

***This DRAFT Report will not be final formatted until all edits are implemented into the Final Report. Please review for content, typos, etc. and not formatting issues.***

***Final formatting will include:***  
***Cover page***  
***Table of Contents***  
***Spacing***  
***Page breaks***  
***Table numbers added and linked***  
***Figure numbers added and linked***  
***Photographs inserted***  
***Page numbers***  
***Footers***  
***Etc.***

***Appendices may remain as appendices or may become stand-alone documents***

## Table of Contents

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY &amp; OVERVIEW OF PARKS &amp; RECREATION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
A. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN .....	7
B. KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY .....	8
C. PLANNING PROCESS SUMMARY .....	8
D. GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	9
F. RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY .....	10
<b>I. INTRODUCTION, PLANNING &amp; BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>12</b>
A. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN .....	12
B. PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.....	14
C. OVERVIEW OF COUNTY CHARACTER & DEMOGRAPHICS .....	15
<b>II. RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE.....</b>	<b>19</b>
A. INTRODUCTION.....	19
B. EXISTING SYSTEM OF PUBLIC PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND OPEN SPACES.....	26
C. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.....	1
D. LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS.....	7
E. KEY FINDINGS OF ALL ANALYSIS.....	18
<b>III. NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION .....</b>	<b>20</b>
A. EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND RESOURCES .....	20
B. NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION GOALS .....	22
C. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS .....	24
<b>IV. 2022 LPPRP GOALS &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>IV. AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>V. CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCE CONSERVATION .....</b>	<b>34</b>
A. INTRODUCTION.....	34
B. GOALS & OBJECTIVES .....	35
C. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM .....	37
<b>VI. RECOMMENDATIONS &amp; ACTION TABLE .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>APPENDIX LIST .....</b>	<b>41</b>
A. TRENDS REPORT .....	41
B. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE.....	67
C. SURVEY REPORT.....	76
D. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS .....	77

E. CALVERT COUNTY-FY2022 POS PROGRAM.....93  
F. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.....97  
G. FY21 PARKS AND RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ..... 101  
STATEWIDE GOALS ..... 103

*List of Tables*

No table of figures entries found. **To be numbered, formatted and listed in Final Report.**

*List of Figures*

No table of figures entries found. **To be numbered, formatted and listed in Final Report.**

# Acknowledgements

## County Commissioners

Earl F. Hance, President  
Steven R. Weems, Vice President  
Christopher J. Gadway  
Mike Hart  
Kelly D. McConkey

## Administration

Julian M. Willis, County Administrator  
Linda S. Vassallo, Deputy County Administrator

## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### District 1

Raymond Mahar  
Kevin Bobkoskie

### District 2

Bernadette Hager  
Michael Hyers  
Joshua Smith

### District 3

Robert Tetreault  
Greg Kernan

Beverly Izzi – Calvert Nature Society  
Greg Gott – Calvert County Public Schools

## County Staff

Shannon Q. Nazzal, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Nate Smith, Recreation Division Chief  
Amanda Stillwagon, Park Planner  
Karyn Molines, Natural Resources Division Chief  
Rachel O'Shea, Zoning Planner  
Jenny Plummer-Welker, Long Range Planner  
Christopher Sperling, Planner III/Historic Preservation Specialist  
Ron Marney, Environmental Planning Regulator

## Consultant Team

GreenPlay, LLC  
Biohabitats  
LSG  
RRC

*For more information about this document, contact GreenPlay, LLC  
At: 1021 E. South Boulder Road, Suite N, Louisville, Colorado 80027, Telephone: 303-439-8369  
Email: [info@greenplayllc.com](mailto:info@greenplayllc.com) [www.greenplayllc.com](http://www.greenplayllc.com)*



# Executive Summary & Overview of Parks & Recreation

## A. Purpose of this Plan

As communities change, the provision of parks and recreation services across Calvert County may have experienced changes over the past few years that have an impact on demographics, socioeconomics, environmental aspects, development, preservation, and open spaces. The Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan has been prepared to meet the state requirements so that the county will maintain their eligibility for Program Open Space Funding as well as serve as a foundation for a meaningful evaluation of the current county park, recreation, natural resources, land conservation and agricultural land preservation.



The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan serves as an update and mechanism to analyze and track changes that have taken place in Calvert County since the 2018 LPPRP plan. This document serves as an update to the 2018 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan and serves two primary purposes:

1. Maintains county eligibility to participate in Maryland’s Program Open Space matched grant funding that is used to supplement county funding for the improvement of parks and recreation assets.
2. Serves as a key document by providing key information, goals and achievable recommendations that will guide Calvert County in the management and enhancement of its public parks, open spaces, and preserved lands for the next five years.

The planning process utilized multiple methods to collect data, inventory existing conditions, engage the community and evaluate input, and gauge the overall level of service provided by public parks, open

spaces, and recreation amenities in Calvert County. Since the county last updated its Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan in 2018, natural resources conservation and agricultural land preservation goals and acreage of land preserved have changed minimally. Most updates to the Plan are noted in **Section II: Recreation, Parks, and Open Space**, which includes in-depth information and analysis of factors influencing Calvert County's provision of public parks and recreation services.

## B. Key Findings Summary

Residents of Calvert County maintain a strong sentiment that the rural character, natural landscape, waterways, and parks within close proximity to their residence are key components and contributors to the County's high quality of life. With these attributes noted, they become important components of the county's plans, and documents, and are supported by the Key Findings within the planning process for the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. The Key findings process is based on the compilation of information gathered from the analysis and inventory of existing conditions, community profile, community and stakeholder involvement, and a statistically valid survey. The basis of these analyses provides the foundation for the goals and recommendations that are presented which are focused on enhancing parks, recreation, and open space experiences for all residents in Calvert County over the next five years. A summary of the findings are noted below.

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

## C. Planning Process Summary

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

The tasks that provide the overall foundation for the LPPRP are outlined below.



<b>Strategic Kick-Off &amp; Determination of Critical Success Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Coordination</li> <li>Document Collection/Integration of Existing Plans</li> <li>Determination of Critical Success Factors/Performance Measures</li> </ul>	<b>August, 2021</b>
<b>Community Profile &amp; Engagement Integration with Survey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Information Gathering</li> <li>Focus Groups/Staff/Stakeholder Interviews</li> <li>Community Wide Public Meeting</li> <li>Pop-Up Events</li> <li>Needs Assessment/Statistically Valid Survey</li> </ul>	<b>October-December 2021</b>
<b>Resource Inventory, Site Assessment &amp; Mapping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory and Level of Service Analysis</li> <li>GIS mapping and analysis</li> <li>Assessment of Existing Standards</li> <li>Demographics, Trends and Community Profile</li> <li>Organizational/Program Analysis</li> </ul>	<b>October-December 2021</b>
<b>Findings &amp; Visioning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Issues Analysis Matrix</li> <li>Visioning Strategies Workshop</li> </ul>	<b>January 2022</b>
<b>Financial Analysis</b>	<b>January 2021</b>
<b>Action Plan/Recommendations</b>	<b>January 2021</b>
<b>Draft Plan, Action Plan, &amp; Presentation</b>	<b>February 2021</b>
<b>Final Plan, Presentation, and Deliverables</b>	<b>June, 2022</b>

The process included the following tasks that were carefully analyzed and evaluated to assist with the recommendations and action plan.

## D. Goals and Recommendations

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

### Overall Goal

To complete a comprehensive needs analysis that incorporates the opinions, needs and desires of as many Calvert County residents as possible.

### Environmental & Natural Resources

- Preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Preserve, protect, and conserve land-based natural resources.
- Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River

- Mitigate natural and man-made hazards in Calvert County.

#### **Land Use**

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

#### **Heritage**

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

## **F. Recommendations Summary**

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

- Land preservation (goal 40,000 acres) (30 acres per 1000 persons for recreation)
- Addition/redesign of athletic fields with consideration for artificial turf
- Multipurpose indoor complex with multiuse courts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball), meeting rooms and fitness opportunities
- Focus on organizational efficiencies such as scheduling/permitting/viewer availability of facilities, marketing
- Environmental sustainability
- Address activities, programming, facility opportunities for the following:
  - Residents of the south half of the County
  - Young adults
  - Cycling, casual biking, mountain/trail biking
- Access to water (Chesapeake Bay and river)

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

# I. Introduction, Planning & Background

## A. Purpose of this Plan

The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) serves as an update of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan for 2022 and serves two primary functions:

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

Calvert County is dependent on funding support from the State of Maryland to support land acquisition and parks and recreation facility improvements. Completion of a regular five-year update to the county’s Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan is a prerequisite for continued participation in the Localside Program (*per Section 5-905[b][2] of the Natural Resources Article – Annotated Code of Maryland*). Upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners this updated Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan replaces the last version adopted in 2018.

The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan provides updated information on programs, goals, and issues impacting Calvert County’s provision of public parks, recreation facilities, and open space facilities. The 2022 update has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of:

- State of Maryland Statewide Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan Guidelines
- State of Maryland Program Open Space statutory requirements

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

- Parks and Recreation
  - a. Level of Service Analysis – a mixed-method approach of gauging how well the county’s parks and recreation system appears to be meeting the recreational needs of the community and local users.
  - b. Goals and recommendations for enhancing Calvert County’s parks, recreation, and open space assets based on land, facility, and program needs identified through the level of service analysis.
- Natural Resource Land Conservation
  - a. Update of relevant program data, inventories, and goals.
- Agricultural Land Preservation
  - a. Update only of relevant program data, inventories, and goals.
- Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation
  - a. Not required by state guidelines, but a focus area is briefly addressed in this Plan by Calvert County.

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

Upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, the updated Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan becomes a companion plan to the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. Upon adoption the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan will replace the 2018 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan as the detailed guiding document for parks, open space, and recreation planning in Calvert County for the next five years. The goals and recommendations of the 2022 Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan represent the shared goals of the State of Maryland, Calvert County, and local jurisdiction, including those determined in the following plans:

#### County:

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

#### State:

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

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

#### Calvert Comprehensive Plan



**CALVERT COUNTY**  
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
AUGUST 2019  
ADOPTED AUGUST 2019

**CALVERT**  
**2040**  
Your county. Your future.

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan serves as the official policy document for Calvert County as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, the Planning Commission, and support of county

departments. The plan is used as a guide when preparing and coordinating planning efforts for development, proposed projects, and changes to zoning ordinances. The plan is also utilized by State agencies when providing potential state funding opportunities. Serving as a snapshot, the plan provides a dynamic process for managing various components for growth in Calvert County.

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

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

The goals are expressed in a series of 10 vision statements:

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

## B. Planning Process & Public Engagement

Preparation of the 2022 Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan was led by a collaborative effort from staff from the county's Department of Planning & Zoning, Department of Parks & Recreation, BerryDunn, Biohabitates, and LSG.

### Review of Guiding Plans, Programs, and Information

The planning process for the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan began with a review of existing guiding plans, programs, and data resources relevant to the provision of public parks, recreation amenities, and open space assets in Calvert County. Current guiding documents, plans, and information considered during the update of this Plan included, but was not limited to:

#### County:

- 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2018 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan
- Rural Legacy
- North Beach Comprehensive Plan
- Northeast Sector Plan
- Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan

- Dunkirk Town Center Planning Presentations
- 2011 Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan
- 2012 Town of North Beach Comprehensive Plan
- Program Open Space Annual Programs
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
- Parks and Recreation Activity Guides

**State:**

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

**Staff, Stakeholder, and Public Participation**

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

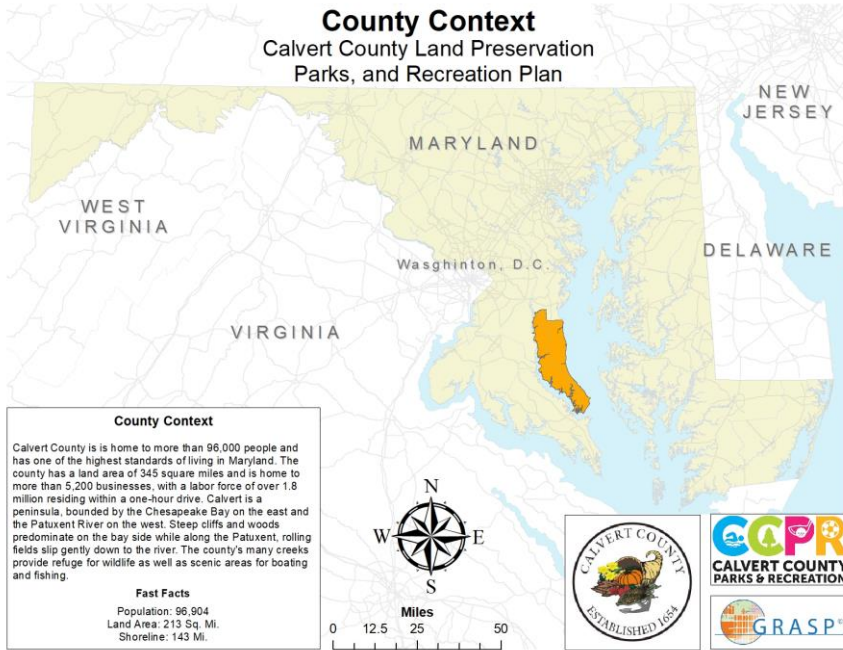
Stakeholders who participated in the focus group sessions included representatives of local athletic leagues, sports groups, clubs that utilize county facilities, land trust members, local farmers, outdoor enthusiasts and County leaders. County staff who participated represented the Department of Parks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

## C. Overview of County Character & Demographics

**Geographic Character**

Calvert County is located on a peninsula in southern Maryland, approximately 30 miles southeast of Washington D.C. As illustrated on **Map 1**, the Chesapeake Bay borders the county to the south and east, and the Patuxent River flows the length of the western border. Anne Arundel County abuts the northern edge of Calvert County. Bridges across the Patuxent River provide connections to neighboring St. Mary’s, and Charles Counties.

Map 1: Calvert County Regional Context

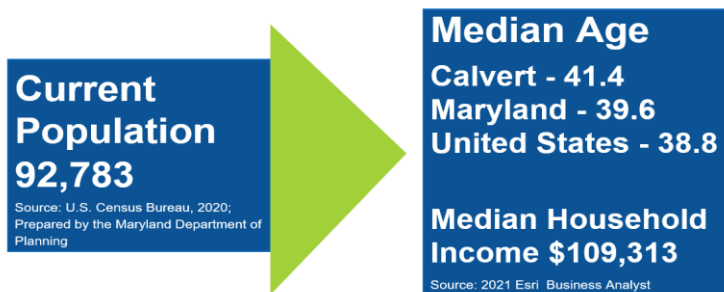


Source: BerryDunn

The county consists of approximately 345 square miles (140,000 acres), is 35 miles in length, and varies between five to nine miles in width. The interior portion of the county is defined by rolling hills and upland plateau. The coastal areas along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River have substantially contrasting character. On the Bay side, towering cliffs composed of clay, sand, and gravel define the coastal edge, whereas the topography of the Patuxent River coastal area is relatively flat and landscape includes large amounts of acreage in agricultural production.

### Demographic Highlights

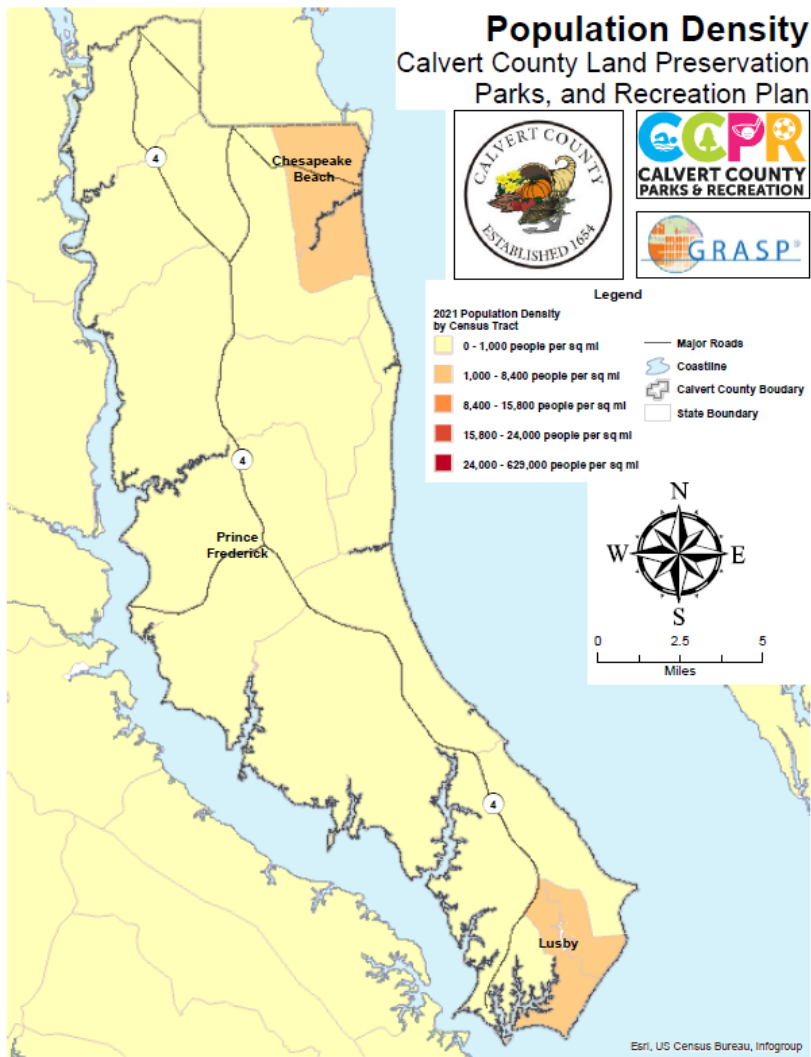
The population of Calvert County in 2020 was estimated to be slightly over 92,000, with a median age of 41.4 years.





Characteristics of Calvert County's existing and projected population trends that tend to influence the provision of public parks and recreation services are included in **Appendix A: Demographic Profile**. As illustrated in **Map 2**, residents lived throughout the county, with Lusby, North Beach, and Chesapeake Beach areas having the highest concentrations of residents.

**Map 1: Calvert County Population Density**



Source: BerryDunn

The 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan categorizes the park facilities within the county into nine categories. These categories and number of sites within each category are noted in the chart below with descriptions following.

Park Category	# Of Sites
Mini Parks	1
Neighborhood Parks	2
Community Parks	7
District Parks	3
Regional Parks	2
School Recreation Parks	22
Special Use Areas	13
Open Space/Natural Resource Lands	10
Undeveloped Sites	4

### Local - Regional Cooperation

Calvert County has two incorporated municipalities, North Beach and Chesapeake Beach. Both exercise local legislative authority independent of the County, however the County and those municipalities cooperate in many ways. Examples of cooperation include:

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

The County's Comprehensive Plan mentions regional cooperation in Goal 7 of the plan.

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

**Objective 1:** Ensure coordination and cooperation between Calvert County Government and other public and quasi-public agencies, and elected officials.

10.7.1.4 Work with the towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, as well as the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, and Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties to achieve consensus on regional issues and policies. [BOCC, CA, All Departments]

**Objective 2:** Encourage long-term consistency between the towns and the county's plans.

10.7.2.1 Minimize potential land use conflicts between incorporated towns and the county through coordination and development referrals, including review of proposed developments which are adjacent to or near town borders. [P&Z]

10.7.2.2 Continue coordination of capital improvement programs. [F&B]

10.7.2.3 Share staff and facilities where such sharing will improve public service capabilities and will avoid duplication of services and waste. [CA, P&Z]

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

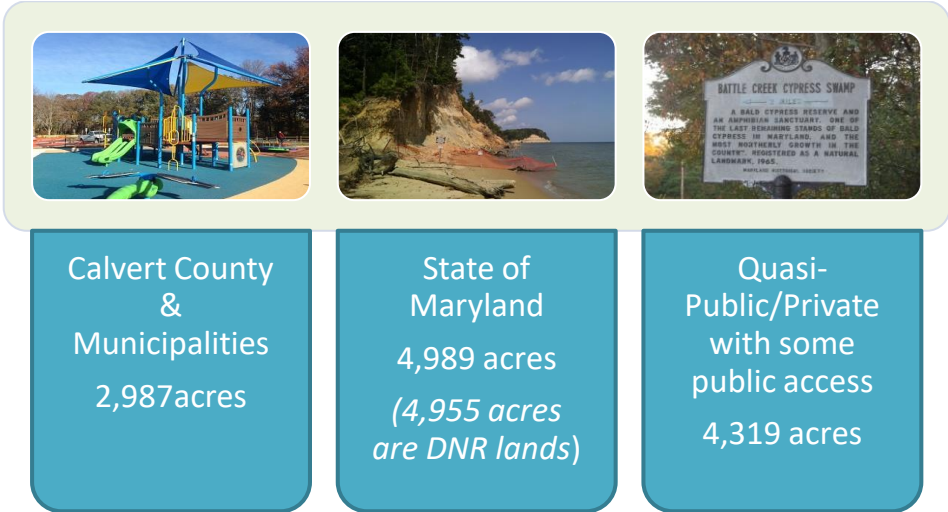
## II. Recreation, Parks, and Open Space

### A. Introduction

The existing system of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Calvert County, as illustrated in **Map x**, includes lands and facilities that provide a wide range of opportunities for public participation in recreation, cultural, fitness, and leisure activities. This infrastructure supports the high quality of life residents of Calvert County value and expect and serves to help preserve the rural charm of the county along with key goals and visions of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and previous Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan.

**12,295 acres**  
of parks, recreation areas, and open  
spaces provided a vast array of  
recreational opportunities in Calvert  
County in 2016.

In 2022, nearly 12,300 acres of public and quasi-public properties provided the public with access to diverse recreation facilities, programs, and activities for all ages. The single largest manager of public recreation land and open space in Calvert County is State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (4,961 acres).



The Department supports and maintains 40 properties and 22 school recreation parks totaling 2,293.53 acres. Calvert County park facilities fall into nine categories and include:

\*Note that the number of sites listed may differ from the total number of parks as more than one category may be applicable to a single facility.

**Mini Parks**

This the smallest designation of county designated park types. Mini parks are generally one acre or less in size and designed to address a location specific recreation need. This includes the Solomons Mini-Park & Comfort Station.

**Neighborhood Parks**

These are designed to be the recreational and social hub of a neighborhood and includes small open space areas and/or developed recreation facilities. These parks are generally less than ten acres in size. This includes Broomes Island School, King Memorial Park, and Twin Shields Recreation Area.

**Community Parks**

These parks are designed to meet the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving open spaces and natural i  
*Aerial of the new Ward Park*  
 facilities for sports as well as playgrounds, picnic facilities, basket  
 and trails for hiking and cycling. This includes Solomons Town Center Park, Grays Road Dog Park, Grover Field, Marley Run Recreational Area, Kellams Field, Twin Shields Recreation Area, and BGE Field.

**District Parks**

These facilities not only draw visitors from Calvert County but also attract tourists from outside the county and state. They are designed to serve as large, active recreation hubs in each of Calvert County’s three election districts. These sites provide fields, courts, and associated recreation infrastructure for team and

individual sports and recreation activities. These parks include Dunkirk District Park, Hallowing Point Park, and Cove Point Park. All three facilities boast multiple athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

### **Regional Parks**

These parks are designed to serve the needs of a large portion of the county and provide developed recreation facilities, such as sports fields and associated infrastructure, and/or preserved natural areas and open spaces. Regional parks are generally larger than 50 acres in size. This includes Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park and Dominion Energy Regional Park.

### **School Recreation Parks**

These facilities are the portion of a school or public educational institution available for public recreation use outside of school hours and usage. Limitations on public access and use varies by school site. These are based on agreements with the Calvert County Board of Education and the Department. This includes twenty-two (22) sites for indoor recreation activities, and eleven (11) sites for outdoor recreation activities.

### **Special Use Areas**

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



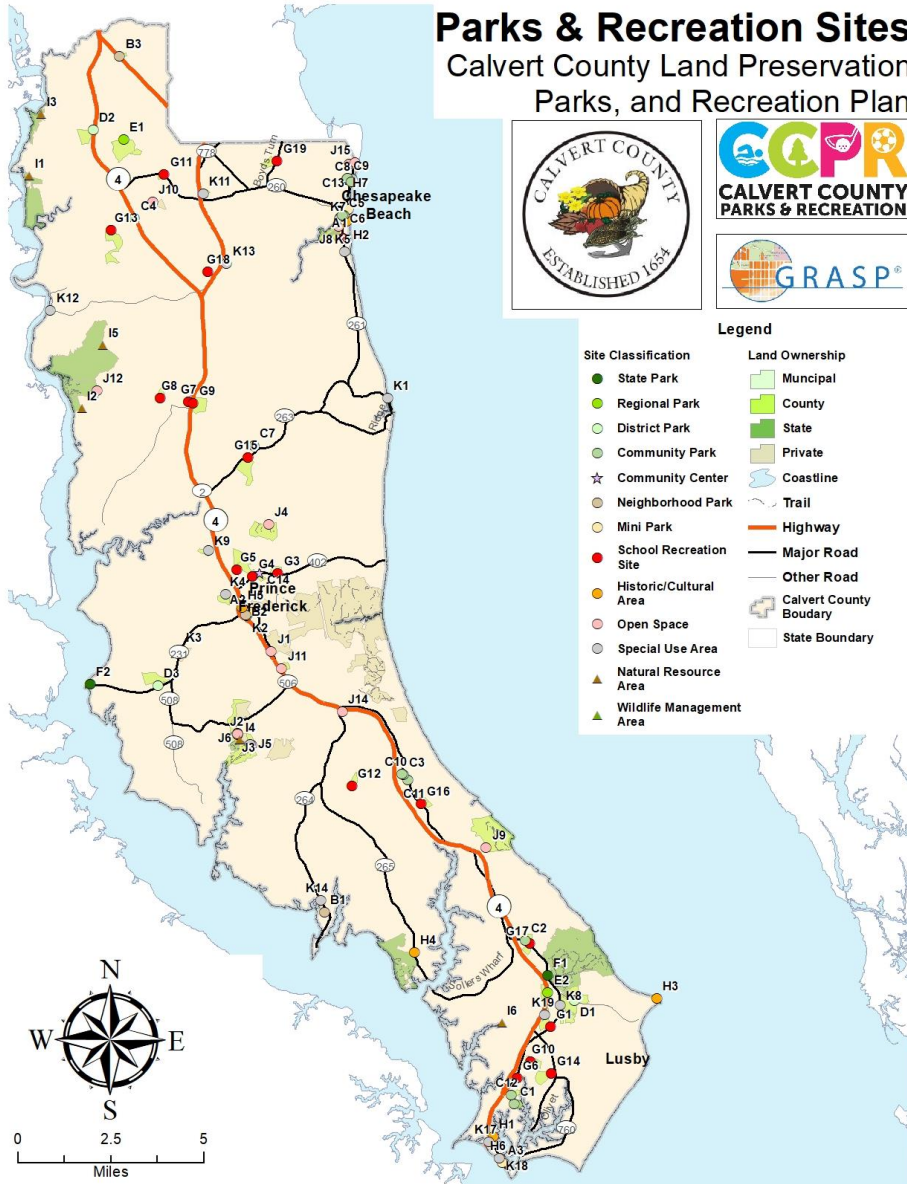
Those facilities include Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Breezy Point Beach & Campground, all aquatic facilities, and concessions.

Open Space/Natural Resource Lands By protecting the forests, waterways, and other habitats, these parks provide opportunities for the public to explore, discover and learn about the natural heritage of the county.

These areas preserve natural systems, unique landscapes, and/or local areas of unique social or ecological value. These areas

offer outdoor recreation opportunities compatible with the natural landscape, cultural heritage, and ecological values of the site. These include Kings Landing Park, Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, Gatewood Preserve, Hutchins Pond, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Nan's Cove, and Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park.

Map x: Public Parks and Recreation Sites in Calvert County

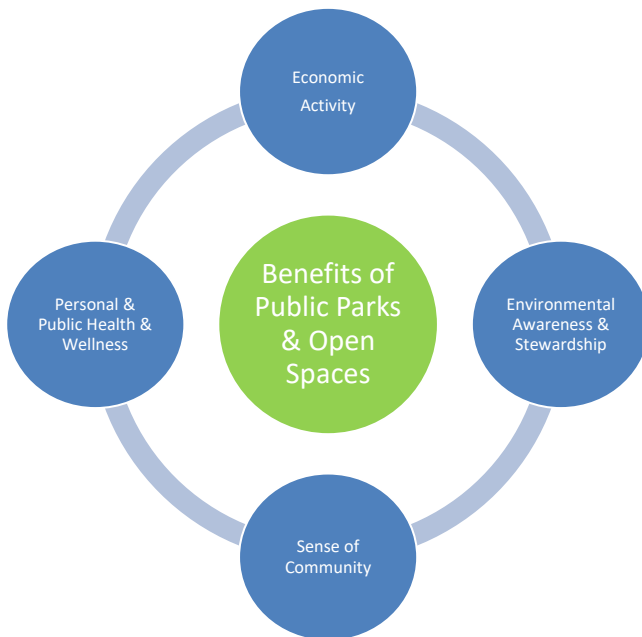


Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

	<b>Parks</b>		
	<u>Mini Park</u>	H7	Bayside History Museum
A2	Calvert County Courthouse Green	H1	Calvert Marine Museum
A1	Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park	H2	Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
A3	Solomons Mini Park & Comfort Station	H3	Cove Point Lighthouse
	<u>Neighborhood</u>	H6	J.C Lore & Sons Oyster House Museum
B1	Broomes Island Community Center	H4	Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
B2	King Memorial Park & Phillips House	H5	Linden
B3	Twin Shields Recreation Area		<b>Open Space</b>
	<u>Community</u>	J1	American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
C2	BG&E Field	J2	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
C3	Dowell House Community Center	J3	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
C4	Fairview Community Center & Library	J4	Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
C5	Kellam's Park Boat Ramps	J5	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
C6	Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park	J6	Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center
C7	Marley Run Recreation Area	J7	Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands
C8	North Beach Callis Park	J8	Fishing Creek Park
C9	North Beach Community Center	J9	Flag Ponds Nature Park
C11	Saint Leonard Polling House	J10	Fowler Road Open Space
C10	Saint Leonard Recreation Area	J11	Goldstein Property
C12	Solomons Town Center Park	J12	King's Landing Park
C13	Sunrise Garden	J14	Port Republic School House
	<u>District</u>	J15	Walton Beach Nature Preserve
D1	Cove Point Park	J16	Wetlands Overlook Park
D2	Dunkirk District Park		<b>Special Use Area</b>
D3	Hallowing Point Park	K1	Breezy Point Beach & Campground
	<u>Regional</u>	K2	Calvert County Community Resources
E2	Dominion Energy Regional Park	K3	Calvert County Fairgrounds
E1	Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park	K4	Calvert Pines Senior Center
	<u>State</u>	K5	Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park
F1	Calvert Cliffs State Park	K7	Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail
F2	Hallowing Point Boat Ramp & Research Center	K6	Chesapeake Beach Waterpark
	<b>School Recreation Site</b>	K8	Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
G1	Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area	K9	Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center
G2	Beach Elementary School Recreation Area	K20	Grays Road Dog Park
G3	Calvert Country School Recreation Area	K11	Hutchins' Fishing Pond
G4	Calvert High School & Career Center Ballfields	K12	Lower Marlboro Wharf
G5	Calvert Middle School Recreation Area	K13	Mt. Hope Community Center
G6	Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area	K14	Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch
G7	Hunting Creek Annex	K15	North Beach Waterfront Park & Boardwalk
G8	Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area	K16	Northeast Community Center
G9	Huntingtown High School Recreation Area	K17	Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier
G10	Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area	K18	Solomons Waterfront Park
G11	Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area	K19	Southern Community Center
G12	Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area		<b>Natural Resource Management</b>
G13	Northern Middle & High School Ballfields	I4	Gatewood Preserve
G14	Patuxent High School Ballfields	I1	Hall Creek Natural Resource Management Area
G15	Plum Point Elementary & Middle School Ballfields	I6	Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve
G16	Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area	I5	Huntingtown NRMA
G17	Southern Middle School Recreation Area	I2	King's Landing Natural Resource Management Area
G18	Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area	I3	Merkle Natural Resources Management Area
G19	Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area		

### Significance of Public Parks, Open Spaces, and Recreation Opportunities in Calvert County

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



The programs noted below are a small sample of the programs offered within the County Parks and Recreation Department. The entire Program Plan can be found in **Appendix X**.

