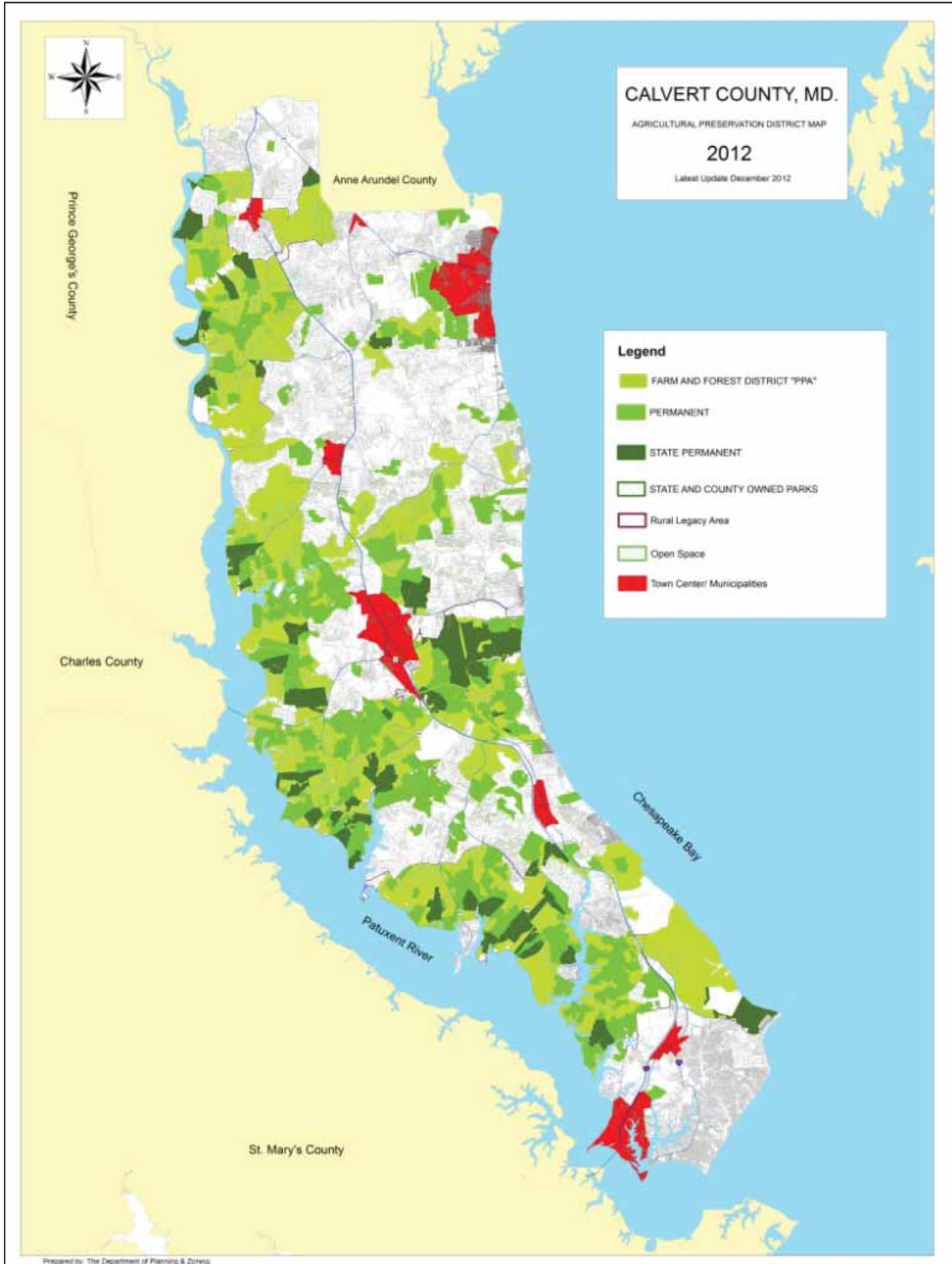


Figure IV-3: 2012 Land Preservation Map



## 2. Easement Acquisition Mechanisms

There are four types of organizations that focus on land preservation in Calvert County: County, State, and Federal governments and the non-profit, local land trusts. Over 28,000 acres have been permanently preserved through the combined efforts of governments and land trusts (as of July 2013). The 2012 Land Preservation and Natural Resource Conservation Map shows the preserved areas in Calvert County. Refer to Figure IV-3.

- a. County. Calvert County adopted the first Transferable Development Rights program in the state in 1978. The County does not “acquire” easements but requires that covenants be recorded prior to the initial sale of developments rights. Property owners voluntarily apply for Agricultural Preservation District (APD) designation. The designation remains in effect for a minimum of five years. Owners of parcels of land enrolled in districts from which no development options have been conveyed may withdraw their land after five or more years by giving the Calvert County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board a one-year notice of such intent. There are four mechanisms for preserving properties in the County program: Transferable Development Rights, Forest Conservation Transferable Development Rights, Purchase and Retirement, and Leveraging and Retirement.

- (1) Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) Program. This program allows an owner of land in an Agricultural Preservation District to sell his/her development potential to another party. Prior to the transfer, a restrictive covenant is recorded in the land records permanently subjecting the property to development restrictions. Subject to County regulations, a purchaser of the TDRs is allowed to attain a higher residential lot density at another site. Thus development is relocated from farms and forestlands to areas targeted for growth. Prior to a development rights sale, the owner must establish an APD and have development rights certified by the Board of County Commissioners. One development right is certified per acre (2 for the Residential District). Five development rights are deducted per residence and four development rights are added for each unused one-acre “exception” lot in the Rural District. When TDRs are used to increase density, 5 TDRs are need for each residential lot or dwelling unit. The transfer of development rights is negotiated between buyer and seller. The County monitors the transactions. The County keeps a list of owners wishing to sell their TDRs.
- (2) Forest Conservation Transferable Development Rights Program. This program allows interested owners of Agricultural Preservation Districts to convert regular density TDRs into Forest Conservation TDRs by recording an acre of Forest Retention Area for each TDR converted. The FC TDRs can then be used by commercial developers to meet the state and county Forest Mitigation Requirements.
- (3) Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund. The purpose of the PAR Fund is to purchase, retire and permanently remove transferable development rights from the development rights market. Under this program, owners may sell development rights to the Board of County Commissioners. Owners may sell up to 10 development rights from land in the County’s Agricultural Preservation Program. Owners of any APD from which no development

rights have been sold may apply to sell an additional five development rights. Applications are ranked based upon an adopted formula. The PAR Fund helps promote participation in the Agricultural Preservation Program and helps reduce the residential buildout of the county. By selling development rights over a period of time, owners might reduce their capital gains taxes.

- (4) Leveraging and Retirement Fund. The Leveraging Program is similar to the PAR Fund in that the Board of County Commissioners buys development rights from APD owners and permanently retires the development rights. The primary differences between the two programs include the amount of development rights that may be sold and the method of payment. The owner of the development rights is not limited to selling only 10, or 15, development rights. The owner receives annual tax-free interest payments and a lump sum payment constituting the principal at the end of a 10, 15, or 20 year term. An installment purchase agreement is signed between the County and the seller.

b. State

- (1) Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Calvert has participated in the state program since its inception. The County's Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board serves as the state's Advisory Board.
- (2) Rural Legacy. The Rural Legacy Program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, seeks to preserve land in targeted areas. Two areas have been designated in Calvert: Calvert Creeks, which encompasses 20,500 acres, and North Calvert, which encompasses 10,500 acres.
- (3) Maryland Environmental Land Trust.

c. Federal. Three properties that have been preserved used some of federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP).

d. Non-profit Local Land Trusts. The County's TDR program helped to spawn three local land trusts. They have used local tools to help preserve land. There are five local land trusts operating in Calvert County: American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature Education Society, Calvert Farmland Trust, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, and Southern Calvert Land Trust.

**3. Funding for Easement Acquisition.** The TDR program has preserved the most land (see Table IV-3). Funding comes from developers who purchase TDRs. The County also purchases and retires TDRs and participates with state programs. Funding comes from several sources.

- a. Agricultural Land Transfer Tax. The State of Maryland collects an agricultural land transfer tax when agriculturally assessed land is sold for development. The State created the Certification of County Agricultural Land Programs in 1992. The State's certification program allows counties to keep more of the locally generated agricultural land transfer tax. Counties that are certified keep 75% of the transfer tax, while 25% goes to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Counties that are not certified keep 33% of the transfer tax, while 67% goes to MALPF. The certification period was for two years until Fiscal Year 2008 when it was extended to three years. Calvert County currently retains 33% of the

agricultural transfer tax revenue, which is used to support local purchase of development rights programs. The County anticipates having its Agricultural Preservation Program re-certified by the State in the summer of 2014, allowing a 75% retention rate of the agricultural transfer tax for Fiscal Year 2015.

- b. Recordation Tax. Calvert increased its recordation tax and allocates \$1.5 million annually from the tax for land preservation. Recent financial stress caused by the 2007 Recession has currently reduced the County's ability to dedicate this level of funding.
- c. Local Government Funds. As needed, the County has used up to \$1 million per year in general funds. Again, recent financial stress caused by the 2007 Recession has currently reduced the County's ability to dedicate this level of funding.
- d. Matching Funds from Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and the Tobacco Buyout Fund are also used.

**Table IV-3: Land Preservation in Calvert County  
as of July 31, 2013**

Tool	Acres
Transferable Development Rights	14,442
Forest Conservation TDRs	693
Purchase and Retirement (PAR)	4,287
Leveraging and Retirement (LAR)	2,165
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	4,715
Rural Legacy	1,783
Maryland Environmental Trust	825
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,910</b>

**4. Land Use Management Authority** – The Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland gives Calvert County the authority to zone land, maintain a TDR Program, and develop subdivision regulations. The County has used all of these tools to direct growth and preserve land. The Zoning map reflects the Comprehensive Plan Map. Zoning densities are 1 house per 20 acres in designated protection areas. TDRs are needed for the Priority Funding Areas to develop so much of the Protection areas will be preserved as TDRs are transferred. Finally, if subdivision does occur in the protection areas, it must be clustered onto 20% of a site, leaving 80% open space, on which the County holds a preservation easement. As of 2004, over 5,000 acres have been permanently preserved through clustering.

**5. Farming Assistance Programs.** The Board of County Commissioners appoints and provides staff to the Calvert County Agriculture Commission, through the Economic Development Department. The County also maintains the Agricultural Commission Web site. In 2008 the Board of County Commissioners formed the Sustainable Agricultural Workgroup to improve communication and working relations between offices dealing with agricultural issues. The Sustainable Agricultural Workgroup has a monthly meeting between the Department of Community Planning & Building, Department of Economic Development, the Department of Natural Resources, General Services, the Calvert County Health Department, the Calvert County University of Maryland Extension, Calvert County Soil Conservation District, and the Agricultural Commission. The

Workgroup also maintains a close relationship with the public schools, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, the Southern Maryland Food Policy Council, Calvert Farm Bureau and Calvert Young Farmers.

Calvert County also participates with the Southern Maryland region in its efforts to assist farming. Christine Bergmark, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Agriculture Commission, provided the following information.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) strategically invests in programs and initiatives to support economic growth and jobs, grow new farmers and related industries, and expand access and availability to healthy fresh food in an environmentally sound manner. SMADC's programs benefit farmers and consumers throughout Maryland, with a special emphasis on the five counties of Southern Maryland.

Specific SMADC programs, marketing initiatives, economic development and consumer outreach benefitting Calvert agricultural businesses include:

### **So. Maryland, So Good (SMSG)**

SMSG promotes local farms and farm products and informs consumers on the merits of buying local. A key component is a comprehensive printed directory and on-line directory listing farms throughout the five Southern Maryland counties. Supplemental guides include the Equine Guide, Farmers Market Guide and the annual Holiday Farm Guide. Education, advertising, public outreach are additional critical aspects of the program. A SMSG logo and promotional provide an identifiable brand that consumers can easily recognize. These promotional items are available to participating farmers, stores and restaurants. Since inception in late 2002:

- 95,000 Farm Guides distributed
- 21 Farms, 66 Businesses, and 25 farm service dealers
- 8,000 Holiday Farm Guides distributed annually
- 20,000 Equine Guides distributed (lists 64 farms/businesses)
- 282 farms listed in on-line web directory

In 2012: SMADC developed the first meat and seafood directory for Southern Maryland.

### **Southern Maryland Trails: Earth, Art, Imagination**

Cultural tourism continues to grow as a lucrative alternative for regional farms and businesses. SMADC has connected area farms with arts, wineries, eateries and other public venues and businesses to enhance profit opportunities and build a sense of local awareness and community.

This tourism program provides economic benefit to Southern Maryland by developing farms for agritourism and offering visitors a unique and interactive experience of the region's culture and living heritage. The program facilitates innovative business partnerships between farms, artists, and related heritage sites, parks and businesses. The program also seeks to educate the local community on the importance of sustaining Southern Maryland's natural beauty and rural character. SMADC is currently updating the guide for publication in 2014. Since inception in 2006, 208 trails

sites have been established (Calvert 45) and 113,000 trails guides have been distributed. Since inception in 2006 an estimated \$584,000 has been reinvested into the local economy minimum. The guide is being updated and reprinted in 2014.

### **Southern Maryland Meats**

The purpose of the Southern Maryland Meats (SMM) program is to provide critical support for the region's meat producers by addressing the challenges of producer education, regulations, transportation and infrastructure, public awareness and marketing/retail sales to help farmers meet the market demand for local meat and increase their income. SMADC provided grants for two freezer trailers to transport farmers' meat products from USDA slaughtering/processing plants to the farm or retail stores. SMADC also provided funds to purchase commercial freezer display cases (two per county). By FY' 13, over 51,000 pounds of product have been transported with an estimated retail value of \$243,000; an increase of well over 100 percent since the inception of the freezer trailer initiative. (Calvert producers transported 5,910 pounds of meat; estimated retail value \$35,950). Thirty-three producers (Calvert 7) have joined Southern Maryland Meats.

Eight display cases are currently operating in farm stores or farmers' markets (Calvert 3). Since the beginning of the program, sales have increased over five times, from \$17,393 in reported sales to \$94,942. In FY' 13 sales reported for Calvert retail venues hosting display cases total \$19,563.24.

### **Growing Grapes for Wine Grants**

This program has provided funding for research to the University of Maryland Extension (UME) to identify varieties and production needs for wine grapes. SMADC also provides matching funds towards the purchase of grape vines for farmers, and the UME provides guidance through site visits and workshops. With twenty-seven wineries in Maryland, the demand for local grapes is increasing. This grant program was the first of its kind in Maryland, and has become a prototype for a state-wide program. Since 2006:

- 59 new acres have come under grapes in Southern Maryland
- SMADC facilitated completion of the Port of Leonardtown Winery supporting a cooperative of nineteen grape growers, many of whom were previous recipients of SMADC's Growing Grapes for Wine grants
- Of the 42 wineries in Maryland, 10 are in So. MD
- Estimated revenue for Southern Maryland from these wineries is \$1,350,000

### **Buy Local Challenge (BLC)**

SMADC created the Buy Local Challenge (BLC) to educate the public across Maryland about the benefits of supporting local farms. Consumers were increasingly interested in purchasing local foods, but did not know where or how to do so. Farmers face difficulty competing with grocery stores' low prices due to cheap, imported food. The challenge is to eat something every day from a local farm during the last full week of every July. SMADC's theme "Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet" conveys many messages about the benefits of buying from local farms. Sales of local farm products at hospitals grew from

\$5,400 in 2009 to \$61,000 during the 2013 BLC Campaign (Calvert Memorial Hospital participated in the campaign) and fifteen states have participated in the Challenge nationwide.

### **SMADC Farmers' Market Support**

SMADC assists farmers' markets in the five counties (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's) through education, promotion, advice for start-up, soliciting farmers, and acting as a conduit of information about regulations and other pertinent information.

SMADC funds provide promotional advertising for 19 Farmers Markets in the five counties. The gross revenue of these 19 farmers' markets (Calvert 4) was approximately \$2.6 million; the markets featured over 250 Southern Maryland vendors. As the revenue made by farmers/growers at farmers' markets is reinvested in the local economy through an initial round of spending and successive rounds of re-spending, this gross revenue translates into a reinvestment of \$4.9 million\* into the local economy. Since 2003, over \$203,000 has been awarded to these farmers markets (in the range of \$500 - \$2,000 per market) annually, for a total market impact multiplier of \$38,440 million.

SMADC assists willing farmers markets to provide food to the hunger community by offering grant funds and administrative assistance to support Electronic Bulletin Transfer (EBT) machines. SMADC helps markets through the beginning phases, and with the assistance of state and/or federal funds, helps the markets offer "double dollars" or extra funds to those in need to purchase fresh farm food.

### **Events**

Staff represents SMADC at numerous public events such as county fairs, workshops, conferences and other strategic and/or planning meetings in the region and throughout the state. SMADC publications are made available at no cost at these events. Staff interaction with the public creates opportunities for direct interface, helping to build awareness of the local farms and SMADC programs. (SMADC has had a booth at the Calvert County Fair for ten consecutive years).

### **Food Access**

Southern Maryland Food Council – SMADC has convened area food banks and organizations serving the hungry, farmers, social service agencies, government officials, private citizens and other regional stakeholders to establish a regional Southern Maryland Food Council. The organization is a network for collectively understanding local food issues and coordinating action.

Food Mapping – SMADC is working with John Hopkins University to create food and hunger maps of Southern Maryland and working to develop new standards for identifying food deserts.

