



Talbot County Department of Parks & Recreation

10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601 – 410-770-8050

July 13, 2022

Mr. Michael McQuarrie
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Program Open Space
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. McQuarrie:

Please find the updated Talbot County Program Open Space Annual Plan for fiscal year 2023. Maps are included for each project for your reference.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Peper".

Preston Peper
Talbot County Parks and Recreation Director

Program Open Space Annual Program FY 2023

The Talbot County Parks and Recreation Department has spent significant time developing a strategy for improving access to public lands as part of the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan (TCCP) and the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). Talbot County currently provides its residents with many opportunities to pursue recreational and leisure activities. Some of these opportunities are available through a variety of recreation programs offered by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation. Other opportunities exist in a variety of parks ranging from large County-wide park facilities to small neighborhood play areas.

The Annual Program is consistent with the goals established in Talbot County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. All projects are submitted to the Talbot County Parks Advisory Board for approval before being presented to the Talbot County Council for final approval. The projects in the 2023 Annual Program, presented below, have been approved by the Parks Advisory Board and County Council for this fiscal year.

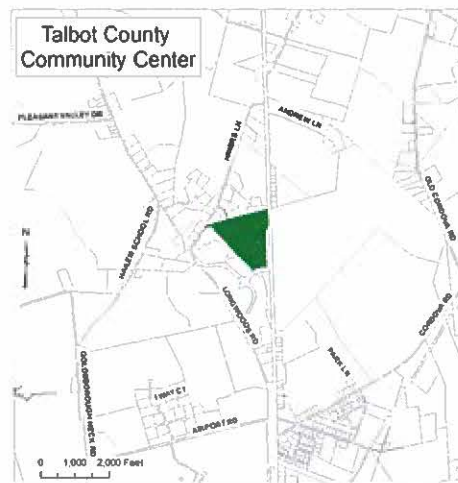
PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION FISCAL YEAR 2023

Sponsor	Project Name, Project Description	Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only			
		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS Local Funds)	Federal
	2027 LPPRP				25,000	0	25,000	0

Talbot County proposed to secure a consultant to work with the Parks & Recreation and Planning & Zoning departments to complete a comprehensive LPPRP. The consultant work will include, but not limited to: assessing current inventory of parks and amenities, identify needs and/or gaps in recreational services while outlining goals to meet current or future goals and strategies for improvement of Talbot County's recreational, natural resources and agricultural lands, conduct public meetings and surveys and complete any map updates. These are additional funds for the LPPRP.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Sponsor	Project Name, Project Description	Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only			
		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS Local Funds)	Federal
	Community Center Gym Expansion	50	50	50	4,000,000	2,105,000	1,895,000	
	Ice Rink Floor Replacement	50	50	50	900,000	600,000	300,000	
	Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe - Park Improvements	67	67	67	140,000	14,000	126,000	