#### Children in Nature

The State of Maryland recognizes that young residents have significant roles to play as future stewards of our communities and shared environment. Several major initiatives, including the State’s Project Green Classroom (formerly the Partnership for Children in Nature), and statewide educational requirements in environmental literacy help provide Maryland youth with a basic understanding of the natural world. In Calvert County, the Department of Parks & Recreation offers nature and outdoor recreation programs year-round, Maryland State Parks programs engage with residents and visitors, and other private entities, such as 4-H, offer agricultural and land stewardship training for youth ages five through 18. These programs offer hands-on agricultural and natural resource-based activities and learning experiences that fosters the

*The Partnership for Project Green Classroom works collaboratively to provide opportunities for children to play and learn outdoors and promote environmental literacy.*



development of future stewards of the environment. Several assets and programs in the community that engage children with nature include the following.

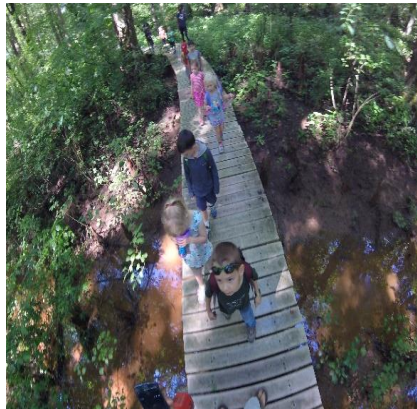
■ **Parks and Recreation Summer Camps –**

Most of the camp programs offered through the Department of Parks & Recreation include outdoor recreation activities that engage children and youth ages five through 21 with the natural environment. In addition, the Department offers 14 different week-long nature camps at parks and open spaces throughout the county. Summer camp activities are held throughout the county at Flag Ponds Nature Park, Gilbert Run Park, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert Marine Museum, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Cove Point Pool.

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

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

- **Natural Resources Programs –** provide opportunities that engage children, teens, families, and adults in activities in the outdoors. Programs are sponsored by the Calvert Nature Society, a 501(c)(3) that supports the natural resources engagement programs of the Department of Parks & Recreation. A full listing of current programs is available through the Calvert Nature Society online at [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org). Programs scheduled for Summer and Fall of 2018 include:



*Early Explorers Camp 2016  
Image Credit: Calvert County Natural Resources Division*

**Programs for families:**

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

**Programs for Teens:**

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

**Programs for Adults:**

- Nature Trivia

**Special Events:**

- Women in Science

- Eagle Hike
- Horseshoe Crab Campout

**Calvert Stewards Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Boardwalk Construction
- ADA Accessible Boardwalk
- Kings Landing Recycling
- Spring Peeper Hunt for Calvert Stewards
- Nature Center Garden Work Days
- Calvert County Diversity
- Trail Monitoring
- Bird Counts and Surveys
- **CHESPAX** – The environmental education program of the Calvert County Public School System where Board of Education staff partners with other county agency staff to provide hands-on environmental education experiences. The program utilizes local natural areas as outdoor classrooms for teaching science, and relationship building with the natural environment. As of 2022, the program operated as a cooperative effort between the Board of Education, Calvert County Natural Resources Division, Calvert Marine Museum, Annemarie Gardens, Calvert County Solid Waste Division, and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.
- Kings Landing Gardening Days
- Raptor Road Surveys
- Fishing Line Recycling
- Kings Landing Wedding and Special Event Helper
- Bluebird Predator Guard Construction
- Bluebird Box Construction

## B. Existing System of Public Parks, Recreation Areas, and Open Spaces

### Introduction

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

### Federal Recreation Amenities

Although there are no parks or preserves operated by the federal government in Calvert County, the National Park Service manages several significant regional trails and driving routes that link together sites of national historical and cultural significance. National trails that wind through the county include:



**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail** – links at least 13 sites in Calvert County related to the explorations of John Smith, with other relevant historical sites throughout the region.

**Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail** – links sites significant to the War of 1812 in Calvert County with others in the region.



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

In addition to these national trails, the Department of Defense operates the Navy Recreation Center Solomons. This site provides lodging and recreation amenities for military members and families but does not accommodate public use.



## State Parks, Recreation Sites, and Open Spaces

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources manages nine properties, totaling 4,955 acres in Calvert County in 2016. Six of the nine properties, and majority of Department acreage provides public outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, biking, camping, fishing, boating, paddling, hunting, and nature appreciation. The remaining three properties housed Department operations focused on scientific research, natural resource conservation, and waterway management operations. The Department of Natural Resources properties are listed in **Table 2**.



*Calvert Cliffs State Park  
Image Credit: Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

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

## Maryland Park Equity Mapper

The Maryland Park Equity Mapper application combines demographic and environmental health data from a variety of sources and maps that data onto Maryland census block groups in order to identify disparities in park access and quality. This application allows users to evaluate the green space available in their community and see how it compares to the rest of Maryland. The Park Equity Mapper can be used by city planners and park officials to identify communities in need of green space revitalization. Currently there are 5 categories of data.

1. Park Equity Scores
2. Park Equity Factor Layers
3. MD EJScore
4. Context Layers
5. *Help (this is the document you are currently reading)*

### Park Equity Score

This data category includes two point indicators that map locations for parks and public transportation, and one count indicator that measures the number of park amenities. The eight remaining park equity indicators have scores that are organized into 5 bins or quintiles.



**Park Equity Layers**

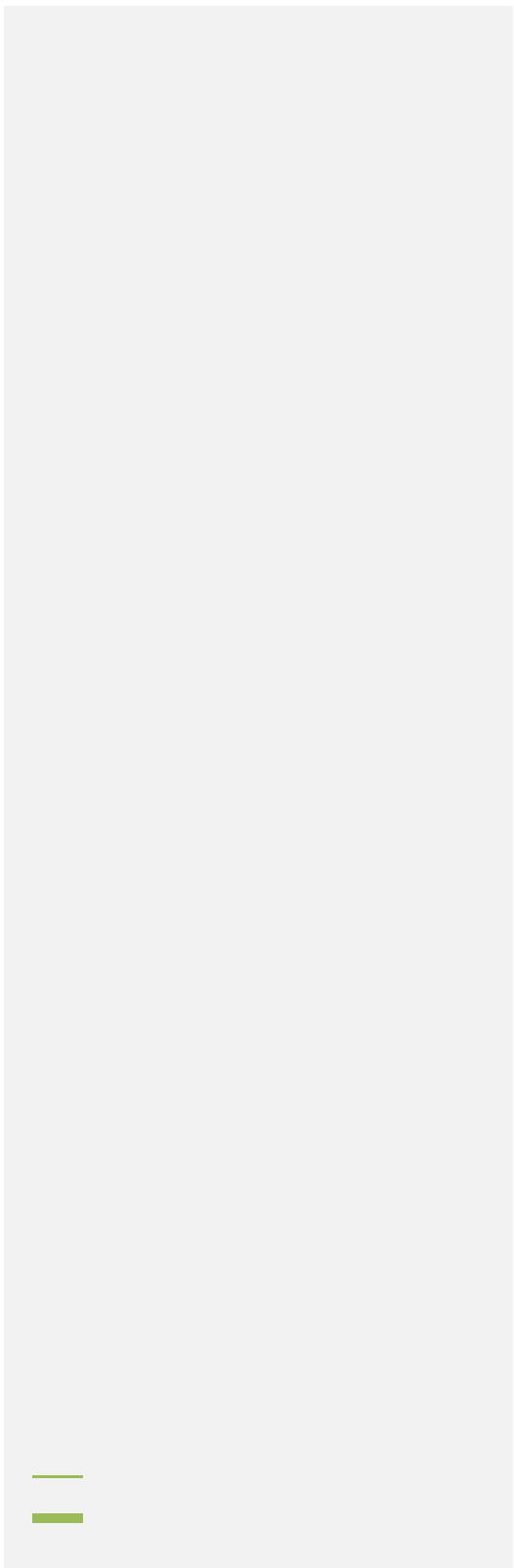
<p>Parks (Context)</p>	<p>This layer shows all park and open spaces reported in the 2019-2023 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan . It includes state parks, state forests, natural resource management areas, natural environmental areas, wildlife management areas, state wildlands, and some federal lands.</p> <p>People-powered recreation - So-called "active" recreation areas whose main purposes are to provide space for physical activities or social gatherings. Parks with this indicator have more People-powered amenities (see next lalyer) than Nature-based amenities.</p> <p>Nature-based Recreation - Recreation areas whose main purpose is the preservation and promotion of the natural ecosystem or whose main attraction is nature itself. Parks with this indicator have more Nature-based amenities than People-powered amenities.</p> <p>People-powered and Nature-based - Parks with this indicator have an equal number of Nature-based amenities and People-powered amenities.</p>
<p>Park Amenities (Context)</p>	<p>Facilities and/or equipment that enhance the usability of parks. Amenities include access to:</p> <p><u>Nature-based</u>          Nature Areas,          Water Recreation,          Trails,          Hunting,          Fishing,</p> <p><u>People-powered</u>          Picknicking,          Playgrounds,          Sports Facilities,          Waste Receptacles,          Restroom Facilities, and          No Fees/Reservation Required.</p>

Public Transit (Context)	<p>Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) access via local buses, metro subway, and the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) train. This data is based upon the Winter 2014 schedule. For more information, see: <a href="http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train">http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train</a>.</p> <p>This layer also includes interstate public transit [services] such as Amtrak rail stops and WMATA bus and metrorail stops.</p>
Park Equity Score	This is a combination of the layers below
Population Density Score	Number of residents per residential acres (as defined by urban lands in the 2002 Maryland Department of Planning land use/land cover data). Higher density equals a higher score (between 0-10) x 2.
Low Wealth Score	The ratio of household at or below 185% of the county poverty level. The higher ratio equals a higher score. (0-10)
Children Under 18 Score	Ratio of the number of children age 17 & under relative to the total population. The higher ratio equals a higher score. (0-10).
Adults 65 and Older Score	Ratio of the number of adults age 65 & older relative to the total population. The higher ratio equals a higher score. (0-10).
Non-White Score	Ratio of non-white to white individuals in that census tract compared to the average ratio of the state. The higher ratio equals a higher score. (0-10).
Park Distance Score	An average of distances of each location in a block group to the closest park
Public Transit Distance Score	The Public Transit Distance Score is based on the Accessibility Index from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This is an index of the relative accessibility of a block group compared to other block groups in the same metropolitan region, as measured by travel time to the working-age population via transit. Higher values indicate more accessibility



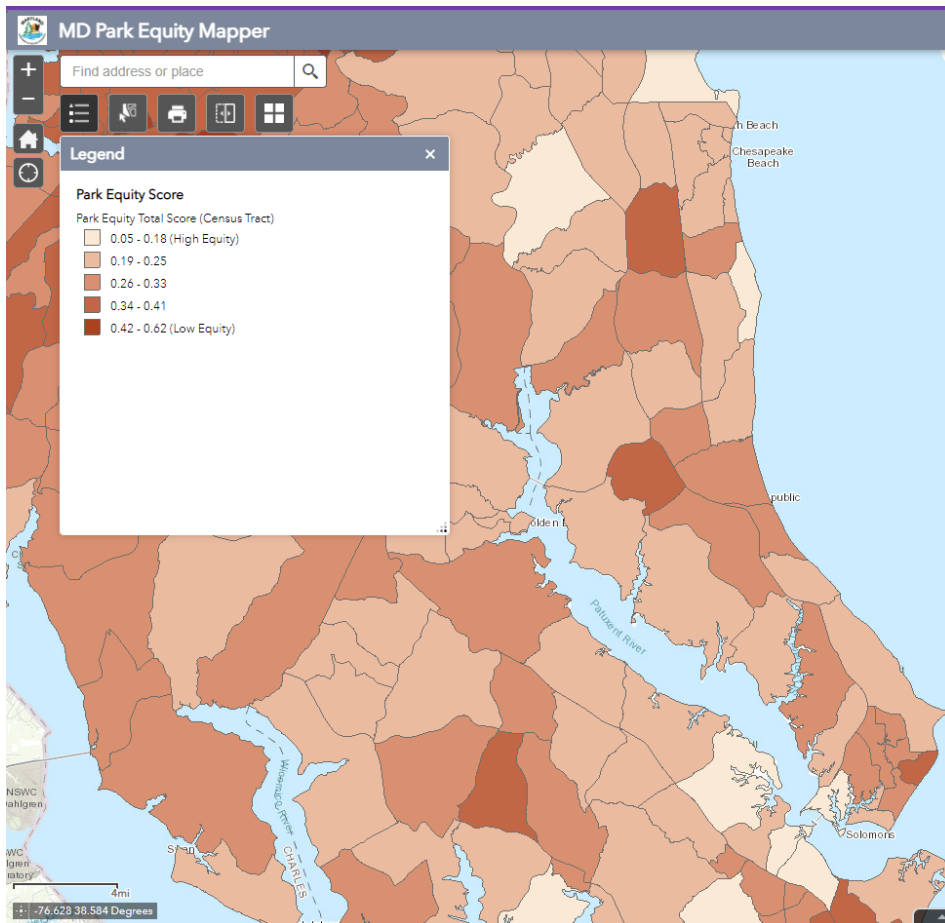
Walkability Index Score	<p>The Walkability Index Score is based on the US Environmental Protection Agency model which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Walkability Index (relative metric, higher values indicate conditions generally more conducive to pedestrian travel)</li> <li>Employment and household entropy</li> <li>8-tier employment entropy (denominator set to the static 8 employment types in the CBG)</li> <li>Street intersection density (weighted, auto-oriented intersections eliminated)</li> <li>Distance from population weighted centroid to nearest transit stop (meters) but remember that significant transit capacity has been added since the date of source data used in this analysis (TRAX green line, extensions to other lines, FrontRunner south, etc).</li> </ul>
Linguistic Isolation Score	<p>The Linguistic Isolation score is a measure of the number of households in which every member over the age of 14 speaks a non-English language and none speak English "very well".</p>

Source: [MD Park Equity Mapper \(umd.edu\)](http://umd.edu)



### Park Equity Total Score (Census Tract)

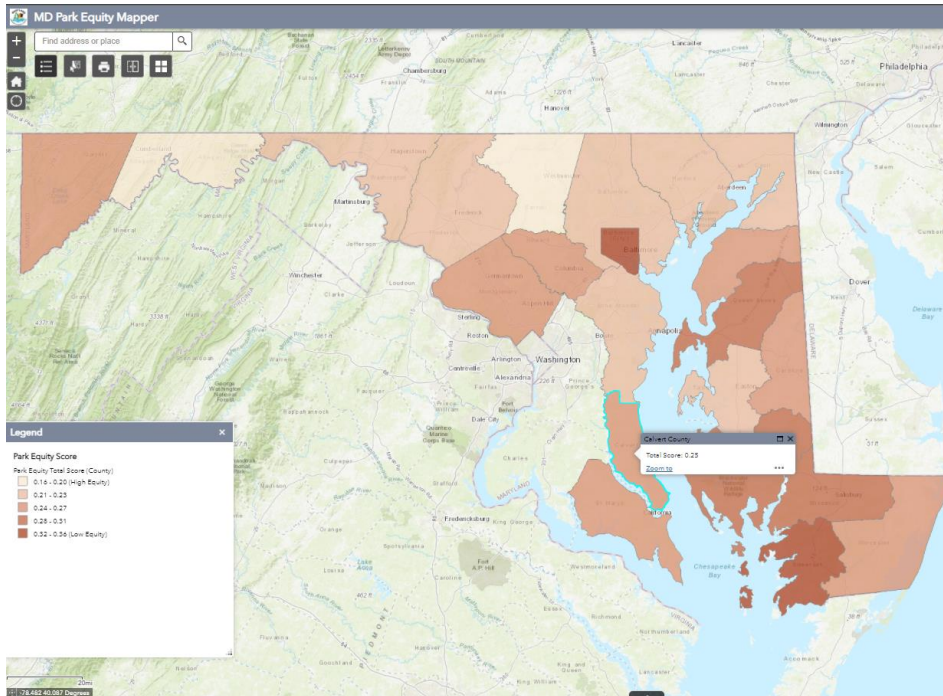
Darker areas on the map have lower equity than lighter colored areas



Source: [MD Park Equity Mapper \(umd.edu\)](http://umd.edu)

### Park Equity Total Score (County)

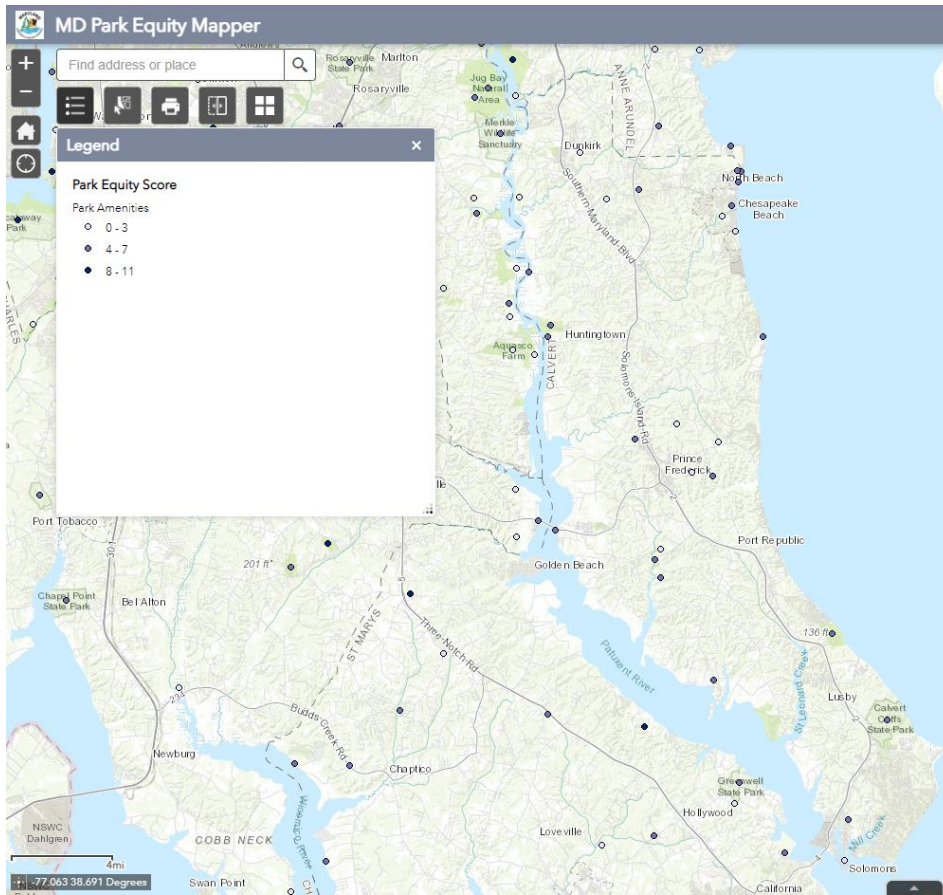
This Statewide comparison shows Calvert County at a total score of 0.25 in Park Equity Total Score. Comparison can be made to other counties based on the darkness of the shading. Note: Prince Georges and Charles Counties are not currently registering a color value.



Source: [MD Park Equity Mapper \(umd.edu\)](http://umd.edu)

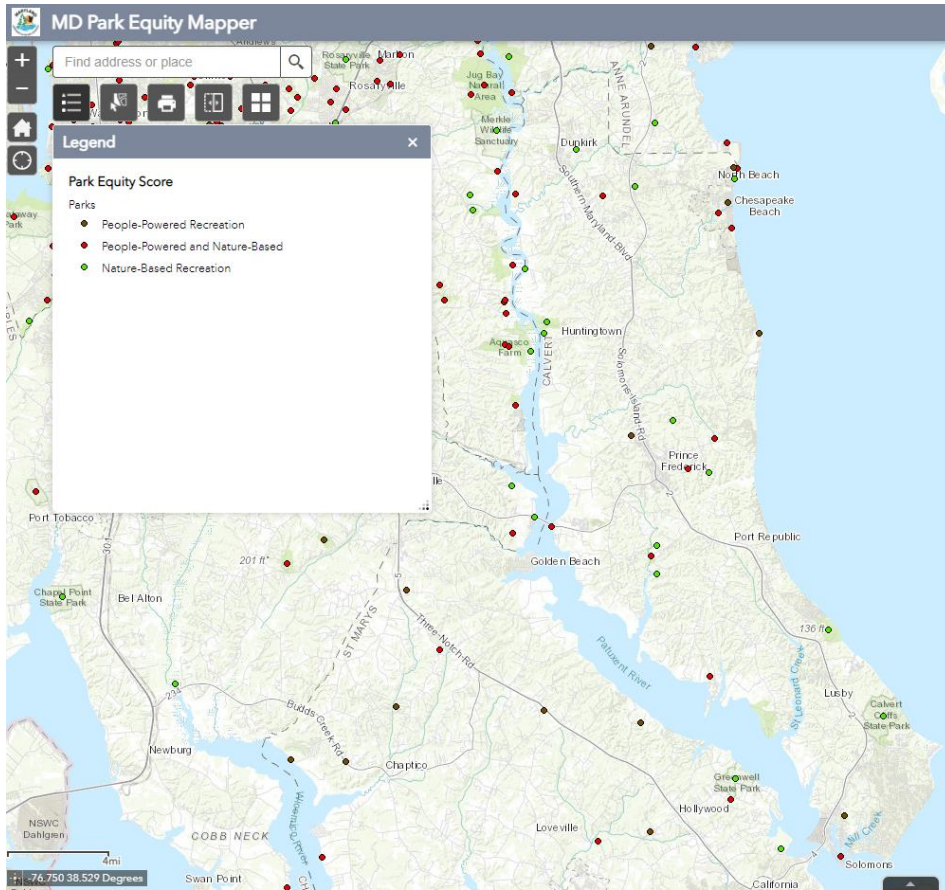


## Park Equity Score – Park Amenities



Source: [MD Park Equity Mapper \(umd.edu\)](http://umd.edu)

## Park Equity Score – Parks



Source: [MD Park Equity Mapper \(umd.edu\)](http://umd.edu)

**Table 1: Natural Resources Lands Managed by State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

DNR Properties	Acres
Calvert Cliffs State Park	1,311
Calvert Marine Police Radio Tower	5
Hall Creek NRMA	383
Hallowing Point Boat Ramp	6
Hallowing Point Research Center	1
Kings Landing NRMA	1,258
Merkle NRMA	113
Molly's Leg Dredge Spoil Site	2
Parkers Creek WMA	1,877



<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>4,961</b>
---------------------	--------------

Source: Maryland DNR FY2021 DNR Owned Lands Acreage Report

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

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

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

1. **Mini Parks** – smallest of the county designated park-types. Mini parks are generally one acre or less in size and designed to address a location-specific recreation need. Mini parks include:
  - Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park
  - Courthouse Green
  - Solomons Mini-Park & Comfort Station
  
2. **Neighborhood Parks** – are designed to be the recreational and social hub of a neighborhood and include small open space areas and/or developed recreation facilities. These parks are generally less than ten acres in size. Neighborhood parks in in the County included:
  - Broomes Island Community Center
  - King Memorial Park
  - Twin Shields Recreation Area
  
3. **Community Parks** – are designed to meet the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving open spaces and natural landscapes. In 2018, there were 12 community parks in Calvert County:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BGE Field</li> <li>• Dowell House Community Center</li> <li>• Fairview Community Center &amp; Library</li> <li>• Kellam’s Park Boat Ramps</li> <li>• Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marley Run Recreation Area</li> <li>• North Beach Callis Park</li> <li>• North Beach Community Center</li> <li>• Saint Leonard Polling House &amp; Garden of Remembrance Park</li> <li>• Solomons Town Center Park</li> <li>• Sunrise Garden</li> </ul>
---	--
  
4. **District Parks** – are designed to serve as large, active recreation hubs in each of Calvert County’s three election districts. These sites provide fields, courts, and associated recreation infrastructure for team and individual sports and recreation activities. There are three district parks in Calvert County:
  - Cove Point Park
  - Dunkirk District Park
  - Hallowing Point Park



5. **Regional Parks** – are designed to serve the needs of a large portion of the County and provide developed recreation facilities, such as sports fields and associated infrastructure, and/or preserved natural areas and open spaces. Regional parks are generally larger than 50 acres in size. Calvert County manages one regional park:
  - Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
  
6. **School Recreation Parks** – are the portion of a school or public educational institution available for public recreation use outside of school hours and usage. Limitations on public access and use varies by school site. In 2018, there were 19 school recreation sites in Calvert County including:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal ES &amp; Patuxent Elementary Recreation Area</li> <li>• Beach ES Recreation Area</li> <li>• Calvert ES &amp; Calvert County Schools Recreation Areas</li> <li>• Calvert HS &amp; Career Center Ballfields</li> <li>• Calvert MS Ballfields</li> <li>• Dowell ES Recreation Area</li> <li>• Hunting Creek Annex School Ballfields</li> <li>• Huntingtown ES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingtown HS</li> <li>• Mill Creek MS</li> <li>• Mt. Harmony ES</li> <li>• Mutual ES</li> <li>• Northern MS &amp; HS Ballfields</li> <li>• Patuxent HS</li> <li>• Plum Point ES &amp; MS Ballfields</li> <li>• Saint Leonard ES Recreation Area</li> <li>• Southern MS</li> <li>• Sunderland ES</li> <li>• Windy Hill ES &amp; MS</li> </ul>
---	---
  
7. **Historic/Cultural Area** – land on which the primary recreational activities are dependent on the presence of one or more cultural, historical, or archaeologically significant resources.
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvert Marine Museum</li> <li>• Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum</li> <li>• Cove Point Lighthouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linden</li> <li>• Lore Oyster House</li> <li>• North Beach Bayside History &amp; Nature Center</li> </ul>
---	--
  
8. **Special Use Areas** – these sites serve a specific, single purpose. Examples include golf courses or boat ramps. There are 19 special use areas in Calvert County including:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breezy Point Beach &amp; Campground</li> <li>• Calvert County Fairgrounds</li> <li>• Calvert Pines Senior Center</li> <li>• Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park</li> <li>• Chesapeake Beach Waterpark</li> <li>• Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail</li> <li>• Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</li> <li>• Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center</li> <li>• Hallowing Point Research Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hutchins Pond</li> <li>• Lower Marlboro Wharf</li> <li>• Mt. Hope Community Center</li> <li>• Nan’s Cove Pier</li> <li>• North Beach Waterfront Park &amp; Boardwalk</li> <li>• Northeast Community Center</li> <li>• Solomons Boat Ramp &amp; Fishing Pier</li> <li>• Solomons Waterfront Park</li> <li>• Southern Community Center</li> </ul>
--	--
  
9. **Open Space/Natural Resource Lands** – these areas preserve natural systems, unique landscapes, and/or local areas of unique social or ecological value. These areas offer outdoor



recreation opportunities compatible with the natural landscape, cultural heritage, and ecological values of the site.

- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
- Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- Fishing Creek Park
- Flag Ponds Nature Park
- Goldstein Property
- Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands
- Walton Beach Nature Preserve
- Wetlands Overlook Park
- American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center
- Fowler Road Open Space
- Port Republic School House
- King's Landing Park Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
- Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- Fishing Creek Park
- Flag Ponds Nature Park
- Goldstein Property
- Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands
- Walton Beach Nature Preserve
- Wetlands Overlook Park
- American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center
- Fowler Road Open Space
- Port Republic School House
- King's Landing Park

A detailed inventory of all public parks, recreation sites, and open spaces in Calvert County is included in **Appendix D**.

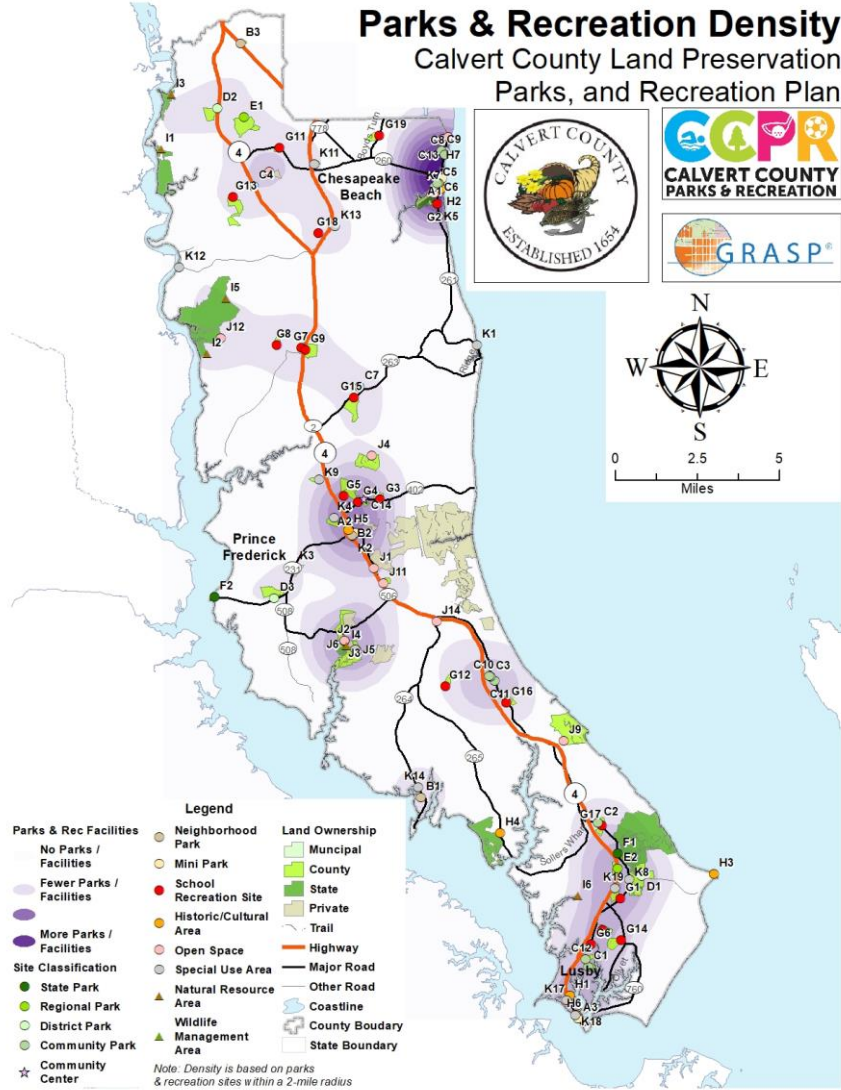
#### **Distribution of Parks, Recreation Sites, and Open Space Assets (Drive-Time Proximity Analysis)**

Public parks and recreation assets are located throughout Calvert County. The distribution of these community amenities should ideally provide residents living in all parts of the county with access to recreation opportunities close to where they live. County staff and stakeholders who participated in the planning process identified reliance on the automobile to travel from home to parks and other public recreation amenities. Although they expect to drive to access most community amenities, participants ideally desired to drive less than 5 minutes to access a recreation amenity but were generally willing to travel up to 15 minutes to access recreation opportunities.