Hub and Spoke Legislation – In 2013, SMADC is administering Maryland’s Hub and Spoke Task Force to increase accessibility of highly perishable farm foods to the hunger community and working poor, and to propose economic incentives for farmers and others to sell or donate locally produced foods at below-market costs.

Crop Hop – The annual bicycling tour of Southern Maryland farms is designed to provide a fun and healthy way to learn about our area’s agriculture and to raise funds to provide fresh, local farm products to low-income communities in Southern Maryland.

### **Maryland FarmLINK**

SMADC launched the statewide program in 2010, designed to help aspiring farmers locate farmland, mentors and business partners, and exchange valuable information. Features include: a website, connecting new farmers with landowners (buy, lease, and work), a mentor match program, farmer to farmer forum, tutorials for real estate agents, START, a network of new and beginning farmers as well as many other initiatives and resources.

### **Grant Programs**

Since the inception of SMADC several grant programs that have been offered at various times to benefit the farming community.

Growing Grapes for Wine – This program provides matching funds towards the purchase of grape vines with the goal of increasing wine grapes acreage in Maryland. The latest round of grants was offered in 2013.

Farm Viability Grants – Are intended to foster ways to increase the income and sustainability of area farms, to encourage the establishment of new farms and to support those farmers transitioning from tobacco into other farm ventures like agritourism or pick-your-own sites.

Regional Grants – Initiated in 2010, these grants are awarded to partners throughout the five Southern Maryland counties for projects deemed to have structural longevity and a lasting impact on regional farming community. The latest round of grants offered was in 2013. Awards have included farm equipment made available to the regions’ farming community, greenhouses to bolster for high school agriculture and food curriculum.

### **Children’s Education and Outreach**

SMADC’s children’s programs teach children about farms, give them access to locally grown foods and encourage healthy eating habits. Childhood obesity and nutrition are key targets. Below are several programs.

Cornelia and the Farm Band – This program conveys messages to children about healthy eating, exercise and the benefits of fresh farm foods and activities through visits with mascots Cornelia and Couch Potato and educational tools. SMADC has developed curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 12 in line with the Maryland State Curriculum.

Maryland Farm to School Week – The state program encourages the use of locally grown produce in school meals and educates the children of the importance of local farms. SMADC works collaborative with school system (public and private) that includes presentations with the Farm Band mascots and provides educational resources (seed packets, activity books, etc.).

Southern Maryland Livestock Expo (SMILE) – SMADC sponsors this livestock show for regional youth. The focus is on education and youth development to foster camaraderie and enhance participants’ knowledge and appreciation for the area’s agricultural heritage. In its seventh year, SMILE has acquired non-profit status.

### **Farmer’s Education**

In an effort to help farmers continue to diversify and identify market-driven opportunities, education continues as ongoing priority. In FY’13, SMADC hosted nine workshops on numerous topics including marketing, quality issues, value-added products, healthcare regulations for farm families and planning strategies to enhance profitability.

### **Streamlining Regulation**

SMADC works with local legislators and state and federal agencies to help navigate and shape regulations that will both protect the consumer and promote a vibrant agricultural future. SMADC developed extensive resources including tutorials detailing regulatory processes, downloadable forms and important links for value-added processing in Maryland pertaining to acidified foods and meats, which are available on the SMADC website. SMADC has helped to streamline federal, state and local regulations for on-farm food processing (acidified foods), meat sales and processing, farmers’ markets (food samples and wine sales), zoning, and dairy certification.

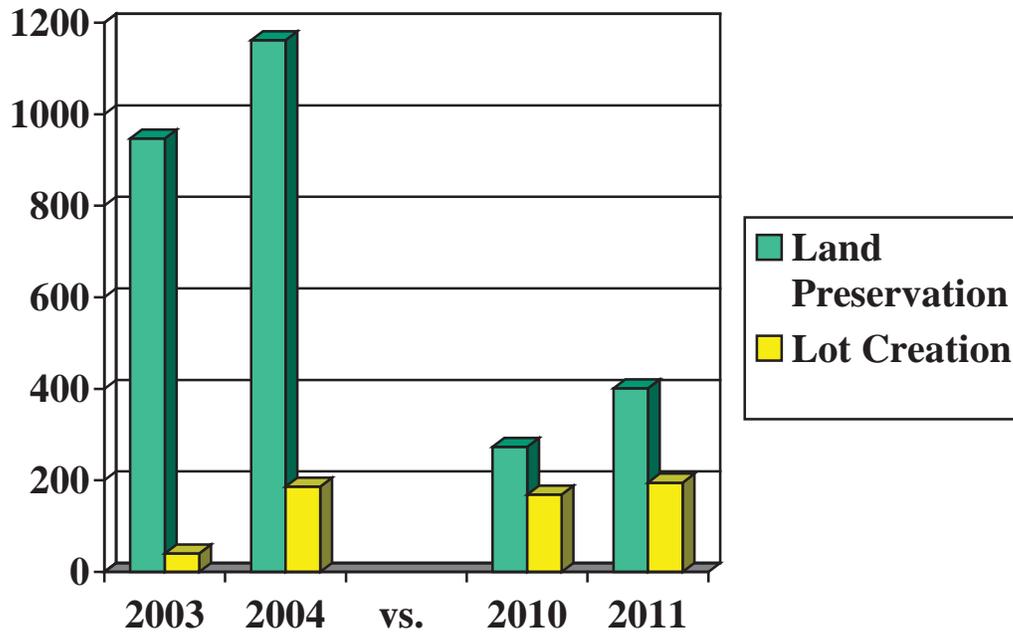
## **C. EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**

**1. Overview and Summary of Strategy.** Calvert uses incentives and restrictions to direct growth away from protection areas, while providing more agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage-tourism uses and value added product sales in those areas to support farming efforts. Calvert has a strong TDR program. The sending areas are the protection areas. The receiving areas are Priority Funding Areas and Rural Community Districts. By reducing zoning densities in all zoning categories in 2003 and requiring TDRs to regain previous densities in receiving areas, the County has worked to create a strong market for TDRs. In the protection areas, landowners can good values while protecting their lands instead of turning to development.

The County still has a goal to preserve 40,000 acres. There is enough undeveloped land to reach the goal, but the current high levels of TDR supply and low levels of demand will slow the pace. In fact 2012 was a record low with only 36 new acres preserved through the various TDR programs. At the current five year average of 325 acres preserved a year it would take the County until 2047 to reach its preservation goals. Reaching the goal of 40,000 acres may be dependent on increased preservation through State programs in the County.

The 2007 Recession slowed development in Calvert County, but it also slowed land preservation. Historically, land preservation greatly exceeded the rate of lot creation, but in recent years the rates are much closer as reflected in Figure IV-4.

**Figure IV-4 Comparison of Acreage in Land Preservation and Acreage in Lot Creation**



Preserving farming will remain the more difficult task. New land uses to create “value added” opportunities for farmers have been added to the Zoning Ordinance in the re-write. The new Zoning Ordinance became effective May 1, 2006. The uses include agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage-tourism uses and value added product. County and Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission efforts to promote marketing have been impressive and energetic. There has been progress, but new crops and opportunities have not replaced revenues lost from tobacco production yet.

**2. Funding.** The Program has been preserving about 600 acres per year since 2004. The use of TDRs in the open market has slowed from the combination of the economic downturn and the new state restrictions imposed by the Septic Bill. At the same time decreases in County revenue and increases in costs have reduced the County’s ability to invest in purchasing TDRs for retirement. The program is currently undergoing a comprehensive review to see how the excess supply of existing TDRs can be addressed.

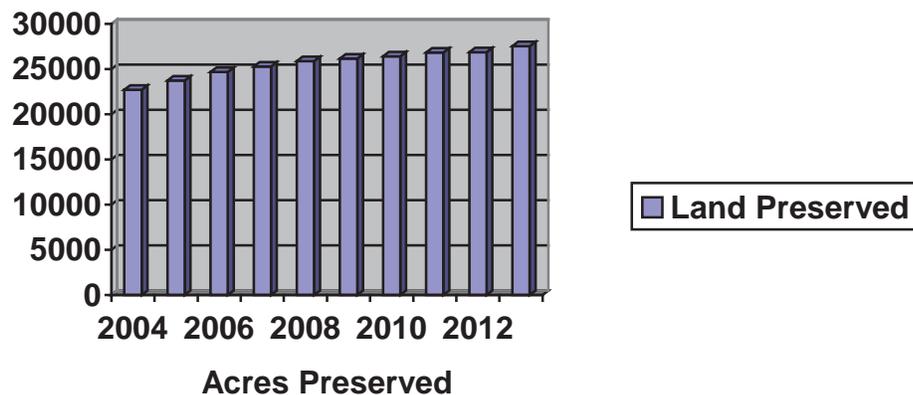
State and federal funding have also been cut in the last few years, and that has slowed the purchase of development rights programs. In the last five years only 200 acres have been preserved in Calvert with state funding. When the County adopted its preservation strategy in 2003, they expected half of the land protected would be protected via state purchases of development rights rather than by transfer of development rights or clustered open space. If land is not preserved through a county or state program, then subdivisions with 80% open space will occur, which is better than full development, but short of full protection of a farm community. While clustered open space saves some land, it allows residential development, an incompatible use, in the farm communities.

**3. Land Use Management Tools.** TDRs are an essential component of the County’s zoning strategy. In essence development cannot happen without preservation. Most major projects (except elderly and affordable housing) require the use of TDRs. Five acres are preserved for each dwelling unit over the minimum density.

Should any development go in the protection areas, then two zoning tools help to reduce the impact of development. First, the base zoning is one house per 20 acres. Second, 80% of the land must be reserved in open space, as per the current clustering regulations.

**4. Combined Performance of Preservation Tools.** On the whole, the Programs are working well, but there has been too much reliance on the County’s Preservation Program and not enough interest in the State Preservation Tools. Between the years 2004 and 2013, approximately 6,145 acres were preserved. Total acreage preserved from 2004 to mid-2013 is shown in Figure IV-6.

**Figure IV-6: Combined Performance of Preservation Tools**



**5. Effects of Potential Development on Land Markets.** The zoning changes and TDR requirements made land preservation a viable alternative for owners seeking to maintain equity in their land. In fact, several properties were auctioned on the open market, and land trusts or conservation buyers were the highest bidders. This created more stability in the farm communities because owners did not feel the need to “cash out” their land or lose their “nest egg”. Unfortunately the 2007 Recession has depressed the TDR market and undermined owner confidence in the available preservation tools.

Very little land has been developed in the Protection Areas, which include the Rural Legacy Areas. More development is going to the town centers, residential districts and some in the rural community districts.

**6. Farming and Farming Assistance Programs.** Both the County and Tri-County have been very supportive. However, it takes years to learn the culture of different crops, such as grapes, flowers, asparagus, or berries. Farmers cannot be sure that the new crops will be compatible with the soils. They do not know if there will be a market for their product. Many are watching the first to convert to other crops to see if they are successful.

Many times, it is new farmers from other areas who import new ideas and crops. A few grape producers have moved into the county and are starting small wineries.

**7. Summary.** Conversion from tobacco has been difficult. The farming culture of the community was oriented around the raising of tobacco, its planting, topping, cutting, and curing. Farmers did not have to market tobacco, they just had to take it to the market to sell it. Now, farmers are having to learn new crop cultures and figure out ways to market what they grow. Despite the assistance of government programs, the conversion has been slow. They also have the need for infrastructure for ‘value added’ production, including commercial kitchens and a slaughter facility.

Most farmers have a “wait and see” attitude about farming. Most want to continue to live on the land, and they value the lifestyle of living on a farm. Most have had to find part-time or full-time jobs to supplement family incomes, since tobacco production has virtually ended.

The amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance that allow new land uses were adopted by the County Commissioners became effective on May 1, 2006.

#### **D. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

- Support zoning changes to allow farmers to have additional uses for agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism uses.
- Continue to work with the Economic Development Department, the Sustainable Agriculture Workgroup and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission to develop and implement marketing programs.
- Continue to fund County Purchase of Development Rights and urge the State to do the same.

# CHAPTER V – NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the County's natural resource conservation goals as established in the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, to compare the County's goals with those of the State, to describe how the County is implementing County and State goals, to evaluate the County's current implementation strategy and to identify ways to improve its strategy.

### A. GOALS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

#### 1. State Goals

- 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;
  - Support and incentives for resource-based economies that increase 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 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 fall outside the green infrastructure: 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.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
  - Expand and connect forests, farmlands, 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 economic viability of privately owned forestland.
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.

## 2. Patuxent River Policy Plan

The Patuxent River Policy Plan was developed by the Patuxent River Commission (PRC) and adopted by the seven counties along the Patuxent River in 1984. The plan was updated in 1997, and a resolution was signed by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners on August 8, 2000, adopting the update. The Plan is currently under review by the PRC. The Policy Plan goals are listed below.

### *1984 Patuxent Policy Plan*

1. Establishing a Primary Management Area along the river and its tributaries
2. Developing programs for providing Best Management Practices and vegetative buffers immediately adjacent to the river and its tributaries
3. Surveying and identifying major non-point pollution sites
4. Developing state cost-share program to aid local governments in retrofitting existing development
5. Accommodating future development to minimize water quality impacts and maximize existing development opportunities
6. Increasing recreation and open space through public purchase and retention of federal holdings
7. Protecting existing forest cover and reforesting areas important for water quality protection
8. Preserving prime and productive agricultural land
9. Managing sand and gravel extraction to avoid damage to the river
10. Adopting an Annual Action Program to implement the strategies

### *1997 Patuxent Policy Plan Update*

1. Implement a comprehensive watershed management approach to control all sources of pollution and resource degradation
2. Continue to restore, improve, and protect the habitat function of aquatic and terrestrial living resources
3. Concentrate new development in and around existing developed areas and population centers while protecting rural lands and the associated agricultural economy

4. Enhance the environmental quality and community design in new and existing communities
5. Develop a sense of stewardship for the Patuxent River and its watershed through increased public education and participation programs
6. Provide sufficient funding and staff to support continued programs, policies, and projects to meet the 10 recommendations of the Policy Plan

### 3. County Goals

Calvert County's 2010 Comprehensive Plan Goal is to maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.

The goal is expressed in a series of 10 visions. Four of these visions relate directly to the sustainable protection and use of natural resources. Each vision is followed by one or several benchmarks. The benchmarks provide a means of monitoring progress and thereby help ensure that the visions become reality:

Visions and benchmarks related to the protection of natural resources:

*Vision:* Our landscape is dominated by forests and fields.

*Benchmark:* At least 40,000 acres of farm and forestland are preserved.

[Approximately 30% of the county's land area.]

*Vision:* *Our wetlands, streams, and forests support thriving plant and animal communities. Our seafood industry is improving.*

*Benchmark:* There is a 40% reduction in nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.

*Benchmark:* 90% of existing forest is retained.

*Vision:* *We waste less, consume fewer natural resources, and properly dispose of waste.*

*Benchmark:* At least 20% of household and commercial waste is recycled.

*Benchmark:* At least 22% of commuters use transit or carpool to work.

*Benchmark:* The annual increase in average household energy use is under 3%.

*Vision:* *We are building a strong economy based on renewable resources, high technology, retirement, recreation, and tourism.*

*Benchmark:* The commercial real property tax base is expanded from \$459 million in 2002 to \$598 million by 2007.

*Benchmark:* In-County jobs are increased by 2,700 from 2002 to 2007 (15,607 to 18,307 in-county jobs).

*Benchmark:* The number of visitors is increased from 471,321 in 2002 to 573,000 in 2007.

The next step in the continuum from Goals and Visions is Objectives. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan lists a variety of objectives related to the protection of natural resources.

At the broadest level, the protection of natural resources is part of an overall land use strategy that recognizes that Calvert County, like other counties at the “rural fringe” of metropolitan areas, has the potential to serve as part of a resource protection area, or “greenbelt” for the entire region.

The Comprehensive Plan states that areas “like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirements areas. This approach would help to:

- Conserve natural resources.
- Maintain a healthy environment.
- Promote the health and well-being of residents throughout the region.
- Reduce expenditures for public infrastructure.
- Maintain a regional source of agricultural and forest products.

In order to implement this strategy, the County’s land use plan is to:

- Manage the amount and rate of residential growth.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop town centers as attractive, pleasant, and convenient places to live, work, and shop.
- Direct commercial and industrial uses to appropriate locations and provide necessary infrastructure.
- Direct residential growth to appropriate locations and ensure a wide range of housing opportunities for all incomes and ages.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of residential communities.

At a more detailed level, the Comprehensive Plan discusses natural resources and sensitive areas. The objectives in the Land and Water Resources section are to:

- Encourage preservation, protection and conservation of natural resources.
- Establish a comprehensive approach to environmental planning with special emphasis on watershed planning.
- Protect environmental features that will help ensure continuance of a healthy and pleasant place to live for current residents and future generations.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, floodplains, wetland and water way buffers, steep slopes) from development impacts to provide:
  - Sufficient habitat to maintain our current diversity of fauna and flora,
  - Protection of habitat and individuals of rare, threatened, or endangered species,
  - Nutrient removal,
  - Flood control.

