



**County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation**

August 26, 2022

Michael McQuarrie, Regional Administrator
Program Open Space Grants
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Bldg.
580 Taylor Ave., E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. McQuarrie,

Enclosed you will find Kent County's Fiscal Year 2023 Program Open Space Annual Program. The projects proposed in the Program have been prioritized to meet the needs of Kent County, as well as the State requirements for use of Program Open Space dollars. In addition, the Program is consistent with the goals of the Kent County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.

Thank you for your continued support of and assistance in carrying out Kent County's recreation goals. Should you have questions or concerns related to the Annual Program, I can be reached at 410-810-5948 or jcoleman@kentgov.org.

Sincerely,

Jillyn Coleman, CPO
Acting Director



11041 Worton Road * P.O. Box 67 * Worton, MD 21678 * 410-778-1948 * info@KentParksAndRec.org
KentparksAndRec.org * [Facebook.com/KentCountyCommunityCenter](https://www.facebook.com/KentCountyCommunityCenter)



County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland Department of Parks & Recreation

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

Development and implementation of the Annual Program is completed by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, resulting from a collaborative effort between the administrative staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, Kent County Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Kent County Board of Education, Kent County Planning Office and Planning Commission, local town municipalities, State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space state and regional offices, with final approval by the County Commissioners of Kent County.

The Annual Program is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan and the County Comprehensive Plan. All project requests and recommendations are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review. It is the responsibility of the Board to prioritize and submit recommendations to the Kent County Commissioners who make the final approval for implementation of projects into the County's fiscal budget. The projects in the 2023 Annual Program, outlined below, have received approval in Kent County Government's fiscal year's budget.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance -\$25,000

Professional assistance in planning and executing the development of the LPPRP is necessary for Kent County to ensure the Plan meets the established Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Guidelines, contains all or the required elements, and to ensure the Plan is submitted on time every five years. Kent County will continue its planning of the LPPRP in preparation for the 2027 Plan update. The process will be facilitated by an experienced Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning consultant who will provide guidance and oversight in the development of the Plan and ongoing updates to land inventory, mapping, surveys and public input. The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest and Parks.

Worton Park – Orem Field LED Lights Retrofit - \$275,000

Worton Park is Kent County's largest and regional park and consists of 97.7 acres. Worton Regional Park/Community Center Campus is the center of recreational activities in Kent County and the largest active recreation park in the County. It is an essential component in recreation programming in Kent County. The campus boasts six baseball/softball fields, with the only lighted ball diamond in the County, .6 miles walking path, 10 athletic fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, playground, picnic pavilion, swimming pool, concession stand, and restroom facilities. The County recently completed replacement of the lighting controls for the Orem field lights. At that time due to the increased interest in nighttime games, inquiries were made to explore retrofitting of the existing lighting with more energy efficient lighting. This project consists of retrofitting with LED lighting which also requires less maintenance for bulb replacement.

These improvements will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

Toal Park Restroom Design Services and Construction Plans - \$105,000

Toal park consists of 37.5 acres. Located in Galena, the northern most area of the County. Currently the park does not have a permanent restroom facility and places portable facilities in the park on a seasonal basis. The need for permanent facilities is upon us. With the extension of sewer service from the Town of Galena and highly favorable proposals to extend bike and pedestrian paths from the Town to the Georgetown waterfront, the demand for increased use of Toal Park is expected to increase for recreational uses. The park is also seeing an increased use as a picnic and rest stop for traffic along Route 213 possibly due to the Route 301 tolls and motorists rerouting to avoid paying tolls. With the improvements, the volume of use of the park and its amenities will increase.

These collective improvements will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

The County has reached its open space acreage goal and continuously explores opportunities of new open space to assure maintaining its goal should the population change.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION
FISCAL YEAR 2023 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>Project Name / Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>			
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance / <i>Consultant Services to Facilitate Development of LPPRP</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	25,000	N/A	25,000	N/A

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2023 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>Project Name / Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>			
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Worton Park-Kent County Community Center Campus / Orem Field LED Lights Retrofit</i>	97.716	97.716	N/A	275,000	27,500	247,500	N/A
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Toal Park / Restrooms Design & Construction Documents</i>	37.58	37.58	N/A	105,000	10,500	94,500	N/A

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WORTON PARK



Source: Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing and Zoning. MdProperty View 2011. Map prepared July 2013.

1 inch = 500 feet

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WORTON PARK



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TOAL PARK



Source: Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing and Zoning. MdProperty View 2011. Map prepared August 2013.

1 inch = 500 feet

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TOAL PARK