As illustrated in **Map x**, public parks, open spaces, and recreation sites are clustered in their highest density around North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, Lusby, and Prince Frederick. Most other sites are loosely grouped along the Route 4 corridor.



Map x: Density of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Sites in Calvert County

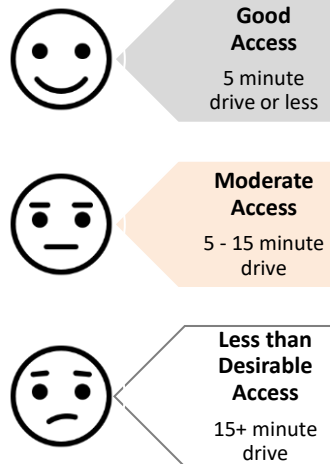


Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation

The following maps illustrate the distribution of public parks, recreation sites, and open spaces in Calvert County, and focus on identifying sites with specific, popular recreation amenities, as well as 5-minute and 15-minute drive-time areas to these sites. Areas illustrated within a 5-minute driving distance of sites are considered to have good access to sites with specified recreation amenities being studied. Areas located within between 5 and 15 minutes of drive time from a park are considered to have moderate access to sites with specified amenities being studied. The amenities at park sites in Calvert County selected for study include those with athletic fields, sport courts, picnic opportunities, trails, historic and cultural sites, indoor facilities like community centers, and sites with public water access. These amenity types are consistent with those studied in the previous Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan and the latest DNR LPRP guidelines.

Based on the drive time analysis, residents throughout the county have generally good access to recreation sites. In the case off all of the analysis for the various recreation opportunities, each showed at least 80% of access within a 15-minute drive. When school facilities are included in the access analysis, athletic fields and sports courts showed the greatest access opportunities within a 5-minute drive. While historic/cultural opportunities and trial access have less access at this shorter drive time. The more highly populated areas of Prince Frederick, Chesapeake Beach, and Lusby tend to include higher densities of existing recreation sites than less densely populated areas of the county. This study helps identify potential challenges with access to certain amenities throughout the county. Highlighted as part of this update, the percentage of populations by drive-time have been added to each map analysis. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Equity Analysis tool may also offer some additional insight into equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities.

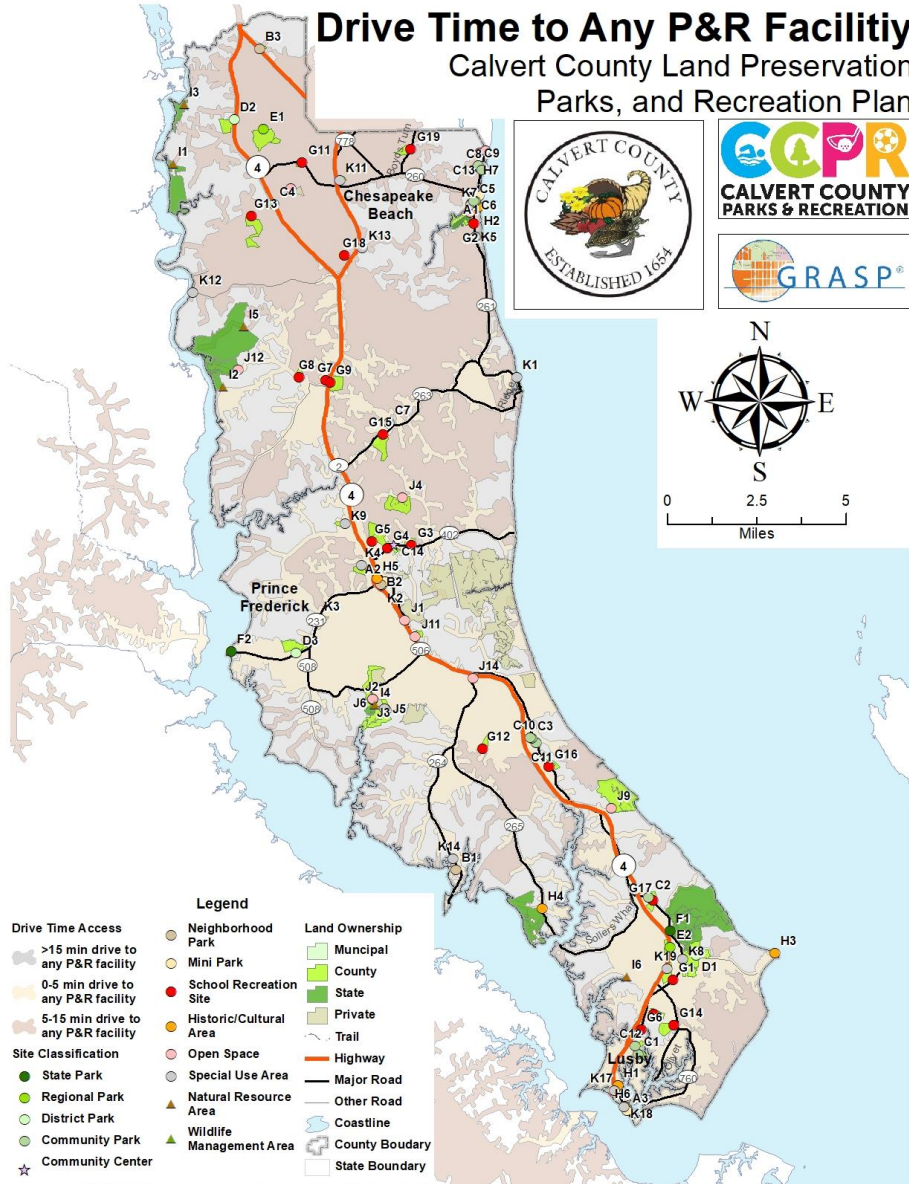
While informative, GIS-based proximity analysis should not be considered a complete measure of park access. The proximity analysis included in this plan provides a snapshot of distribution of parks and specified recreation amenities throughout the county, which is generally good. However, despite a favorable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



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



Map x: Drive-time to any Public Parks and Recreation Sites in Calvert County



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation



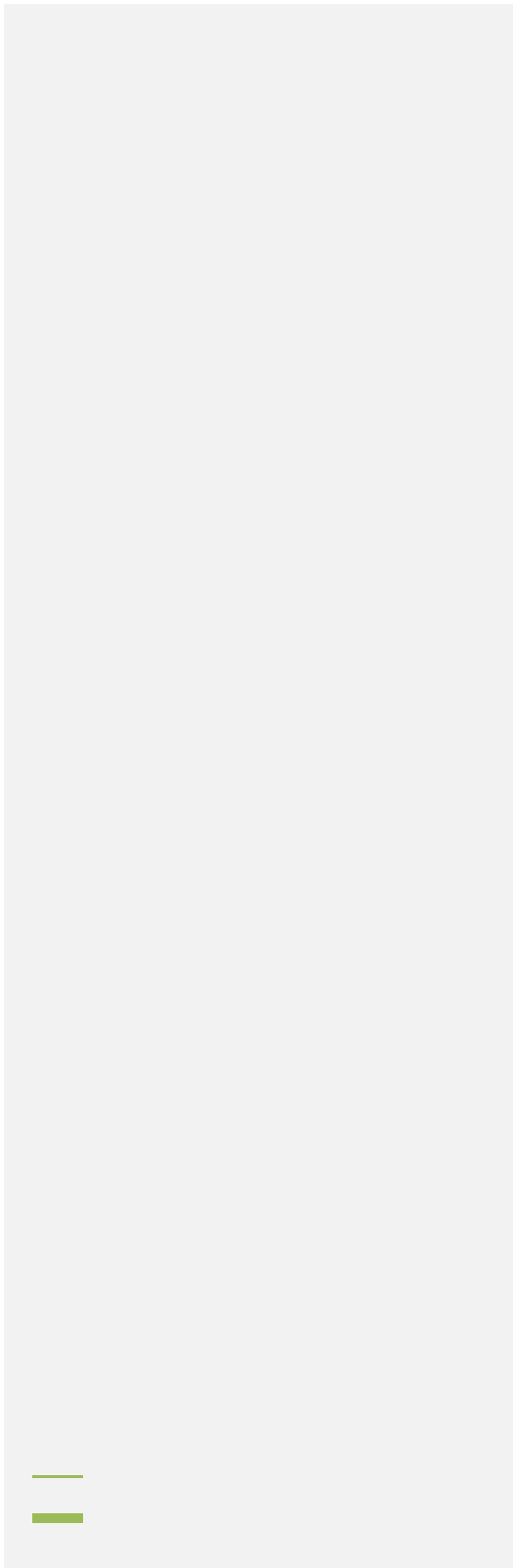
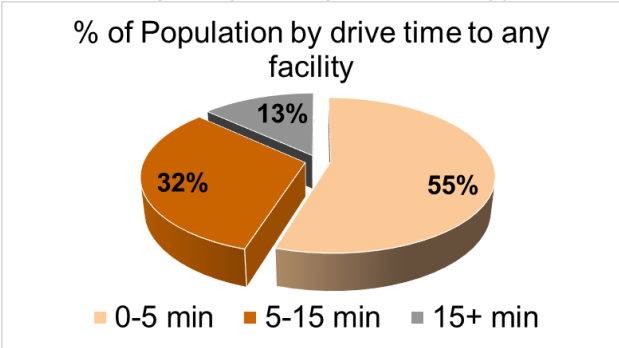
	<b>Parks</b>	
	<u>Mini Park</u>	
A2	Calvert County Courthouse Green	
A1	Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park	
A3	Solomons Mini Park & Comfort Station	
	<u>Neighborhood</u>	
B1	Broomes Island Community Center	
B2	King Memorial Park & Phillips House	
B3	Twin Shields Recreation Area	
	<u>Community</u>	
C2	BG&E Field	
C3	Dowell House Community Center	
C4	Fairview Community Center & Library	
C5	Kellam's Park Boat Ramps	
C6	Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park	
C7	Marley Run Recreation Area	
C8	North Beach Callis Park	
C9	North Beach Community Center	
C11	Saint Leonard Polling House	
C10	Saint Leonard Recreation Area	
C12	Solomons Town Center Park	
C13	Sunrise Garden	
	<u>District</u>	
D1	Cove Point Park	
D2	Dunkirk District Park	
D3	Hallowing Point Park	
	<u>Regional</u>	
E2	Dominion Energy Regional Park	
E1	Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park	
	<u>State</u>	
F1	Calvert Cliffs State Park	
F2	Hallowing Point Boat Ramp & Research Center	
	<b>School Recreation Site</b>	
G1	Appeal Elementary School Recreation Area	
G2	Beach Elementary School Recreation Area	
G3	Calvert Country School Recreation Area	
G4	Calvert High School & Career Center Ballfields	
G5	Calvert Middle School Recreation Area	
G6	Dowell Elementary School Recreation Area	
G7	Hunting Creek Annex	
G8	Huntingtown Elementary School Recreation Area	
G9	Huntingtown High School Recreation Area	
G10	Mill Creek Middle School Recreation Area	
G11	Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area	
G12	Mutual Elementary School Recreation Area	
G13	Northern Middle & High School Ballfields	
G14	Patuxent High School Ballfields	
G15	Plum Point Elementary & Middle School Ballfields	
G16	Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area	
G17	Southern Middle School Recreation Area	
G18	Sunderland Elementary School Recreation Area	
G19	Windy Hill Middle School Recreation Area	

	<b>Historic/Cultural</b>	
H7	Bayside History Museum	
H1	Calvert Marine Museum	
H2	Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum	
H3	Cove Point Lighthouse	
H6	J.C Lore & Sons Oyster House Museum	
H4	Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum	
H5	Linden	
	<b>Open Space</b>	
J1	American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA	
J2	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp	
J3	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center	
J4	Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm	
J5	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	
J6	Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center	
J7	Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands	
J8	Fishing Creek Park	
J9	Flag Ponds Nature Park	
J10	Fowler Road Open Space	
J11	Goldstein Property	
J12	King's Landing Park	
J14	Port Republic School House	
J15	Walton Beach Nature Preserve	
J16	Wetlands Overlook Park	
	<b>Special Use Area</b>	
K1	Breezy Point Beach & Campground	
K2	Calvert County Community Resources	
K3	Calvert County Fairgrounds	
K4	Calvert Pines Senior Center	
K5	Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park	
K7	Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail	
K6	Chesapeake Beach Waterpark	
K8	Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	
K9	Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center	
K20	Grays Road Dog Park	
K11	Hutchins' Fishing Pond	
K12	Lower Marlboro Wharf	
K13	Mt. Hope Community Center	
K14	Nans Cove Canoe/Kayak Launch	
K15	North Beach Waterfront Park & Boardwalk	
K16	Northeast Community Center	
K17	Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier	
K18	Solomons Waterfront Park	
K19	Southern Community Center	
	<b>Natural Resource Management</b>	
I4	Gatewood Preserve	
I1	Hall Creek Natural Resource Management Area	
I6	Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve	
I5	Huntingtown NRMA	
I2	King's Landing Natural Resource Management Area	
I3	Merkle Natural Resources Management Area	

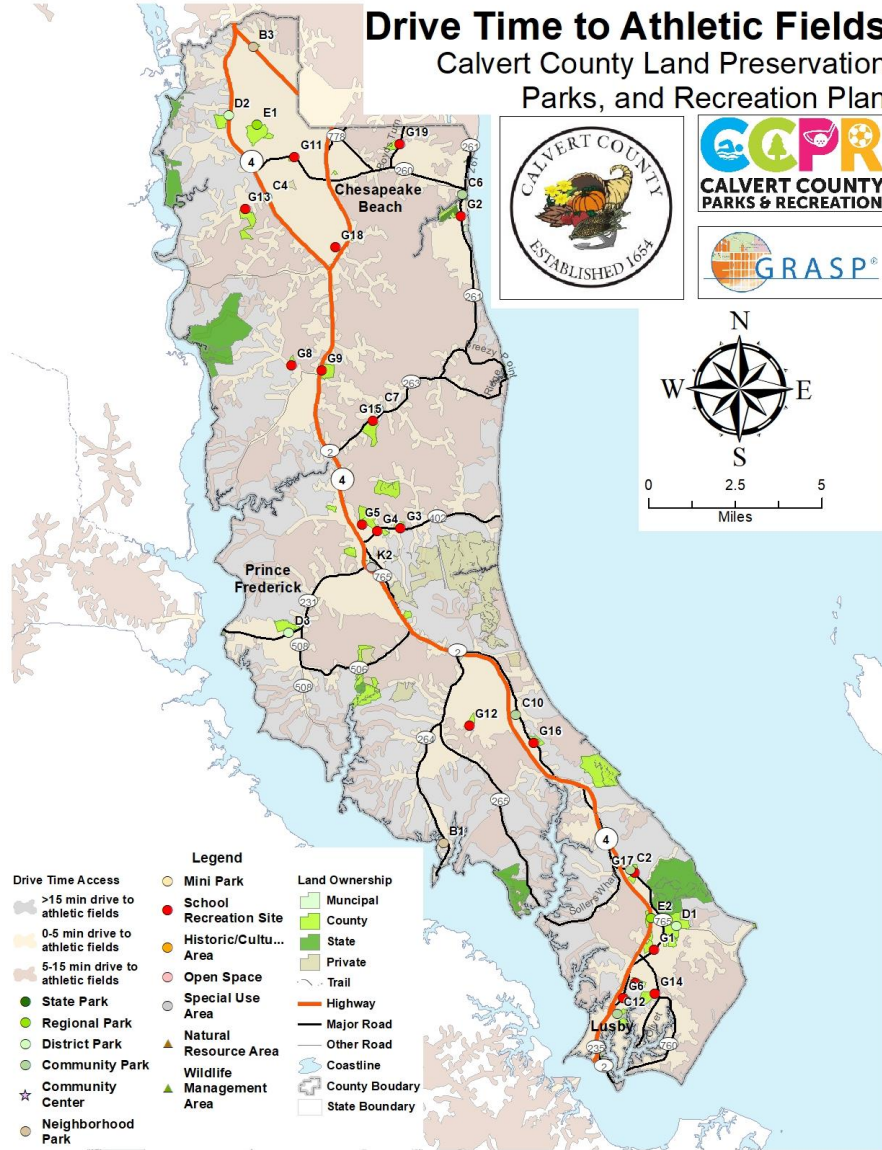


As noted in the following chart 87% of residents live within a 15 min drive of a public park and recreation opportunity.

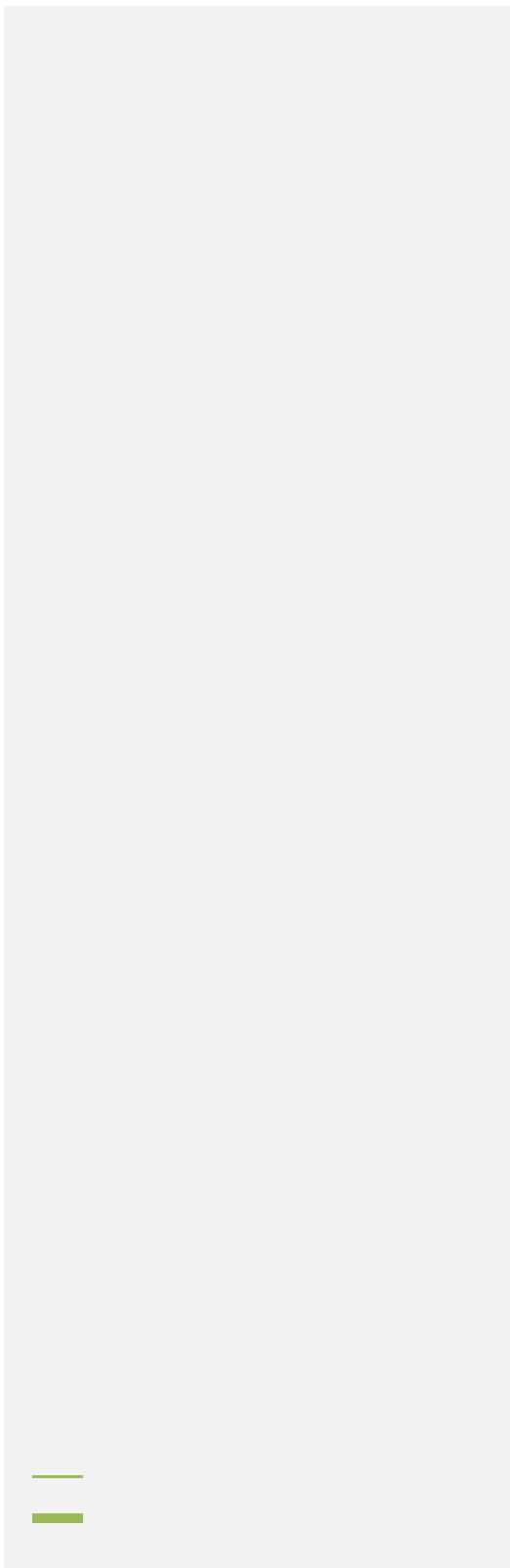
**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to any park and recreation facility or opportunity**



Map 2: Driving Distance to Sites with Athletic Fields (Diamonds and Rectangles)



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation



From most points within the county, there is at least one public park or recreation facility with athletic fields within a 15-minute drive, as illustrated in the gray shaded areas on **Map x**. As of 2022, there were over thirty sites in Calvert County with publicly accessible athletic fields including:

**Neighborhood**

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

**Community**

- C4 Fairview Community Center & Library
- C7 Marley Run Recreation Area
- C10 Saint Leonard Recreation Area
- C2 BG&E Field
- C12 Solomons Town Center Park
- C6 Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park

**District**

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

**Regional**

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

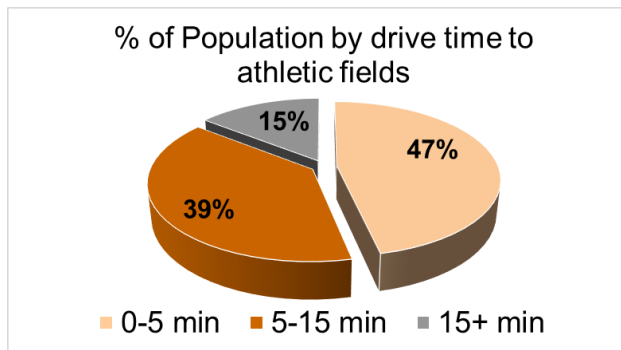
**School Recreation Site**

- G16 Saint Leonard Elementary School Recreation Area
- G11 Mt. Harmony Elementary School Recreation Area

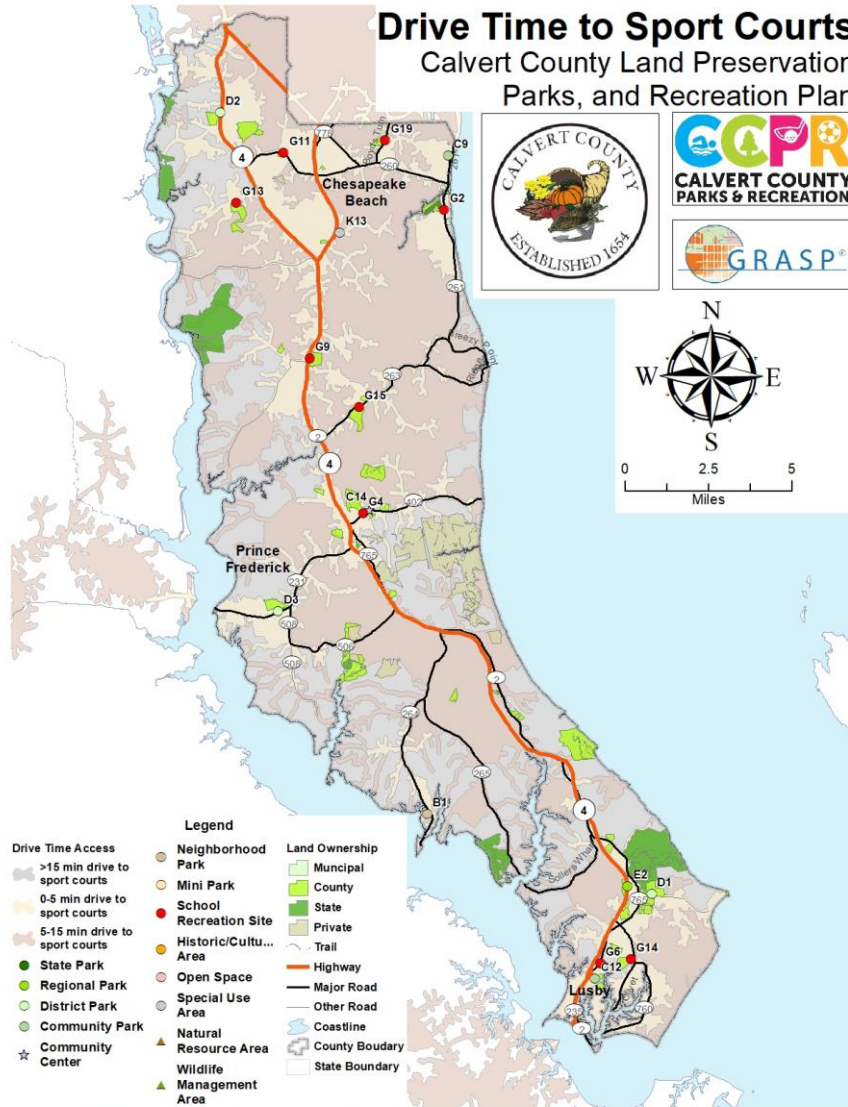
**Parks**

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

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to athletic fields**



Map 3: Driving Distance to Sites with Sport Courts (Basketball, Tennis, and Pickleball)



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

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

**Parks**

***Community***

C14 Harriet E. Brown Community Center

C9 North Beach Community Center

C12 Solomons Town Center Park

***District***

D3 Hallowing Point Park

D1 Cove Point Park

D2 Dunkirk District Park

***Neighborhood***

B1 Broomes Island Community Center

***Regional***

E2 Dominion Energy Regional Park

***School Recreation Areas***

G11 Mt. Harmony Elementary School

Recreation Area

G13 Northern Middle & High School

Ballfields

G19 Windy Hill Middle School Recreation

Area

G2 Beach Elementary School Recreation

Area

G9 Huntingtown High School Recreation

Area

G4 Calvert High School & Career Center

Ballfields

G14 Patuxent High School Ballfields

G6 Dowell Elementary School Recreation

Area

G15 Plum Point Elementary & Middle School

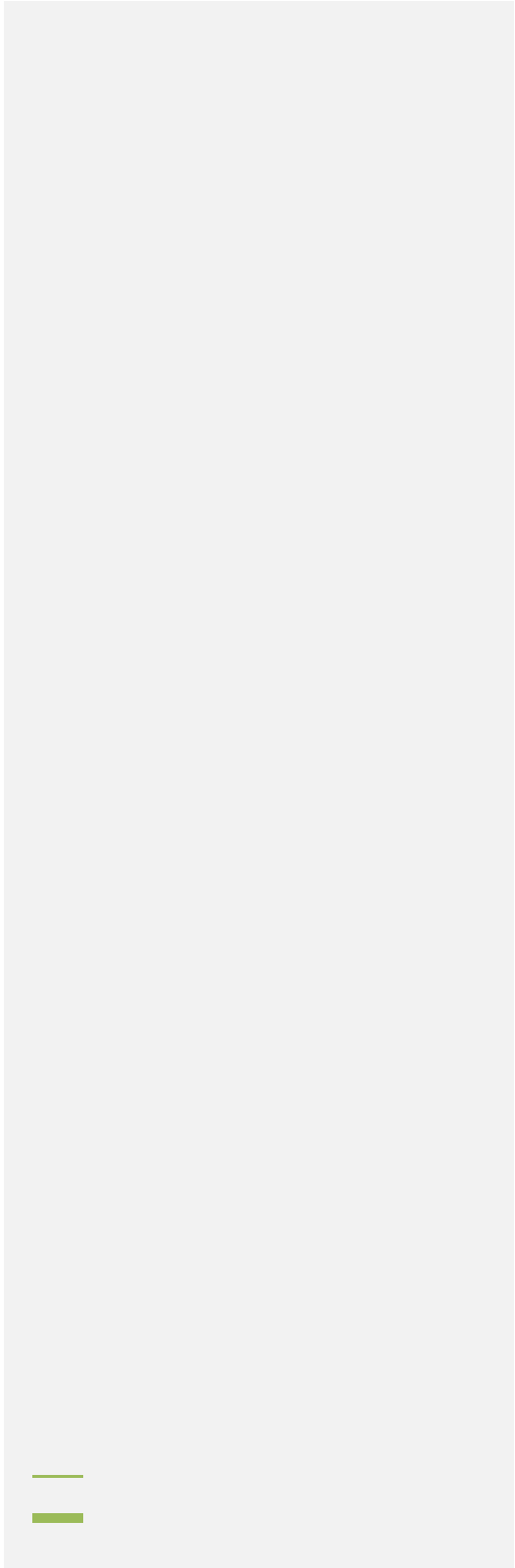
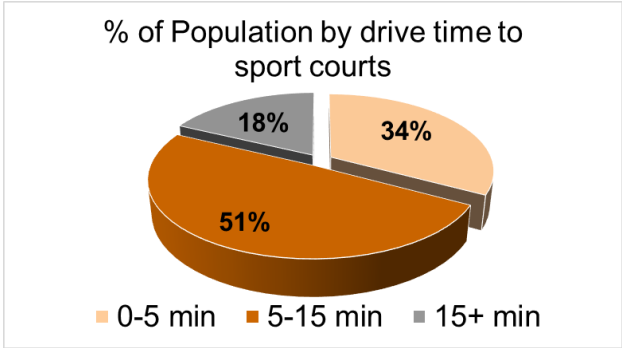
Ballfields

***Special Use Area***

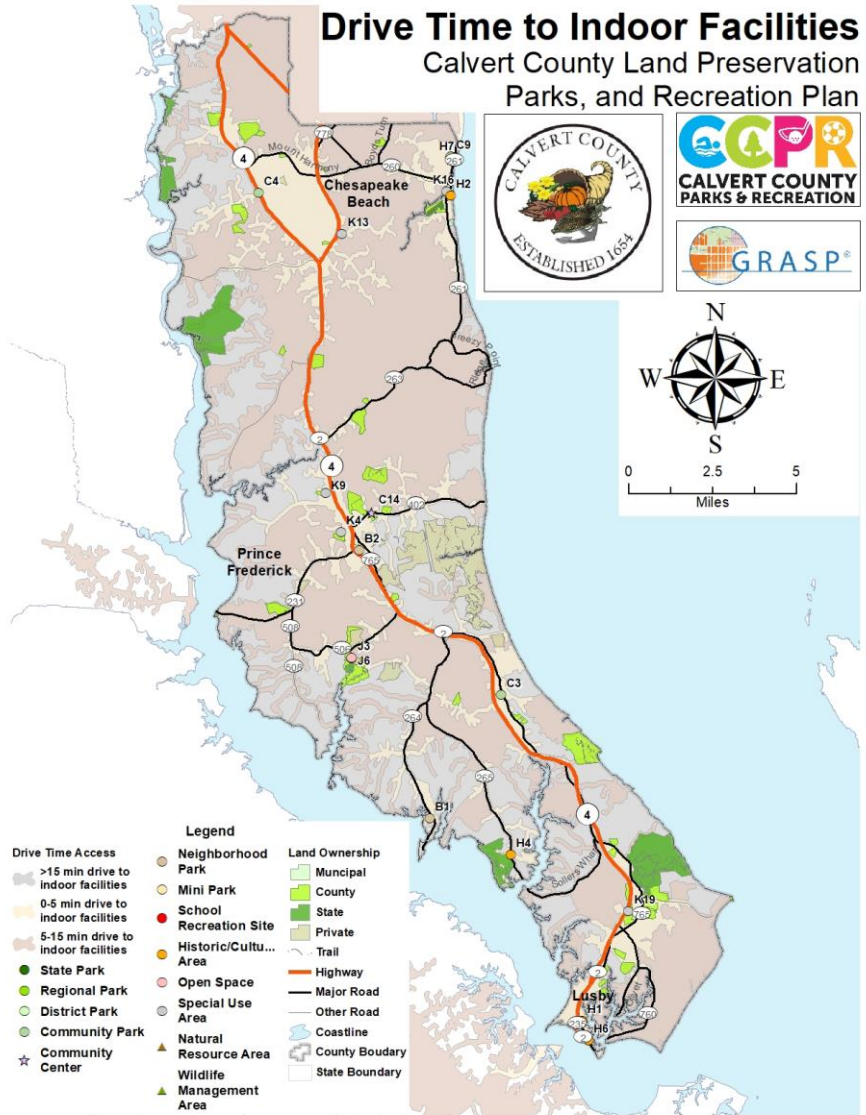
K13 Mt. Hope Community Center



Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to sport courts



Map x: Driving Distance to Sites with Indoor Facilities



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation



Indoor facilities primarily consist of community centers. Also included in this analysis are museums and nature centers. See the following list for all included facilities. Approximately 87% of residents are within a 15-min drive of an indoor facility. 13% (unshaded areas on **Map x**) were further than a 15-minute drive from an indoor site