- Preserve stream valleys to maintain their important natural functions and to provide greenways throughout the County.
- Practice community planning and site design that conserves energy, protects natural resources, and minimizes impacts on the landscape.
- Encourage restoration of lost and/or damaged natural environmental features.
- Foster greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental concerns.
- Develop an implementation plan to accommodate growth in Priority Funding areas while reducing nutrient loads in waterways to targeted levels.
- Ensure sufficient water supply and water/sewer treatment capacity to serve future growth in Calvert County.
- Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater aquifers.

The Comprehensive Plan includes a number of action statements related to the creation and maintenance of a network of contiguous green infrastructure.

- I-139. Map forest resources and track forest loss and gain.
- I-140. Replace 100% of forest loss outside the Critical Area and town centers.
- I-141. Preserve and restore riparian forests.
- I-142. Maintain large tracts of forest and especially forest interior in the rural areas.
- I-143. Maintain or establish habitat corridors between large tracts of forest and between urban areas and adjoining forested areas.
- I-144. Support land preservation that protects forested areas (e.g., local land trusts, County land trusts, easement programs, Forest Stewardship Program).
- I-145. Adopt a map of the forest interior in Calvert County to guide the Planning Commission in subdivision and site plan review.
- I-156. Map and establish greenways systems along stream valleys to preserve as much of these low lands as possible.
- I-157. Require and maintain sufficient buffers from all perennial and intermittent streams to provide environment protection.
- I-158. Reforest stream buffers wherever possible.
- I-160. Restore or create wetlands in areas that will reduce nutrient pollution runoff from farms and developed areas.
- I-161. Examine the effectiveness of 50 ft. buffers and alter buffer requirements, if the study so indicates.
- I-162. Establish or re-establish forested wetland buffers where possible and feasible.
- I-171. Work with the State to map rare, threatened, and endangered species outside the Critical Area and develop protective measures.
- I-172. Protect from shore erosion control those areas of Calvert Cliffs that have significant Puritan tiger beetle populations.
- I-173. Develop methods to protect the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species. Take steps to increase their numbers if possible.

#### 4. Comparison between State and County Goals

State and County goals are fully compatible. Both reflect recognition of the huge role that natural resources play in maintaining an overall healthy environment. They also reflect recognition of the cultural and economic benefits that natural resources can provide when they are adequately protected and maintained.

State goals identify the need for local land use management plans to address natural resource related issues. The County goals include a land use plan which identifies the protection of natural resources as a primary component of the plan.

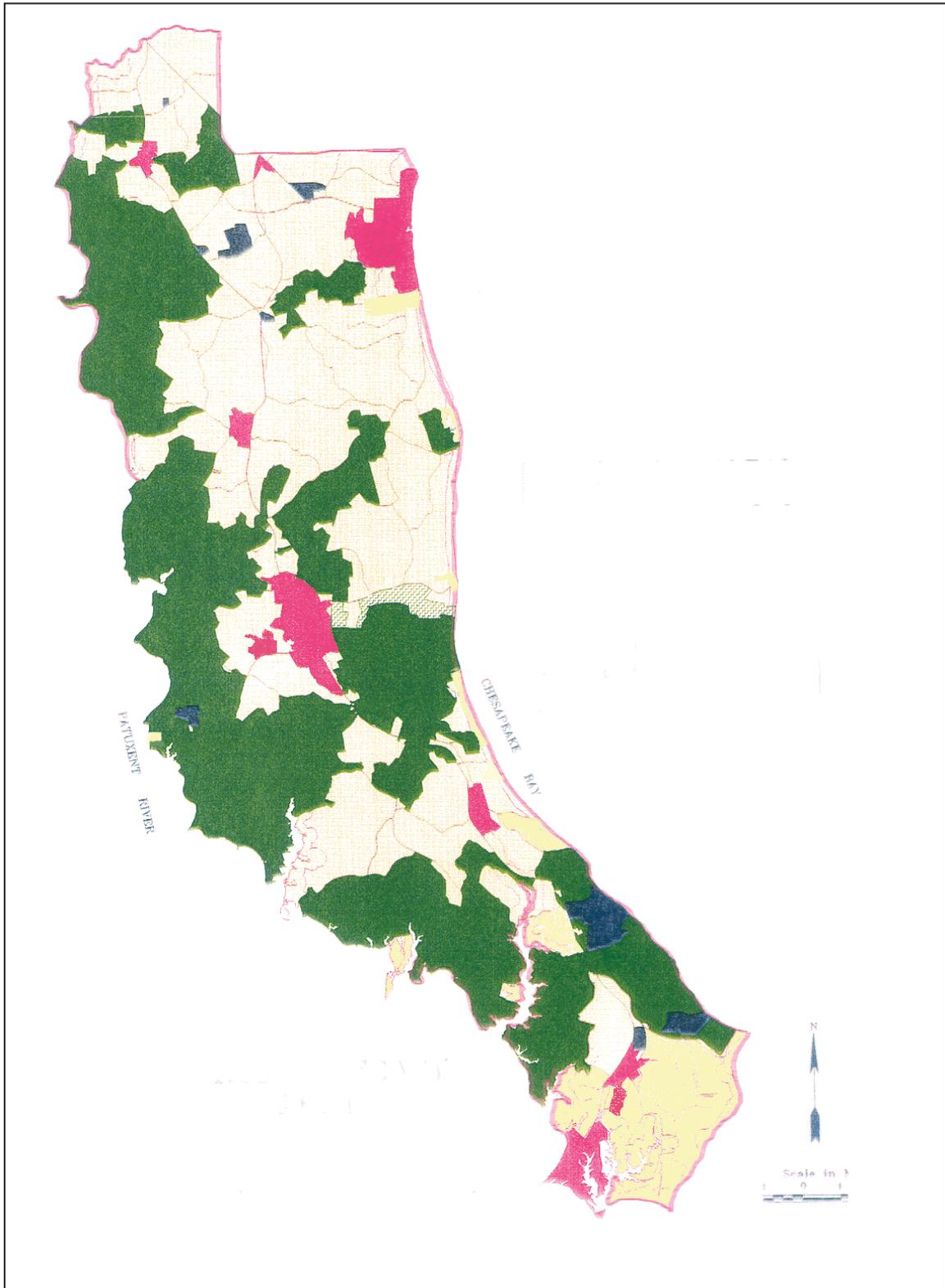
State goals identify specific techniques such as public land acquisition and easement purchase that may be used to protect natural resources. These and other techniques that are currently being used by the County are discussed in Section B entitled Current Implementation Program for Natural Resource Land Conservation.

The State focuses on conservation and restoration activities in priority areas within the statewide green infrastructure. Figure V-1 is the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's GreenPrint map for Calvert County. Calvert County focuses its conservation activities in the Farm and Forest District. (These two districts were combined on May 1, 2006, they were previous the Farm Community Overlay District and the Resource Preservation Overlay District). Figure V-2 shows the Farm and Forest District in dark green.

**Figure V-1: GreenPrint Map – Calvert County**



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2012



**Figure V-2: Farm and Forest District**

## **B. CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION**

### **1. Comprehensive Planning Context**

The County's Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives were outlined in Section A. This section describes the steps that are currently being taken in the County to implement these goals and objectives.

### **2. Data development and data sharing**

The primary sources for environment data in Calvert County are aerial photographs flown most recently in 2011 with 2-ft. and 10-ft. contour overlays and State data inventories and maps. The County has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) and continues to add data layers that will be beneficial to the conservation of natural resources. The County also has a data sharing agreement with the Maryland Department of Planning and often shares data with Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

### **3. Designated Conservation Areas, Inventories and Maps of Resources**

a. County Designated Protection Areas include:

- Shoreline and Cliff Areas on the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, and their Tributaries
- Floodplain Area
- Slopes 25% or Greater (15% in the Critical Area)
- Erodible Soils Adjoining Streams
- Wetlands
- Perennial and Intermittent Streams and wetland buffers
- State-Listed Species Sites
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Waterfowl concentration and staging areas
- Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat

District boundaries are delineated during the subdivision, site plan and building permit process. In addition, the boundaries of the Critical Area, Natural Heritage Areas and Habitat Protection Areas are delineated by the State and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and are shown on the Calvert County Habitat Protection Area Map. Forest interior dwelling species (FIDS) habitat is shown on the Calvert County Forest Interior Dwelling Species Habitat Map.

Uses permitted in the underlying zoning district are permitted as long as they meet the conditions in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. These conditions include extended setbacks and buffers, special construction techniques, prohibitions

against disturbance and the development of habitat protection plans and buffer management plans.

b. State GreenPrint Program

Maryland has only two million acres of ecologically significant land that has not been consumed by some kind of human development. Of these two million acres of green infrastructure, almost three-quarters are unprotected.

In 2001, the State of Maryland established the GreenPrint program which attempts to preserve the most ecologically valuable natural lands in Maryland by purchasing land from willing sellers. These purchases can be either fee simple (ownership transferred to the state or a county) or conservation easements (original owner keeps the property, but sells the rights to develop it). A protocol was developed to help select and prioritize parcels for GreenPrint acquisition.

The approach to protecting green infrastructure involves four steps:

- Identify, using state-of-the-art computer mapping techniques, the most important natural lands in the state;
- Connect these lands through a system of corridors or linkages;
- Verify the presence and value of these lands on the ground; and
- Save those lands that are currently not protected through targeted acquisitions and easements. (DNR)

“In 2008, the first TEA (Targeted Ecological Areas) map was created and used in GreenPrint to target and track land conservation efforts. About 1.5 million acres of unprotected TEA were identified. In 2011, the TEA map was updated to include new resource assessments and refreshed data. About 1.8 million acres of unprotected TEA were identified. In addition, the individual GreenPrint data layers are now provided on the GreenPrint interactive map. This allows users to get a better understanding of where the State’s important natural resources occur, what they are and why certain TEA’s are important.” (Source: <http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/documents/WhyGreenPrintLandsAreImportant.pdf><http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/documents/WhyGreenPrintLandsAreImportant.pdf>)

Through a computer-based selection process known as the Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA), two types of important resource lands are identified - "hubs" and "corridors." Hubs are typically large contiguous areas, separated by major roads and/or human land uses, that contain one or more of the following:

- Large blocks of contiguous interior forest (containing at least 250 acres, plus a transition zone of 300 feet)

- Large wetland complexes, with at least 250 acres of unmodified wetlands
- Important animal and plant habitats of at least 100 acres, including rare, threatened, and endangered species locations; unique ecological communities; and migratory bird habitats
- Relatively pristine stream and river segments (which, when considered with adjacent forests and wetlands, are at least 100 acres) that support trout, mussels, and other sensitive aquatic organisms
- Existing protected natural resource lands which contain one or more of the above (for example, state parks and forests, National Wildlife Refuges, locally owned reservoir properties, major stream valley parks, and Nature Conservancy preserves)

Corridors are linear features connecting hubs together to help animals and plant move between hubs. Corridors were identified using many sets of data, including land cover, roads, streams, slope, flood plains, aquatic resource data, and fish blockages. Generally speaking, corridors connect hubs of similar type (hubs containing forests are connected to one another; while those consisting primarily of wetlands are connected to others containing wetlands). Corridors generally follow the best ecological or "most natural" routes between hubs. Typically these are streams with wide riparian buffers and healthy fish communities. Other good wildlife corridors include ridge lines or forested valleys. Developed areas, major roads, and other unsuitable features were avoided.

The County's list of eligible properties for easement and fee simple acquisition with Legacy Funds are evaluated and ranked by the Rural Legacy staff based upon the GIA criteria.

#### **4. Inventories**

##### **a. Water Quality Monitoring Program for Calvert County Tidal Creeks**

This water quality monitoring program tracks important water quality variables to determine changes in key indices between years. In the Mill Creek watershed which includes Mill Creek, St. John's Creek, Back Creek, The Narrows and Solomons Harbor, ten stations are monitored during the summer season. At each station, surface and bottom water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity are measured. Water samples are collected, filtered and analyzed for chlorophyll-a concentrations. Data from 1987, 1988, 1990-present (25 year data series) are compared to determine any developing trends in water quality. Starting in 2010, the study was expanded to include 7 tidal creeks on the Patuxent River side of the County and three tidal creeks on the Chesapeake Bay side. A report is presented and recommendations for further action are made to the Board of County Commissioners on an annual basis. The monitoring is

conducted by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

#### b. Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat Study

In 1999, the County prepared a report funded by the Coastal Zone Management Program entitled Impacts of Alternative Land Use Patterns on Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat in Calvert County. The study identified forest cover for the County and estimated Forest Interior Dwelling (FID) bird habitat, generally defined as 100 contiguous acres or more of forest that is more than 100 meters from a forest edge. The study showed that forest covered 81,781 acres, or 58% of land area in Calvert County and that potential FID bird habitat represented 37% of the forest cover or 22% of total land area in the County. The 1999 study also showed that 44% of the estimated FID habitat was protected through preservation efforts (8,410 acres) and regulation (5,113 acres).

A model was developed to determine the impact of land use decisions on potential FID habitat. Three model runs were made. The first (model 1) applied the forest loss randomly, the second (model 2) applied the forest loss in such a way as to minimize FID habitat loss on a per parcel basis and the third (model 3) applied the forest loss with the goal of maintaining maximum forest interior. The results indicated that about 32% of the forest cover and between 54% (Model 3) and 65% (Model 1) of the FID habitat would be lost by build-out and only 8 to 10% of the County land area would remain FID habitat.

A Forest Interior Dwelling Species Map (FIDS) was adopted based on 2003 data and is used by the Planning Commission for review of subdivisions and site plans. The 2011 forest cover data was recently made available. The data was used to create a forest cover map (see Figure V-3). There was a 4% loss in forest cover between 1993 and 2003 and a 2% loss between 2003 and 2011. An updated forest interior dwelling species habitat map was recently created based upon the 2011 forest cover data (see Figure V-4). Based upon the 2011 forest interior dwelling species data, there was 0.5% increase in forest interior habitat between 2003 and 2011. The new FIDS Habitat Map will need to be adopted.

The Parkers Creek watershed is a recognized by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The area was recognized for “its diverse community of forest-interior birds and significant populations of two breeding bird species of concern, Kentucky Warbler and Wood Thrush.<sup>1</sup>” “These migratory songbirds have significant breeding populations here but are in decline throughout much of their breeding range in the U.S. Increased forest fragmentation has made their nests more vulnerable to parasitism by female brown-headed cowbirds.<sup>2</sup>” In addition, the Louisiana Water thrush and the Worm-eating Warbler are two IBA target species which breed in the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://acltweb.org/NaturalResources/BirdList/index.cfm>, accessed July 11, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/Natural\\_Areas/ParkersCreek.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/Natural_Areas/ParkersCreek.asp), accessed July 11, 2013.

Parkers Creek woodlands. Target species are indicator species for forests that are not fragmented.

According to the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan:

- For the first time in 100 years, the percentage of forestlands in the watershed is declining.
- Some forests are cleared for farming, but 56% of the forests are threatened by development.

## **5. Planning and Land Use Management**

The State asks *“Does the County have a strategy to map, expand, and better connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure? If so, what is the status of the effort? Is the strategy an adopted part of the Comprehensive Plan? What implementation tools are being employed?”*

In addition to the Critical Area Program and Forest Conservation Program (both mandated by the State), the County is pursuing several strategies that have the effect of helping to establish and maintain a contiguous green infrastructure.

### **Watershed Planning**

As stated in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, watershed planning is a comprehensive approach that recognizes that all activities and land uses in a watershed impact environmental quality. Wetlands, creeks, forests, rare, threatened and endangered species habitat together with all man-made structures and activities can be viewed as an interconnected system. (Refer to Figure V-5 for the boundaries of watersheds in Calvert County.) Calvert County has developed a draft Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that meets the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements as required by the State but the costs of implementing the plan were found to be out of reach. The University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) reviewed the plan and recommended a less costly strategy. The Calvert County WIP Team will consider the recommendations of the EFC in preparing a new draft of the plan.