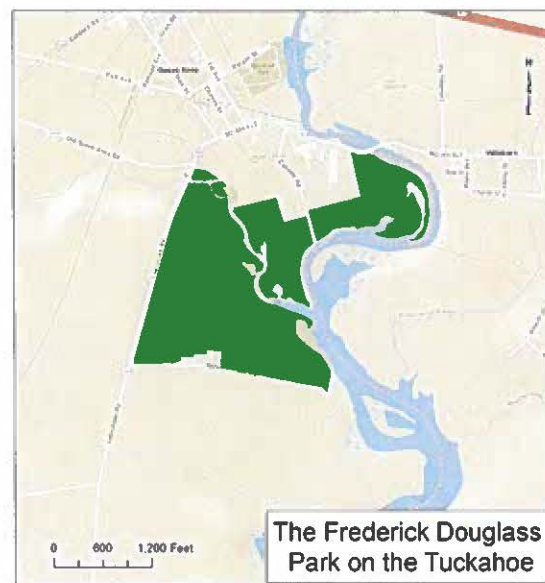
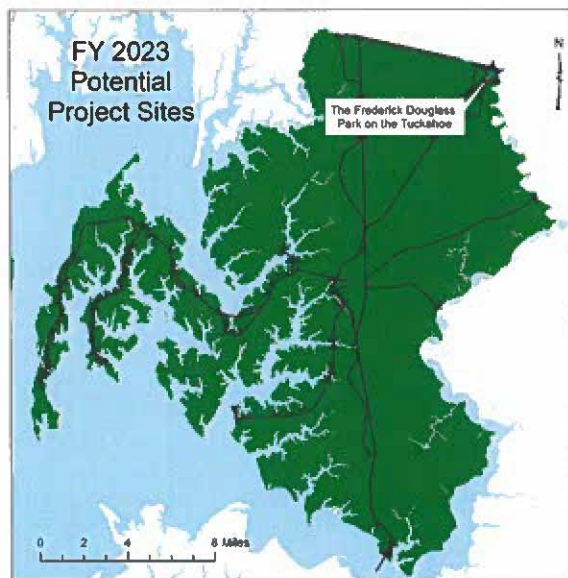
Development Project – Community Center Gym Expansion

The need for additional indoor gymnasium space has increased over the years due largely in part to indoor soccer leagues, year round travel teams and expanding camps and clinics. Along with a shortage of allotted gyms, the existing facilities are aging and not suitable for increased usage on a regular basis. This proposed facility would be an 18,000 square feet, wood floor facility with the capability to host basketball leagues, volleyball leagues, travel sports tournaments, special events and trade shows for all ages. With a part-year ice rink already in place on this site, this would serve as a benefit for both facilities, in essence feeding off one another for users. As this facility would be placed near the existing Community Center, utilities could be run from the existing structure and staff is already in place. This project development was reflected in the 2013 survey by Talbot County residents that wanted to see more gym space and easier access while also reflected in Talbot County 2017 goals #1 & 6, providing an improved system of parks and recreation facilities and beginning plans and developing a gymnasium expansion for residents and visitors. There are currently \$1,525,000 funds encumbered to this project, we are

applying \$375,000 additional funds in FY23. The estimated price for this facility is \$4,000,000 with funds allocated from Program Open Space, local funds and possible private fundraising.

Development Project – Ice Rink Floor Replacement

The ice rink floor was installed in 1979; however, while the building was renovated in 2007, the floor was still functioning and not replaced. This 17,000 square foot facility is used heavily by the hockey program, ice skating programs, public skating, youth and adult sports camps, clinics and leagues and a widely successful, inclusive summer camp. The piping that runs throughout the flooring in order to cool it for the ice season have broken down and begun leaking the brine mixture in the concrete floor. This facility served nearly 10,000 public ice skaters and over 1,000 youth skating lessons in FY22. This is the only ice rink on the Maryland Eastern Shore, garnering participants from MD, DE and competitive teams from PA. This project will include removal of the existing floor and installation of a new, more energy efficient floor and hardware; since the previous floor is over 43 years old. The project cost is estimated at \$900,000, with funds allocated from Program Open Space, local funds and possible private fundraising.



Development Project – Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Park Improvements

The Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe master plan was completed in 2021 with designs for a welcome center, interpretive elements, additional parking, water access, landscaping, trails, overlooks and a pollinator meadow. The phase I plans include the pollinator meadow, walking trails and two scenic overlooks. The walking trails will wind through the property, tying together the interpret element, pollinator meadow and scenic overlooks. This trail will be concrete to serve as a suitable ADA surface due largely to multi-generational visitors and the sloping terrain. The scenic overlooks will be constructed of composite lumber to lessen the

maintenance while keeping the overall aesthetic look of the property. The overlooks also serve as a safe means to view the Tuckahoe watershed, eliminating falling, sliding, erosion and other floral concerns. The pollinator meadow is being constructed with local funds and donations.