**Indoor Facilities**

**Community Centers & Senior Center**

- C14** *Harriet E. Brown Community Center*
- C3** *Dowell House Community Center*
- C4** *Fairview Community Center & Library*
- C9** *North Beach Community Center*
- B1** *Broomes Island Community Center*
- K13** *Mt. Hope Community Center*
- K16** *Northeast Community Center*
- K19** *Southern Community Center*
- K4** *Calvert Pines Senior Center*

**Historic/Cultural**

- H7** *Bayside History Museum*
- H1** *Calvert Marine Museum*
- H2** *Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum*
- H4** *Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum*
- H6** *J.C Lore & Sons Oyster House Museum*
- B2** *King Memorial Park & Phillips House*

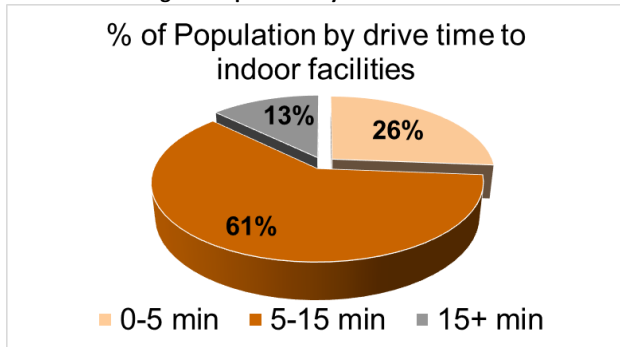
**Aquatic Centers**

- K9** *Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center*

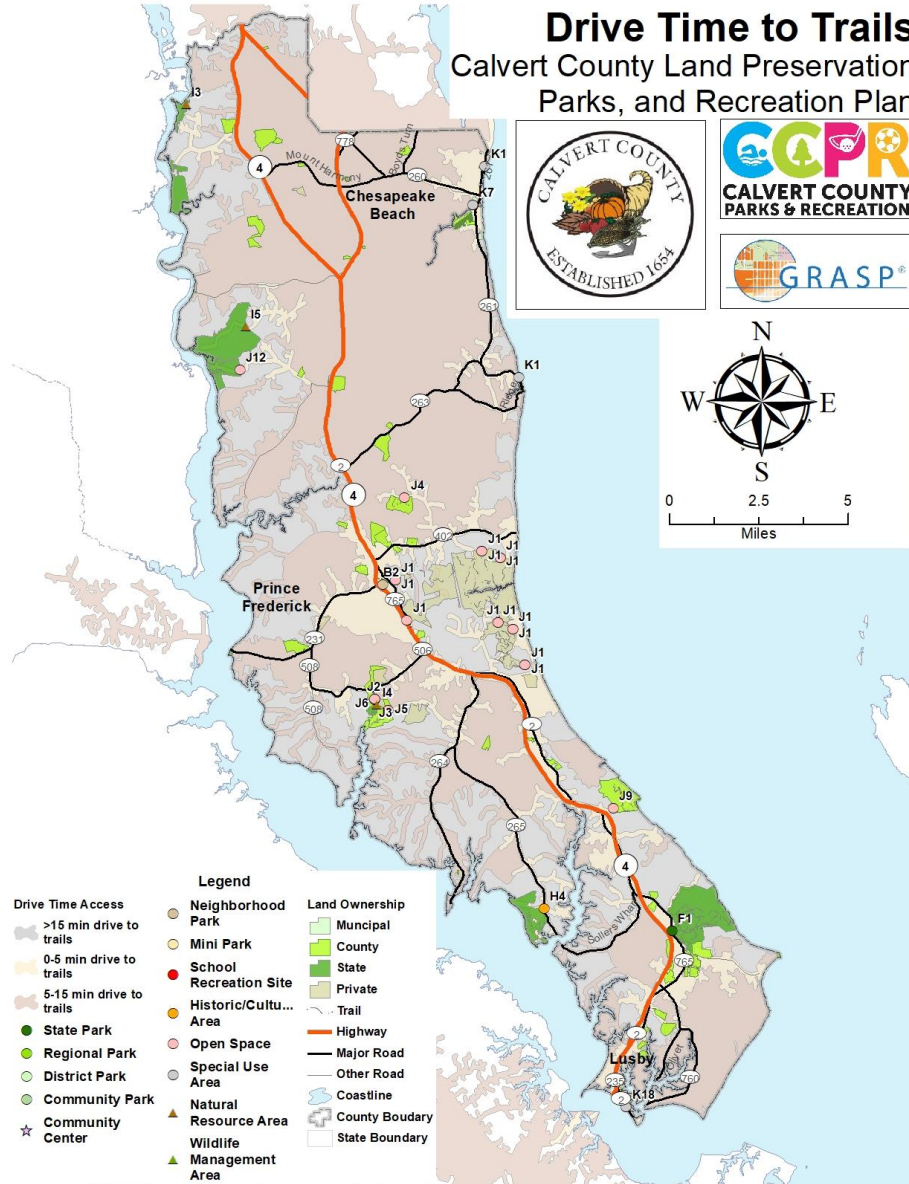
**Nature Centers**

- J6** *Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center*
- J3** *Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center*

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to indoor facilities**



Map x: Driving Distance to Sites with Trails



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

At least 19 parks, recreation, or open space sites within the county include designated trails or trail systems that are available for public use. Individual trail maps for several of these properties are available online. These sites are distributed throughout the Calvert County, with most being in the central and southern portions of the peninsula. Parks, open space areas, and recreation sites in Calvert County with trails included:

**Neighborhood Park**

**B2 King Memorial Park & Phillips House**

**Community Park**

C1 – Annmarie Gardens

**State Park**

F1 Calvert Cliffs State Park

**Historic/Cultural**

H4 Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

**Natural Resource Management Area**

I3 Merkle Natural Resources Management Area

I4 Gatewood Preserve

I5 Huntingtown NRMA

**Open Space**

J6 Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center

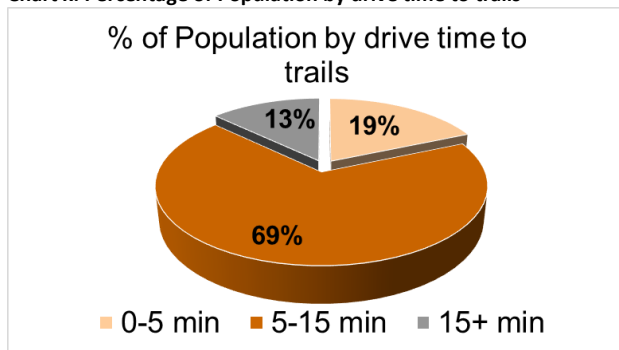
- J4 Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
- J1 American Chestnut Land Trust - Parkers Creek WMA
- J3 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
- J2 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- J5 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- J9 Flag Ponds Nature Park
- J12 King's Landing Park

**Special Use Area**

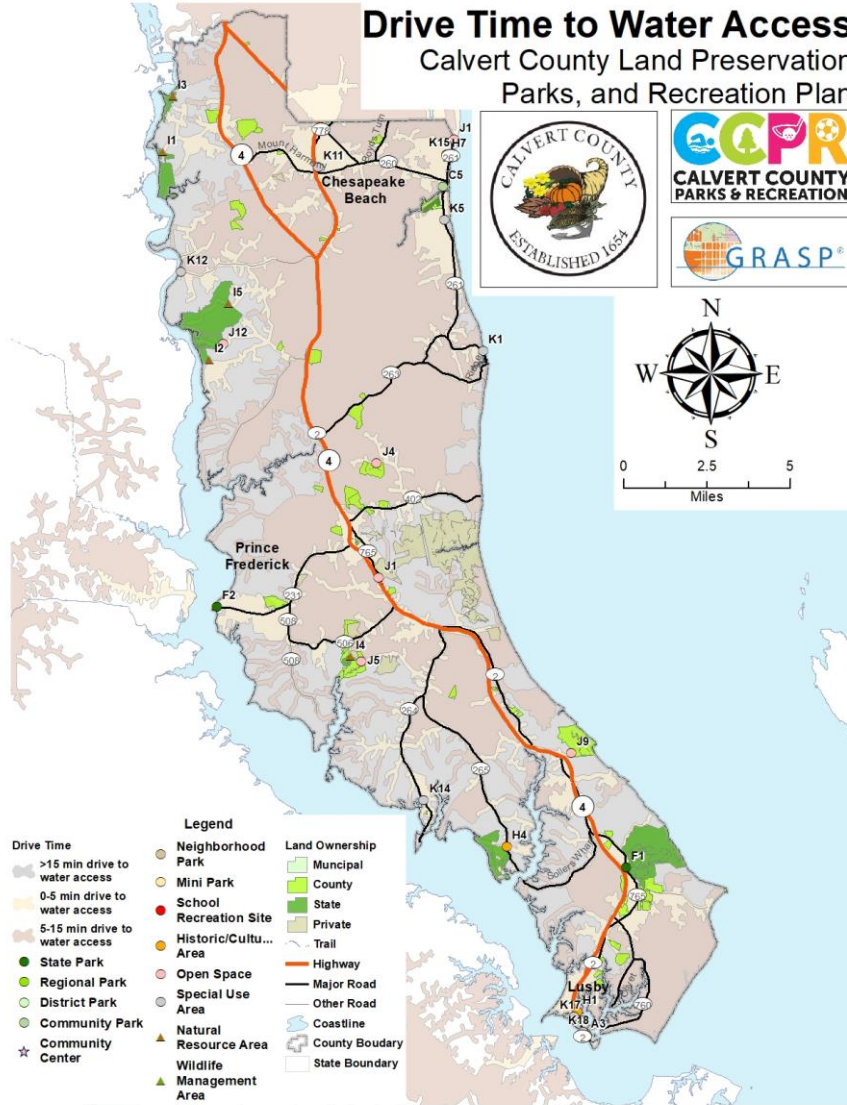
- K15 North Beach Waterfront Park & Boardwalk
- K1 Breezy Point Beach & Campground
- K18 Solomons Waterfront Park
- K7 Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail

It should be noted that although Calvert Cliffs State Park includes several miles of trails, it is illustrated as being greater than a 215-minute drive. The Park is bordered by major power generating facilities to the north and south, and as a result is largely isolated from residential development and public roads, and generally not as quickly accessible as other sites with trails. 87% of residents are within a 15-min drive of a trail opportunity.

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to trails**



Map 4: Driving Distance to Sites with Water Access



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

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

**Parks**

**Mini Park**

A3 – Solomons Mini-Park & Comfort Station

**Community**

C5 – Kellam's Park Boat Ramps

**State**

F1 – Calvert Cliffs State Park

F2 – Hallowing Point Boat Ramp

**Historic/Cultural**

H7 – Bayside History Museum

H1 – Calvert Marine Museum

H4 – Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

**Natural Resource Management Area**

I1 – Hall Creek NRMA

I2 – Kings Landing NRMA

I3 – Merkle NRMA

**Open Space**

J4 – Bennett Hughes Memorial Tree Farm

J9 – Flag Ponds Park

J12 – Kings Landing Park

J13 – Parker Creek Heritage Conservation Fund  
Site

**Special Use Area**

K5 – Chesapeake Beach Bayfront Park

K11 – Hutchins Pond

K12 – Lower Marlboro Wharf

K14 – Nan's Cove Pier

K15 – North Beach Waterfront Park &  
Boardwalk

K17 – Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier

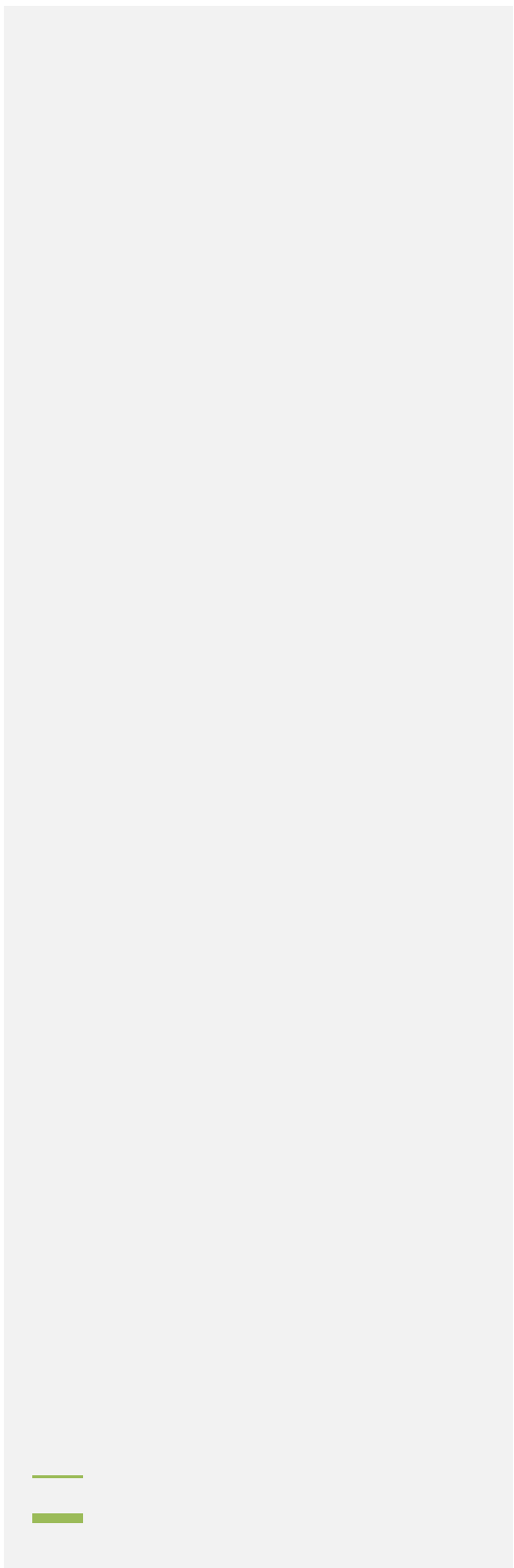
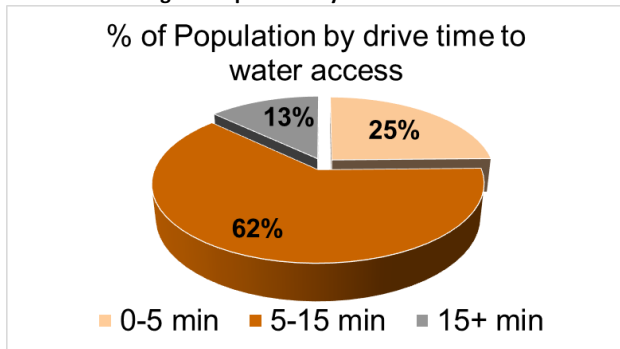
K18 – Solomons Waterfront Park



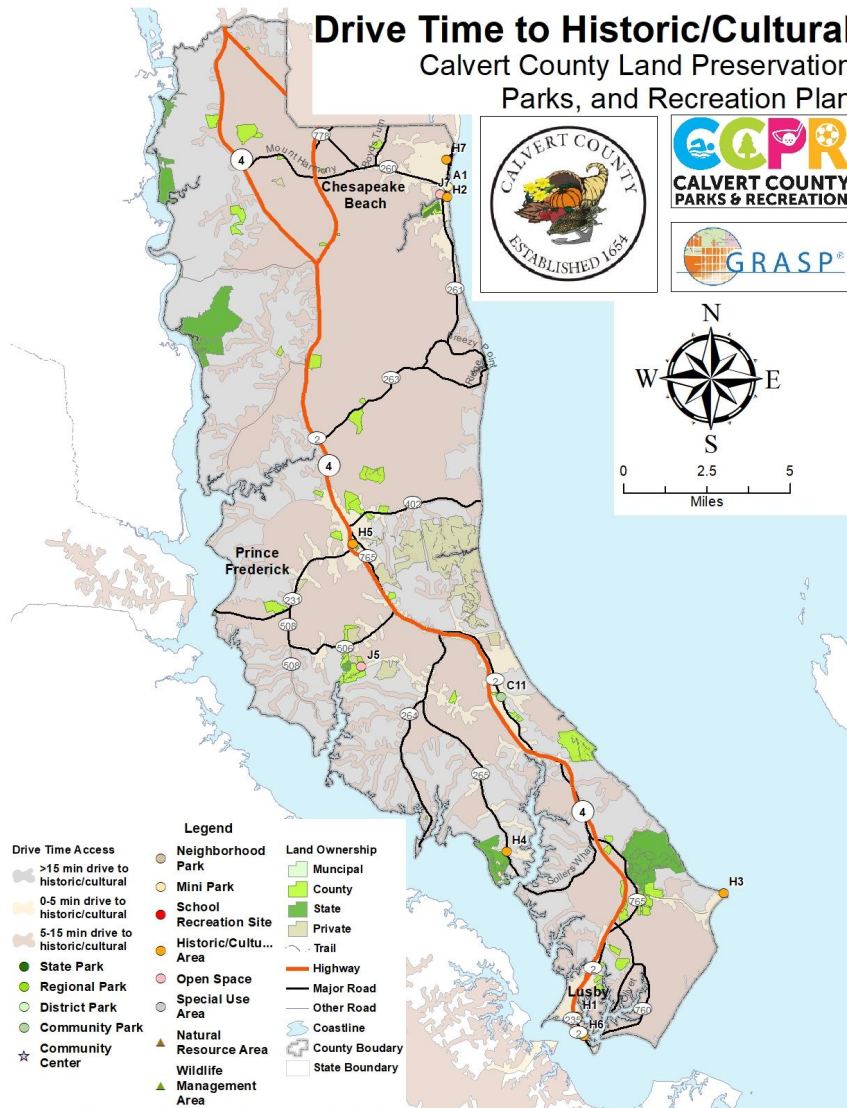
It should be noted that although Calvert Cliffs State Park includes water access, it is illustrated as being greater than a 15-minute drive. This is a result of the site being bordered by major power generating facilities to the north and south, largely isolated from residential development and public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

87% of residents have water access within a 15 minute drive.

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to trails**



Map x: Driving Distance to Sites with Historic and Cultural Opportunities



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

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

**Parks**

**Mini Park**

A1 Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park

**Community**

C11 Saint Leonard Polling House

**State**

F1 – Calvert Cliffs State Park

F2 – Hallowing Point Boat Ramp

**Historic/Cultural**

H7 Bayside History Museum

H1 Calvert Marine Museum

H3 Cove Point Lighthouse

H2 Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

H4 Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

H6 J.C Lore & Sons Oyster House Museum

H5 Linden

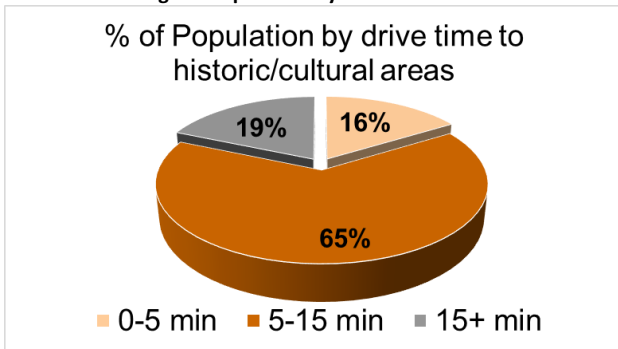
**Open Space**

J7 Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands

J5 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

81% of residents have water access within a 15-minute drive.

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to historic and cultural opportunities**

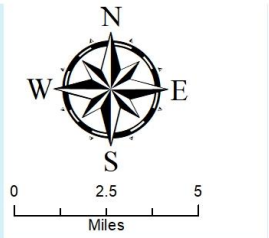
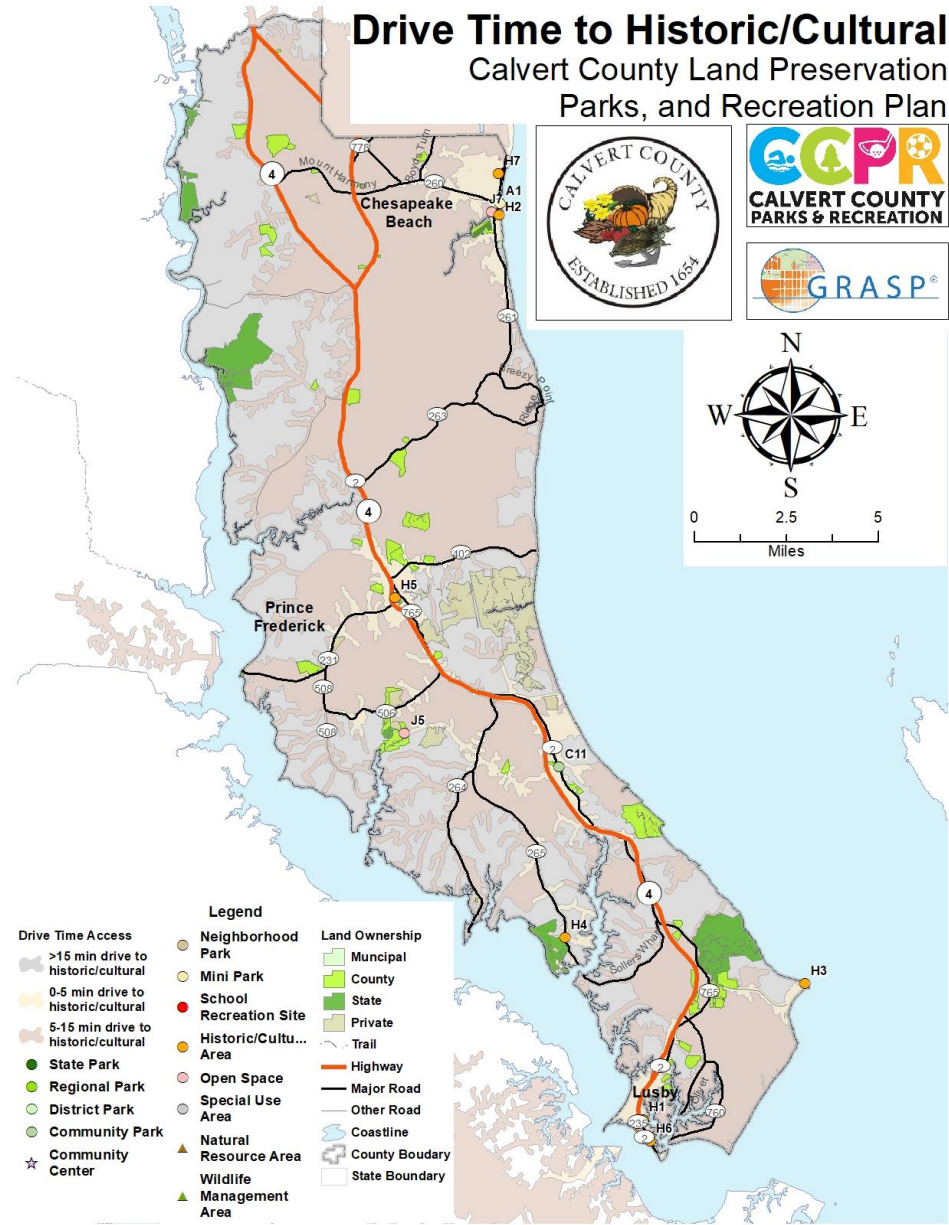




Map x: Driving time to Sites with picnic opportunities

DRAFT

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



Source: GreenPlay LLC and Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation

As illustrated in **Map x**, picnic opportunities are widely distributed across Calvert County. In 2022, nearly twenty sites in the are included in this analysis. Many are museums but others are features located within existing parks or facilities as follows:

**Parks**

**Neighborhood**

B2 King Memorial Park & Phillips House

B1 Broomes Island Community Center

**Community**

C12 Solomons Town Center Park

C6 Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park

**District**

D3 Hallowing Point Park

D1 Cove Point Park

D2 Dunkirk District Park

**State**

F1 – Calvert Cliffs State Park

**Historic/Cultural**

H4 Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

**Natural Resource Management Area**

I4 Gatewood Preserve

**Open Space**

J6 Calvert Nature Society / Bat. Cr. Nat. Ed. Center

J3 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

J5 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

J9 Flag Ponds Nature Park

J12 King's Landing Park

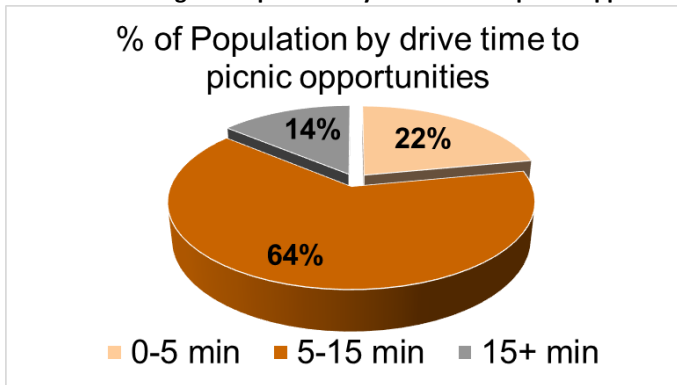
**Special Use Areas**

K6 Chesapeake Beach Waterpark

- K17 Solomons Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier
- K1 Breezy Point Beach & Campground
- K18 Solomons Waterfront Park

86% of residents have picnic opportunities within a 15 minute drive.

**Chart x: Percentage of Population by drive time to picnic opportunities**



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

The Department supports and maintains 40 properties and 22 school recreation parks totaling 2,293.53 acres.



**VISION**

***“The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation strives to enhance the health, economy and well-being of our community through sustainable practices, leisure opportunities and environmental stewardship.”***

*Calvert County Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan July 1, 2020*

## Values

The Department values being able to SERVE. The acronym SERVE means many things, parks while it focuses on the following values:

**Sustainability:** The act of safeguarding people and property, caring for resources, preserving nature and quality of life, economic stability, conservation of our landscapes and wildlife, efficiency in our work and stewardship to the community.

**Engagement:** Being energized about what we do, involved in our community and in improving our work, being positive, motivated to meet the needs of our community and fellow employees, and working collaboratively to find solutions.

**Respect:** Showing appreciation for support, considerate and empathetic to those that need our assistance, cooperative in our daily interactions, and by being perceptive and proactive to a possible need.

**Vision:** The act of being innovative, enthusiastic, forward thinking with a knowledge of the overall mission and vision of the Department.

**Excellence:** Providing quality programs and services, showing integrity in all that we do, taking ownership of the good and the bad, being transparent and accountable for our actions.

Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation is comprised of seven divisions with dedicated responsibilities.



## MISSION

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

*Calvert County Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan July 1, 2020*

The Department's major revenue streams are user fees; ad valorem taxes which fund operation expenditures; excise taxes which fund capital expenditures; and grants. Operating and replacement capital dollars are secured each year as part of the budget. The Department's annual operating budget is approximately \$11.5 million. The Department will continue to ensure that if revenues are not being met, expenses will not be incurred for the service. Expanded facilities and/or programming may be placed on hold until revenue streams meet requirements.

Operating and Personnel The department employs 57 full-time merit and contract term employees as well as 286 hourly, part-time, seasonal, summer employees. This accounts for a full time equivalent (FTE) of 166.4 employees.

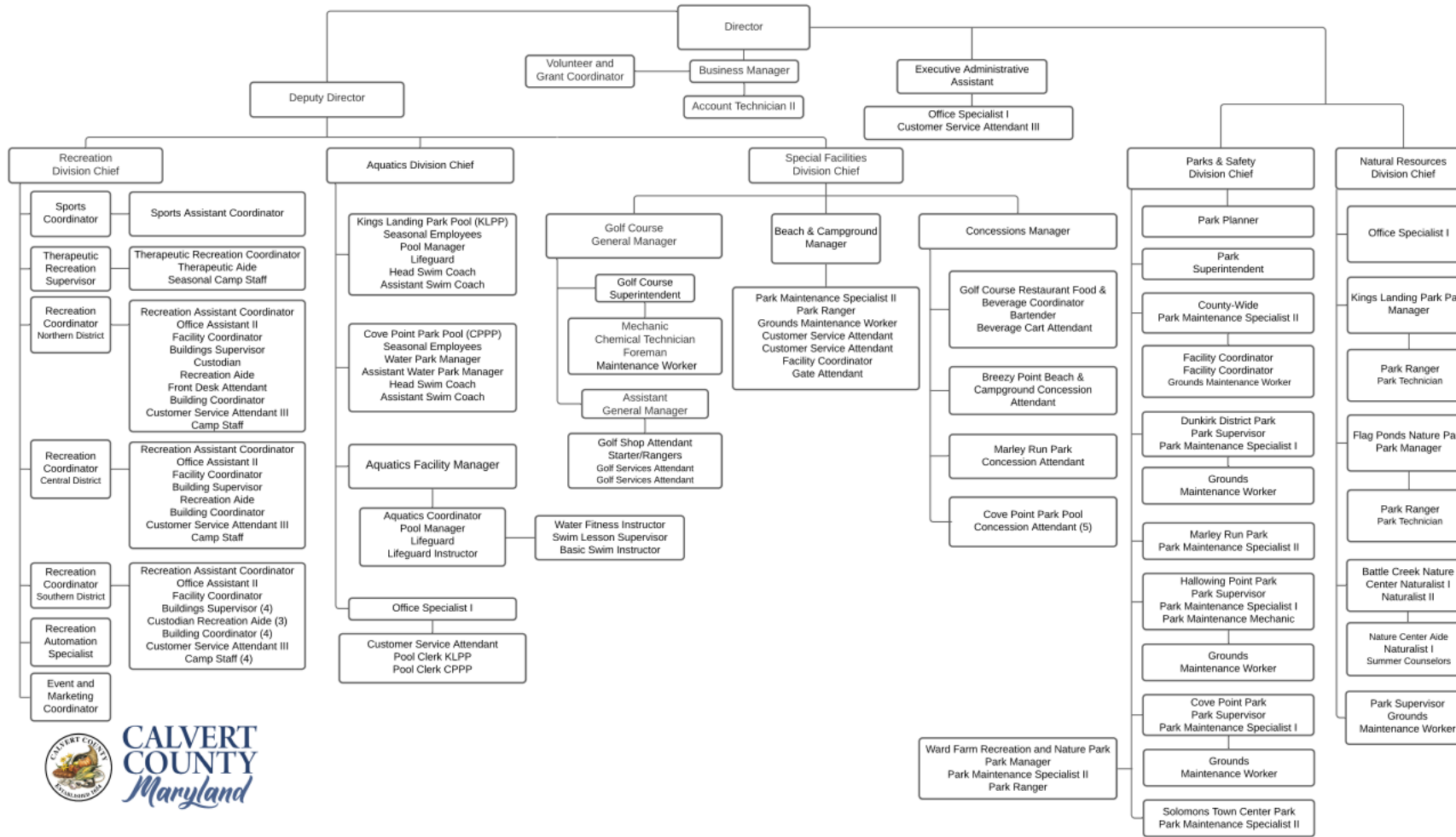
**Organizational (FTE) Staffing Levels**

Parks & Recreation General Fund	75.7
Natural Resources General Fund	14.9
Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund	61.7
Golf Course Special Revenue Fund	14.1

A copy of the Parks and Recreation Department Organizational Chart can be found on the following page.