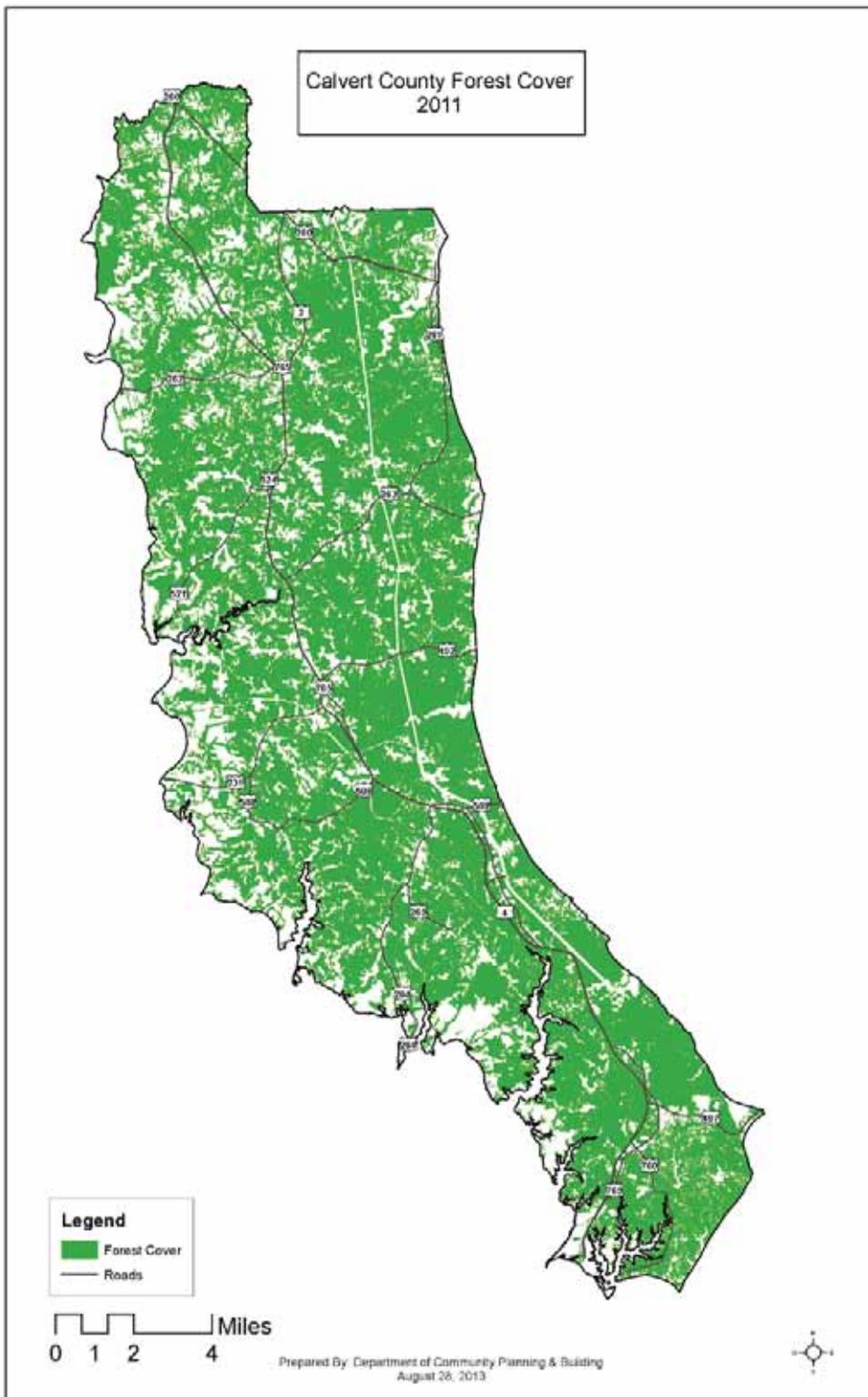
### **Designated Protection Areas**

“Designated Protection Areas” identified in the Zoning Ordinance (and referenced in # 3 above) are intended primarily to protect streams and the habitat corridors adjacent to them. As new development occurs, these areas are mapped as part of the subdivision and site plan process and protected from development and destruction of habitat by the requirement for setbacks, buffers and, in some cases, reforestation.

The 2010 Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas section identifies streams “as conduits to lowlands, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay and states that when they are healthy, they provide habitat for many aquatic organisms, drinking water for wildlife and a means of transport for organic material, which supports aquatic species.”

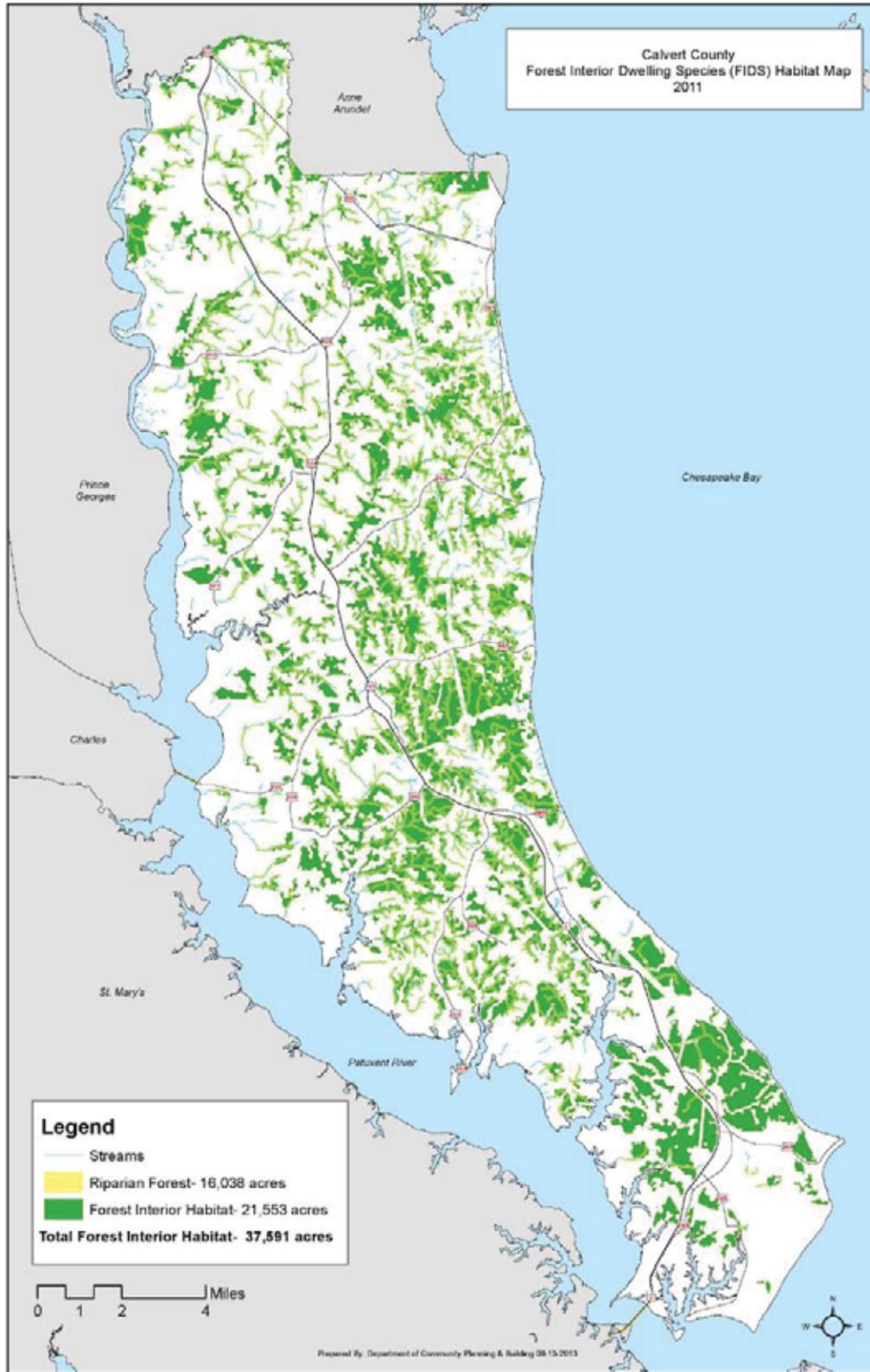
### Figure V-3: Calvert County Forest Cover Map

Source: Calvert County Community Planning and Building Department-Map based upon 2011 data

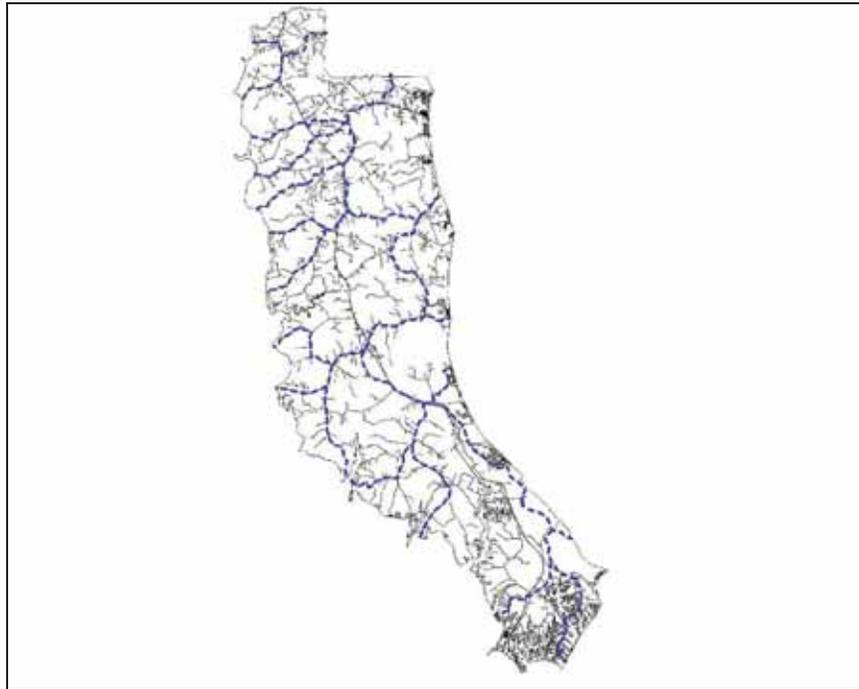


### Figure V-4: Forest Interior Dwelling Species Habitat Map

Source: Calvert County Community Planning and Building, based upon 2011 forest cover data



**Figure V-5: Watersheds in Calvert County**



“However, these same streams provide a direct pathway for pollutants to move downstream into our rivers and Bay. These pollutants, including sediment, nutrients and toxic waste, cause serious damage to aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. Forests and wetland buffers adjacent to streams serve the important function of removing pollutants before they enter the streams. They also provide excellent habitat and habitat corridors for wildlife.”

### **Mandatory Clustering**

Mandatory Clustering applies to all new major subdivisions located outside of designated growth areas. Depending upon location, 50% to 80% of any given parcel must be preserved. There are four types of exemptions from the clustering requirement, however. When subdivisions are created of lots with a 20 acre minimum size, if the subdivision is limited to five or fewer lots in perpetuity, then clustering is not required. Agricultural Preservation Districts that have sold development rights are exempt. For property within designated Conservation Districts or the Critical Area, the county’s zoning regulations for the Critical Area District and for Natural Resources Protection Areas supersede mandatory.

As part of the subdivision process, the preserved area is classified as one or more of the following:

“Farm Reserve” – land that has been cleared for use as cropland, pasture or meadow and which is of adequate size and configuration to continue to function as cropland, pasture or meadow as determined upon recommendation by the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board.

“Woodland Reserve” – that portion of a pre-existing and/or afforested forest that is to remain contiguous and undisturbed by roads, buildings, and lawns and which is of sufficient acreage to allow for timber production or wildlife management as determined by a forester licensed in the State of Maryland.

“Conservation Open Space” – wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, streams and their buffers.”

“Community Recreation Open Space” – recreation open space as required in subdivisions with 50 or more dwelling units.

“Public Access Open Space” – land that is to be deeded to a government agency or non-profit land trust which agrees to provide public access.

Since adoption in 1992, mandatory clustering has preserved more than 5,000 acres of land.

### **Zoning**

Prime resource preservation areas were mapped in 1992 and designated as the **Resource Preservation District**, a 16,000-acre area (approximately 10% of the county’s land area) that contained most of the remaining large contiguous forested areas in the County. This area has a permitted residential density of 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres, although development rights can be purchased to bring density up to a maximum of one dwelling unit per 10 acres. The lower residential density within this district, combined with mandatory clustering onto no more than 20% of any given site, helps reduce the amount of forest fragmentation within this area; however, it does not prevent fragmentation. The Resource Preservation District, which was previously an overlay zone, was combined with the Farm Community District, also an overlay zone, to create the Farm and Forest District, which is a zoning district not an overlay zone. This new zone was established on May 1, 2006 with the adoption of the new Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. The permitted residential densities did not change with the new Zoning Ordinance.

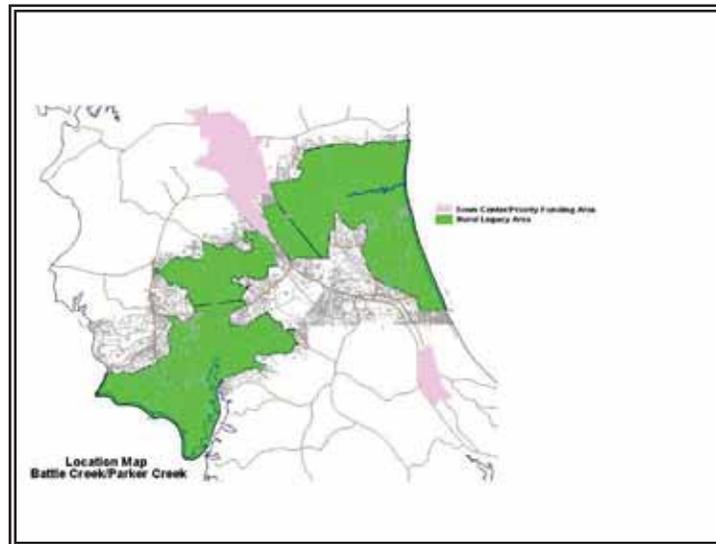
In 2006, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a complete revision of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. The new ordinance includes new land use categories for agri-tourism, ecotourism and heritage tourism.” Farm campgrounds, canoe and kayak launching sites, commercial kitchens, and wineries are among the new uses permitted.

### **Land Preservation Programs**

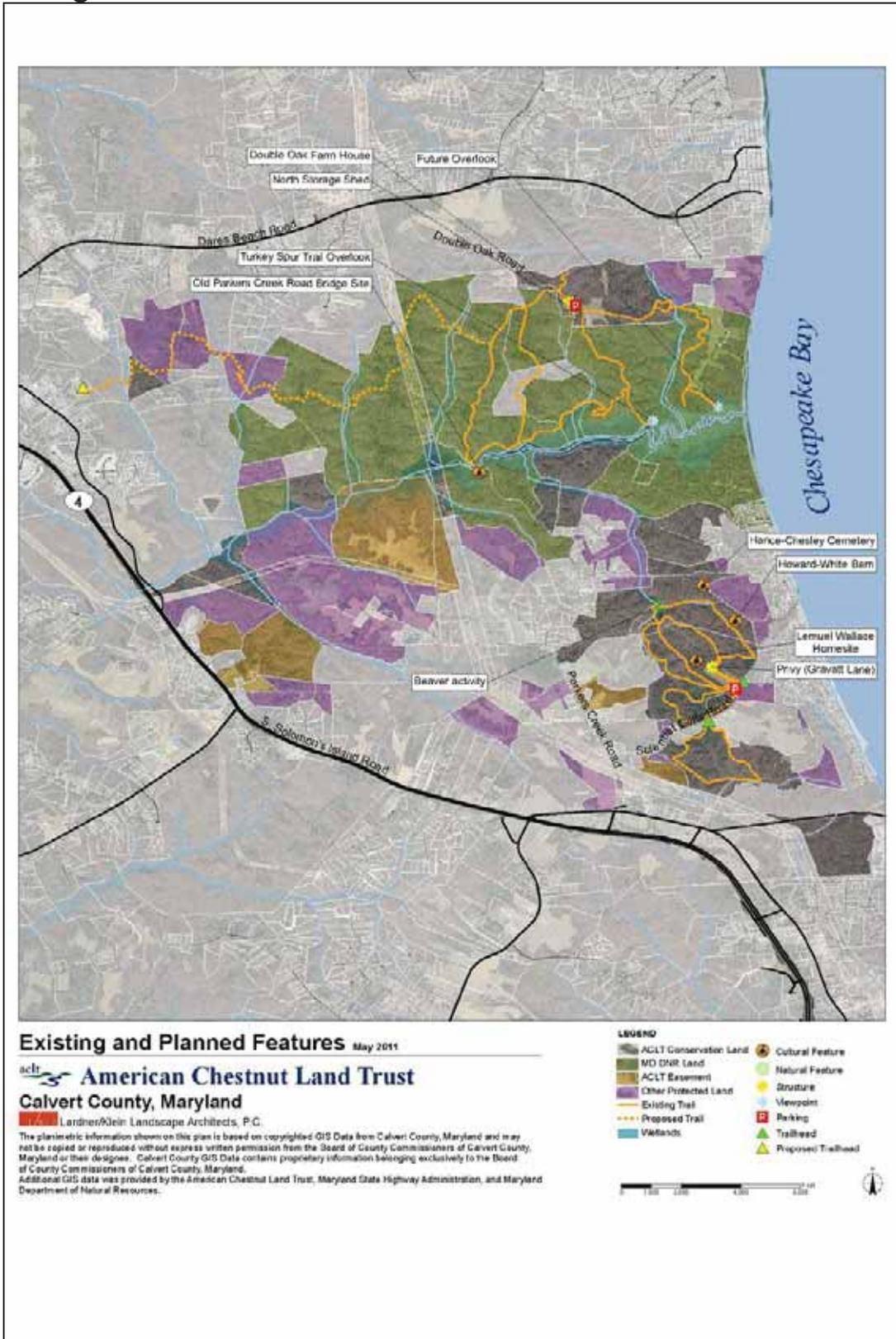
Calvert County’s land preservation programs, described in Chapter IV, preserve both prime farms and forests. The Battle Creek - Parkers Creek watershed areas, shown in Figure V-6, represents a very successful example of how State and County land

preservation programs have worked together to preserve a very significant natural resource area, feeding into two of the County's major creeks. (Note: The watersheds were originally designated as the Battle Creek - Parkers Creek Rural Legacy Area. The original Rural Legacy Area was expanded and renamed the Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy Area.) Out of a total 9,500 acres within this area, nearly 7,000 acres have been preserved to date through a partnership that includes the State of Maryland, Calvert County government, the Nature Conservancy, three local land trusts (American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Farmland Trust), and conservation donors. This area includes the largest permanently preserved contiguous forest in Calvert County, a 2,700-acre area within the Parkers Creek watershed managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), refer to Figure V-7. Contributors to the preservation of this area include ACLT, the Nature Conservancy, the State of Maryland and private conservation donors. An additional 600 acres within the Parkers Creek watershed has been protected through the Rural Legacy Program. Land managed by ACLT are open to the public for environmental education, scientific research, and recreational hiking, birding, hunting, and canoeing.

**Figure V-6: Battle Creek – Parkers Creek Watershed Areas**



**Figure V-7: Preserved Land in Parkers Creek Watershed**



## Eco-tourism and Resource-Based Recreation

Tourism continues to be one of the leading components of Calvert County's economy. Eco-tourism and resource-based recreation are the basis for the County tourism program. The Economic Development Department maintains a website at [www.ChooseCalvert.com](http://www.ChooseCalvert.com). (Refer to Figure V-8.) Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Center and Kings Landing Park are all natural-resource based recreation sites owned or managed by the County.

**Figure V-8: Eco-tourism Webpages**

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Choose Calvert' website. At the top, there is a banner with the text 'CHOOSE Calvert' in a stylized font, followed by 'Charm of the Chesapeake' in a smaller font. Below this, the main heading is 'On a Budget' with the subtext 'Calvert County offers a host of free and almost free activities for visitors.' The page features a list of activities under the heading 'Free Things To Do'. The list includes: visiting the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Kings Landing Park, strolling the boardwalk in North Beach, visiting the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, shopping at farmers markets, touring the One-Room Schoolhouse, visiting Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, touring historic churches, exploring Annamarie Sculpture Garden's Maker's Market, watching sailboat races, exploring Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, hiking at Parker's Creek Preserve, visiting the Calvert Marine Museum, and meditating in the Garden of Remembrance. There are two small photographs: one showing a boardwalk along the water and another showing a wooden bridge over a body of water. At the bottom, there is a 'Contact' section with the name Joyce Baki, her email address, phone numbers, and the website URL.

**CHOOSE Calvert**  
Charm of the Chesapeake

### On a Budget

Calvert County offers a host of free and almost free activities for visitors.

#### Free Things To Do

- The **Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum** features exhibits detailing the former railroad and the heyday of Chesapeake Beach as a resort destination in the early 1900's. The museum also offers free children's programs and concerts during the summer.
- **Kings Landing Park**, a 260-acre park on the Patuxent River and Cocktown Creek, has a 200-foot fishing, trails and a boardwalk.
- Stroll the **boardwalk in North Beach** and take in the expansive views of the Chesapeake Bay.
- The visitors center at **Chesapeake Biological Laboratory** offers exhibits highlighting ongoing research projects, an oyster reef community display and an aquarium. Free behind-the-scenes tours of the laboratory are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Shop **farmers markets** for local produce.
- The **One-Room Schoolhouse**, built in 1868, is available for tours by appointment.
- Tour **Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary** and see ancient bald cypress trees, enjoy bird watching and take nature walks at the 100-acre site.
- Tour **historic churches**. Two of the original 30 Anglican parishes in Maryland are in Calvert County.
- Explore the work of wonderful artisans at **Annamarie Sculpture Garden's Maker's Market** the first Saturday of each month.
- Watch **sailboat races** from the Solomons Riverwalk on Thursday nights throughout the summer.
- Explore **Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum**, adjacent to St. Leonard Creek where Maryland's largest naval engagement took place during the War of 1812. The park features more than 70 archaeological sites, self-guided trails and a visitor center with museum exhibits, a children's discovery room and a museum shop. While you are there, visit Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility for studying, preserving and storing artifacts of Maryland's heritage.
- Hike 15 miles of trails at **Parker's Creek Preserve**, one of the last remaining pristine watersheds on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Visit the **Calvert Marine Museum** on the first Friday evening of the month for First Free Fridays.
- Meditate in the **Garden of Remembrance** at St. Leonard.

**Contact**  
Joyce Baki, Tourism Specialist    bakija@co.cal.md.us    410-535-4583    800-331-9771    choosecalvert.com

## CHOOSE Calvert

### Free Things, *continued*

- Wander through antique shops and unique boutiques.
- Experience the outdoors at our many parks and recreation areas.
- Trace your history at the Calvert County Historical Society and tour its home, the historic Linden House. Attend the society's "Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Series" held on the third Thursday of the month, February through October.
- Learn the role the Chesapeake Bay played in shaping communities at the Bayside History Museum.
- Walk or bike the scenic Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail.
- Visit a piece of history at the Old Wallville School, built in the 1880s for African American students.



### Things To Do For \$10 or Less

- Visit Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, a 30-acre park located in scenic Solomons offering a modern art collection and permanent works by regional artisans.
- Enjoy the beautiful Breezy Point Beach and Campground on the Chesapeake Bay, featuring a half-mile beach, fossil hunting, fishing, crabbing and swimming.
- View 15-million-year-old cliffs and pan for fossils at Calvert Cliffs State Park, with 1.3 miles of bay shoreline and 1,460 wooded acres for hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, hunting and camping.
- Visit the Calvert Marine Museum to learn about the cultural and natural history of Southern Maryland.
- The American Chestnut Land Trust offers self-guided hiking trails, bicycling and guided canoe trips.
- Visit Flag Ponds Nature Park for swimming, fishing, fossil hunting and hiking.
- Kings Landing Park features pastures, woodlands and wetlands, along with an equestrian facility that includes a riding ring, judge's stand and water hydrants.



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was established in 2007, commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and Captain John Smith's voyages of exploration in the Chesapeake Bay. Smith and his crew traveled and mapped almost 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay, stopping at several locations in what later became known as Calvert County. Information about the trail is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/cajo/index.htm>.

In 2008, the Star-Spangled Banner Trail was created by Congress. The 560-mile trail connects historic sites in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia and commemorates the events of the War of 1812. The trail contains both land and water components, following the raids and skirmishes of the American and British troops. Through the perspective of war, the trail highlights the Chesapeake region's important natural and cultural resources. Information about the trail is available online at <http://www.starspangledtrail.net>.

Federal, state and local officials, together with business leaders and citizens throughout Maryland, are working to establish the Star-Spangled Banner Trail, commemorating the War of 1812. During the beginning of the War of 1812 the British had controlled the Chesapeake Bay. In an attempt to open the bay, a flamboyant ex-privateer, Commodore Joshua Barney, assembled a rag-tag fleet of 18 small gun boats, barges and sloops and headed down the bay in June 1814. Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla clashed with the British on June 8-10 and again on June 26 in the Battles of St. Leonard Creek. The battles, the largest naval engagement in the history of Maryland, took place where the Patuxent River meets the mouth of St. Leonard Creek, just offshore from Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

The National Park Service and the Maryland State Highway Administration have worked with Calvert County officials to place signage along the highway to denote the Star-Spangled Banner Trail. Five wayside signs and eight interpretive signs can be found along the trail in Calvert County. A water trail of War of 1812 sites along the Patuxent River is planned. The county's participation in the establishment of the trail provides an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about our early history and the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River. The trail offers economic opportunities through heritage tourism, including guide services, boat tours, motorcoach tours, food and lodging.

## **C. EVALUATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

### **1. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Natural Resources Implementation Program**

#### **a. The Comprehensive Planning Process**

##### *Strengths*

The Comprehensive Planning process in Calvert County continues to be a major strength. The Plan moves step-by-step from goals to visions to objectives to actions. There are benchmarks by which to measure progress, and the process is open and transparent.

#### **b. Inventories/Maps of Resources**

##### *Strengths*

The exercise of mapping prime farms and forests, which was undertaken in 1992 and which led to the establishment of the Farm Community, Resource Preservation and Rural Community Districts, has helped direct preservation efforts to those areas that are most critical. In addition, the Forest Interior Dwelling Species Maps have been adopted.

The Maryland Rural Legacy program, which requires the identification and mapping of important resource areas, has worked very well for Calvert County. It required that the County go into more detail than the original 1992 mapping and helped focus resources toward those selected areas.

The County's new aerial photography together with 2-foot and 10-foot contour overlays is proving to be a very valuable tool for identifying sensitive natural areas, particularly floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes. The county GIS is an essential tool in natural resource identification, conservation and protection.

The Forest Interior Dwelling Species Habitat Study identified potential FIDS habitat areas and followed up with recommendation on how to minimize the fragmentation of these areas.

#### *Weaknesses*

- i. The County has not adopted a green infrastructure map.
- ii. Procedural changes need to be made to make better use of the FIDS maps.

### **c. Easement Acquisition and Assistance Programs**

#### *Strengths*

County and State easement acquisition and assistance programs (MALPF, Rural Legacy, County TDR program, County PAR program, County leveraging program and County Revolving Loan Fund) combined have permanently preserved more than 28,000 acres of prime farm and forestland in Calvert County. They offer property owners a range of choices and have made it possible for land trusts to work very effectively in the County. They give landowners a return on the sale of their conservation easements that sometimes equals or has even exceeded the return for selling the land for development.

#### *Weaknesses*

Many critical properties have been developed rather than preserved because property owners may not have known about these programs, or may not have believed that they could offer as good a price as the private sector. Enrolling in Calvert County's and the State's preservation programs is strictly voluntary. Also, the current downturn in the economy along with increasing regulations has greatly slowed growth in the county resulting in TDR supply outweighing demand. The County government is actively seeking to adjust the TDR program to restore a better balance. A final observation is that the County's TDR program and the State's MALPF program are geared toward agricultural preservation and do not always work well for protecting environmentally sensitive resources.

### **d. Funding for Easement Acquisition and Assistance**

#### *Strengths*

To help meet the goal of preserving 40,000 acres of prime farm and forest land, in the past the County has allocated \$1.5 to \$2 million per year to land preservation. Current funding pressures have prevented the County from maintaining those levels, but the County remains committed to preservation. The County has also received more than

\$6,000,000 in Rural Legacy grants, which has been valuable in preserving properties with environmentally sensitive resources.

*Weaknesses*

Reductions in funding at the State level have reduced the effectiveness of the Rural Legacy Program.

**e. Planning and Land Use Management Authority**

*Strengths*

The Planning and Land Use management techniques described in this Plan are among the most effective in the United States when measured in terms of number of acres that have been permanently preserved and percentage of total acreage preserved. Environmental regulations governing setbacks and buffers from steep slopes, wetlands and streams are among the most effective in the State.

*Weaknesses*

The County's land use regulations have not prevented the development of scattered residential subdivisions throughout much of the countryside, leading to the loss and/or fragmentation of many important natural resource areas.

**f. Eco-tourism and Resource-based Recreational Activities**

*Strengths*

The County has a strong tourism program and several very high quality natural resource sites that are open to the public for tourism and recreation. The County adopted zoning regulations in 2006 that permit eco-tourism uses on privately-owned land.

*Weaknesses*

Land acquisition for resource-based recreation is becoming more difficult because there are fewer large tracts of land and acquisition costs have greatly increased while State funding sources have decreased.

**2. Summary of Needed Improvements in the Implementation Program**

There are three basic techniques available to most jurisdictions in the United States in dealing with the protection and preservation of natural resources – regulations, incentives and outright land and easement purchase. Through public discussion and debate over many years, Calvert Countians have struck a balance between these three techniques that appears to be working well. The major problems are related to a) raising public awareness of the need for habitat protection and erosion control and the maintenance of greenway, b) making property owners aware of alternatives to selling their land for development, c) making the most efficient use of limited financial resources by targeting the natural resources that are most in need of protection, and d) maintaining a steady and reliable source of funding for resource protection and preservation.

#### **D. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

1. Continue to support and promote the County's land use plan and policies outlined in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Adopt a Greenways Map and use it to target areas that need to be protected. Include Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat. Use the map to identify greenways during the subdivision process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space.
3. Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing informational brochures, making public presentations and developing programs for Channel 6 (public access cable television).
4. Continue to hold regional meetings to explain land preservation options that are available to property owners.
5. Promote eco-tourism by allowing natural resource related recreational businesses in the Farm and Forest District, consistent with resource and habitat protection.
6. Continue County funding support for land preservation at the local level and encourage the continuation of funding programs at the State level (MALPF, Rural Legacy and Program Open Space).
7. Adopt and implement a cost effective Calvert County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).



# CHAPTER VI – CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION

## INTRODUCTION

“Preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County” is one of the goals of the 2010 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan to help maintain or improve the quality of life for citizens. The preservation of cultural resources is integrated into and invoked in nearly every chapter of the plan, noting threats to those resources as well as identifying strategies to preserve them. A section entitled “Heritage” focuses on resources and conservation needs and lists actions to meet them.

According to the most recent figures available from the Maryland Historical Trust, 1,400 properties have been surveyed for the Maryland Inventory of Historic properties and 505 archaeological sites have been recorded in Calvert County. Eighty-seven individual properties have been designated Calvert County Historic Districts by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and 20 are on the National Register of Historic Properties; two properties within the Town of North Beach have been designated Historic Landmarks by the mayor and council.

Calvert County is a Certified Local Government and has had a Historic District Commission since 1974. Historic preservation has been included in the county comprehensive plans since the 1980s. Protection of and education about cultural resources are key to preserving and promoting a sense of place for the county.

## CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES GOALS

- A. **Adopt a historic/scenic roads ordinance.** Historic preservation staff and the Historic District Commission currently work with highway maintenance staff and the Calvert County Department of Public Works to minimize negative effects on a list of roads that staff in all three departments has agreed are most significant.
- B. **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.
- C. **Continue to record archaeological sites and add them to the Maryland Archaeological Sites Inventory.**
- D. **Adopt an archaeological site protection ordinance.** At present, archaeology may be required only in three of the seven town centers, on multi-family housing projects, or on county-funded projects. As town center master plans and zoning ordinances are updated, archaeological investigation is added as a requirement only when a positive assessment indicates it.

## STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Improve Preservation Planning Tools

- Identify historic and cultural resource survey activities as a priority activity in order to provide data needed to inform local and statewide planning decisions and assist developers and project planners to more easily comply with federal, State, and local laws.

- Synthesize Maryland’s archaeological data and make it available in the form of a searchable database.
- Launch a Web-accessible comprehensive statewide inventory of historic properties that provides up-to-the-minute data on historical and cultural resource documentation.
- Provide better guidance to local jurisdictions about including historic preservation in the comprehensive planning process and encourage active involvement by the Maryland Historical Trust during the draft process.
- Create a pay-for-performance grant program through which the State can support local-government-sponsored heritage preservation programs that will greatly enhance the identification, documentation, and protection of historic resources of significance to local communities, the state, and the nation. Such a program will provide local governments with financial and human capital needed to undertake new or expanded historic preservation initiatives and provide incentives to communities to provide professional, well run, effective programs benefiting the citizens of Maryland.

## CALVERT COUNTY’S GOALS IN RELATION TO THE STATE’S GOALS

County goals complement State goals in the following ways:

Cultural resources staff attends development review meetings and reviews all subdivision and site plans for effects on known cultural resources.

Staff participates in inter-jurisdictional review with State and Federal agencies when Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is invoked, and ensures that local protections and policies for historic resources are enforced. Section 106 of the Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of any of their undertakings on historic properties. Such undertakings include projects that use Federal funding, require Federal permits, etc. Archaeological properties are specifically included under the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act. State projects have a similar process.

Calvert County prioritizes and continues to find ways to do cultural resource survey, using Certified Local Government grants, State grants, and the Calvert County Historic District Commission’s budget. The County makes use of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and Maryland archaeological site inventory data sets. County staff edits and updates the data on a regular basis and sends the revised data to the GIS unit within the Maryland Historical Trust so that the State staff may incorporate it into the next general update.

Using state and county data, Calvert County has provided Web-based inventory and historic site information. For example, the Calvert County History Map is made available online (<http://calvertgis.co.cal.md.us/geoblade/history.htm>). The locations of archaeological sites are not disclosed on publicly-accessible maps owing to the possibility of looting or disturbance.

## Appendix A

### Inventory of Publicly Owned Waterway Access Sites

Site	Ownership	No. of Boat Ramps	Pier	Beach	Kayak / Canoe Launch
Biscoe Gray Reserve	Calvert County	0	No	No	No
Breezy Point Beach & Campground	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1
Bay Front Park	Town of Chesapeake Beach	0	No	Yes	Yes, 1
Calvert Cliffs State Park	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes	No
Fishing Creek Park	Calvert County	0	No	No	No
Calvert Marine Museum	Calvert County	0	Yes	No	No
Flag Ponds Nature Park	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1
Hallowing Point Boat Ramp	State of Maryland	2	Yes	Yes	Yes, 2
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes	Yes, 1
Kellam's Park Boat Ramps		6		No	Yes, 6
Kings Landing Park	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1
Lower Marlboro Wharf	Calvert County	0	Yes	No	No
Nan's Cove	Calvert County	0	Yes	No	Yes, 1
North Beach Public Beach	Town of North Beach	0	Yes	Yes	Yes, 1
Solomons Comfort Station and Mini-park	Calvert County	0	Yes	No	No
Solomons Public Boat Ramp	County leases from State	4	Yes	No	Yes, 4
Solomons Watermans' Park	County leases from State	0	Yes	No	No
Warrior's Rest	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes (limited access)	No
Total		12			19

Note: Waterway access includes sites where a person can launch or tie up a boat (motorized, sail, or human powered, like a canoe or kayak), swim, fish, or access a beach. Please contact the owner for allowed uses. For this inventory, a "boat ramp" is a hard surface ramp from which trailered boats can be launched. Kayak/Canoe Launch is either number of boat ramps or individual beach/floating dock launch.