DRAFT

# Department of Parks & Recreation



## C. Responsibilities and Resources of County Departments

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

**Department of Planning & Zoning** – coordinates all land use planning, managed development review, and application of the zoning ordinance. The Department led the planning and development of the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan.

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

- **Parks and Recreation Division** - focuses on providing facilities, programs, and opportunities for residents and visitors opportunities to engage in facility-based sports, fitness, and recreation activities at "active" recreation parks, community centers, and public-school recreation areas. The Recreation Division consists of the following divisions:
  - Community Center
  - Sports, Community, & Well Being
  - Therapeutic Recreation Services
  - Events & Marketing
- **Natural Resources Division** - preserve, manage and operate the natural resource areas for the purpose of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. Areas/Sites managed: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Nan's Cove, Solomons' Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, Hughes Tree Farm, Hutchins Pond, Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, and Gatewood Preserve.
- **Parks Safety Division** – manages and operates all active park facilities to include 3 district parks, 12 2 satellite parks, 48 multi-use fields and maintain 22 Board of Education fields at 11 facilities, 9 Basketball Courts, 14 Tennis Courts, 12 Playgrounds, 1 Skate Park, 3 Dog Parks, 12 Picnic/Pavilion areas, 18 Pickleball Courts. Parks & Safety also leads in safety protocol and standard operating procedures and sees to the Department's capital projects and planning.
- **Special Facilities Division** - manages and operates the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Breezy Point Beach & Campground and all concession operations within the Department.



- **Aquatics Division** - manages and operates the county's only indoor aquatic facility, the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center and two seasonal outdoor facilities.
- **Parks and Recreation Board** – this nine-member board is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners with the mission to aid and advise the Parks and Recreation Division in the provision of recreational facilities and programs and the establishment of policy for the operation of the same.
- **Department of Community Resources – Office of Aging** – operates senior centers and provides recreation, education, leisure, and volunteer opportunities for senior citizens throughout the county. The Commission on Aging, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, serves an advisory role to the Office of Aging.

### Partnerships

The work of Calvert County to provide public recreation opportunities, and engagement with nature is supported through partnerships with public and private organizations and assistance from citizen volunteers. Calvert County's parks and recreation programming is heavily supported by the work of approximately 600 volunteers annually. Natural resources programming is largely dependent on support provided through strategic partnerships with local and regional non-profit organizations. The Calvert Nature Society, a 501(c)(3)

organization, was established specifically to support the county's Natural Resources Division. In addition to programming, the Society raises funds through membership and program fees, donations, and securing of grants. Additional partners of the Natural Resources Division include:

- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Cove Point Heritage Trust
- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- George Mason University
- Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership
- Patuxent River Commission
- Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Prince George County
- NRPA-Pollinator and Sustainability Panel
- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program-Watershed Stewards Academy
- Maryland Historical Trust
- Soil Conservation District
- Maryland Cooperative Extension
- Maryland Forest Service

#### **Calvert Nature Society**

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



- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Dominion Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- Calvert County Forestry Board
- Calvert K-9 Search and Rescue
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Southern Maryland Audubon
- U.S. Department of the Navy Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration)
- Natural History Society of Maryland
- Private land owners (countywide)

### Budgets and Funding for County Parks and Recreation Assets

The operation and maintenance of county parks and recreation facilities is primarily managed by the Department of Parks & Recreation.

### Operating Funds

#### Parks and Recreation Fund

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

### OPERATING BUDGET

Parks & Recreation Self-Sustaining Fund	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Program Revenue	\$ 643,292	\$ 856,147	\$ 841,026	\$ 841,026	\$ 841,026
Rents & Concessions	148,168	248,888	237,000	237,000	237,000
Camping	276,530	280,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
General Admission	534,999	760,057	760,057	760,057	760,057
Passes	159,960	198,000	197,500	197,500	197,500
Misc. Income	12,803	17,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
General Fund Contribution	953,128	1,693,707	1,605,592	1,605,592	1,706,704
Use of Prior Year Fund Balance		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,728,880</b>	<b>\$ 4,053,799</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,175</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,175</b>	<b>\$ 4,156,287</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries	\$ 1,339,334	\$ 1,997,679	\$ 2,060,751	\$ 2,060,751	\$ 2,147,920
Benefits	257,413	438,419	373,457	373,457	406,667
Operating	347,934	571,551	561,526	561,526	554,997
Utilities	324,055	345,400	359,325	359,325	348,200
Food	27,970	52,500	50,000	50,000	50,000
Self Sustained Programs	232,835	306,100	306,100	306,100	306,100
Contracted Services	135,401	206,200	207,500	207,500	207,500
Contingency	28,448	125,000	125,000	125,000	123,387
Capital Outlay	37,090	10,950	11,516	11,516	11,516
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,730,480</b>	<b>\$ 4,053,799</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,175</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,175</b>	<b>\$ 4,156,287</b>

**STAFFING**

Parks & Recreation Self-Sustaining Fund	Level	FY2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
TOTAL		61.67	61.67	61.67	61.67

DRAFT

**Golf Course Fund**

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

**OPERATING BUDGET**

Golf Course Fund	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Charges for Services	\$ 663,963	\$ 703,000	\$ 662,100	\$ 662,100	\$ 662,000
Other Revenue	49,399	100	41,000	41,000	41,100
General Fund Revenue	356,176	549,982	479,633	479,633	497,116
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,069,538</b>	<b>\$ 1,253,082</b>	<b>\$ 1,182,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,182,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,216</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries	\$ 519,230	\$ 540,116	\$ 538,713	\$ 538,713	\$ 550,870
Benefits	177,584	193,906	196,760	196,760	202,086
Operating	343,507	364,560	378,760	378,760	378,760
Capital Outlay	-	86,000	-	-	-
Contracted Services	1,230	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500
Contingency	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,551</b>	<b>\$ 1,253,082</b>	<b>\$ 1,182,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,182,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,200,216</b>

**STAFFING**

Golf Course	Level	FY2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
Special Facilities Division Chief	Contract	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Golf Course General Manager	725	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Business Manager	725	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Golf Course Superintendent	723	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Golf Course Assistant General Manager	723	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Concessions Manager	721	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Chemical Technician	716	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Golf Course Maintenance Mechanic (Hourly)	H14	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Golf Course Maintenance Foreman (Hourly)	H10	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Golf Course Food and Beverage Coord. (Hourly)	H10	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Golf Shop Attendant I (Hourly)	H06	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Golf Course Maintenance Worker (Seasonal)	H05	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Golf Course Starter/Ranger (Hourly)	H02	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Outside Golf Services Attendant (Seasonal)	H02	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Outside Golf Services Attendant (Hourly)	H02	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Bartender (Hourly)	H02	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Beverage Cart Attendant (Seasonal)	H01	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14.10</b>	<b>14.10</b>	<b>14.10</b>	<b>14.10</b>

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

**Operating Funds –Natural Resources Division**

Funding for the general operations and maintenance of county owned natural resources facilities approved for FY2022 totaled \$1,063,932. As illustrated in **Table 4**, most of the budget was dedicated to the salaries of staff who directly provide and support the public parks, natural resources, and programs

that tens of thousands of residents utilize on an annual basis. The Division's FY2021 budget and expenses are noted in **Table 5**.

**Natural Resources Division**

Preserve, manage and operate the natural resource areas for the purpose of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. Areas/Sites managed: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Nan's Cove, Solomons' Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, Hughes Tree Farm, Hutchins Pond, Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, and Gatewood Preserve.

**OPERATING BUDGET**

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

**STAFFING**

	Level	FY 2021 Adopted Budget	FY 2022 Requested Budget	FY 2022 Recommended Budget	FY 2022 Adopted Budget
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
Natural Resources Division Chief	727	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Naturalist II	724	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Naturalist I	722	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Park Manager	722	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Office Specialist I	718	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Park Supervisor	718	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Naturalist (Hourly)	H15	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Nature Center Aide	H12	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Park Ranger (Hourly)	H12	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Grounds Maintenance Worker (Hourly)	H05	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Park Technician (Hourly)	H05	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80
Summer Co-Op Students	n/a	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14.90</b>	<b>14.90</b>	<b>14.90</b>	<b>14.90</b>

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

It is important to note that the COVID Pandemic impacted revenues overall. Entrance fees were waived from March 2020 through most of FY2021 and all rentals and programs were cancelled from March 2020 through spring 2021. Reduced group size and other precautions resulted in cancellations of most rentals in FY2021.

### The Significance of Program Open Space

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

#### According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space has...

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

Program Open Space – Localside program has been used by Calvert County since the program's inception to match county funds allocated for projects to enhance the local parks and recreation system through the acquisition of land (for open space preservation, expansion of existing preserved land holdings, or for sites for future parks and recreation facilities), renovation and enhancement of existing facilities, or development of new assets. County requests for the use of Localside matching grants are made through annual program requests with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Calvert County's FY2022 Program Open Space Localside Annual Program proposed several dozen projects that support the recreation, parks, and open space-relevant visions, goals, and action plans of the county and state. Projects proposed for funding included a new community center, development of facilities to support water access, facility improvements, enhancement and expansion of trails, acquisition of land to expand existing properties, landscape and natural resource preservation, and to acquire land for the development of new parks and recreation facilities in or near town centers, where population growth is being directed. According to FY 2022 Calvert County Program Open Space Annual Program document the county approved a total of \$3,503,000 from Program Open Space funding.

Since 2012, Calvert County has received roughly \$1.2 million Program Open Space Localside matching grants to implement projects to enhance the county's public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors.

## D. Level of Service Analysis

### Introduction and Focus Areas

The 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan Guidelines include data and information to better serve the residents of Calvert County by identifying the following:

- Locations, extent and recreational opportunities available at park and recreation facilities;
- Rates of park use and public participation in various types of recreation;
- Need for more parks and recreation facilities
- Proximity of parks and recreation facilities to where people live and to underserved populations in particular;

- Accomplishments of local jurisdictions to preserve agricultural and resource land

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

### Level of Service Analysis Focus Areas



## Current Perceptions of County Parks, Recreation Amenities and Open Spaces – Engagement Session Findings and Survey Results

### Covid-19 Pandemic

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

### Staff and Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Focus group sessions and a public community meeting were conducted October 12-15, 2021. These meetings took place in the form of staff meetings, focus group meetings, and a public meeting. Meetings were held in various locations throughout the County. The goal of the meetings was to gather information and perceptions regarding existing strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the county's parks, open space, and recreation offerings. The information gathered will guide the update of the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. In all, 40 members of the community participated in the information gathering sessions. Participants included members from:

- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Girl Scouts
- Dominion
- Calvert County Park Board
- Calvert County Public Schools
- Calvert County Parks and Recreation Division
- Calvert County Natural Resources Division
- Calvert County Economic Development Committee
- Calvert Nature Society
- The Arc of Southern Maryland
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Spider Hall Farm
- Office on Aging
- ANS Smith Development - Breezy Point Marina
- Private residents
- Local business owners
- Youth athletic league organizers
- Seniors

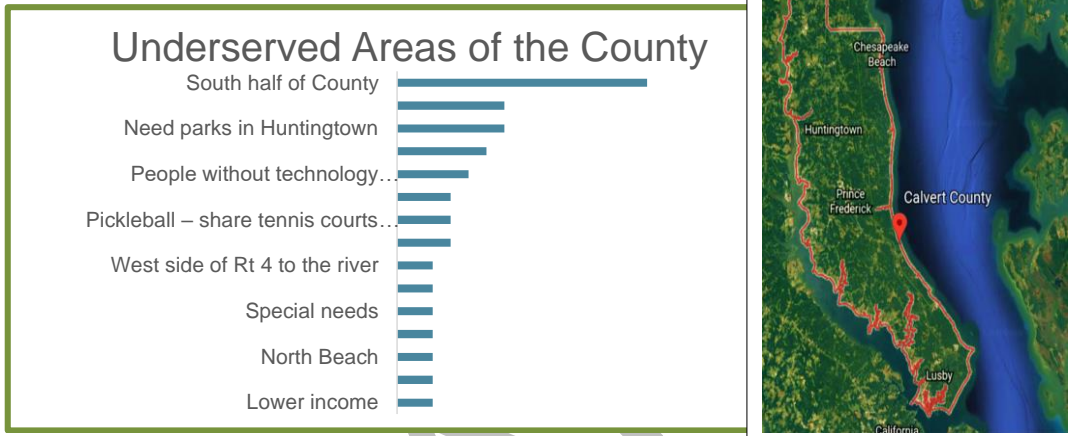
Discussions with these community members yield long lists of perceived strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the existing system of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Calvert County. Most participants noted they were generally satisfied with the recreation opportunities in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



Figure X: The values of parks and recreation



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



It is important to note that participants noted key community concerns below.

- Population is aging
- Projected growth of the county is increasing
- Indoor facility space is limited especially for sports
- Lack of connectivity across the county with trails
- No access to view available facilities
- Commuter (bedroom) community
- Aging infrastructure - maintenance
- Everything is underfunded
- There is no sport venue/complex that could sustain large tournaments
- Not enough special events
- Equitable access is essential
- Create better connectivity
- Politics in sports organizations
- Improve communication, marketing, and promotion
- Not enough access to water
- Park areas do not meet ADA requirements

#### Online/Open Link Survey Response Summary

As a means of gaining additional public feedback regarding parks and recreation offerings in Calvert County, an invitation and open link survey took place from November 20<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The survey was hosted RRC Associates. RRC provides strategic market research and data analysis within the parks and recreation industry. Outreach and notification for the survey was accomplished through a press release, email blasts, and social media postings, primarily through the Department of Parks and

Recreation in collaboration with the county's communications department, CCMR. A total of 1,013 surveys were completed. The full survey report can be found in **Appendix C**.

#### **Key Findings from the Survey**

- Overall, 52% of respondents rated their satisfaction with recreational opportunities between a 4 and 5 with 5 being very satisfied with opportunities in Calvert County.
  - According to respondents, additional facilities and amenities and improved communication would help to increase their participation in recreational activities, facilities, and programs. Open Link respondents are more interested in additional facilities and programs than Invite respondents. More Invite respondents say that lower pricing would increase their participation than Open Link.
  - Paved and unpaved trails and bicycling trails, beach/water access, and indoor multi-sport recreation complex, were the top priorities for additional amenities for the respondents.
  - Most popular activities include more passive recreational activities such as walking, spending time in nature, playground general use/play, and beach going. Least popular include horseback riding, hunting, and skateboarding.
  - When comparing distance travelled to most visited facilities, most respondents travel 5-9 miles and about one-third travel 10-19 miles.
  - According to respondents, additional facilities and amenities and improved communication would help to increase their participation. Open Link respondents are more interested in additional facilities and programs than Invite respondents. More Invite respondents say that lower pricing would increase their participation than Open Link.
  - The importance of parks, recreation, and open space rankings focused on maintenance of existing facilities and open space areas, walking, hiking, running, and cycling. New and enhanced waterfront access and open space areas all ranked above 60% as being very important.
  - Agricultural and land preservation is of high importance to respondents and more so for Invite respondents. On all questions, 79% or more Invite respondents rated either a 4 as "somewhat important" or 5 "very important".
  - Overall, there is some room for improvement regarding communication. The average response was a 3.3.
-

## Measured Participation in County Parks and Recreation Department

Calvert County provides a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services that are tied



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

to the high quality of life of residents. The majority of Calvert County's parks and outdoor recreation amenities are open for public use from dawn to dusk throughout the year. Although no practical means currently exist to track all use of public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces, program participation and registration data from the Parks and Recreation Division and Natural Resources Division indicates strong and growing public use of Calvert County's recreation and natural resource programs.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Calvert County Parks and Recreation (CCPR) operated an extensive recreation program. According to the 2021 attendance records, over 80,000 individuals participated in recreation programs that year and thousands more visited facilities. Recreation program users consistently give CCPR high marks for both the quality and variety of our offerings.

### **Parks and Recreation Division – Participation Highlights**

The Division offers a variety of classes, sports, and recreation activities that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to participate. The Division's quarterly program catalog is available online at <http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=115>.

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

- A total of 251,487 registrations took place for participation in the Division's programs, activities, reserve facilities, play golf, or purchases passes.
- There were 10,246 programs and activities offered.
- Community and activity center were reserved for 4,388 functions, parties, and community group meetings.
- A total of 73,069 field uses were scheduled on county athletic fields (parks and recreation, and school fields).
- Park pavilions and shelters were reserved 2,818 times for group functions.
- Park and Recreation operated aquatic facilities reported a an increase in individual daily swimmers.
- Chesapeake Hills Golf Course logged 79,264 rounds of golf with 113 golf tournaments. Most reservations were for traditional golf

### **Natural Resources Division Participation Highlights**

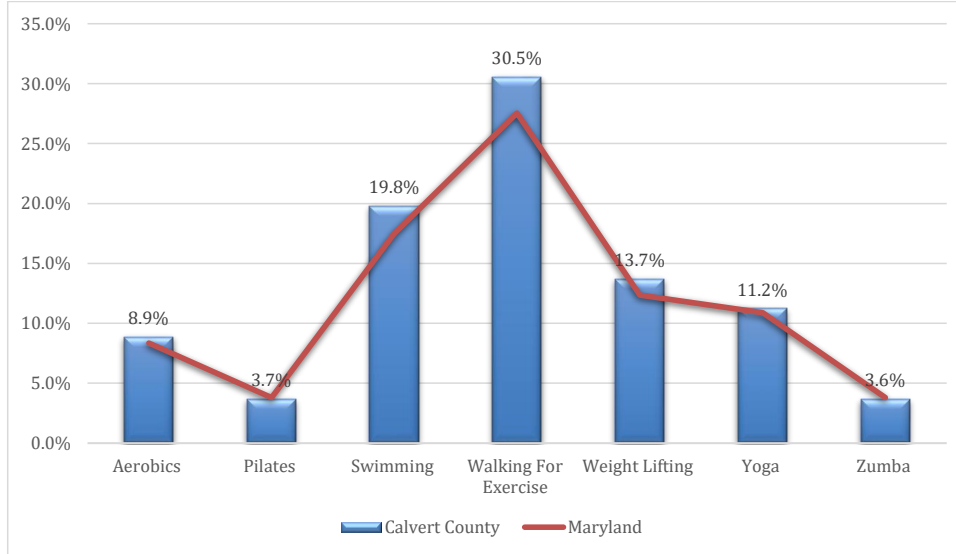
The Natural Resources Division manages and operates the county's natural resource areas and provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division works with its partners to provide environmental education field experiences for all county school children in grades one, three, and five, as well as outdoor recreation and educational programs for the public. A comprehensive volunteer program is also managed by the Division and Calvert Nature Society. The Natural Resources Division strives to: preserve, manage and operate the natural resource areas for the purpose of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. Areas/Sites managed: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Nan's Cove, Solomons' Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier, Hughes Tree Farm, Hutchins Pond, Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, and Gatewood Preserve.

- 100 percent of Calvert County 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes were engaged in Natural Resources Division outdoor learning experiences in FY2019, FY2020, and FY2021.
- Scheduled at least 130 outdoor recreation and environmental education programs at each nature park for the general public (ages 18 months through adult) throughout the year.
- Offer a comprehensive volunteer program to include job descriptions, recruitment, training, evaluation, and recognition objectives to expand volunteer opportunities throughout the Natural Resources Division. For FY2022, we plan to coordinate at least 100 volunteer opportunities to engage 125 volunteers in park stewardship, ecological monitoring, and educational programs providing over 5000 hours of service throughout the year.
- There were 744 public programs offered in FY2018 through FY2021.
- There were 21,236 volunteer hours recorded for the Division from FY2019-FY2022

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

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

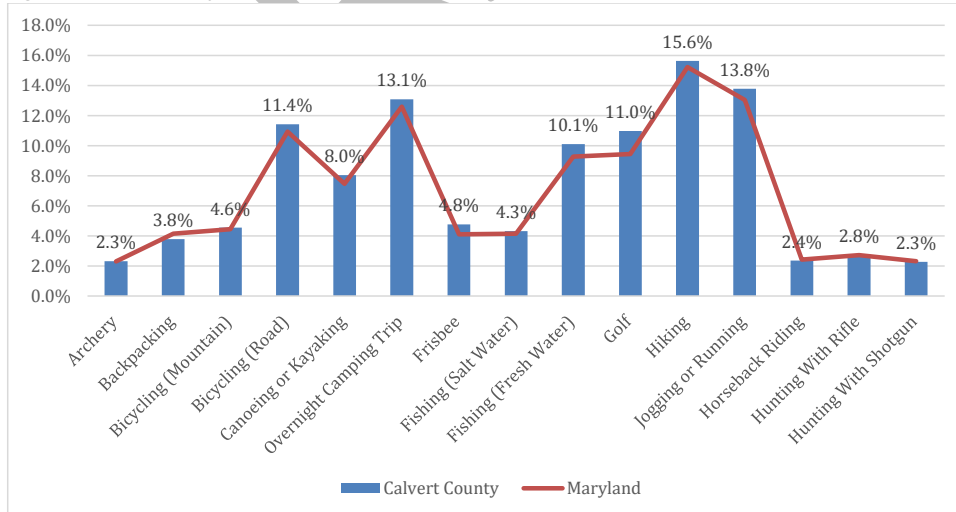
**Figure X: Adult Participation for Fitness Activities**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

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

**Figure X: Adult Participation in Outdoor Recreation**



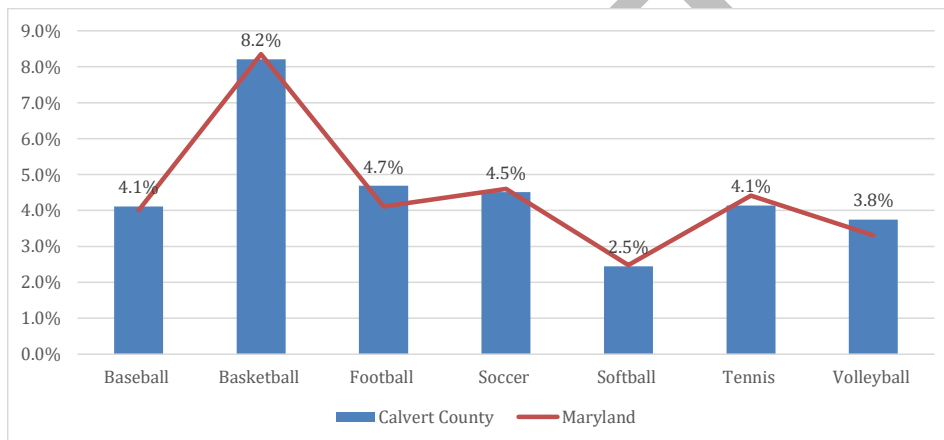
Source: Esri Business Analyst

Adult participation in outdoor recreation is similar to the previous chart noting fitness interests. Hiking, jogging, running, and camping seem to be the most popular interests in outdoor recreational opportunities for adults.

”

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

Figure X: Adult Participation in Team Sports



Source: Esri Business Analyst

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

### Trends Influencing the Provision of Parks and Recreation Services

There are many provisions within the Calvert County that are impacted by various characteristics. Those changes range from population characteristics to changing preferences and participation in recreation activities. A detailed in Appendix X, demographic trends impacting the current and future provision of county parks and recreation services include:

Population Growth in Calvert County is projected to grow toward 97,350 by the year 2025 with a long term projection of 100,450 by the year 2040.

The population in Calvert County consists of a large percentage of persons under 18 years of age at 23%. Persons ages 65 and over represent 15.5% of the county, followed children under 5

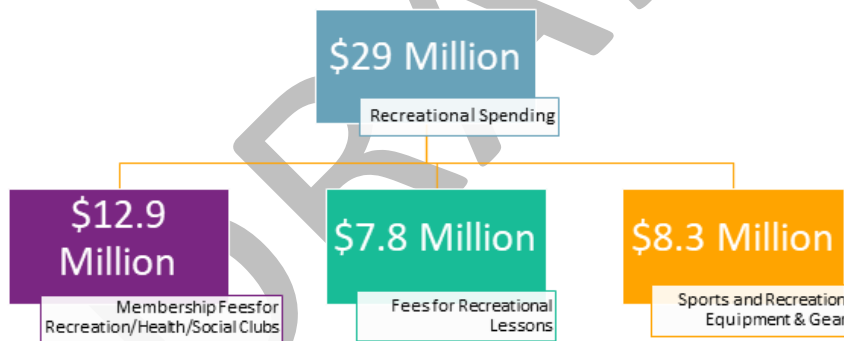
years being represented at 5.3%. The median age for Calvert County is 41.4 which is slightly higher than the State of Maryland at 39.6 and the United States at 38.8.

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

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

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

#### Economic Impacts of Participation in Recreation, Fitness, and Leisure Activities in Calvert County



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

#### Goals and Visions

---



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

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

There are 10 vision statements that express the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

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

## E. Key Findings of all Analysis

Residents of Calvert County maintain a strong sentiment that the rural character, natural landscape, waterways, and parks within close proximity to their residence are key components and contributors to the County's high quality of life. With these attributes noted, they become important components of the county's plans, and documents, and are supported by the Key Findings within the planning process for the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan.

The compilation of information gathered from the analysis and inventory of existing conditions, community profile, community and stakeholder involvement, and a statistically valid survey are analyzed and serve as the foundation for the key findings of the LPPRP. These areas of input help to gauge how well the existing system of parks, recreation amenities, and open spaces in Calvert County meet the overall recreation needs of the residents, and identify where improvements are needed.

The collective findings of all analysis information the creation of the goals of this plan. When combined, key findings from all analysis indicated that: A summary of the findings are noted below.

- Overall, Calvert County residents are satisfied with the availability of recreational opportunities with areas noted where improvements and financial support is needed to meet expectations of residents.
  - The county should continue to make parks and open spaces a key consideration on procuring new property or redeveloping existing property.
-

- The demand for more connectivity through trails and greenways is high. The County is in the process of updating infrastructure needs at parks and facilities to meet demands. These include lighting, restrooms, and facility development.
- There is room for improved communication methods for all department opportunities. Focus additional efforts in the southern area of the county.
- The residents would like additional public access points to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River
- Accessibility to parks and facilities is a key component as the county continues to develop an ADA transition plan for parks and recreation facilities
- Protecting and preserving environmentally sensitive areas with appropriate mitigation, planning efforts, capital improvements, and public outreach should be a priority.

DRAFT

### III. Natural Resource Land Conservation

The 345 square miles of Calvert County is defined by its farmlands, forests, and coastal resources. Small creeks, wetlands, and forested floodplain areas are found throughout the landscape. The county is bordered by the Patuxent River to the west and Chesapeake Bay to the east. Shoreline conditions on each side of the peninsula are drastically different. Along the Patuxent River, most of the shoreline is relatively flat with numerous tidewater estuaries.

The Chesapeake Bay coast is known for its high cliffs and abrupt transition from land to water. These natural areas support biodiversity and provide other ecosystem services needed to support a healthy population, such as wetlands filtering drinking water and forests cleansing the air. Protected open spaces and natural areas within the county also provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and education, and they serve a key role in defining county character and quality of life of residents. The natural landscape of Calvert County generally consists of:

- High percentage of forest cover
- Farmed, developed, and forested uplands bisected by steeply sloped stream valleys
- Coastal and inland floodplain forests
- Low-lying coastal areas along Patuxent River, and coastal cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay.

#### A. Existing Landscape and Resources

There is great public benefit gained from conserving natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. For example, the Calvert Nature Society (CNS), a not-for-profit organization that works to protect and promote and educate about Calvert County's natural places, particularly the lands and waters around our county nature parks, has emphasized the value of natural areas for public benefit. Since the 1980s, CNS has worked to support the mission and activities of Calvert County's Natural Resources Division (CCNRD) and the county nature parks. The vision of CNS represents how natural resources are critical in developing an environmentally literate citizenry:

"The Calvert Nature Society envisions a Calvert County that has an abundance of high-quality natural spaces and protected lands and healthy waterways that attract both residents and visitors and improve the quality of life for all."

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

For example, the health of Calvert County's lands and its waterways are impacted by incursions from development, including loss of habitat, infrastructure demands, stressors on waterways from stormwater runoff, and a shrinking inventory of large tracts of land. New and better ways of controlling pollution and protecting water quality must be interpreted for county residents, and CNS works with CCNRD to communicate changes and to be a strong voice for protections for lands and waters. In addition, CCNRD's budget still contains shortfalls, and staff remains under pressure to fulfill their mandate while expanding to meet the demands of a growing population. These strains will become more evident as CCNRD brings new park properties online. Staffing restrictions hold back innovation and growth. To meet the challenges and opportunities ahead, work must continue and expand.

---

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

**The Natural Resources Division consistently connects people with nature:**

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

Natural resource land preservation efforts in the county are primarily led by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Calvert County, and non-profit land trusts. **Appendix D** includes an inventory of lands managed by the county and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, many of which are significant to preserving natural resources and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. **Roughly 80** percent of Calvert County's total parks, recreation, and open space acreage is comprised of lands that were preserved primarily for their high natural resource conservation, open space, and outdoor recreation value. Several sites of note include the following:

**Bennett O. Hughes Memorial Tree Farm**

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

**Gatewood Preserve**

Calvert County purchased the Gatewood Preserve 48-acre property in 2018. This property connects two existing County parks: Biscoe Gray Heritage Farms and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. The preserve provides Calvert County with more than 340 contiguous acres of preserved forest and open space along the upper reaches of Battle Creek set aside for public use. The area provides additional public access to open space for appropriate outdoor recreation such as water access, hiking, fishing and nature study and increases the protection of Battle Creek and the Patuxent watershed.

**Flag Ponds Nature Park**

This 546-acre nature park is beloved by county residents as well as visiting tourists for its extensive Chesapeake Bay Beaches and views of the Calvert Cliffs. For hundreds of years, the forces of nature have

reshaped the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of Flag Ponds Nature Park, creating a remarkable variety of natural environments – from the sandy beach, to freshwater ponds, to the forested heights of Calvert Cliffs. Today, nature continues to play with the sand, changing the park’s landscape with each tide, each storm, and each season. The property was acquired through the use of Program Open Space, while funds through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, Maryland Historical Trust, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enabled the construction of the buildings and interpretive resources.