**Appendix B**  
**State Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan**  
**Definitions, Terms, Programs and Acronyms**  
**Provided by the Maryland Department of Planning, December 2004**

**GENERAL TERMS**

These are provided for general reference and are not legal definitions (except where noted in parentheses).

*Acquisition:* The act of fee-simple or easement purchase of land.

*Agricultural land:* Land that is in active agriculture or pasture use within a county's agricultural zoning district. For some state programs, forestland with a forest management plan in place can be considered agricultural land. Land that is assessed for agricultural use and is not developed may also be considered agricultural land.

*Agricultural land transfer tax:* A tax levied by SDAT when farmland is converted to a non-agricultural use (e.g., sold for development) and no longer qualifies for agricultural use assessment. This tax is not to be confused with the real estate transfer tax (definition below) which is levied on all property transfers.

*Agricultural use assessment:* The State Department of Assessments and Taxation's (SDAT) assessment on property that is actively devoted to farm or agricultural use.

*Allowed use:* An activity that is permitted on a property through a deed, zoning regulation, or terms of easement.

*Block grant:* Money distributed by an organization, which does not need to be paid back, and the use of which is largely at the discretion of the recipient.

*Buffer:* Land that is set aside through zoning, subdivision regulations, or easement to protect land or water resources from the effects of adjacent development. A buffer can be placed around agricultural land or a water, natural resource, historic, or cultural feature among other things.

*Conservation:* Planned management of a resource to prevent exploitation, depletion, destruction, or neglect.

*Critical farm:* An agricultural operation, deemed by the State or county to be crucial to an area's agricultural economy, or resource base, that faces imminent change in ownership.

*Cultural resource:* A site or location of local, state, or national cultural significance.

**Deed:** A written legal document by which ownership of property is transferred from one owner to another.

**Development:** Construction of a residential or commercial structure with associated site improvements on a parcel of land containing the dwelling.

**Development right:** The ability to construct a residential dwelling based on local zoning and subdivision regulations.

**Down-zoning:** A process by which a local governing body decreases the development density allowed within a specific area.

**Easement:** A right which one person has to the land of another for a specific purpose. It can be created by a reservation of rights in the deed conveying the property, by agreement, by grant, by adverse possession, or by necessary implication. Easements can be positive or negative and appurtenant or in gross.

- Positive easement: gives the easement grantee certain specified rights to the grantor's property.
- Negative easement: limits or restricts the grantor's use of the property in order to benefit or protect the grantee or his/her property.
- Purchased easement: the landowner is paid for giving up certain rights in his or her land.
- Donated easement: the landowner gives away certain rights in return for tax benefits<sup>1</sup>.

**Easement restriction:** A restriction of use implemented through an easement agreement.

**Facility:** For the recreation portion of this Plan, a building, apparatus, or site feature used for a specific recreational purpose.

**Fee-simple:** Full ownership of, or absolute title to, a piece of property that is free from easement or other ownership claims against the title.

**Floodplain:** Land that may be periodically flooded. Normally defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**Forestland:** A parcel or tract of land on which the predominant vegetation is woodland that can be used for forest-related projects.

**Greenway:** A protected corridor of open space, generally maintained in its natural state, which is used for a variety of purposes. These include wildlife enhancement, water quality

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/faq.asp>, March, 2014.

protection, aesthetic relief, recreation, non-vehicular transportation, and environmental education.

*Historic resource:* A structure, site, or location of local, state, or national historical significance.

*Joint-use agreement:* An agreement between two entities to share the use of a facility. For the recreation portion of this plan, such an agreement is between a county and its board of education.

*Lake:* An inland body of water created by a natural or artificial impoundment, which is normally too deep in the middle for the growth of rooted aquatic vegetation.

*Land conservation:* The purchase of land or easements on land to conserve its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics.

*Land trust:* A non-profit organization formed for the express purpose of holding land (or restrictive easements on land) for its conservation, historic preservation, wildlife protection, and/or recreation values, among other things.<sup>2</sup> According to State law, a land trust is a qualified conservation organization that (1) is a qualified organization under § 170 (h) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations adopted under § 170 (h) (3); and (2) has executed a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Environmental Trust<sup>3</sup>.

*Lease:* Written agreement that conveys real estate, equipment, or facilities for a specified term and for a specified rent.<sup>4</sup>

*Local governing body:* According to the POS Law, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the governing body of any county or Baltimore City.<sup>5</sup>

*Local projects:* According to the POS Law, acquisition or development of projects sponsored by local governing bodies or their units, and in the case of Baltimore City it also means operation and maintenance of projects as described in POS Law.<sup>6</sup>

*Natural Area:* Undeveloped land and/or water area where natural processes predominate, and which contributes to the biological diversity of the State.

*Natural Resource Area:* An area where natural processes predominate and are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by man. Such an

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.conservemd.org/Conserve-Ease/gloassary/index.html> December, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Natural Resources Article, Title 3, Subtitle 2A, §3-2A-01

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.webster.com> December, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

<sup>6</sup> Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

area may also have unique scenic, geological, cultural, or ecological value, or a combination of such values. The area may offer limited recreational uses to the extent compatible with the natural values of the site.

*Open space:* Land that is permanently set aside for general public use as a result of zoning and subdivision regulations or owned by homeowner associations for use of residents in a sub-division from which a portion of the parcel was left undeveloped, that has reasonable public access.<sup>7</sup>

*Park:* A wholly publicly owned piece of land used for active or passive recreational use that may or may not be kept in its natural state.

*Pond:* An inland body of water, smaller than a lake. Typically, it is shallow enough for rooted aquatic vegetation to grow, even in its deepest areas.

*Preservation:* Protection of specific resources.

*Preserved land:* Land that has been acquired through fee-simple or easement purchase to protect its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics.<sup>8</sup>

*Private conservation organization:* A land trust or other non-governmental group that purchases land or easements for land conservation.

*Purchase of development rights (PDR):* An easement purchase where funds are paid to the landowner to extinguish the right to develop the property and other rights are left intact.

*Real estate transfer tax:* A tax that is charged by SDAT when property ownership is transferred to another person.

*Shoreline:* Ocean, bay, river, and stream frontage.

*Site:* A piece of property.

*Steep slope:* A slope with a gradient of more than 20 percent.

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<sup>7</sup> Per Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, (adopted May 1, 2006, revised November 26, 2013): open space is defined as “(1) Any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved except for recreational facilities and set aside for public or private use or enjoyment, or for the use and enjoyment of owners and occupants of land adjoining or neighboring such open space. (2) Open space within the Critical Area is defined as: land and water areas retained in an essentially undeveloped state.”

<sup>8</sup> In Calvert County, much of the preserved land is protected with agricultural easements. An agricultural easement is defined by the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance as “A non-possessory interest in land which restricts the conversion of use of the land, preventing non-agricultural uses” (adopted May 1, 2006, revised November 26, 2013). Easements may be purchased or donated.

**Subdivision:** a) One of the 23 counties of the State or Baltimore City<sup>9</sup>, or the act of dividing land for development. b) When used in the context of local zoning regulation and development, the act of dividing a parcel of land into smaller parcels for development.

**Transfer of development rights (TDR):** In general, a program whereby a landowner can sell development rights on his or her land to another landowner. In turn, the purchaser of the development rights can increase the density of development on his or her property.

**Up-zoning:** A process by which a local governing body increases the development density allowed within a specific area.

**Wetland:** An area of poor drainage that for all or most of the time is inundated by standing or slow moving water, such as a swamp, marsh, or bog.

**Wildlife Management Area:** An area whose primary objective is to protect, propagate, and manage wildlife populations. It may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts or may provide an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.

## LAND CLASSIFICATION TERMS

**Community Park:** A site that is larger and broader in purpose than a neighborhood park. It is designed to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. The site's size is dependent on the activities it accommodates, but is generally between 30 and 50 acres.

**Historical/Cultural Area:** Land on which the primary recreational activities depend on the presence of one or more cultural, historical, or archaeological sites, structures, or resources which are of a type or quality that is designated as important for protection or preservation.

**Large Urban/Regional Park:** A park designated to serve the needs of multiple communities. Like the community park, the focus is on recreation as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. The site is usually larger than 50 acres.

**Mini-Park:** The smallest park classification used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. In residential areas such a site serves as a pocket park and/or tot lot. These sites, which address unique recreational needs, may be located in places such as commercial areas, public transit stops, and scenic overlooks. They are generally between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size, but could be up to 5 acres.

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<sup>9</sup> Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

***National Battlefield:*** A battlefield of national significance preserved in part, or in entirety, for the inspiration and benefit of the people.

***National Park:*** A land area essentially of primitive or wilderness character, which contains outstanding scenery and has been designated by the Federal government to be preserved unimpaired for the benefit, enjoyment, and inspiration of the people.

***National Parkway:*** An elongated park that features roads designated for pleasure travel, and that embraces scenic, recreational, or historical features of national significance.

***National Recreation Area:*** An area selected, developed, managed, and conserved to provide broad public recreational opportunities that can best be provided by the Federal government, or where there is Federal responsibility to conserve and develop recreational opportunities.

***National Seashore:*** A coastal area set aside for the preservation and public recreational use of its nationally significant scenic, scientific, historic, or recreational values, or a combination of such values.

***National Wildlife Refuge:*** An area designated for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife, within which certain outdoor recreational facilities and activities are permitted as long as they do not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge.

***Natural Resource Area:*** An area where natural processes predominate and are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by man. Such an area may also have unique scenic, geological, cultural, or ecological value, or a combination of such values. The area may offer limited recreational uses to the extent compatible with the natural values of the site.

***Neighborhood Park:*** The recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. These are parks developed for both active and passive activities, accommodating a wide variety of age groups within the service area. The site is generally between 5 and 10 acres in size, but may be up to 30 acres.

***Other Public Land:*** These sites include public institutions, such as hospitals, prisons, and National Guard and other military installations, that may contain significant acres of open space and natural resource lands.

***School Recreation Park:*** A portion of a local public school, or other local public educational institution, that is available for general public recreation under a POS joint use, or

similar, agreement. Depending upon size, these areas often serve the same function as neighborhood or community parks.

*Special Use Area:* An area oriented towards a single purpose, such as a camp, golf course, marina, etc.

*Sports Complex:* A consolidation of heavily programmed community-wide athletic fields and associated facilities. Generally, the site is at least 40 acres.

*State Fish Management Area:* An area with a primary objective of propagating, protecting, managing, and maintaining fish populations.

*State Forest:* A tract of land whose dominant forms of vegetation are trees, shrubs, and associated plants, which are managed and used to promote the coordinated use of the site's varied natural resources and values. The area may provide opportunities for natural environmental recreation, wildlands experiences, research demonstration areas, and outdoor education.

*State Natural Environment Area:* An area that is generally 1,000 acres or larger that contains significant natural attractions or unique geological, botanical, or biological features of significance. Site development is generally confined to trails, interpretive facilities, limited parking, water and sanitary facilities, and picnicking facilities.

*State Natural Heritage Area:* A site that contains one or more threatened or endangered species (plant or wildlife) in need of conservation and has a unique blend of geological, hydrological, climatological, or biological features that are among the best statewide examples of their kind.

*State Natural Resource Management Area:* An area where multiple-use management practices are employed for the maximum use of the natural resources of the area. Such an area is not committed to specific uses until they have been studied and management plans are developed. A variety of interim uses may be allowed, including recreation, as long as these do not conflict with the protection or management of the area's natural resources.

*State Park:* An area with natural resources or topographic and physiographic characteristics that is suitable for recreational development and use. Such an area is managed with the primary objective of providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the public in a natural setting.

*State Roadside Picnic Area:* An area along a roadside developed for picnicking only.

*State Wildlife Management Area:* An area whose primary objective is to protect, propagate, and manage wildlife populations. It may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts or may provide an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.

*Undeveloped Park:* Land reserved for future development as a recreational park or facility.

## ACRONYMS AND PROGRAMS

*DBM:* Maryland Department of Budget and Management

*DNR:* Maryland Department of Natural Resources

*LWCF:* Land and Water Conservation Fund

*MALPF:* Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

*MDA:* Maryland Department of Agriculture

*MDP:* Maryland Department of Planning

*MEIRS:* Maryland Electronic Inventory of Recreation Sites

*MET:* Maryland Environmental Trust

*POS:* Program Open Space

*RLA:* Rural Legacy Area

*SDAT:* Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation

## Appendix C Inventory of Acreage

	Type of Park					Educational Recreational Area	Total
	Mini-Park	Neighborhood	Community	Regional Park	Special Use		
<b>LOCAL RECREATION ACREAGE</b>							
3rd Street Park (North Beach)			0.70				0.70
Annamarie Gardens			29.30				29.30
Appal Elementary & Pultenit Elementary Rec. Area					4.50		4.50
Beach Elementary School Rec. Area					3.00		3.00
BCE Field			26.50				26.50
Breezy Point Beach and Campground					16.00		16.00
Broomes Island Community Center		2.92					2.92
Calvert Elementary & Calvert Country Schools Rec. Area					8.50		8.50
Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields					19.00		19.00
Calvert Library (Duke Street)					1.18		1.18
Calvert Middle School Ballfields					7.50		7.50
Calvert Pines Senior Center					35.76		35.76
Calvert Youth Recreation Facility on Ward Road				209.00			209.00
Chesapeake Beach Veterans Park	0.28						0.28
Chesapeake Beach Bayfront/Bayfront Timber Walkway					19.00		19.00
Chesapeake Beach Waterpark (on County-owned land)					149.00		149.00
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	0.05						0.05
Courthouse Green							
Cove Point Park				91.00			91.00
Dowell Elementary School Rec. Area					3.00		3.00
Dowell House Community Center			2.40				2.40
Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center					28.65		28.65
Dunlirk District Park				81.47			81.47
Fairview Community Center/Library			3.20				3.20
Hallowing Point Park				102.00			102.00
Hunting Creek Annex School Ballfields						0.30	0.30
Huntingtown Elementary School Ballfields					1.60		1.60
Huntingtown High School Ballfields						26.00	26.00
Hutchins' Fishing Pond						5.00	5.00
Lower Marlboro Wharf							
Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park	0.46						0.46
Kellam's Park Boat Ramps			12.50				12.50
King Memorial Park		7.21	1.35				1.35
Marley Run Recreation Area							
Mill Creek Middle School Ballfields			13.83				13.83
Mt. Harmony Elementary School Rec. Area					10.50		10.50
Mt. Hope Community Center					6.20		6.20
Mutual Elementary School Rec. Area					4.40		4.40
Narr's Cove Pier		0.50					0.50

# Appendix C continued

	Type of Park					Educational Recreational Area	Total
	Mini Park	Neighborhood	Community	Regional Park	Special Use		
North Beach Callis Park (4th Street)			1.30				1.30
North Beach Community Center			0.05				0.05
North Beach Waterfront Park & Boardwalk					0.80		0.80
Northeast Community Center					2.85		2.85
Northern Middle & High School Ballfields						30.00	30.00
Patuxent High School Ballfields						19.00	19.00
Plum Point Elementary & Middle Schools Ballfields						8.20	8.20
Saint Leonard Elementary School Rec. Area						2.50	2.50
Saint Leonard Polling House & Garden of Remembrance Park			1.00				1.00
Saint Leonard Recreation Area					9.00		9.00
Solocons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier					4.50		4.50
Solocons Comfort Station & Mini-park	0.23						0.23
Solocons Town Center Park			20.00				20.00
Solocons Vol. Rescue Squad & Fire Department	2.30				2.72		2.30
Solocons Waterfront Park					10.00		10.00
Southern Community Center						9.50	9.50
Southern Middle School Ballfields						3.50	3.50
Sunderland Elementary School Rec. Area		10.00					10.00
Twin Shields Recreation Area						8.00	8.00
Windy Hill Elementary & Middle Schools Rec. Area	3.32	25.63	112.13	463.47	285.50	169.90	1079.95
<b>TOTAL</b>							
		Natural Res. Area/Open Space	Historic/Cultural Area	Private Open Space			Total
<b>LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE</b>							
1/3 of Acreage Can Be Counted Towards Goal							
American Chestnut Land Trust		18.75		830.00			830.00
Battle Creek Nature Center						18.75	18.75
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp-The Nature Conservancy				99.86			99.86
Battle Creek Nature Education Society				155.55			155.55
Bennett Hughes Tree Farm		196.84					196.84
Bischoe Gray Reserve		206.30					206.30
Calvert Marine Museum			5.60				5.60
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum			1.00				1.00
Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands		48.51					48.51
Cove Point Lighthouse			6.00				6.00
Fishing Creek Park		104.36					104.36
Flag Ponds Nature Park		546.00					546.00
Fowler Road Open Space				27.00			27.00
Goldstein Property		162.93					162.93

Appendix C continued

	Natural Res. Area/Open Space	Historic/ Cultural Area	Private Open Space	Total
<b>LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE</b>				
King's Landing Park	201.00			201.00
Linden		4.34		4.34
Lore Oyster House		0.27		0.27
North Beach Bayside History & Nature Center (future)		1.80		1.80
North Beach Wetlands & Uplands		0.00		0.00
Port Republic School House			0.10	0.10
Subdivision Recreation Areas			923.00	923.00
Walton Beach Nature Preserve (North Beach)			2.75	2.75
Wetlands Overlook Park (North Beach)			18.21	18.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	1534.69	19.01	2035.51	3610.16
<b>1/3 of TOTAL</b>				<b>1203.39</b>
<b>Local Recreation &amp; 1/3 Local Natural Resource Acreage</b>				<b>2283.34</b>
<b>STATE AND FEDERAL ACREAGE</b>				
Up to 15 acres per 1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres Can Be Counted (2010 =5460 acres)				
Calvert Cliffs State Park	1311.00			1311.00
Halloving Point Boat Ramp	1.40			1.40
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum	630.00			630.00
Kings Landing Natural Resource Management Area (not including 201 acres of King's Landing Park acreage)				
Parkers Creek Heritage Conservation Fund Site (including Warrior's Rest & Goldstein properties)				
Navy Recreation Center Solomons (Federal)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	1842.40	0.00	295.00	1612.00
Qualified State & Federal acreage	1842.40			1842.40
Non-Qualifying State & Federal acreage			295.00	295.00
<b>OTHER - Private or Non-Profit or Federal Non-qualifying</b>				
East-John Youth Center	24.00			24.00
Fairgrounds	39.40			39.40
<b>Total</b>	1842.40		295.00	1292.00
			1612.00	3454.40
			295.00	1292.00
			24.00	24.00
			39.40	39.40
			63.40	63.40

**Appendix D  
Recreation Supply Report, Demand Report, and Needs Analysis**

Supply Report - Calvert County						
Activity	Facility Type	Number of facilities 2013	Season Days	Av. Daily Carrying Capacity per Facility	Av. Annual Carrying Capacity per Facility	Total Supply, All Facilities
Baseball/Softball	Diamonds	22	84	70	5,880	129,360
Field Sports						
Spring	Fields	23	84	92	7,728	177,744
Fall	Fields	35	84	93	7,812	273,420
Basketball	Courts	7	210	50	9,642	67,494
Tennis	Courts	13	217	20	4,340	56,420
Pools (outdoor)	Pools	2	87	1,050	91,350	182,700
Picnic Shelters	Picnic Shelters	8	182	64	11,648	93,184
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	9	210	131	27,510	247,980
Skateparks	Skatepark	1	308	85	26,180	26,180
Equestrian Trails	Trail Miles	11.5	364	15	5,460	62,790
Fishing from Pier	Fishing Spots (8 feet per fishable spot)	260	364	1	364	94,640
Kayaking & Canoeing	Public Launch Sites & Ramps	19	224	16	3,584	68,096
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	Miles of Beach	1.3	126	2,350	296,100	384,930

**Appendix D  
Recreation Supply Report, Demand Report, and Needs Analysis  
Continued**

Demand Report - Calvert County												
Activity	2010 Estimated Population	Individual Participation Rate	Frequency of Participation Rate	2010 Demand	2015 Population	2015 Demand	2020 Population	2020 Demand	2025 Population	2025 Demand		
Baseball/Softball	88,737	*	*	230,687	91,650	238,267	95,600	248,537	98,350	255,673		
Field Sports	88,737	*	*	202,396	91,650	209,025	95,600	218,053	98,350	224,333		
Fall	88,737	*	*	154,368	91,650	159,425	95,600	166,308	98,350	171,084		
Spring	88,737	*	*	163,427	91,650	168,792	95,600	176,067	98,350	181,131		
Basketball	88,737	10.5%	17.54	163,427	91,650	168,792	95,600	176,067	98,350	181,131		
Tennis	88,737	7.0%	8.89	55,221	91,650	57,034	95,600	59,492	98,350	61,203		
Pools (outdoor)	88,737	45.7%	11.48	465,546	91,650	480,829	95,600	501,552	98,350	515,980		
Picnic Shelters	88,737	38.5%	4.54	155,103	91,650	160,195	95,600	167,099	98,350	171,906		
Playgrounds	88,737	38.8%	7.12	245,141	91,650	253,189	95,600	264,101	98,350	271,698		
Skateparks	88,737	**	**	150,081	91,650	159,971	95,600	166,846	98,350	171,665		
Equestrian Trails	88,737	4.0%	23.67	84,016	91,650	86,774	95,600	90,514	98,350	93,118		
Fishing from Pier	88,737	10.7%	6.01	57,064	91,650	58,937	95,600	61,477	98,350	63,246		
Kayaking & Canoeing	88,737	7.2%	10.36	66,191	91,650	68,364	95,600	71,310	98,350	73,361		
Power Boating & Sailing	88,737	26.9%	19.08	455,444	91,650	470,395	95,600	490,669	98,350	504,783		
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	88,737	45.7%	11.48	465,546	91,650	480,829	95,600	501,552	98,350	515,980		

\* Individual participation rate and frequency participation rate were used in the calculations above. However, they were not shown due to overlapping use (several sports utilize the same fields/facilities during the same season and during different seasons).

\*\* Individual participation rate and frequency participation rate were a combination of rates for in-line skating and skateboarding.

**Appendix D  
Recreation Supply Report, Demand Report, and Needs Analysis  
Continued**

Needs Analysis - Calvert County														
Activity	2013 Supply	Annual Carrying Capacity	2010 Demand	2013 Unmet Demand	2013 Unmet Need	2015 Demand	2015 Unmet Demand	2015 Unmet Need	2020 Demand	2020 Unmet Demand	2020 Unmet Need	2025 Demand	2025 Unmet Demand	2025 Unmet Need
Baseball/Softball	22	129,440	230,687	101,247	17	238,267	108,827	18	248,537	119,097	20	255,673	126,233	21
Field Sports														
Spring	23	177,744	154,368	-23,376	0	159,425	-18,319	0	166,308	-11,438	0	171,084	-6,660	0
Fall	36	273,420	202,396	-71,024	0	208,025	-64,395	0	218,053	-65,367	0	224,333	-49,087	0
Basketball	7	67,494	163,427	95,933	9	166,792	101,298	10	176,087	108,573	11	181,131	113,637	11
Tennis	13	66,420	55,221	-1,199	0	57,034	614	0	59,492	3,072	0	61,203	4,783	1
Pools (outdoor)	2	182,700	465,546	282,846	3	480,829	298,129	3	501,552	318,852	3	515,980	333,280	3
Plonic Shelters	8	83,184	155,103	61,919	5	160,195	67,011	7	167,099	73,915	6	171,906	78,722	6
Playgrounds	9	247,590	245,141	-2,449	0	251,392	3,802	0	259,392	11,802	0	265,205	17,615	0
Skateparks	1	26,180	150,081	123,901	4	159,971	133,791	5	166,846	140,666	5	171,665	146,485	5
Equestrian Trails	11.5	62,790	84,016	21,226	4	86,774	23,984	4	90,514	27,724	5	93,118	30,328	6
Fishing from Pier	260	94,640	57,064	-37,576	0	65,937	-35,703	0	61,477	-33,163	0	63,246	-31,394	0
Kayaking & Canoeing	19	68,096	66,191	-1,905	-1	66,364	268	0	71,310	3,214	1	73,361	5,265	1
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	1.3	384,930	465,546	80,616	0.3	480,829	95,899	0.3	501,552	116,622	0.4	515,980	131,050	0.4

## **Appendix E**

### **Descriptions of Public Recreation & Natural Resource Areas**

3<sup>rd</sup> STREET PARK was recently purchased by the Town of North Beach. The 30,000-square foot waterfront parcel is to be developed as a passive park with a sculpture garden and other amenities such as a fountain, benches and walkways. The park will provide views of the Chesapeake Bay and will be for public use.

ANNMARIE SCULPTURE GARDEN & ARTS CENTER is located in Solomons. The initial parcel of land was donated to Calvert County in 1991 by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Koenig. The sculpture garden features a quarter mile walking path that meanders through the woods past permanent and loaned sculpture, including over thirty works on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art. The award-winning John Dennis Murray Arts Building includes rotating exhibition space, a gift shop, and a sunny patio. A variety of popular annual festivals, rotating exhibitions, family activities, and creative public programs are presented. The studio school offers classes for all ages and abilities, from pottery to dance, taught by professional artists and arts educators.

APPEAL ELEMENTARY AND PATUXENT ELEMENTARY RECREATION AREA\*

BALTIMORE GAS & ELECTRIC BALL FIELDS are on property leased from the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

BAYSIDE HISTORY MUSEUM is located in North Beach. The mission of the museum is “to provide all citizens with an understanding of the role the Chesapeake Bay environment had in shaping the cultures of the bayside communities from Fairhaven to Plum Point, from prehistoric times to the present. Through research and interpretation of collections, historical education and preservation of historical resources, Bayside History Museum will promote stewardship of this heritage and ensure the continuation of this relationship for future generations.” A grand re-opening was held in May, 2013, in celebration of the museum’s move to a larger building, owned by the Calvert County government.

BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM Rural Legacy funds were used to acquire this 206-acre property in 2002. A tobacco barn was moved to the site and restored. A Preserve America grant provided funds to develop a master plan for the 196-acre portion of the property between the county road and Battle Creek; the plan was adopted by the County Commissioners in 2010. The master plan mission is to realize the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm as a “living laboratory to explore, understand, and experience Calvert County Agricultural practices and lifeways throughout its history....” Horse trails and access for equestrians have been established. Grant funds were awarded for the rehabilitation of the George E. Rice House and outbuildings.

BREEZY POINT BEACH AND CAMPGROUND includes 2000 feet of Bayfront beach with access to Plum Point Creek. In addition to the wide beach area, the property includes a fishing pier, bathhouse, four cottages, 130 trailer sites, playground and large shaded picnic area. The site serves both residents and tourists.

BROOMES ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER is currently being used as a neighborhood center by residents in the area. Parks & Recreation programs are also provided at this site.

CALVERT COUNTY YOUTH RECREATION FACILITY is located on Ward Road in Dunkirk. In 2013 Calvert County government purchased 209 acres adjacent to the Dunkirk Town Center to build additional playing fields, hiking trails, restrooms, concession facilities, maintenance facilities and other facilities as the property will allow. The purchase of the property (yet to be named) was made possible through the Calvert County Youth Recreational Opportunities Fund. This special fund was created by the State Legislature in 2012 and is administered by the Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

CALVERT ELEMENTARY AND CALVERT COUNTRY SCHOOLS REC AREAS\*

CALVERT HIGH SCHOOL AND CAREER CENTER FIELDS\*

CALVERT LIBRARY in Prince Frederick operates as a community center by providing meeting rooms for a number of community groups and by sponsoring public programs. A new library building began construction in 2006.

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM has gained national recognition for its on-going program of research and education in paleontology, maritime history and estuarine ecology. In addition to its exhibits, the museum offers a variety of educational programs and activities throughout the year, including cruises aboard the historic buyboat, *Wm. B. Tennison*, and the skipjack, *Dee of St. Mary's*.

CALVERT MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS\*

CALVERT PINES SENIOR CENTER, located in Prince Frederick, provides meeting rooms, arts and crafts studios, a game room, a 200-seat auditorium, a cafeteria and offices for the County Office on Aging.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM The Chesapeake Railroad Museum is located in Chesapeake Beach and contains memorabilia from the Chesapeake Beach Amusement Park and old railroad line which operated between Washington and Chesapeake Beach from 1900 to the 1930's.



CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY TRAIL was dedicated in September, 2011. The boardwalk trail extends westward along the shore of Fishing Creek from the Chesapeake Beach Water Park. Interpretative signs along the Trail describe marsh plants, animals and other features of the adjacent water and marshland. Fully handicapped-accessible, the pet-friendly trail is open from dawn until dusk for pedestrians and those on bicycles. The Town of Chesapeake Beach completed the first segment railway trail, including a spur trail connecting Bayview Hills and Richfield Station to the main trail.

CHEASAPEAKE BEACH VETERAN'S PARK is a small waterfront site located at the entrance to Chesapeake Beach at the intersection of Route 260 and Route 261.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH WATERFRONT/BOARDWALK includes walking trails, a section of bay front boardwalk and over 1000 feet of sandy beach at the base of the cliffs. The park will eventually be tied into a network of paths and sidewalks, and a continued Bay front boardwalk that will connect every area of the town together, including the Northeast Community Center and the North Beach Waterfront Park. Future "Rails to Trails" routes could tie in as well, making the waterfront recreation areas natural "destination" locations for hikers or bikers countywide.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH WATERPARK is a popular summertime attraction located adjacent to the Northeast Community Center.

COURTHOUSE GREEN is located adjacent to the Courthouse, in Prince Frederick. It is in the first phase in the implementation of a plan that grew out of a Design Competition held in 1991. The Green includes a landscaped garden and a paved seating area funded through the sale of engraved brick pavers. The park was dedicated in 1993.

COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE, built in 1828 when John Quincy Adams was President of the United States, was owned by the Weems Steamboat Line. It was up to the Cove Point Lighthouse to prevent steamships and other ships from piling up on the shoals off Cove Point. At a later date, the lighthouse was automated and operated with modern navigational electronics. The Calvert Marine Museum operates Cove Point Lighthouse and in addition to its historic significance, is a symbol of guardianship and guidance – an illuminated signal that gives comfort and direction to sailors. The Cove Point Lighthouse and surrounding buildings sit on approximately two acres. The lighthouse is open daily during the summer, and weekends in May and October, 1 – 4 p.m. The lighthouse keeper's duplex, a 2½ story residence, has been recently renovated and is available as a vacation rental. The original one story residence was expanded to accommodate two keepers and their families. The original keeper's house and the lighthouse tower were constructed in 1828 at a cost of \$2,000.

COVE POINT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, and comfort station/concessionaires. An outdoor swimming pool has recently been added to Cove Point Park.

#### DOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELDS\*

DOWELL HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER is a former residence in St. Leonard adjacent to St. Leonard Park. It provides space for a wide range of community activities for residents in and around St. Leonard Town Center.

DUNKIRK DISTRICT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, and comfort station/concessionaires. A skate park has recently been added to Dunkirk Park.

EDWARD T. HALL AQUATIC CENTER is the County's only indoor swimming facility. Opened in 2010 the facility consists of a 50 meter x 25yard competition pool, a leisure pool, therapy pool and spa. Dry areas include two meeting rooms, a fitness center, offices and locker rooms. Activities at the center include swim instruction, fitness classes, competitive swimming and recreational swimming.

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER located in Chaneyville, provides meeting rooms, a police substation, the Calvert County Tourism Center, a branch library and one ballfield.

GRAYS ROAD DOG PARK consists of two large dog areas and two small dog areas. Water is available for dogs and people. Parking and portable restrooms are provided on site.

HALLOWING POINT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, amphitheaters, an exercise trail and comfort station/concessionaires. Master Plans have been completed for all three parks and major expansions are underway. A 20-acre tract immediately adjacent to Hallowing Point Park has been leased and is being developed to provide additional ballfields.

HUNTING CREEK ANNEX SCHOOL BALLFIELDS\*

HUNTINGTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA\*

HUNTINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREA\*

HUTCHINS FISHING POND is located near the intersection of Mt. Harmony Road and Route 2 and provides opportunities for fishing, picnicking and ice-skating.

KELLAM FIELD is a 7.5 acres site located in Chesapeake Beach. It contains two play fields, a tot lot and a pavilion.

KELLAM'S PARK BOAT RAMPS are located near Kellam Field, the Chesapeake Beach Waterpark, and the Northeast Community Center.

KING MEMORIAL PARK This property, immediately adjacent to the Courthouse, was acquired by Mr. Boyd King and donated to the County. A Master Plan for the park was adopted in 1996. Upon completion, the park will have walking trails, a pavilion, a playground and a formal garden immediately across from the site of Linden (see below). An early 19th century house (the Phillips House) on the property has been renovated for public use. Part of the former Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Right-of-way runs through the property and will eventually form part of an in-town trail.

KINGS LANDING provides over 265 acres of natural area on the Patuxent River, including 4,000 feet of river shoreline and 50 acres of marshland. Once an active farm and later a YMCA camp, it is now managed by Calvert County government. Kayakers, canoeists, and fishermen enjoy Kings Landing's access to the river, nearby creeks, and marshes. The park includes hiking trails, an equestrian facility, picnic pavilions and the Tom Wisner Hall, educational programs, and an outdoor pool.

LINDEN This 4-acre site is located in the heart of Prince Frederick directly across the street from King Park. Eventually, the two properties will function as an in-town park serving as an important focal point for the entire County. The site is the former home of a respected county family and was maintained as an in-town farm with gardens, barns and many other out buildings. It offers an opportunity to demonstrate a way of life typical of the late 19th and early 20th century. The house serves as the headquarters of Calvert County Historical Society. The exterior of the house was restored, and the interior was renovated.

LORE OYSTER HOUSE is part of the Solomons Marine Museum. It shows how one of the most important local businesses in Calvert County operated until closing in the early part of the

last century. The Oyster House is open daily during the summer, and weekends in May and October, 1 – 4 p.m.

MARLEY RUN RECREATION AREA was developed and donated to the County by Marrick Properties in lieu of paying recreation fees.

MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS\*

MT. HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA \*

MT. HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER is a former school located north of Sunderland. It has rooms suitable for indoor recreation and a small, outdoor playground.

MUTUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA\*

NAN’S COVE PIER is a small park with a floating dock for launching hand-carried boats and a pier for fishing and crabbing.

NORTH BEACH CALLIS PARK (4<sup>TH</sup> STREET PARK) is a small, centrally located park adjacent to the North Beach Community Center. The park provides a much needed play area for youngsters in a safe and easily accessible location. The North Beach Capital Improvements Program includes a plan for the improvement and expansion of the park.

NORTH BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER contains meeting rooms.