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

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

#### **Keim Forest**

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

## **B. Natural Resource Land Conservation Goals**

Current goals, visions, objectives, and actions guiding Calvert County’s efforts to conserve natural resource lands were established by the county’s 2019 Comprehensive Plan. These guiding criteria complement Maryland’s statewide goals for natural resource land conservation, included in **Appendix X**. Relevant criteria from the 2019 Comprehensive Plan that guides the county’s natural resource land conservation efforts include:

#### **County Goal:**

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

#### **County Visions:**

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

**County Environment and Natural Resource Goals, Objectives, and Actions** (most relevant provided below):

- Goal 1: Preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.
    - Objective: Preserve and restore wetlands.
-

- Restore or create wetlands and wetland buffers in areas that will reduce nutrient pollution runoff from farms and developed areas.
  - Develop regulations to address existing and future development adjacent to wetlands.
  - Revise site planning criteria to encourage use of natural features of a site and planting of native vegetation, as well as to prevent disturbance of wetlands and their buffers.
  - Objective: Preserve and restore floodplains.
    - Consider raising the floodplain protection level.
    - For development in the floodplain, ensure that construction practices minimize damage to property and the environment during flooding.
    - Prohibit the removal of vegetation in the floodplain.
  - Objective: Preserve and restore streams and stream buffers.
    - Require and maintain undeveloped buffers containing native vegetation that limit development around perennial streams.
    - Preserve and restore riparian forests.
  - Objective: Preserve and protect steep slopes.
    - Develop regulations to address existing and future development on steep slopes. Limit grading and alterations of natural vegetation on steep slopes.
    - Revise site planning criteria to encourage use of natural features of a site and planting of native vegetation as well as to prevent grading of steep slopes.
  - Objective: Develop methods to protect the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species.
    - Work with the State to map rare, threatened, and endangered species outside the Critical Areas and develop protective measures.
    - Limit shore erosion control measures in areas of Calvert Cliffs that have significant Puritan tiger beetle populations.
  - Objective: Create greenways throughout the county.
    - Establish greenway systems along stream valleys especially where they connect large tracts of protected agricultural and forest lands.
  - Goal 2: Continue a comprehensive approach to environmental planning with special emphasis on watershed planning.
    - Objective: Foster greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental concerns.
      - Maintain, support, and improve the environmental education programs for school-aged children, including the CHESPAX program for the Calvert County Public School System.
      - Develop environmental education programs focused on watershed protection for adults and families, working with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and Morgan State University's Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory.
  - Goal 3: Preserve, protect, and conserve land-based natural resources.
    - Objective: Preserve and restore forestland.
-

- Using the map of the 2010 forested areas map, track and report forest loss and gain. [P&Z]
- Retain 90% of existing forest as of 2010.
- Require replacement of 100% of forest loss since 2010 outside the Critical Area, Town Centers.
- Expand land preservation programs that protect forested areas (e.g. local land trusts, county land trusts, easement programs, Forest Stewardship Program, and Department of Defense programs for the Joint Land Use Area).

*The 30+ goals, visions, objectives, and actions guiding natural resource conservation established by Calvert County's 2019 Comprehensive Plan generally focus on:*

1. *Preserving and enhancing lands with high natural resource value.*
2. *Improving information, including mapping resources, used in decision making.*
3. *Increasing residents' level of environmental education and literacy.*

#### **Accomplishments**

Since the last update of the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan in 2018, Calvert County has continued its ongoing work to achieve the long-term natural resource conservation and land preservation goals established by the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, and goals of the State of Maryland. Since 2018, the County purchased the Gatewood Preserve, and Watson Property adding approximately 27 acres in Prince Frederick, 100 acres to existing 73 acres for Dominion Energy Regional Park in Lusby.

### **C. Natural Resource Conservation Programs**

#### **State Focus Areas for Natural Resource Land Conservation**

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

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

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

**Natural Heritage Areas** – Among the most sensitive ecological areas in the county are three State-designated Natural Heritage Areas. These areas include features that set them apart as “best examples” of unique ecosystem within Maryland. In addition to their special natural resource characteristics, each

is known to be home to at least one locally threatened or endangered species. Land disturbing activities and development within Natural Heritage Areas is regulated, with requirements that activities will have no adverse impact on the local plant and animal communities.

#### Natural Heritage Areas in Calvert County:

1. Camp Roosevelt Cliffs
2. Cove Point Marsh
3. Flag Ponds
4. Randle Cliff Beach

### County Natural Resource Conservation Focus Areas and Tools

Calvert County has a strong dual focus regarding natural resource conservation. Environmental education and land conservation initiatives are both major components of the county's conservation strategy. Educational experiences are primarily provided by the Natural Resources Division, whereas the acquisition of land or easements to conserve land is guided by the county's Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance. The focal areas and goals of the county for conserving natural resources are complementary to goals established by the State of Maryland.

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

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

### County Land Use and Zoning Tools

- **Designated Protection Areas** – receive protections from land development activities through Calvert County's zoning ordinance. Development planned in or near Designated Protection Areas are generally required to avoid disturbing land within regulated areas and buffer zones.
- **Farm and Forest District** – The 2019 Comprehensive Plan and existing zoning ordinance use the term "Farm and Forest District" synonymously for Priority Preservation Area. Priority Preservation Areas include large land areas that are mostly undeveloped and have high existing and/or potential productive farm or forest uses.
- **Mandatory Clustering** – requires most new major subdivision developments located outside of designated growth areas to preserve 50 percent to 80 percent of the land on the parcel to be preserved as open space. The preserved areas resulting from clustered developments is classified as one or more of the following:
  - Farm Reserves – cleared land capable of functioning as cropland, pasture, or meadow.
  - Woodland Reserves – contiguous acreage of forest capable of supporting timber production or wildlife management.



- Conservation Open Space – wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, streams, and their buffer areas.
- Community Recreation Open Space – recreation open space as required in subdivisions with 50+ units.
- Public Access Open Space – land deeded (or to be deeded) to a land trust or government agency that provides public access.
- Parks and Recreation Ordinance – gives the Board of County Commissioners the authority to establish public park areas including natural areas.

### **Additional County Tools**

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

- **Invasive Plant Management** – The County developed Invasive Plant Management Plans to focus division and park specific invasive control efforts to protect areas of ecological importance and limit the further degradation of natural areas within park boundaries due to the impacts of invasive species. Specific goals and methods are identified for Flag Ponds and Kings Landing park properties.
- **Deer Management** – Deer management is an important component of conserving and restoring the ecological health of parks as the overabundance of deer damages the forest health by over-browsing the herbaceous and shrub layer and reducing the number of tree seedlings required for forest regeneration. The County is working to implement the recommendations from a Work Group convened in 2013. Recommendations include expanded hunting opportunities, exploration of non-lethal options, and development of a education campaign.
- **Meadow Management** – the County has developed and is implementing meadow management protocols at several park properties. These efforts provide invasive species control and enhance and increase habitat for grassland species such as Barn Owls, American Kestrels, Monarchs, and pollinators such as native bees.
- **Wildlife Inventories** – the County conducts inventories of a wide variety of wildlife through partnerships with Calvert Stewards and the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Inventories include American Kestrels, Barn Owls, dragonflies, monarchs, Saw Whet Owls, and Box Turtles. These inventories have the dual benefit of gauging wildlife populations and health within the County and engaging and educating County residents.

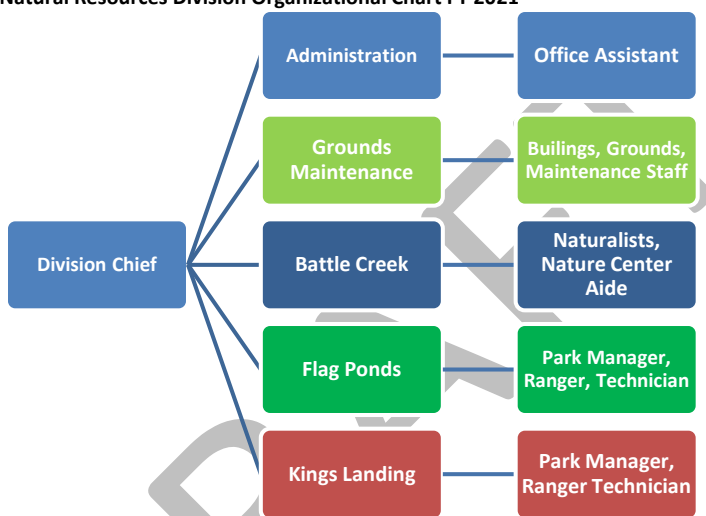
### **Environmental Education and Engagement – Calvert County Natural Resources Division**

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

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

This staff of the Natural Resource Division provides programs and opportunities for connecting people with the natural landscape, and educating them about environmental issues and stewardship. Each year the Division's programs engage thousands of county school children and many more residents and visitors of all ages. Since the preparation of the last Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan the Division's operating budget increased from \$833,744 in FY 2017 to \$903,312 in FY 2020. The Natural Resource Division budget in FY 202- represented roughly 1/3 of one percent of the total county operating budget. Additional information regarding the Division's operations can be found in Section II: Recreation, Parks, and Open Space.

**Figure 4: Natural Resources Division Organizational Chart FY 2021**



### Connecting People with Nature

As previously noted, Calvert County's Natural Resources Division is responsible for the preservation, management, and operation of natural areas for the purposes of providing compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The primary goal of the Division is **to increase the environmental awareness of the public** by:

1. Providing quality environmental education activities.
2. Providing environmentally compatible recreation activities.
3. Preserving the natural heritage of Calvert County.

The Division works to achieve these goals through its operation of nine county natural area parks, and programs provided in partnership with several organizations including the Calvert County Board of Education and non-profit Calvert Nature Society.

#### Calvert County Natural Resources Division managed parks and natural areas:

1. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary
2. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
3. Flag Ponds Nature Park
4. Gatewood Preserve
5. Hughes Memorial Tree Farm
6. Hutchins Pond
7. Kings Landing Park
8. Nan's Cove
9. Lower Marlboro Wharf
10. Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
11. Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
12. Rural Legacy properties

#### Evaluation of Natural Resource Land Conservation Programs

Calvert County works to preserve land of high natural resource and open space value through programs that regulate land development, incentivize private participation in easement programs, and/or directly purchases easements or property outright. In 2014, the county reported four major challenges with natural resource land conservation:

- General lack of public awareness of the needs to protect habitat, significance of erosion control, and stewardship needs of greenways:
- The Calvert County Natural Resources Division actively engages citizens in the Calvert Stewards volunteer program, providing opportunities for public service in education, research, and stewardship which support the overall mission of the Division. This benefits the participants, the parks and the community as Calvert Stewards use and develop their skills to form an environmentally aware community and become the environmental stewards of Calvert County. The Calvert Stewards program also encourages youth and families in projects to create a pipeline of engaged citizens that will continue their involvement in the parks into adulthood.
- Limited awareness of property owners of land conservation programs/alternatives to selling their land for development:
  - In November 2016, a Land Preservation Roundtable was organized to provide land owners information about the various options available through Federal, State, local and NGO programs. The following organizations partnered with Calvert County to describe and promote their land preservation programs:

- Calvert Nature Society
- Maryland Environmental Trust
- MALPF
- DNR (Rural Legacy)
- REPI
- *UMD Agriculture Extension*
- *Land Trust Alliance*
- *Soil Conservation District*
- *SMADC*
- Historic District Commission
- Farm Bureau
- Calvert Sustainable Network
- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Calvert Farmland Trust
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Southern Calvert Land Trust
- Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

- More strategic planning is needed to ensure the most effective and efficient use of limited resources for natural resource land conservation.
- Maintaining a steady and reliable funding source for natural resource protection and conservation.

The 2018 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan also noted program development strategies to guide natural resource conservation efforts. These strategies have been edited and expanded to reflect the County's current efforts and priorities:

1. Support and promote the county's land use plan and policies outlined in the 2019 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 and park planning process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space. Reforestation should occur in greenways when possible.
  3. Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing callboxes to include within the Activity Guide and expanded methods of communication.
  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. Continue to implement a the Calvert County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).
  8. Evaluate existing facilities utilizing the current All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and relevant flood mitigation plans. Incorporate facilities not already addressed into future plan updates to ensure the flood hazard for all facilities is adequately addressed.
  9. Continue to protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas with appropriate mitigation, planning efforts, capital improvements and public outreach.
-



## IV. 2022 LPPRP Goals & Recommendations

Goals and recommendations of the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan update considered all information gathered through the planning process, as well as existing county and State plans that guide land preservation and recreation service provision for the public. The 2022 plan builds upon goals of the county's Comprehensive Plan 2019 Update as well as, existing service provision, and current needs identified through the level of service analysis. Goals are listed in no order of importance; each is of equal significance to maintaining and enhancing parks and recreation assets in Calvert County for residents and visitors.

**Goal 1:** Preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas throughout the County.

- Continue to protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas with appropriate mitigation, planning efforts, capital improvements and public outreach.

**Goal 2:** To develop walkable communities with opportunities to improve connectivity and existing trail networks.

**Recommendations:**

- Add trails and connectivity throughout existing parks and as part of future development or redevelopment. Continue to implement trails that are planned
  - Develop plan to prioritize acquisition of property that may be utilized for public water access and research opportunities in current facilities to increase the public's access to water.
  - Continue to evaluate existing linear corridors, rights-of-way, and other potential areas for future trail development.
  - Seek to acquire rights-of-way and open space through zoning, or subdivision entitlement process to utilize for future trail creation.
  - Create trails and paths within town center areas that connect with outlying parks and open spaces.
  - Continue to create, support, and promote public water trails in Southern Maryland
-

**Goal 3:** Continue to maintain existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs that meet the needs of a diverse community and growing population with a focus on maintenance, communication, and diverse opportunities.

**Recommendations:**

As the county's population grows, the inventory of parks and recreation assets and programs, as well as resources of the Department of Parks & Recreation should increase in a corresponding manner to ensure the continued delivery of high quality programs, facility maintenance, and infrastructure management.

- Address aging infrastructure and level of service amenities including staffing needs
- Evaluate and prioritize replacement and renovation needs at all facilities. Continue to monitor satisfaction of groups who use park facilities through a follow-up survey
- As part of the marketing plan, gauge the community on successful methods of communication while continuing to expand methods and frequency of communication

**Goal 4:**

Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies

**Recommendations:**

- Take measures to gauge the community on successful communication methods
  - Research and implement strategies to improve the accuracy of park and facility availability and usage data. Maintain accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) through the National Recreation and Parks Association.
  - Work to assure staffing levels and pay rates are appropriate to meet current and future level of service demands. Continuously monitor staffing organization and adjust as needs arise.
  - Continue to engage the community in current and future parks, recreation, and open space planning efforts
  - Continue to promote and create awareness of the programs and activities through the Parks and Recreation website and social media.
  - Continue to engage young individuals in all aspects of the planning and implementation of plans and programs. Continue to monitor the demographic trends in Calvert County.
-

# IV. Agricultural Land Preservation

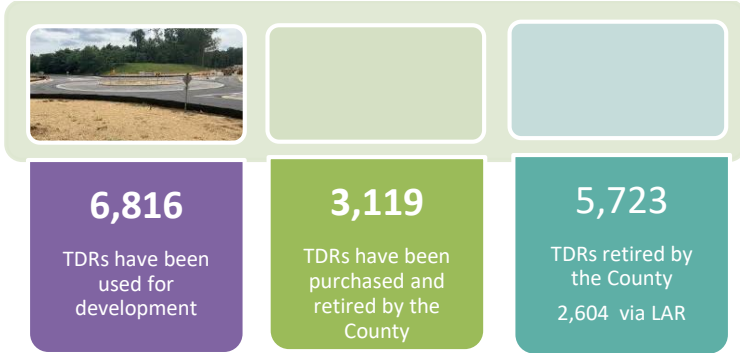
Calvert County created one of the first land preservation programs in Maryland adopted by County Commissioners in 1977 with its first Agricultural Preservation District created over 30 years ago. and currently has the most active transferable development rights (TDRs) program in the state. The TDR program allows a landowner to sell the development potential to another party. The sale requires the recording of restrictive covenants in land records permanently subjecting the property to development restrictions in perpetuity. Subject to County regulations, a TDR purchaser can use TDRs to attain higher lot density on another property. The TDR program goal is to deter development of farms and forest lands to areas targeted for residential and commercial growth. The County's program works toward a goal of 40,000 acres preserved by partnering with other local organizations including:

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

The County also works together with other State preservation programs such as Rural Legacy and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF).

Figure X Represents the most recent facts of the Agricultural Preservation Program





The number above are entitled to certify TDRs increasing the supply accordingly.

DRAFT



## V. Cultural and Historic Resource Conservation

### A. Introduction

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan update in 2019 provides background information on the importance of preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County. Within the Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan is the Heritage section. The cultural and historic heritage of the county lies within a solid foundation that the residents of Calvert County have long celebrated; American and world history, landscapes, shorelines, the lives of Native American's, the Colonial settlement, the formation of the United States, and the wars and conflicts that once stood within the boundaries of the county. The general inventory of cultural and historical resources in Calvert County include:

- 1,453 properties surveyed by Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- 531 archaeological sites recorded countywide
- 91 properties included in Historic Districts
- 20 properties on the National Register of Historic Places
- Two properties designated local Historic Landmarks by Town of North Beach

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

There are several cultural and historical sites to note throughout Calvert County.



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

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Vera Foster Rollo. *Maryland Today A Geography*. p.8

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

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

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

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Station was once an open passenger boarding area that was built in 1898 for the Chesapeake Railway and now serves as a railway museum. It originally opened as a stop along the railway when the area was built to be a resort area between Baltimore and Washington DC. The first train left the station on June 9, 1900 and as the Great Depression began to take a toll on the rail system and visitors, the last train left the station on April 15, 1935.



## B. Goals & Objectives

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

### Goal 1

**Identify, protect, and interpret the buildings, places, and archaeological sites that signify the heritage of the community.**

Objective 1: Promote the documentation and protection of Calvert County's heritage.

- 5.1.1.1 Continue to add undocumented sites to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and update the forms for properties that have been previously surveyed but have inadequate information. [P&Z, HDC]
  - 5.1.1.2 Continue to record archaeological sites and add them to the Maryland Archaeological Sites Survey and to update forms for recorded sites when new information is available. [P&Z, HDC]
  - 5.1.1.3 Continue preservation of sites and structures through the designation of Historic Districts and provision of assistance and support to property owners; encourage the designation of multi-property districts. [P&Z, HDC]
-

- 5.1.1.4 Promote the adaptive reuse of existing building stock. [P&Z, ED, GS]
- 5.1.1.5 Adopt an archaeological site protection ordinance that is applicable county-wide. [P&Z, PC, BOCC]
- 5.1.1.6 Adopt a historic/scenic roads ordinance. [BOCC, PC, P&Z]
- 5.1.1.7 Research and develop strategies to mitigate the effects of environmental threats to cultural resources. [P&Z, GS]
- 5.1.1.8 Ensure adequate support of programs for the documentation of threatened sites and structures and for the publicizing of strategies and incentives that would encourage preservation of threatened resources. [BOCC, HDC, P&Z]

**Goal 2**

**Document and conserve Calvert County ways of life, the memory of the people.**

Objective 1: Support and encourage programs that focus on local history, cultural geography, and folklife.

- 5.2.1.1 Continue to support and maintain existing archives and repositories of oral histories collected through the Historic District Commission. [BOCC, HDC, CMM, GS]
- 5.2.1.2 Continue to collect oral histories and make them available in electronic format to the Calvert Marine Museum, the Calvert County Historical Society, and the Southern Maryland Studies Center at the College of Southern Maryland. [HDC, P&Z, CMM]

**Goal 3**

Develop heritage resources as cultural capital to connect the past to the future.

Objective I: Celebrate heritage as a means of creating and nurturing a sense of local identity

- 5.3.1.1 Work with agricultural, environmental, and land trust organizations to promote consideration of historical and archaeological resources in open space, or protection through easements or other preservation strategies. [P&Z, HDC]
- 5.3.1.2 Work with Communications and Media Relations and the tourism office to ensure that information about heritage resources is shared. [P&Z, HDC, CMR, ED]
- 5.3.1.2 Support efforts to interpret and celebrate local heritage at historic sites, in the public schools, and at special events in the community and make information available to assist in those endeavors. [P&Z, HDC, ED, CMR, Heritage Committee]

Staff, citizen volunteers, and public support can make it possible to realize these goals.

## C. Implementation Program

This chapter supports the vision and goals of PreserveMaryland, a five-year plan produced by the Maryland Historical Trust that charts a way for the historic preservation community to work more effectively to protect the state's historic and cultural heritage.

Vision: In 2018, the preservation community has sufficient public and private support to identify, document and protect diverse places of historic and cultural significance.

State Vision Goals: Public agencies, private organizations and individuals involved in preservation are called upon by the State to:

- Connect with Broader Audiences
- Improve the Framework for Preservation
- Expand and Update Documentation
- Build Capacity and Strengthen Networks
- Collaborate Toward Shared Objectives

It should be noted that Calvert County promotes the following activities for implementation of the state, county goals, and state recommendations for conserving cultural and historic resources. Those include:

- Cultural resources staff reviews development plans for possible effects on cultural resources.
  - Staff records and documents archaeological and historic architectural sites and updates data on previously-recorded sites.
  - Staff participates in inter-jurisdictional review of proposed projects that trigger review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and relevant state programs.
  - Staff utilizes grants and local funding to complete cultural resource surveys, and uses that data to update the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and state archaeological site inventory data maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust, and to enhance our understanding of Calvert County's past.
  - Staff works with other county departments, and with local nonprofit organizations to ensure that historic properties in their purview are appropriately managed and assists in writing scopes of work, grants, and content for interpretation as needed.
  - Staff participates in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and supports the activities of the heritage area.
  - Staff provides web-based cultural and historic site information, with the exception of archaeological sites, the locations of which are not made public in order to protect the resources.
-

## VI. Recommendations & Action Table

<b>Goal 1:</b> <i>Improve and enhance existing Calvert County parks and recreation facilities and amenities</i>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>1.1.a</b> Appropriate funding mechanisms to meet identified needs for facility improvements and additions. These include and are not limited to: ADA accessibility throughout the entire system, improvements to athletic field fencing, increase walking, running, hiking, and nature facilities, addition of a splash pad, and improvement to restroom facilities.	Ongoing Priority
<b>1.1.b.</b> Look for opportunities to increase the public's sense of safety such as lighting, landscape design, visibility of staff at all park facilities.	Ongoing Priority
<b>1.1.c.</b> Address deferred maintenance priority list based on the LPPRP inventory and address needs within the Capital Improvement Plan	Ongoing Priority
<b>1.1.b</b> Complete park development projects as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan	Ongoing
<b>1.1.c</b> Continue to evaluate athletic field potential for all fields for increased usage. Determine if additional turf fields should be added or re-designed with consideration of new surfacing options for future renovation, replacement, or construction of athletic fields.	Ongoing Priority
<b>Goal 2:</b> <i>Continue to improve programming and natural resource opportunities within existing and future parks and recreation areas</i>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>2.1.a</b> Evaluate existing facilities utilizing the current All-Hazard Mitigation Plan relevant flood mitigation plans. Incorporate facilities not already addressed into future plan updates and ensure the flood hazard for all facilities is adequately addressed.	Ongoing
<b>2.1.b</b> Make open spaces a key consideration when procuring new property or redeveloping existing properties	Ongoing
<b>2.1.c</b> As new programs and services are developed and implemented within the Natural Resources Division, continue to create a balance between passive and active recreation opportunities.	Ongoing

<b>2.1.d</b> Continue to engage and partner with the municipalities, businesses, and state and federal agencies in the County in current and future natural resource program planning efforts.	Ongoing
<b>2.1.e</b> Continue to look for opportunities to expand special events throughout the county.	Mid-Term
<b>2.1.e.</b> Continue to follow all Land Preservation goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan	Ongoing
<b>Goal 3:</b> <i>Continue to look for opportunities to develop new facilities and amenities</i>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>3.1.a</b> Explore opportunities to acquire land suitable for the development of public water access facilities, and water-based recreation opportunities to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.	Ongoing Priority
<b>3.1.b.</b> Continue with development of the Harriet Brown Community Center with consideration of adding a gymnasium, fitness room, and other community needs as identified through the community engagement process.	Short-Term Priority
<b>3.1.c</b> Evaluate and prioritize replacement and renovation needs at all Facilities. Continue to monitor use and satisfaction of groups who use park facilities, through follow-up satisfaction survey	Mid-Term
<b>3.1.d</b> Continue working with other agencies and the municipalities in the county to provide regional connectivity to neighborhoods, schools, parks and the community.	Mid-Term
<b>3.1.e</b> Consider the development of a countywide bicycling and pedestrian master plan, and associated steering committee, to guide the development of a connected and sustainable trails network.	Short-Term
<b>Goal 4:</b> <i>Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies</i>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>4.1.a.</b> Take measures to gauge the community on successful methods of communication and expand methods and frequency of communication	Ongoing Priority
<b>4.1.b</b> Research and implement strategies to improve the accuracy of park and facility availability and usage data	Ongoing Priority

<b>4.1.c</b> Maintain accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) through the National Recreation and Parks Association.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.d</b> Work to assure staffing levels and pay rates are appropriate to meet current and future level of service demands. Continuously monitor staffing organization and adjust as needs arise.	Ongoing
<b>4.1.e</b> Continue to engage the community in current and future parks, recreation, and open space planning efforts.	OnGoing
<b>4.1.f</b> Continue to promote and create awareness of the programs and activities through the Parks and Recreation website and social media.	Short-Term
<b>4.1.g.</b> Continue to engage young individuals in all aspects of the planning and implementation of plans and programs. Continue to monitor the demographic trends in Calvert County.	Ongoing

DRAFT

---

# APPENDIX LIST

## A. Trends Report

### Park and Recreation Influencing Trends

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

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

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

- Community centers
- Recreation centers
- Parks
- Senior centers

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

Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions span from the serious to the more lighthearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research ([www.wakefieldresearch.com](http://www.wakefieldresearch.com)).

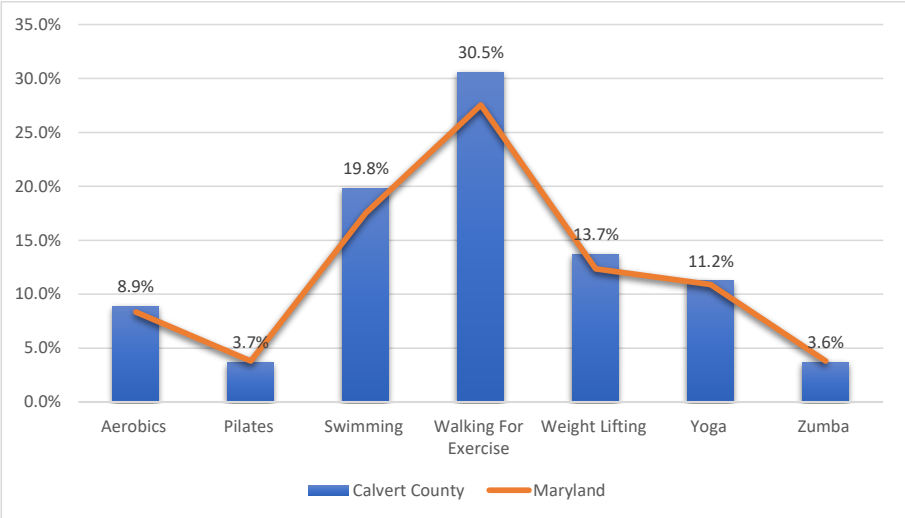
Visit [nrpa.org/ParkPulse](http://nrpa.org/ParkPulse) for more information.

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

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

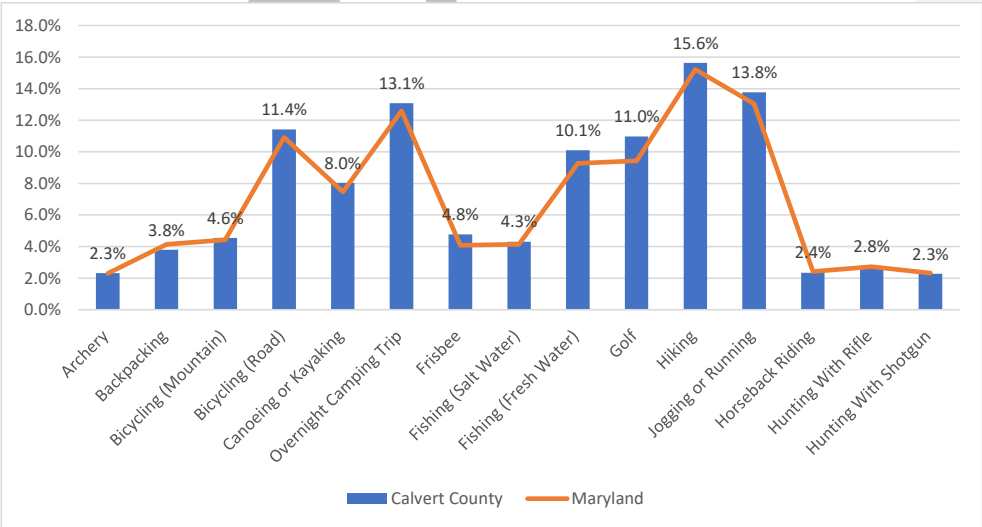


**Figure X: Adult Participation for Fitness Activities**



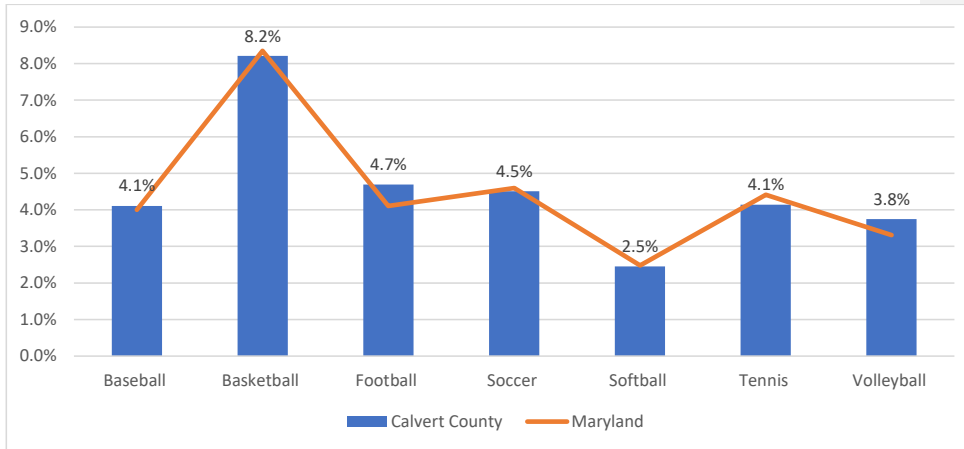
Source: Esri Business Analyst

**Figure X: Adult Participation in Outdoor Recreation**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

**Figure X: Adult Participation in Team Sports**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

#### **ADA Compliance**

On July 26, 1990, the federal government officially recognized the needs of people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This civil rights law expanded rights for activities and services offered by both state and local governmental entities (Title II) and non-profit/for-profit entities (Title III). Parks and Recreation agencies are expected to comply by the legal mandate; which means eliminating physical barriers to provide access to facilities, and providing reasonable accommodations in regard to recreational programs through inclusive policies and procedures.<sup>3</sup>

It is a requirement that agencies develop an ADA Transition Plan, which details how physical and structural barriers will be removed to facilitate access to programs and services. The Transition Plan also acts as a planning tool for budgeting and accountability.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Administrative Trends in Parks & Recreation**

County parks and recreation structures and delivery systems have changed and more alternative methods of delivering services are emerging. Certain services are being contracted out and cooperative agreements with non-profit groups and other public institutions are being developed. Newer partners include the health system, social services, justice system, education, the corporate sector, and community service agencies. These partnerships reflect both a broader interpretation of the mandate of parks and recreation agencies and the increased willingness of other sectors to work together to address community issues. The relationship with health agencies is vital in promoting wellness. The traditional relationship with education and the sharing

<sup>3</sup> "Changes Are Coming to ADA -- New Regulation Standards Expected for Campgrounds, Parks Beaches." *Recmanagement.com*, 2012, [recmanagement.com/feature\\_print.php?fid=201211fe03](http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201211fe03). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

of facilities through joint-use agreements is evolving into cooperative planning and programming aimed at addressing youth inactivity levels and community needs.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the role of parks and recreation management has shifted beyond traditional facility oversight and activity programming. The ability to evaluate and interpret data is a critical component of strategic decision making. In an article posted in *Parks and Recreation Magazine*, February 2019, there are several components that allow agencies to keep up with administrative trends and become an agent of change.<sup>5</sup>

1. Develop a digital transformation strategy – how will your agency innovate and adapt to technology?
2. Anticipate needs of the community through data – what information from your facilities, programs, and services can be collected and utilized for decision making?
3. Continuous education - How can you educate yourself and your team to have more knowledge and skills as technology evolves?
4. Focus on efficiency – in what ways can your operations be streamlined?
5. Embrace change as a leader – how can you help your staff to see the value in new systems and processes?
6. Reach out digitally – be sure that the public knows how to find you and ways that they can be involved.