NORTH BEACH WATERFRONT PARK & BOARDWALK This four-acre beach site was acquired in 1986 by the Town of North Beach. The park includes a large waterfront pier and boardwalk and provides an attractive focal point for the Town and surrounding area. Proposed future plans include a 4,000' extension of the existing boardwalk along the water's edge on Bay Avenue, rehabilitation of the existing pier, making it a multi-use, multi-level recreation activity center, a waterfront park and gazebo designed for passive recreation at the foot of Fifth Street, beach replenishment, and a wetlands wildlife observation park to include a fishing pier, boat ramp, boardwalk and observation areas. Long term plans foresee tying this wetland park to the rest of the town's open spaces by means of walkways and trails.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER, located in the Town of Chesapeake Beach, is designed to serve the entire Northeast Sector of the County. Numerous recreational programs are scheduled at the center.

NORTHERN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREAS\*

PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREA\*

PLUM POINT ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS RECREATION AREAS\*

SAINT LEONARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA \*

SAINT LEONARD POLLING HOUSE AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, dating from the early 1800's, the polling house was restored in the early 1980's. A Garden of Remembrance, developed and maintained by area residents, was added in the early 1990's.

SAINT LEONARD RECREATION AREA is a 10-acre ballfield site in St. Leonard Town Center donated by Mr. “Pete” Grover to the Optimists, who donated the property to the County.

SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP AND FISHING PIER is located adjacent to the Thomas Johnson Bridge.

SOLOMONS MINI-PARK AND COMFORT STATION is located on Back Creek behind the Solomons Comfort Station. It includes a small seating area and pier.

SOLOMONS VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT FIELDS help provide practice space for team sports.

SOLOMONS TOWN CENTER PARK was purchased from the Annmarie Garden Board of Trustees in FY 2004. This 20 acre parcel will provide active recreation for residents in the southern end of the county.

SOLOMONS WATERFRONT PARK Formerly a large parking lot in the heart of Solomons Island, Solomons Park includes landscaped walkways, seating areas with views out toward the Patuxent River, a 16-foot wide Riverwalk, play areas and a pavilion. A central focal point is the Waterman's Memorial funded by business leaders in the community. The first phase of the park was dedicated in 1993. A parcel adjacent to the Lore Oyster House and directly across from the Solomons Waterfront Park was acquired in 1997. Included in the acquisition was an 18' x 18' building which sits over the water adjacent to the park. An 8' pier extends from the building 105' into the Patuxent River. The Oyster House is open daily during the summer, and weekends in May and October, 1 – 4 p.m.

SOUTHERN COMMUNITY CENTER near Lusby was completed in 1988. The center provides activity rooms and a branch library. This is a major recreation center for this area. In 1999, a new senior center wing was added to the facility.

SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS\*

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA\*

TWIN SHIELDS RECREATION AREA is one of the first recreational land acquisition sites in the County.

WALTON BEACH NATURE PRESERVE was acquired by the Town of North Beach in 2012 to preserve and protect this natural resource for future generations.

WETLANDS OVERLOOK PARK, located at 11th Street and Dayton Avenue in the Town of North Beach, is a small nature park adjacent to 18 Acres of natural wetlands that serves as an attraction for those interested in observing the wildlife inhabitants of the wetlands and the migratory fowl which rest there during the flights up and down the Atlantic Seaboard. The park includes a pier and two gazebos for visitors to sit and relax while viewing and photographing the wildlife and wetlands. Wetlands Overlook Park is open year-round from dawn to dusk. The area has public restrooms and vending machine refreshments.

WINDY HILL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS RECREATION AREA\*

\*SCHOOL FIELDS. These fields are operated under joint use agreements between the Calvert County Division of Parks and Recreation and the Calvert County Board of Education.

## LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE

AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST (ACLT) is a local non-profit organization which was incorporated in 1986 for the purpose of promoting land conservation throughout Calvert County; providing environmentally sustainable public access to preserved properties for educational,

scientific, recreational and cultural purposes; and protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. The land trust protects over 3,000 acres through fee simple ownership, management of public lands, and conservation easements on privately owned lands. ACLT maintains approximately 18 miles of hiking trails that are open to the public and offers educational, guided canoe trips on Parkers Creek. ACLT recently opened a new section of trail connecting the Prince Frederick Town Center to existing trails, thereby enabling hikers to travel from the Town Center to a Chesapeake Bay overlook.

BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP is owned by the Nature Conservancy and provided the basis for the county's acquisition and development of the adjacent Battle Creek Nature Center

BATTLE CREEK NATURE CENTER focuses on natural ecology utilizing its location adjacent to one of the country's northernmost stands of Bald Cypress as a base from which to explore natural resource-related activities. It includes a strong emphasis on educational programs for young people.

BENNETT O. HUGHES TREE FARM is a 196 acre site deeded to Calvert County to be maintained in perpetuity as a tree farm.

BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM was acquired with Rural Legacy funds in 2002. This 206-acre site is part of a 1,500 acre greenbelt along Battle Creek and includes farm fields and barns representing Calvert County's longstanding farming tradition. Recently a tobacco barn that would have otherwise been destroyed was moved to the site and restored. There are equestrian trails along the old fields, meadows and forest edge and room to park several horse trailers. A dog park is also on the site.

FISHING CREEK PARK is located within the Chesapeake Beach Town limits and provides a significant natural resource area which nicely compliments the existing active recreation components that are within walking distance. The property contains part of the old Chesapeake Beach Railroad right-of-way, which connects to the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Museum located on property across Route 261. It is highly suitable for hiking and biking.

FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK offers public access to a magnificent beach on the Chesapeake Bay, an extensive trail system through a variety of natural terrain and wildlife habitats as well as fishing, fossil collecting and public hunting. 187 acres have been added to the park since 1994.

FOWLER ROAD OPEN SPACE is a 27 acre site that was dedicated to public use by the developer, Edward B. Howlin, Jr., as part of the subdivision development plan for Arbor Greene.

SUBDIVISION RECREATION AREAS Between 1974 and 1994, the County required that new subdivisions provide recreation areas on site. Today, subdivisions larger than 50 units and Townhouse and multifamily developments are still required to provide on-site recreation. In addition, many of the County's older waterfront communities have on-site recreation areas.

## STATE AND FEDERAL ACREAGE

CALVERT CLIFFS STATE PARK provides public access to the 15 million year old Miocene fossil deposits at Calvert Cliffs. The park provides 13 miles of hiking trails, a fishing pond, picnicking facilities, a playground and public hunting. Bicycling and horseback riding are permitted on the service road. The park includes a sandy beach, fresh water marshland and tidal marshland. The shortest route to the beach is 1.8 miles. Due to the potential for landslides, the area beneath the cliffs is closed. The State Park is run in partnership with the Friends of Calvert Cliffs State Park.

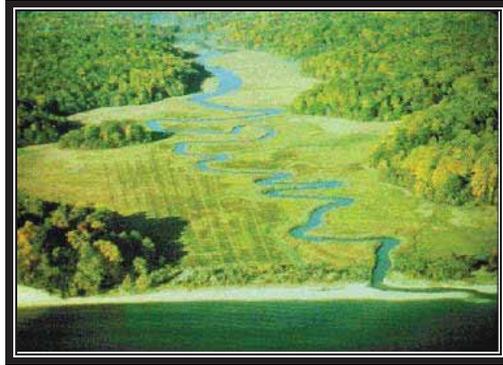
HALLOWING POINT BOAT RAMP is owned and managed by the State and is located immediately adjacent to Hallowing Point Bridge.

JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM was deeded to the State through a generous gift by Mrs. Jefferson Patterson. Activities are directed primarily toward archeological research and education, focusing on pre-European to 19th century settlement, all of which are notably represented at the site. Jefferson Patterson Park is part of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Annual reenactments of the War of 1812 connect visitors to the dramatic events that took place on and around its grounds, including some of the fiercest fighting of the War. An audio walking tour, *1812 Remembered*, provides information on the causes of the war, its effects on people and the results of the War in southern Maryland. The audio tour was produced by the Huntingtown High School archaeology classes of 2010 and 2011. Eleven interpretive panels along a walking trail provide information on the often forgotten war. The park is developing a collection of early agricultural implements from Calvert County, many of which are being donated by County residents. A dedication ceremony in 1998 officially added the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory to the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum site. This state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and collections storage facility sets a new standard for states throughout the nation. Tours of the historic Patterson Estate House and Gardens are available too. There is an Indian Village created in 2007 as part of the John Smith Trail. Various walking trails, access to the water, and a canoe and kayak launch can be used. Also on site is the Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory, part of the Morgan State University which conducts research on the connections between complex ecological systems and is well known for its oyster hatchery.

KINGS LANDING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA (NRMA) provides nature trails, an equestrian area, an outdoor theater, picnicking facilities, pier and access to the Patuxent River, a swimming pool, the newly renovated Tom Wisner Hall and primitive camping for youth groups. It serves as the base for a countywide environmental education program (Chespax) focusing on the natural and cultural resources of the area. The remaining acreage is part of a managed hunting area. The property is owned by the State and a portion is leased to the County. The County manages the site. The construction of two picnic shelters and the extension of the existing pier support the education program as well as provide more recreation for county residents and visitors alike.

PARKERS CREEK HERITAGE CONSERVATION FUND SITE is owned by the State of Maryland. It is part of a grassroots effort to preserve one of the largest natural areas remaining along the Chesapeake Bay's western shore. A partnership between the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, private conservation donors, individual private landowners and the

State of Maryland has succeeded in protecting over 3,000 acres: 1,600 acres of State land together with the 850 acres owned by the American Chestnut Land Trust and additional acreage owned and preserved by individual landowners. The reserve's crown jewel is Parkers Creek- the last unspoiled salt marsh on Maryland's western shore that looks much the same today as it did over 400 years ago when Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake. Access to Warrior's Rest is limited.



#### **ADDITIONAL NON-PROFIT & OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES**

**CALVERT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** on MD 231 in Prince Frederick is the site of the annual Calvert County Fair and other special events.

**EAST-JOHN YOUTH CENTER, INCORPORATED**, sponsored by St. John and Eastern United Methodist churches, is located on Mill Bridge Road, Lusby, and provides a community center, youth program, basketball court and swimming. The center opened in 1985.

**OLD WALLVILLE SCHOOL**, the oldest standing one-room school for African American children in Calvert County, was reconstructed in Prince Frederick on the Calvert Elementary School campus on Dares Beach Road where it is interpreted for school children and the general public.

**PORT REPUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE**, located on Broomes Island Road, was renovated in 1977 by the Calvert County Retired Teachers' Association to show a typical one-room school of 100 years ago.

## Appendix F

### Groups invited to the public presentations held in January 2005:

Board of County Commissioners  
Planning Commission  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Dunkirk Architectural Review Committee  
Owings Architectural Review Committee  
Huntingtown Architectural Review  
Committee  
Prince Frederick Architectural Review  
Committee  
St. Leonard Architectural Review  
Committee  
Lusby Architectural Review Committee  
Solomons Architectural Review Committee  
Mayor of North Beach  
Mayor of Chesapeake Beach  
Board of Education  
Public Schools (parent organizations)  
Private schools  
    Calverton  
    Our Lady Star of the Sea  
    Jesus the Good Shepherd  
College of Southern Maryland  
Calvert Crusade for Children  
East-John Youth Center  
Leagues – ball (25)  
Calvert Marine Museum Canoe/Kayak Club  
Calvert Co. Dept. of Community Resources  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board  
Agricultural Commission  
Economic Development Commission  
Historic District Commission  
Heritage Committee  
Environmental Commission  
Tourism Advisory Committee  
Chamber of Commerce  
Calvert County Library  
Calvert Farm Bureau  
Calvert Soil Conservation Service  
Patuxent River Commission  
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Land Trusts:  
    American Chestnut Land Trust  
    Battle Creek Nature Education  
Society  
    Calvert Farmland Trust  
    Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust  
    Southern Calvert Land Trust  
Office on Aging  
Senior groups/councils (30)  
Community/civic/citizens/home owners  
    associations (50)  
Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse  
Calvert County Memorial Hospital  
Cooperative Extension  
Department of Social Services  
Health Department  
League of Women Voters  
Calvert County Historical Society  
Commission for Women  
Calvert County United Way  
Suburban Maryland Building Industry  
Assoc.  
Solomons Business Association  
Calvert Cliffs State Park  
Navy Recreation Center  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Maryland Department of Planning  
Prince Frederick Rotary  
Calvert County Kiwanis  
Mid-Chesapeake Bay  
Kiwanis  
NAACP  
Lions  
Newspapers:  
    Calvert Independent  
    Calvert Recorder  
    The Voice  
    Bay Weekly

## **Appendix G**

### **Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan**

#### **Meeting on January 11, 2005 at Calvert Pines**

#### **Summary of Group Responses**

#### **Natural, Cultural and Historic Sites & Trails**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?*

- Move Calvert Cliffs Visitors Center to an open location
- Maintain historic sites
- Establish bicycle trails
- Repair foghorn at Cove Point Lighthouse
- Establish additional canoe launch sites
- County should have specifications for handicapped access canoe/kayak launch sites
- Create road map of historic sites
- Expand use of new building at Flag Ponds
- Create a canoe launch site on Hunting Creek at MD 2/4 and include a boardwalk along the creek

#### **Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?*

- Bike trails from town centers/population areas to parks, from North to south, not on major highways
- Need public transportation to parks, pools and recreation sites
- Indoor pool in Prince Frederick—Soon!
- Ballfields/parkland: move beyond catching up, get ahead of current needs by anticipating future needs and acquire property
- Upgrade Hallowing Point Park playground
- Construct indoor pool
- Fulfill the obligations we already have, i.e. maintenance of tennis courts
- Cove Point pool should be an indoor pool not a water park
- Allow use of pool and tennis courts at Chesapeake Hills golf course
- Build a total sports facility: pool, tennis & racquetball courts
- Greater use of school facilities
- Fix up what we have
- Develop Solomons Town Center Park

### **Town Center Parks & Community Centers**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?*

- St. Leonard: skateboard park, utilize ground around Dowell House, extend road on south side of Dowell House to provide access to ballfields without going through adjacent subdivision/neighborhood, development of Dowell House basement, village green?
- Need a community center in Prince Frederick
- Use Calvert Middle School as a community center or if land is sold use money to build a community center
- Provide information to the public on existing facilities, i.e. King Memorial Park and the Philips' House
- Build community centers in each Town Center, i.e. Huntingtown
- Southern Community Center is underutilized; do more programs, including daytime activities for seniors
- Establish an information center as you enter the county
- Provide better information and advertising about the County bus schedules
- Bus routes should include stops to County parks and recreation centers (for youth, seniors, and others who do not drive)

### **Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs**

*Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.*

- Allow some (not all) Agricultural Preservation land to be used for active recreation/ballfields
- Provide a playground at Kings Landing Park
- Dominion Gas pipeline: does it respect Agricultural Preservation?
- Concerned about Dominion LNG line's impact on County's environment and abusing rules of County agricultural preservation program
- Plan to keep invasive plants out of the County's parks
- Emphasize County's strong points. Make information available (agricultural preservation) and how to get involved
- Acquire more forestland adjoining Flag Ponds, Parkers Creek, and Cypress Swamp Nature Center
- Encourage corporations to fund handicapped access canoe/kayak launch sites by developing specifications

**Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan  
Meeting on January 20, 2005 at Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Company  
Summary of Group Responses**

**Natural, Cultural and Historic Site & Trails**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?*

- Trails
- Bike Trails
- Flag Ponds hours of operation too restrictive
- Canoe sites
- Public boat access in the north Patuxent River
- Horse trail/biking trail

**Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?*

- Owings community building
- Ice Skating facility
- Additional ballfields or practice facilities

**Town Center Parks and Community Centers**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?*

- Need to consider active recreation for seniors
- Trails in parks
- Native plant garden
- Clean Brownie's Beach
- Kellam Field playground clean up and park improvements

**Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs**

*Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.*

- Accelerate land preservation

**Additional Comments**

- Overall park maintenance and improvements
- "Take Care of Parks" Program

**Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan  
Meeting on January 24, 2005 at Southern Community Center  
Summary of Group Responses**

**Natural, Cultural and Historic Sites & Trails**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?*

- Concern from Drum Point/CRE
  - No provision to get across golf course
  - Possible path to Cove Point Park
  - Cove Point Road sidewalk
  - Travel to recreation area
  - No walkways
- Upgrade existing football/baseball fields across Southern Middle School
  - Needs: lights and bathrooms
- Music venues/art displays
- Amphitheaters
- Amphitheaters – Annmarie Gardens

**Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?*

- Neighborhood parks in new developments
- Transportation to facilities
- Parks and Recreation and Boys and Girls Club work together regarding topic above
- 12-16 Year Old
  - Skateboard park – southern part of the County
  - Basketball – outdoor courts
  - Roller hockey/ice rink/billiards (indoor)
- Sports Facilities
  - In-line skating
  - Sidewalks
- MD 497 (Cove Point Road) hazardous road – especially with increased traffic for pool
- Think extreme sports
- All schools should be part-time recreation areas
- All pools should be indoor/outdoor – summer usage
- Start kids younger for basketball if more courts
- Baseball fields in large demand

**Town Center Parks & Community Centers**

*Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?*

*Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?*

-Maintain riverwalks/signage

**Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs**

*Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.*

Keep Chesapeake Hills in land preservation

-Neighborhood parks in new developments

-Bay erosion near lighthouse

-Swamp encroachment Calvert Cliffs effecting water table – poor access

**General Comments**

-Think multiple use for buildings

-Direct kids away from commercial areas new to Lusby