#### **Adventure Programming**

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

#### **Agency Accreditation**

Parks and recreation agencies are affirming their competencies and value through accreditation. This is achieved by an agency's commitment to 154 standards. Accreditation is a distinguished mark of excellence that affords external recognition of an organization's commitment to quality and improvement.

The National Recreation and Parks Association administratively sponsors two distinct accreditation programs: The Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) approves academic institutions and the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) approves agencies. It is the only national accreditation of parks and recreation agencies, and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.

---

<sup>4</sup> Brian Stapleton, "The Digital Transformation of Parks and Rec" *Parks and Recreation*, February 2019; <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/february/the-digital-transformation-of-parks-and-rec/>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/february/the-digital-transformation-of-parks-and-rec/>

---

### Alternative Uses in Golf Courses

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

- Disc Golf
  - According to the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), disc golf has increased in participation significantly since its initial start in 1975. Approximately 92 percent of players are male and 8 percent female. In 2018, PDGA had 46,457 active members; 2,496 were under 18. In 2010, the number of disc golf courses worldwide was 3,276. In 2018, that number increased more than 150 percent to 8,364. The majority of play takes place in the United States.<sup>6</sup>
- Footgolf
  - A true mix of soccer and golf, footgolf is a sport played on a golf course where the players goal is to kick a soccer ball into a cup in as few shots as possible. The sport was invented in 2009 and most formal league play is managed through American FootGolf League. Footgolf is an international sport, and it is estimated to be played in over 20 countries.<sup>7</sup> According to the World Golf Foundation study on Alternative Golf Experiences (2015), Footgolf is estimated to be in 445 facilities in worldwide. Approximately 87 percent of participants are very likely to continue playing, and 81 percent are satisfied with Footgolf.<sup>8</sup>
- 5k run/walks
  - Perhaps one of the most well-known recreational activities is the road race. The most popular race distance is the 5k. There were approximately 8.84 million registrants for 5ks in the United States in 2017, claiming 49 percent of all registrants (compared to the half-marathon at number two with 11 percent of all registrants). Women make up about 59 percent of participants with 41 percent being male.<sup>9</sup>
- Special Events and Weddings
  - Golf courses can provide an ideal venue for special events. With an often picturesque viewshed and well-maintained landscaping, golf courses are becoming more popular for events such as banquets, conferences, and weddings.

---

<sup>6</sup> "2018 Disc Golf Demographics," Professional Disc Golf Association. Accessed October 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Linton Weeks, "FootGolf: A New Sport Explored in 19 Questions," NPR: <https://www.npr.org/sections/theprotojournalist/2014/03/13/288546935/footgolf-a-new-sport-explored-in-19-questions>, March 13, 2014

<sup>8</sup> "Alternative Golf Experiences," World Golf Foundation: [http://ngcoa.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/AGEReport\\_12.15.pdf](http://ngcoa.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/AGEReport_12.15.pdf), December 2015.

<sup>9</sup> "U.S. Road Race Participation Numbers Hold Steady for 2017," Running USA, <https://runningusa.org/RUSA/News/2018/U.S. Road Race Participation Numbers Hold Steady for 2017.aspx>, Accessed October 2019.

---

### **Aquatics and Water Recreation Trends**

Aquatic facilities are locations where individuals may get exercise, participate in sports, and have competitive fun. Aquatic centers and county waterparks are one of the fastest expanding divisions of the water leisure industry, according to the World Waterpark Association.<sup>10</sup> According to the 2021 Aquatic Trends Report, “some 16.7% of rec centers in 2020 said they had built a new aquatic facility in the past several years, compared to 6.1% in 2019.”<sup>11</sup>

Even though these centers are one of the fastest growing segments in the water leisure industry, their budget will still decide their ability to maintain their equipment, which facility design trends are implemented, and their ability to meet the needs of the community. Fortunately, even with the impact that the pandemic has had, park and camp respondents predict their average running costs to be the same in 2021 as they were in 2019.<sup>12</sup>

Some of these opportunities could include aquatic therapy and aerobics which can also assist in the healing process from injuries. These facilities can greatly transform a person’s health which is why the World Health Organization has stressed that “children’s physical and social environments are significant determinants of their overall health and well-being”. Having access to an aquatic area often improves someone’s overall health when they take part in swimming, water aerobics, Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) yoga, Aqua-Yoga/Balance Programs, and/or water basketball, volleyball, or water polo.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates accessible access to aquatic centers. People with disabilities are able to utilize aquatic facilities with the assistance of zero-entry pool access, ramps, or chair lifts. Another water accessibility issue is one of racial disparity. Studies have shown that “64 percent of black children and 45 percent of Hispanic children have little to no swimming ability, compared with 40 percent of white children”. Many facilities have outreach programs focused primarily on low-income, ethnic, and water-phobic populations to address these discrepancies and reach people who lack swimming skills due to a fear of water.<sup>13</sup>

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

---

<sup>10</sup> “Press.” *Waterparks.org*, 2020, [www.waterparks.org/web/Press.aspx](http://www.waterparks.org/web/Press.aspx). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Tipping, E. (2021, February). *Just Keep Swimming: The 2021 Aquatic Trends Report*. Recreation Management. <https://recmanagement.com/feature/202102SU01>.

<sup>12</sup> Tucker, P., Gilliland, J., & Irwin, J. D. (2007). Splashpads, Swings, and Shade. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 98(3), 198–202. <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03403712>

<sup>13</sup> Amico, L. (2019, April 10). *3 Emerging Trends in Aquatic Adventure Recreation*. AquaClimb. <https://www.aquaclimb.com/blog/2019/4/10/3-emerging-trends-in-aquatic-adventure-recreation>.

---

State of Maryland require splash pads to meet the same guidelines as bathhouse facilities located at pools.

Another comparison between pools and splash pads can be made by how they can improve revenue. A straightforward way to add revenue to an already existing splash pad is by building a pavilion for large parties for utilization for rentals.

Pools can also add additional elements to increase their revenue such as pool zip lines, “ninja” climbing nets, and poolside rock climbing walls. The AquaZip’N, AquaNinja, and AquaClimb are examples of these safe adventure elements that are trending at the moment. In addition, aquatic centers can consider less permanent amenities such as log rolls, giant inflatable obstacle courses, and screen projectors for “dive-in” movies.

#### **Before and After-School Care Programs**

Many parks and recreation agencies offer before and after-school care programs. These programs may include fitness/play opportunities, healthy snack, and tutoring/homework services. According to an NRPA poll, 90 percent of U.S. adults believe that before-and after-school programs offered by local park and recreation agencies are important<sup>14</sup>. According to the 2018 Out-of-School Time Report, approximately 55 percent of local parks and recreation agencies offer after-school programming. Parks and recreation professionals consider the top five benefits of afterschool programs provided to youth are:<sup>15</sup>

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

---

<sup>14</sup> Parks and Recreation: The Leaders in Before and Afterschool Care, *National Recreation and Parks Association*. Accessed December 2019. <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/parks-and-recreation-the-leaders-in-before-and-after-school-care/>

<sup>15</sup> 2018 Out-of-School Time Report, *National Recreation and Parks Association* Accessed February 2020: <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/c76ea3d5bcee4595a17aac298a5f2b7a/out-of-school-time-survey-results-report-2018.pdf>

---

**Bird Watching**

It is estimated that in 2016, 45.1 million people participated in bird-watching, according to the latest U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation.<sup>16</sup> Of all participants, 86 percent of them observed wild birds around their home.

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

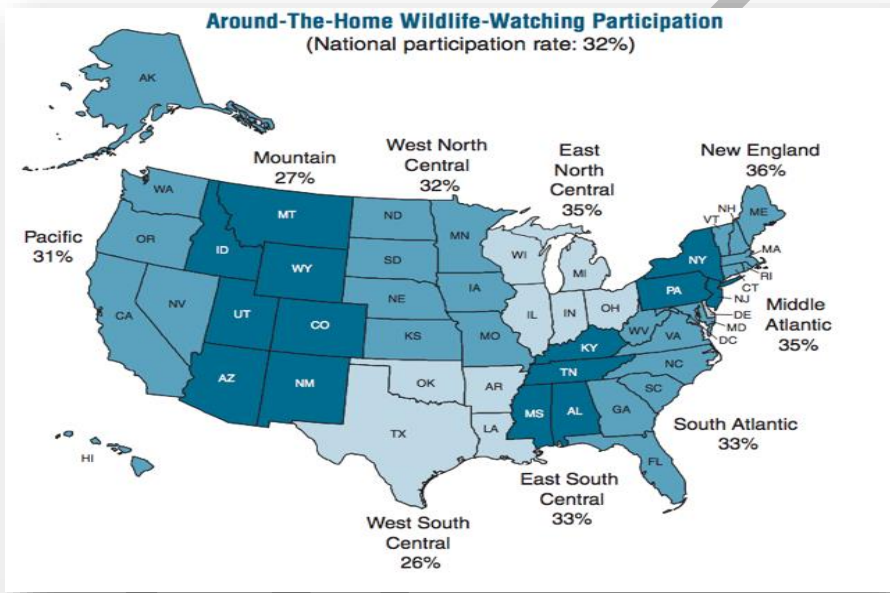


Figure X: Participation in At-Home Wildlife-Watching

<sup>16</sup> 2016 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation [https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/nat\\_survey2016.pdf](https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/nat_survey2016.pdf)

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

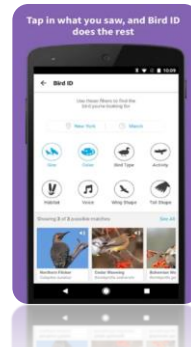
Smart phone apps offered from organizations, such as the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, offer beginners and birding veterans the opportunity to identify hundreds of bird species by size, color, activity, habitat, wing shape, voice, and tail shape. These tools offer unique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

Source: 2016 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Survey

### Community Centers

Community centers are public gathering places where people of the community may socialize, participate in recreational or educational activities, obtain information, and seek counseling or support services, amongst other things.<sup>17</sup> Several studies have found a correlation between the outdoor leisure involvement that community centers provide and a person's greater environmental concern. The main impact from the addition of these centers is the improvement in community health, social connectivity, and mental well-being.

Figure X: Audubon Bird Guide App



Source: Audubon Bird Guide App, National Audubon Society

---

<sup>17</sup> *Community centers*. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020, January 21). <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/community-centers>.

---



## Recreation Centers Play an Important Role in Communities Nationwide

Per a recent NRPA poll, **Americans urge their local recreation center to offer a wide variety of nontraditional services**, including...



These are **in addition to services traditionally offered** by park and recreation agencies – including fitness centers, out-of-school time programming and aquatic facilities.



[www.nrpa.org/Park-Pulse](http://www.nrpa.org/Park-Pulse)

The Park Pulse survey was conducted on behalf of NRPA by Wakefield Research among 1,000 nationally representative Americans, ages 18+, between August 3 and 9, 2017.

A national long-term study conducted of over 17,000 teens who frequented recreation facilities found that they were 75 percent more likely to engage in the highest category of moderate to strenuous physical exercise. Since these activities that they partake in involve a considerable amount of effort, the benefits have been shown to include “reduced obesity, a diminished risk of disease, an enhanced immune system and most importantly, increased life expectancy”.<sup>18</sup>

Clubs and sports offered by community centers also strengthen social connections and reduce social isolation.<sup>19</sup> Along with an increase in social connectivity brought by community centers comes a sense of satisfaction with a person’s choice of friends and perceived success in life. The evidence strongly suggests that this satisfaction can rise to much higher levels if participation in outdoor recreation begins in childhood.

<sup>18</sup> National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. (2012, August). Powering Healthier Communities: November 2010 Community Health Centers Address the Social Determinants of Health.

<sup>19</sup> *Community centers*. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020, January 21). <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/community-centers>.

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

**Figure XX: Non-Traditional Services Desired in Community Centers**

Source: NRPA Park Pulse

**Community & Special Events**

Community-wide events and festivals often act as essential place-making activities for residents, economic drivers, and urban brand builders. Chad Kaydo describes the phenomenon in the *Governing Magazine*: “officials and entrepreneurs see the power of cultural festivals, innovation-focused business conferences and the like as a way to spur short-term tourism while shaping an image of the host city as a cool, dynamic location where companies and citizens in modern, creative industries can thrive.”<sup>20</sup> According to the 2020 Event Trends Report by EventBrite, the following trends are expected to impact event planners and community builders in the coming years:<sup>21</sup>

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

**Conservation**

One of the key pillars of parks and recreation is the role that it plays in conservation. Managing and protecting open space, providing opportunities for people to connect with nature, and educating communities about conservation are all incredibly important. One of the key components of conservation is addressing climate change. Local parks and recreation can help by building climate resilient communities through water management, green infrastructure, and sustainability. A report by NRPA in 2017 titled “Park and Recreation Sustainability Practices”

---

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

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

surveyed over 400 park and recreation agencies and found the top five ways that local departments are taking action on conservation and climate change include:

- Alternative Transportation – 77% reduce carbon footprint through offering transportation alternatives
- Watershed Management – 70% adopt protective measures for watershed management
- Air Quality – 53% plant and manage tree canopy that improves air quality
- Sustainable Education – 52% educate the public about sustainability practices
- Stormwater Management – 51% proactively reduce stormwater through green infrastructure<sup>22</sup>

### Cycling Trends

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

### National bicycling trends:

- There has been a gradual trend of increasing bicycling and walking to work for over 15+ years.
- Infrastructure to support biking communities is becoming more commonly funded in communities.
- Bike share systems, making bicycles available to the public for low-cost, short-term use, have been sweeping the nation since 2010. Twenty of the most populous U.S. cities have a functional bike share system.
- Bicycle touring is becoming a fast-growing trend around the world, including the United States and Canada. "Travelers are seeking out bike tours to stay active, minimize environmental impact, and experience diverse landscapes and cityscapes at a closer level."<sup>23</sup>
- Urban bike tours, popular in cycle-friendly cities in Europe, are taking hold in the United States as well. Bikes and Hikes LA, an eco-friendly bike and hike sightseeing company founded in September 2014 offers visitors the opportunity to "see the city's great outdoors while getting

---

<sup>22</sup> NRPA, "NRPA Report: Park and Recreation Sustainability Practices," 2017. <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/climate-resilient-parks/>

<sup>23</sup> Hope Nardini, "Bike Tourism a Rising Trend," *Ethic Traveler*, <http://www.ethicaltraveler.org/2012/08/bike-tourism-a-rising-trend/>, accessed March 2021

---

a good workout.” In New York, a hotel and a bike store are partnering to offer guests cruisers to explore the city during the summer of 2014.<sup>24</sup>

- One of the newest trends in adventure cycling is “fat bike,” multiple speed bikes that are made to ride where other bikes can’t be ridden, with tires that are up to 5 inches wide run at low pressure for extra traction. Most fat bikes are used to ride on snow but they are also very effective for riding on any loose surface like sand or mud. They also work well on most rough terrain or just riding through the woods. This bike offers unique opportunities to experience nature in ways that wouldn’t be possible otherwise.<sup>25</sup>

Agencies around the country are working to proactively regulate E-Bikes on their trails and greenways. In September of 2019, the Interior’s land agencies – including the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation – were ordered to allow E-bikes where other types of bicycles are allowed. According to this policy, E-bikes are no longer defined as motorized vehicles. Statewide, there are also regulations which should be considered at a local level in regard to allowing electrical assisted bicycles on bike paths, pedestrian paths and multi-purpose trails. Agencies such as Boulder County in Colorado are implementing pilot programs to test the potential of e-bikes on trails and the impact that they have to the environment, other trail users, and wildlife.<sup>26</sup>

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

- Class 1 e-bikes provide electrical assistance only while the rider is pedaling. Electrical assistance stops when the bicycle reaches 20 mph.
- Class 2 e-bikes provide electrical assistance regardless if the rider is pedaling or not. Electrical assistance stops when the bicycle reaches 20 mph.

#### **Economic and Health Benefits of Parks**

The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space, a report from the Trust for Public Land, makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:<sup>27</sup>

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

---

<sup>24</sup> Michelle Baran, “New Trend: Urban Bike Tours in Los Angeles and New York,” *Budget Travel Blog*, <http://www.budgettravel.com/blog/new-trend-urban-bike-tours-in-los-angeles-and-new-york,11772/>, accessed March 2014

<sup>25</sup> Steven Pease, “Fat Bikes, How to Get the Most Out of Winter Cycling,” *Minnesota Cycling Examiner*, <http://www.examiner.com/article/fat-bikes-the-latest-trend-adventure-cycling>, February 1, 2014.

<sup>26</sup> “E-bikes on Open Space,” Boulder County, <https://www.bouldercounty.org/open-space/management/e-bikes/>, Accessed December 28, 2020

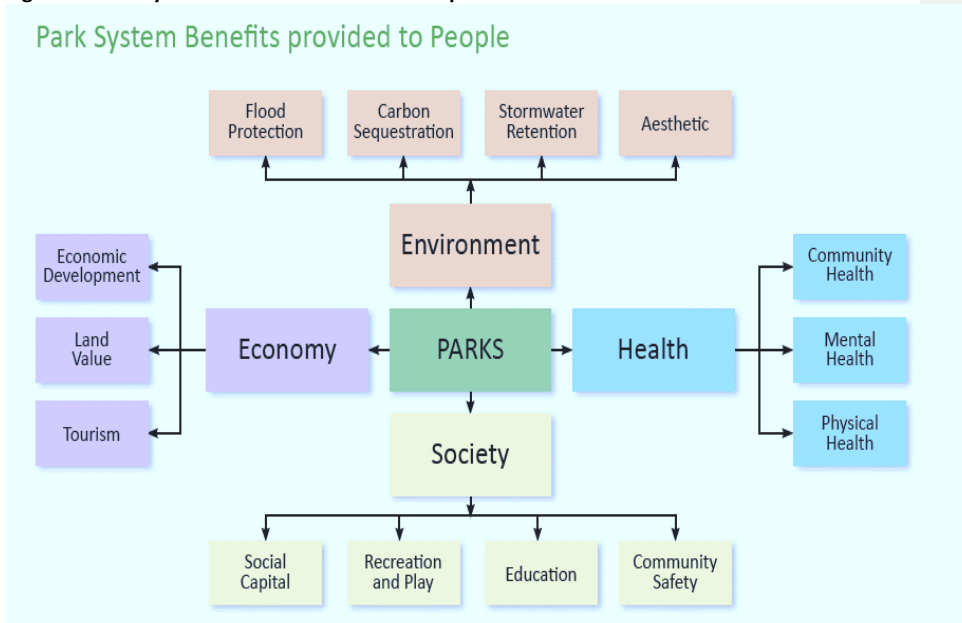
<sup>27</sup> “Benefits of Parks White Paper.” The Trust for Public Land, 2018, [www.tpl.org/benefits-parks-white-paper](http://www.tpl.org/benefits-parks-white-paper). Accessed 30 Sept. 2021.

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

DRAFT



**Figure X: Park System Benefits Provided to People and Communities**



Source: Earth Economics, 2011

**Farmer’s Market**

Park and recreation agencies often have the role of connecting communities to local, fresh foods. In fact, many local agencies are the largest providers of federally funded meals for the public. One in five agencies manage a farmers’ market. There are many benefits in providing farmers markets in the community. Beyond providing fresh foods to the public and promoting agricultural and economic benefits for farmers and vendors, they also bring culture building and engagement on a consistent basis. According to a study by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in 2019 of 296 agencies, approximately 67 percent of organizations host farmers markets once a week, with 21 percent offering it two or three times a week. Roughly four in five agencies use partnerships with nonprofits, farmers organizations, other local government departments, community development organizations, and the local extensions office to enhance the success of the farmers’ market.

Figure X: Overview of NRPA Farmers Market Report



Source: 2019 NRPA Farmers Market Report

**Generational Changes**

Activity participation and preferences tend to vary based on several demographic factors but can also differ based on generational preferences. According to the Pew Research Center, the following birth years identify generations into the categories below.

**Table X: Generation by Age**

Silent Generation	1928 – 45
Baby Boomers	1946 – 64
Generation X	1965 - 80
Millennial	1981 – 96
Generation Z	1997 - 2016
Alpha Generation	2017-2024

Source: Pew Research Center

### **The Silent Generation**

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

### **Baby Boomers**

As Baby Boomers enter and enjoy retirement, they are looking for opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, cultural events, and other activities that suit their lifestyles. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, Baby Boomers are predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults. Boomers are second only to Generation X and Millennials in participation in fitness sports in 2019.<sup>28</sup>

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

### **Generation X**

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

### **The Millennial Generation**

The Millennial Generation is generally considered those born between about 1981 and 1996, and in April 2016, the Pew Research Center reported that this generation had surpassed the Baby Boomers as the nation’s most populous age group<sup>29</sup>.

As Millennials tend to be more tech-savvy, socially conscious, achievement-driven age group with more flexible ideas about balancing wealth, work and play. They generally prefer different park amenities, and recreational programs, as opposed to their counterparts in the Baby Boomer generation. Engagement with this generation should be considered in parks and recreation planning. In an April 2015 posting to the National Parks and Recreation Association’s official blog,

---

<sup>28</sup>Physical Activity Council, Participation Report, 2019: <http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Richard Fry, “Millennials overtake Baby Boomers as America’s Largest Generation”, *Pew Research Center Fact Tank*, April 25, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/25/millennials-overtake-baby-boomers/>, accessed May 2015



*Open Space*, Scott Hornick, CEO of Adventure Solutions suggests the following 7 things to consider to make your parks millennial friendly<sup>30</sup>:

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

In addition to being health conscious, Millennials often look for local and relatively inexpensive ways to experience the outdoors close to home; on trails, bike paths, and in community parks<sup>31</sup>.

#### **Generation Z**

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

*Characteristics cited for Generation Z, the youth of today, include*<sup>32</sup>:

1. The most obvious characteristic for Generation Z is the widespread use of technology.
2. Generation Z members live their lives online and they love sharing both the intimate and mundane details of life.
3. They tend to be acutely aware that they live in a pluralistic society and tend to embrace diversity.
4. Generation Z tend to be independent. They don't wait for their parents to teach them things or tell them how to make decisions, they Google it.

#### **Generation Alpha**

Children born in this generation are children of Millennials which will be born entirely in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and considered the most technological demographic to date. Also known as iGeneration, they will grow up in a world that interacts with artificial intelligence and smart voice assistance in a completely natural way – not able to understand a world without such technology. By the time this generation reaches their twenties, they are likely to recreate the way they interact with their environments. They will have little to no fear of technology. Artificial Intelligence, which is

---

<sup>30</sup> Scott Hornick, "7 Ways to Make Your Park More Millennial Friendly", *Parks and Recreation Open Space Blog*, August 19, 2015, <http://www.nrpa.org/blog/7-ways-to-make-your-parks-millennial-friendly>, accessed May 2016

<sup>31</sup> "Sneakernomics: How The 'Outdoor' Industry Became The 'Outside' Industry", *Forbes*, September 21, 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mattpowell/2015/09/21/sneakernomics-how-the-outdoor-industry-became-the-outside-industry/2/#50958385e34d>, accessed May 2016

<sup>32</sup> Alexandra Levit, "Make Way for Generation Z", *New York Times*, March 28, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/jobs/make-way-for-generation-z.html>, accessed May 2016

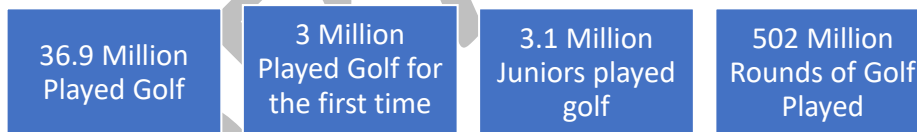
expected to be mainstream by the time the first Alphas reach their twenties would be expected to have significantly more leisure time than any other generation to date. Near the end of the planning horizon for this master plan, the Alpha generation will be reaching teen years. Every effort to accommodate this generation with high quality, state of the art technology in facilities and with programs will be necessary to reach this group.

### Golf

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

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

The NGF also counts total golf participants by factoring in off-course experiences as well, and that number swelled the overall count to 36.9 million, up 8 percent year-over-year and a near 20 percent gain in the last five years.<sup>33</sup>



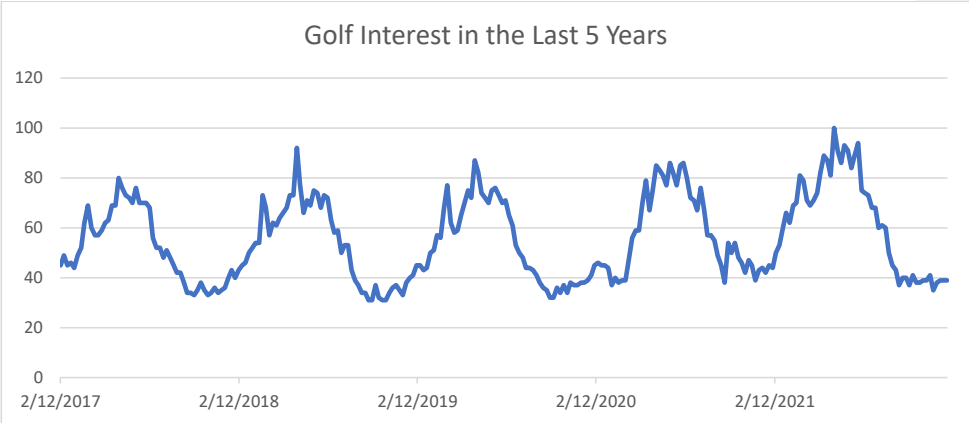
Source: National Golf Federation



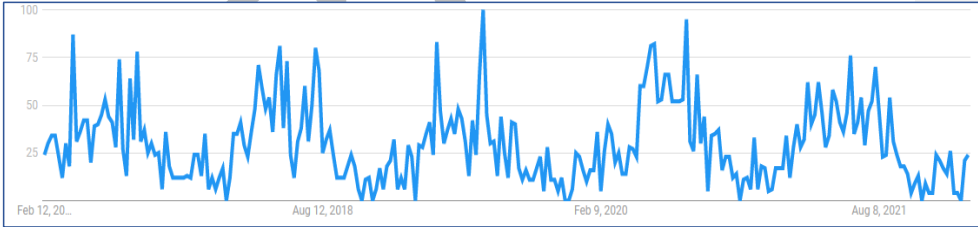
<sup>33</sup> Stachura M. The numbers are official: Golf's surge in popularity in 2020 was even better than predicted. Golf Digest. Published April 7, 2021. Accessed January 19, 2022. <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/national-golf-foundation-reports-numbers-for-2020-were-record-se#:~:text=The%20NGF%20count%20showed%2024.8,net%20increase%20in%2017%20years.&text=Last%20year%20also%20saw%20the,since%20Tiger's%201997%20Masters%20win>

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

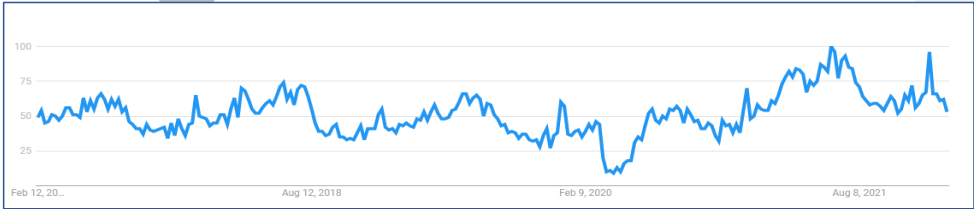
**Figure X: Google search trends of golf and related variations (2017-2022)<sup>34</sup>**



**Golf Driving Ranges**

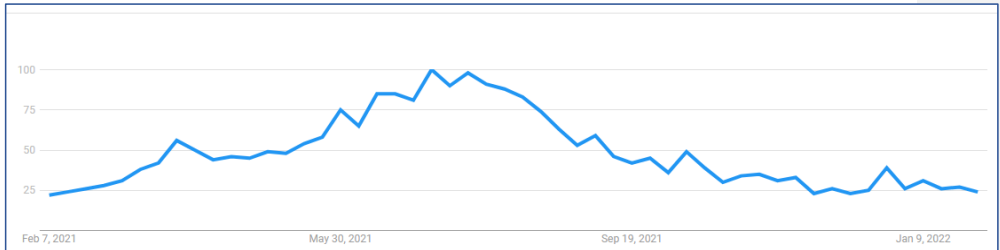


**Top Golf**



<sup>34</sup> Google Trends, Search Terms: Golf, Top Golf, Golf Driving Ranges, Mini Golf, February 2017 – February 2021, <https://trends.google.com/>

**Mini-Golf**

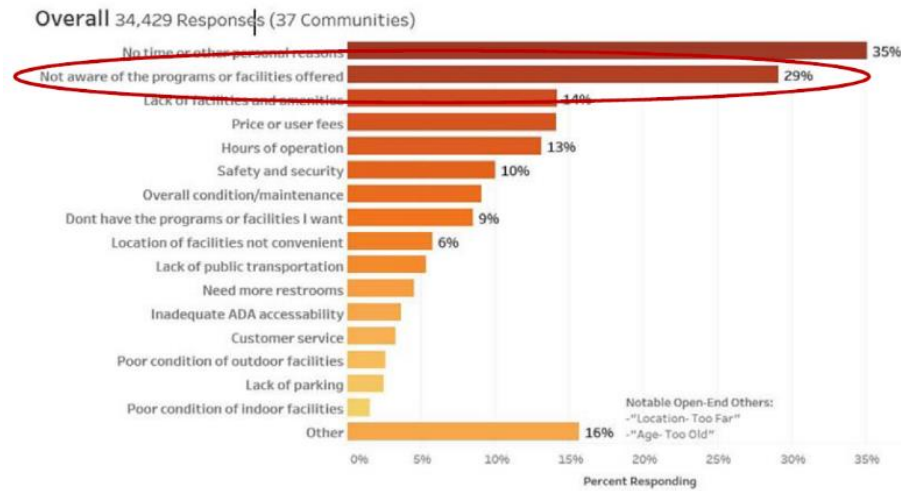


**Marketing and Social Media**

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

**Figure X: Common Barriers to Recreation Participation**

If you or anyone else in your household DOES NOT use parks or recreation offerings, why not?



**Commented [LW1]:** This will become a graphic from the marketing team in the final document.

Source: GP RED

In today's modern world, there is ample opportunity to promote and market parks and recreation services. It begins with a needs assessment that details how the community prefers to receive

information. Then, a marketing plan should be developed that is catered to the agency's resources, including staff, time, and budget. This should guide the agency for one to three years.

Technology has made it easier to reach a wide-reaching, location-dependent audience that can be segmented by demographics. However, it has also caused a gap in the way parks and recreation agencies are able to communicate. Agencies around the country have previously not dedicated substantial funding to marketing, however it is becoming a critical piece to receiving participants. Without dedicated staff and support, it is difficult to keep up with social media trends which seem to change daily. Furthermore, with an overarching desire to standardize a county's brand, there may be limitations to the access and control that a parks and recreation agency has over their marketing. It is essential that professionals become advocates for additional resources, training, and education. Having a strong presence on social networks, through email marketing, and through traditional marketing will help enhance the perception from the community.<sup>35</sup>

#### **Nature Programming & Nature-Deficit Disorder**

Playing in nature is an educational opportunity that has numerous benefits, from increasing active and healthy lifestyles, to developing a conservation mindset, to understanding the ecosystems and wildlife that depend on them.<sup>36</sup> According to the report, "Nature Play & Learning Places: Creating and Managing Places where Children Engage with Nature" there is a genuine need in today's society for learning spaces that spark creative play with natural materials, such as plants, vines, shrubs, rocks, water, logs, and other elements.

Richard Louv introduced the term, "Nature-Deficit Disorder" in 2005, which describes the effects of urbanization, technological advances, and social changes. Scientific evidence suggests that this disorder contributes to emotional and physical illnesses, including attention difficulties, obesity, nature illiteracy, and an "epidemic of inactivity."<sup>37</sup> Environmental education, provided by non-profits and parks and recreation agencies, can help combat nature-deficit disorder by sparking curiosity in the outdoors either through structured nature programming or through unstructured nature play. Nature Play is defined as "A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences."

Nature Play spaces can provide valuable lessons for children, not only in regard to learning their natural environment and appreciation for nature, but also for personal development. These spaces, like playgrounds, provide safe spaces to take risks and understand behavioral outcomes. One of the most essential elements in planning Nature Play spaces is to conduct a risk assessment

---

<sup>35</sup> "The NRPA Park and Recreation Marketing and Communications Report | Research | Parks and Recreation Magazine | NRPA." Nrupa.org, 2015, [www.nrupa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/january/the-nrupa-park-and-recreation-marketing-and-communications-report/](http://www.nrupa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/january/the-nrupa-park-and-recreation-marketing-and-communications-report/). Accessed 16 Nov. 2021.

<sup>36</sup> Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation

<sup>37</sup> Children and Nature Network, "Nature Deficit Disorder" Accessed January 2020: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/about/nature-deficit-disorder/>

---

to reduce the unnecessary potential of injury. For instance, natural objects such as logs, and boulders may be placed strategically for climbing but consider where the child might land if he or she were to fall or jump off. Similarly, trees can be used as natural climbing features, with consideration to removing shrubs and nearby smaller trees below. Nature Play can happen in forest-based schools, play zoos, gardens, and summer camps. American Camp Association reported that there are approximately 5,000 day camps that currently operate in the U.S.<sup>38</sup>

### **Older Adults and Senior Programming**

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

Public parks and recreation agencies are increasingly expected to be significant providers of such services and facilities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the Healthy Aging in Parks initiative to support parks and recreation agencies in serving older adults in the community. This initiative is based on the needs of older adults, including physical fitness, socialization, transportation, and other quality of life desires. Some of the primary strategies of the Healthy Aging in Parks initiative are as follows:

- Promote participation in physical activity through providing social engagement
- Provide safe environments – both inside and outside – that limit barriers for participation
- Utilize evidence-based interventions to increase support and manage chronic diseases<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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

---

<sup>38</sup> Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation

- Area agencies on aging (58%)
- Retirement communities (44%)
- Senior meals providers (42%)
- Hospitals and doctors' offices (39%)
- Local health departments (39%)
- Health insurance companies (38%)
- Community-based organizations (faith based, YMCAs, etc.) (38%)

### **Outdoor Fitness Trails**

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

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor recreation has become a thriving economic driver, creating 4.3 million direct national jobs in 2020 and generated \$689 billion in consumer spending. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimated that the outdoor recreation economy makes up 1.8% of the current gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, accounting for more than \$374.3 billion. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the outdoor recreation industry. Although the full extent of that impact is not known yet, one of the primary data points is around outdoor recreation employment, which decreased in all fifty states in 2020. The top three conventional outdoor recreation activities according to the BEA in 2020 was boating/fishing, RVing, and hunting/shooting/trapping.<sup>39</sup>

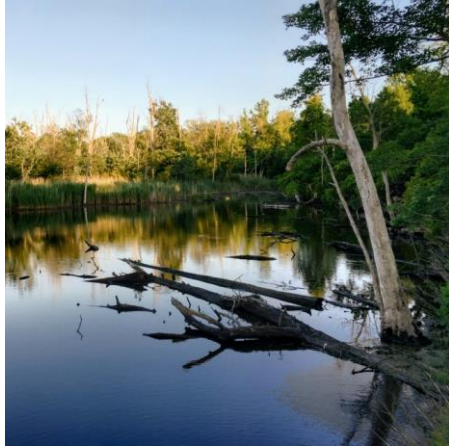
In the State of Maryland, the outdoor recreation economy generates:

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

---

<sup>39</sup> “Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. And States, 2020 | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).” Bea.gov, 2020, [www.bea.gov/news/2021/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2020](https://www.bea.gov/news/2021/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2020). Accessed 16 Nov. 2021.

---



### **Riparian and Watershed Best Practices**

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

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests the following steps to building an effective watershed management

plan. See [water.epa.gov](http://water.epa.gov)<sup>40</sup> for more information from the EPA.

- Build partnerships
- Characterize the watershed
- Set goals and identify solutions
- Design and implementation program
- Implement the watershed plan
- Measure progress and make adjustments

### **Sports Trends**

The 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report details the changes in fitness, team, and individual sports over the last decade. Fitness activities – such as aquatic exercise, impact/intensity training, rowing machines, stationary cycling, swimming for fitness, yoga, etc. – are the most participated activity – and have been for the past five years. For the first time since 2016, team sports increased in participation. An increase in basketball (the most played team sport) and outdoor soccer (the third most played team sport) has helped fuel this growth. Overall, team sports have over 29 million youth participants. BMX biking is one of the fastest growing extreme sports, gaining 10 percent participation in 2019, followed by skateboarding (increase of 7%).<sup>41</sup>

### **Teen Programs**

Local parks and recreation agencies are often tasked with finding opportunities for teen programming beyond youth sports. Beyond interacting with those of their own age, many agencies are developing creative multi-generational activities which may involve seniors and teens assisting one another to learn life skills. Activities such as meditation, yoga, sports, art, and

---

<sup>40</sup>“Implement the Watershed Plan – Implement Management Strategies,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/datait/watershedcentral/plan2.cfm>

<sup>41</sup> “2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report.” *Sfia.org*, 2020, [www.sfia.org/reports/802\\_2020-Sports%2C-Fitness%2C-and-Leisure-Activities-Topline-Participation-Report](http://www.sfia.org/reports/802_2020-Sports%2C-Fitness%2C-and-Leisure-Activities-Topline-Participation-Report). Accessed 1 Nov. 2021.



civic engagement can help teens develop life skills and engage cognitive functions. Agencies that can help teens develop career development skills and continue their education are most successful in promoting positive teen outcomes and curbing at-risk behavior.<sup>42</sup> As suicide is the second highest causes of deaths among United States teens, mental health continues to be a priority for this age group.

### **Trails and Health**

Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between how close people live to a connected system of trails and their level of physical activity in a community. Trails can provide a wide variety of opportunities for being physically active, such as walking/running/hiking, rollerblading, wheelchair recreation, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. Active use of trails results in positive health outcomes and is an excellent way to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyle changes. In a study released in 2014, results indicate that there were benefits for those that lived up to 2.5 miles away from a biking or walking infrastructure, and for those that lived within one mile, they were getting on average 45 minutes more exercise per week.

The American Heart Association has found that for every \$1 spent on building trails, \$3 is saved medical costs. The health benefits are equally as high for trails in urban neighborhoods as for those in state or national parks. Data from the American Trails Association indicates that all trail use is beneficial for physical health.<sup>43</sup> A trail in the neighborhood, creating a 'linear park', makes it easier for people to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, whether for recreation or non-motorized transportation. Urban trails need to connect people to places they want to go, such as schools, transit centers, businesses, and neighborhoods.

---

<sup>42</sup> Kardys, Jack "Park Afterschool Programs: A Vital Community Resource" National Recreation and Park Association. June 2019, <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/june/park-afterschool-programs-a-vital-community-resource/>

<sup>43</sup> "Health Benefits of Trails - American Trails." Americantrails.org, 2014, [www.americantrails.org/health-benefits](http://www.americantrails.org/health-benefits). Accessed 1 Nov. 2021.

---

## B. Demographic Profile

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

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

### Population



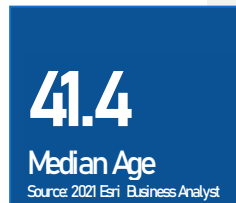
Calvert County had an estimated population of 92,783 in 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau data, prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning. In 2010, the population was estimated at 88,737, representing a 9.6% change within the decade with 4,046 added residents.

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

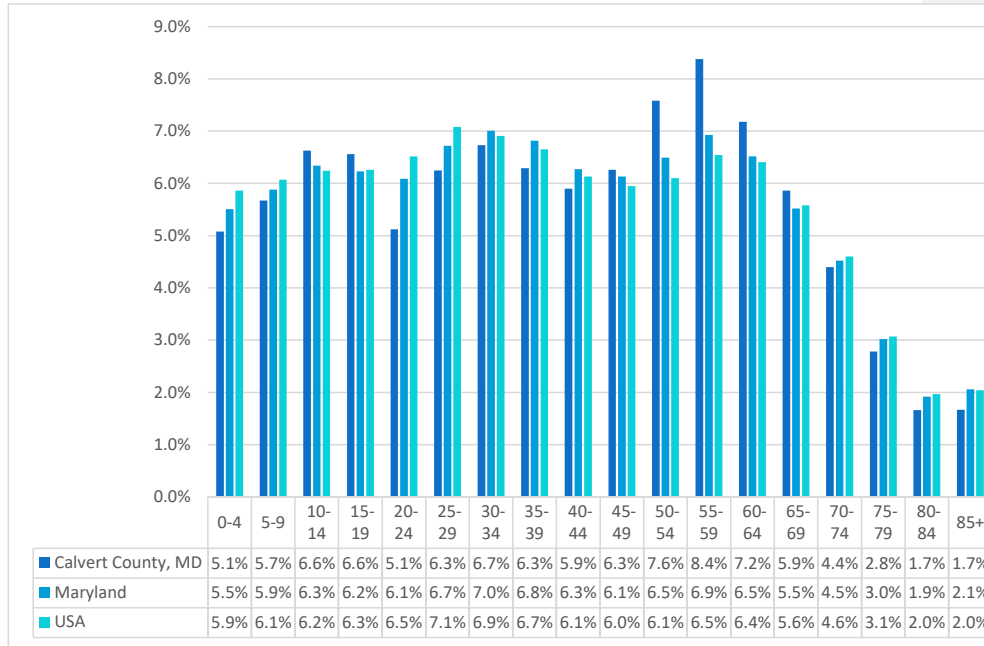
### Age Distribution

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

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



**Figure X: Age Distribution in Calvert County Compared to Maryland, United States**



Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

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

**Table X: Age Group Distribution from 2010 to 2021**

Age Group	2010	2021
Age 0-4	5.6%	5.1%
Age 5-9	7.1%	5.7%
Age 10-14	8.2%	6.6%
Age 15-19	7.9%	6.6%
Age 20-24	5.5%	5.1%
Age 25-29	5.0%	6.3%
Age 30-34	4.9%	6.7%
Age 35-39	5.8%	6.3%
Age 40-44	8.4%	5.9%
Age 45-49	10.0%	6.3%

Age 50-54	8.6%	7.6%
Age 55-59	6.9%	8.4%
Age 60-64	5.4%	7.2%
Age 65-69	3.8%	5.9%
Age 70-74	2.5%	4.4%
Age 75-79	1.9%	2.8%
Age 80-84	1.4%	1.7%
Age 85+	1.3%	1.7%

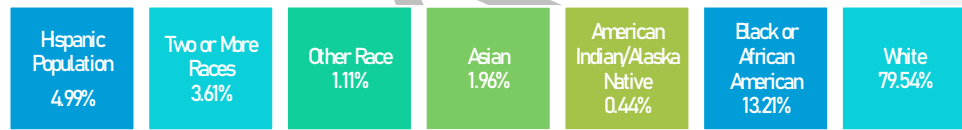
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

### Diversity in Calvert County

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

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

Figure X: Race Comparison for Total Population in Calvert County



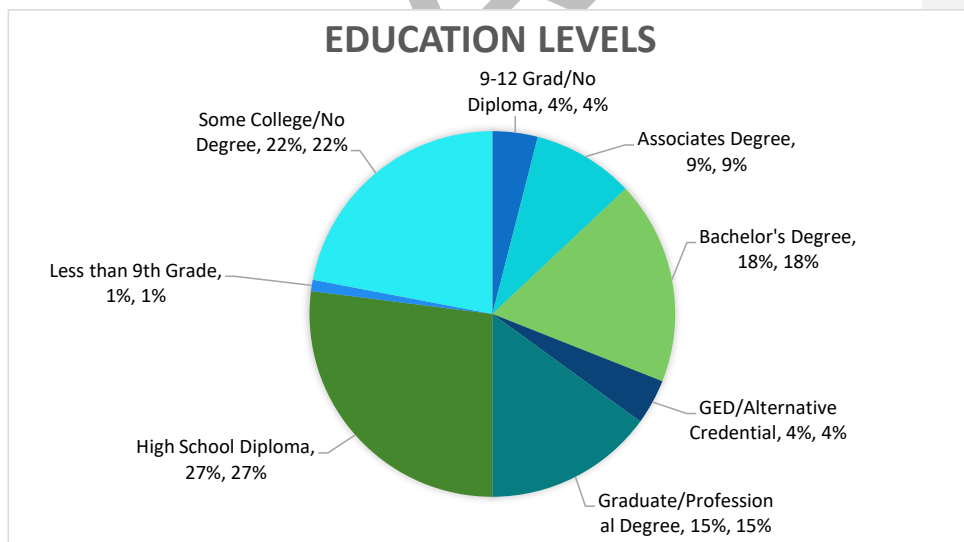
Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

## Responsibility to Racial Equity

Local governments have the unique responsibility to serve all members of the public. However, disparities have long existed that affect outcomes for residents and employees of color. The systems, policies, and practices that are integrated in local governments may unintentionally create racial inequity. According to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, racial equity is realized when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes. Within local parks and recreation, diversity can be integrated in the system through simple but powerful changes:

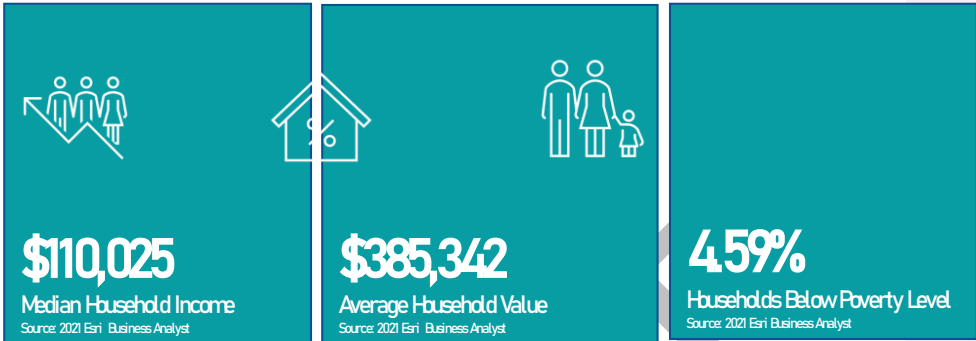
- Requiring translation and interpretation services at recreation centers and facilities
- Build pathways for economic opportunity for people of color
- Establish multiracial alliances, coalitions, and movements with partners to advance policy changes
- Teach the full history of the American Outdoors
- Increase economic accessibility to create more access points for all
- Expand the definition of outdoor recreation to be inclusive of small urban parks

<sup>44</sup> Source: Government Alliance on Race and Equity



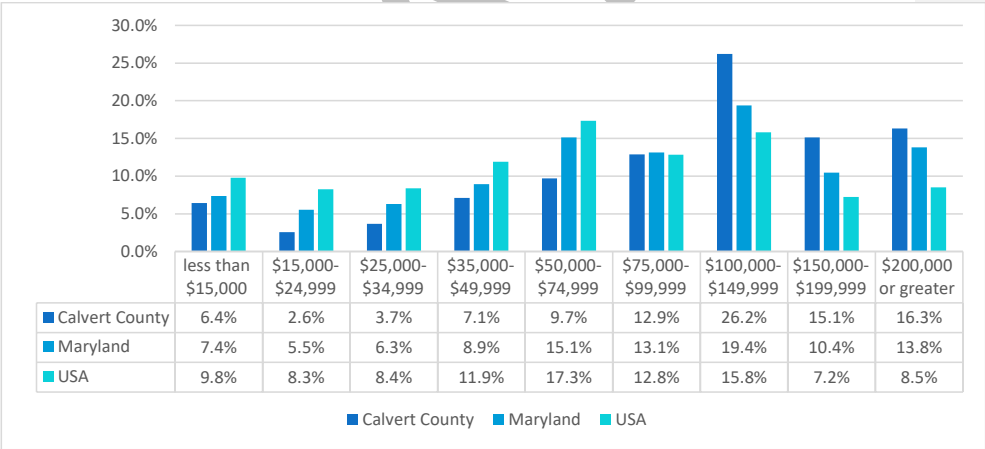
<sup>44</sup> "Tools & Resources | Government Alliance on Race and Equity." *Government Alliance on Race and Equity*, 2022, [www.racialequityalliance.org/tools-resources/](http://www.racialequityalliance.org/tools-resources/). Accessed 10 Jan. 2022.

**Household Overview**



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

**Figure X: Median Household Income Distribution**



Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

### Employment

In 2021, an estimated 6.5% of the Calvert County's population was unemployed, higher than the State of Maryland (6.3%) and the United States (6.2%).

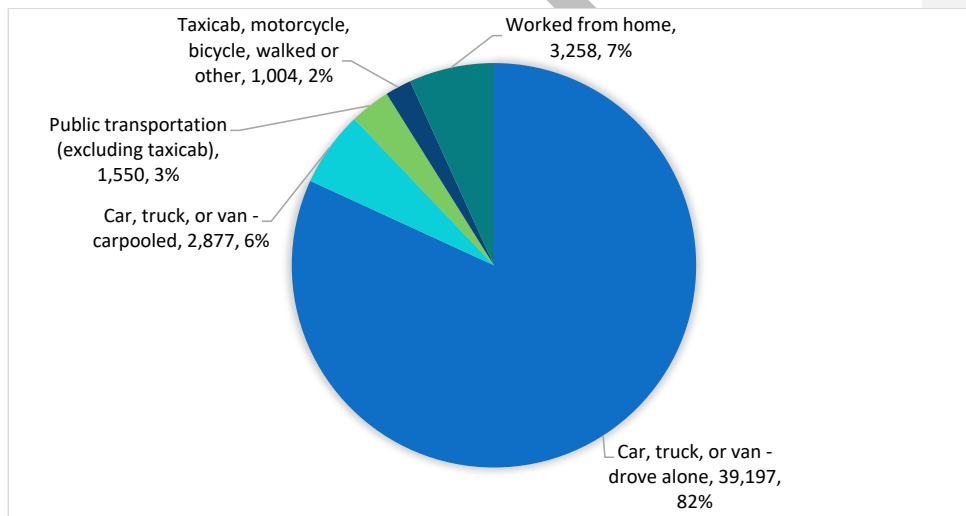
Approximately 67% of the population was employed in white collar positions, which encompass jobs where employees typically perform managerial, technical, administrative, and/or professional capacities. Another 22% of the County's population were employed in blue collar positions, such as construction, maintenance, etc. Finally, 11% Calvert County's residents were employed in the service industry.

Residents within Calvert County rely on several transportation methods. It is estimated that in 2019, almost 40,000 residents chose to drive alone to work, while another 6% carpooled with others. At the time, only 7% worked from home. Data during and after the pandemic in 2020 was not yet available at the time of this report. Of those that did travel to work, approximately 18% of residents spent seven plus hours a week commuting.



A blue square graphic with a white briefcase icon at the top. Below the icon, the text '6.5%' is displayed in a large, bold, white font. Underneath, 'Unemployment Rate' is written in a smaller white font, followed by 'Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst' in an even smaller white font.

**Figure X: Means of Transportation to Work by Vehicles Available**



Source: 2021 Esri Business Analyst

## People with Disabilities



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

## Health and Wellness

Understanding the status of a community's health can help inform policies related to recreation and fitness. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* provided annual insight on the general health of national, state, and county populations. Calvert County was ranked in the highest range among counties in Maryland; in 2020, it ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 23 Maryland Counties for Health Outcomes. **Figure X** below provides additional information regarding the County's health data as it may relate to parks, recreation, and community services.<sup>45</sup> The strengths indicated below are those areas where Calvert County ranked higher than top U.S. performers or the State of Maryland. The areas to explore are those where the County ranked lower than the State or top U.S. performers.



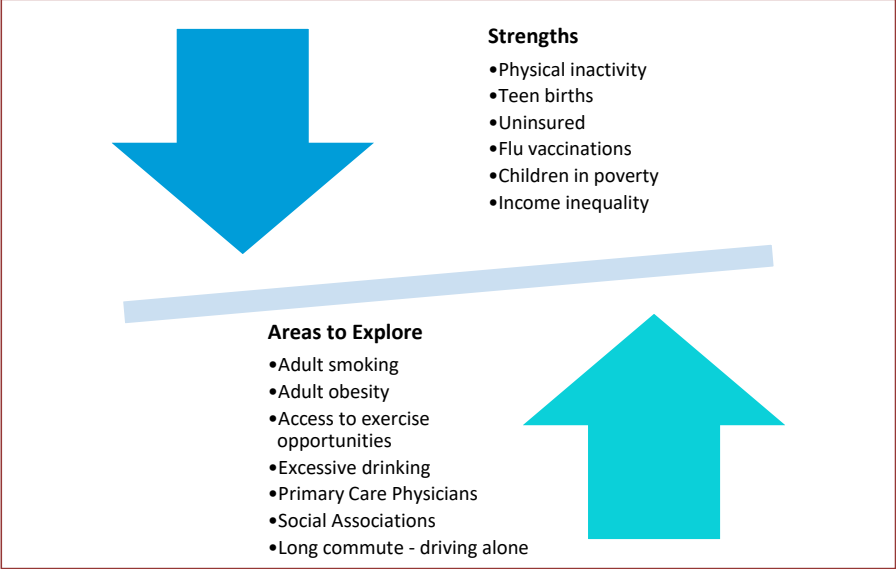
---

<sup>45</sup> <sup>45</sup> "How Healthy Is Your County? | County Health Rankings." County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2021, [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/). Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.

---



Figure X: Calvert County Health Rankings Overview



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps<sup>46</sup>

<sup>46</sup> "How Healthy Is Your County? | County Health Rankings." County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2021, [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/). Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.

## Parks and Recreation as Wellness Hubs

Parks and Recreation agencies are adapting to serve as Community Wellness Hubs, places for community members to improve health outcomes and enhance quality of life. Whether by providing access to healthy foods, physical activity, social connections, or access to nature, local parks and recreation departments can increase the health in their community. Numerous studies have continued to indicate the health benefits of outdoor spaces, recreation programs, and community centers. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association:

- Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for both adults and youth.
- Adolescents with easy access to multiple recreation facilities were more physically active and less likely to be overweight or obese than adolescents without access to such facilities.
- Increasing access to recreation facilities is an essential strategy for preventing childhood obesity.
- Organized Park programs and supervision may increase the use of parks and playgrounds and may also increase physical activity, particularly among youths.
- Park renovations can increase vigorous physical activity among children and can also increase the use of certain types of facilities, including playgrounds and skate parks.
- Park and recreation agencies are the second largest public feeder of children, next to schools. Park and recreation agencies annually serve approximately 560 million meals to children through summer and after-school programs

Source: *National Recreation and Park Association*<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>47</sup> "Parks and Recreation as Community Health and Wellness Hubs | Health and Wellness | Parks and Recreation Magazine | NRPA." *Nrpa.org*, [www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/november/parks-and-recreation-as-community-health-and-wellness-hubs/](http://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/november/parks-and-recreation-as-community-health-and-wellness-hubs/). Accessed 10 Nov. 2021.

---

## C. Survey Report

(will be inserted as a PDF)

DRAFT



## **D. Financial Analysis**

### **Potential Funding Support**

GreenPlay/BerryDunn guided the Calvert County Government Department of Parks & Recreation staff through a potential funding source exercise that identified the Department's most likely funding sources.

### **Potential Funding Sources and Strategies**

GreenPlay/BerryDunn has compiled the following list of potential funding sources and strategies for public parks and recreation identified through over 22 years of consulting with agencies across the United States. They are provided for agencies to review for potential use in their own communities. The following strategies were identified as the most potential options for the Calvert County Government Department of Parks & Recreation for potential new or expanded revenue and cost savings strategies and maximizing efforts to meet the needs of the community. Forty nine (49) new potential funding sources that could be definitely considered or possibly considered were identified.

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

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

### **Traditional Tax and Exactions-Based Funding Resources**

#### **General or Operating Fund (In Use)**

Parks and recreation services are typically funded by an agency's General or Operating Fund, which can be comprised of property tax, sales tax, and other compulsory charges levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit of a community. These funds may also come from resources such as inter-governmental agreements, reimbursements, and interest and may include such revenue sources as franchise taxes, licenses and permits, fees, transfers in, reserves, interest income, and miscellaneous other incomes.

#### **Property Tax (In Use)**

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

#### **Sales Tax (Something to Possibly Consider)**

---

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

#### **Sin Tax (In Use)**

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

## **Development Funding**

#### **Development Impact Fees (In Use)**

Development impact fees are one-time charges imposed on development projects at the time of permit issue to recover capital costs for public facilities needed to serve new developments and the additional residents, employees, and visitors they bring to the community. State laws, with a few minor exceptions, prohibit the use of impact fees for ongoing maintenance or operations costs. Not all states allow the collection of impact fees.

#### **Local Improvement Districts (Definitely Something to Consider)**

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

#### **Park Land Dedication Ordinance (In Use)**

Park land dedication requirements typically state that all residential subdivisions of land (and often commercial), with some exemptions, are to provide for parks by either dedicating land, paying an in-lieu fee (the amounts may be adjusted annually), or a combination of the two.

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

### **Fees and Charges**

#### **Daily Admission and Annual Pass Sales or Vehicle Permits (In Use)**

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

#### **Registration Fees (In Use)**

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

---

### **Ticket Sales/Admissions (In Use)**

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

## **Alternative Parks and Recreation Operations and Capital Development Funding Sources**

Alternative funding sources include a variety of different or non-conventional public sector strategies for diversifying the funding base beyond traditional tax-based support. The following is a list of known industry funding practices, potential sources, and strategies, as compiled by GreenPlay. Some of the strategies may currently be used by your agency, but may not be used to maximum effectiveness or capacity. Those that may not currently be used by your agency should be considered for a project's or the operation's specific relevance.

***NOTE:** Not every funding mechanism on this list may be allowable by law, as the laws, regulations, statutes, ordinances, and systems of governance vary from city to city, county to county, and state to state. The authority to put forth referenda or institute exactions must be researched for validity within your city and your state, as this list is comprised of the financial practices from across the nation. Some referenda are passed by simple majority of those who vote, while others require a larger percentage to pass. In certain circumstances, referenda are passed by the majority of eligible voters versus just those who vote.*

### **Loan Mechanisms**

#### **General Obligation Bonds (In Use)**

Bonded indebtedness issued with the approval of the electorate for capital improvements and general public improvements.

#### **Revenue Bonds (Something to Possibly Consider)**

Bonds used for capital projects that will generate revenue for debt service where fees can be set aside to support repayment of the bond. These are typically issued for water, sewer or drainage charges, and other enterprise type activities.

#### **Special Assessment Bonds (Definitely Something to Consider)**

These bonds are payable from the proceeds of special assessments such as local improvement districts.

### **Alternative Service Delivery and Funding Structures**

Your agency may already be using some of these strategies.

#### **Annual Appropriation/Leasehold Financing (Definitely Something to Consider)**

This is a more complex financing structure that requires use of a third party to act as an issuer of the bonds who would construct the facility and retain title until the bonds are retired. For

---

example, an agency can enter into a lease agreement with the third party with annual lease payments equal to the debt service requirements. The bonds issued by the third party are considered less secure than general obligation bonds of an agency and are therefore more costly. Since a separate corporation issues these bonds, they do not impact an agency's debt limitations and do not require a vote. However, they also do not entitle an agency to levy property taxes to service the debt. The annual lease payments must be appropriated from existing revenues.

### **Commercial Property Endowment Model – Operating Foundation (Something to Possibly Consider)**

John L. Crompton<sup>48</sup> discusses government using the Commercial Property Endowment Model citing two case studies in the United Kingdom and Mission Bay Park in San Diego, California as an alternative structure to deliver park and recreation services. A non-profit organization may be established and given park infrastructure and/or land assets to manage as public park and recreation services along with commercial properties as income-earning assets or commercial lease fees to provide for a sustainable funding source. This kind of social enterprise is charged with operating, maintaining, renovating, and enhancing the public park system and is not unlike a model to subsidize low-income housing with mixed-use developments.

### **Inter-local Agreements (In Use)**

Contractual relationships could be established between two or more local units of government and/or between a local unit of government and a non-profit organization for the joint usage/development of sports fields, regional parks, or other facilities.

### **Privatization – Outsourcing the Management (Something to Possibly Consider)**

Typically used for food and beverage management, golf course operations, ball field, or sports complex operations by negotiated or bid contract.

### **Partnership Opportunities**

Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a government agency, or a private business and a government agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.

Creating synergy based on expanded program offerings and collaborative efforts can be beneficial to all providers as interest grows and people gravitate to the type of facility and programs that best suit their recreational needs and schedules. Potential strategic alliance partnerships where missions run parallel, and mutually beneficial relationships can be fostered and may include the following:

- YMCA (Something to Possibly Consider)
- School Districts (In Use)
- Medical Centers or Hospitals (In Use)
- Boys and Girls Club (In Use)

---

<sup>48</sup> Spring 2010 *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, Volume 28, Number 1, pp 103-111

---

- Kiwanis, Optimists, VFWs, Elks, Rotary, and other service and civic organizations (In Use)
- Chamber of Commerce (In Use)
- Convention and Visitor's Bureau (In Use)
- Homeowner or Neighborhood Associations (In Use)
- Youth Sports Associations (In Use)
- Adult Sports Associations (In Use)
- Neighboring counties/communities (In Use)
- Private alternative providers (In Use)
- Churches (In Use)
- Professional Sports Teams/Organizations (In Use)
- Amusement Parks (example Disney World) (In Use)
- Senior Citizen Groups (AARP, Silver Sneakers) (In Use)

*A Sample Partnership Policy can be provided to Calvert County.*

## **Community Resources**

The following subsections summarize research findings on potential funding sources that could enhance capital expenditures for capital repair, renovation, and new construction and operating budgets for an agency. These findings do not recommend any particular funding strategy over another. The economic conditions within the service area may vary with time, and your agency should explore the best means of achieving its goals toward the operations of the agency, the programs, and the facilities on an ongoing basis.

### **Advertising Sales (In Use)**

Advertising sales are a viable opportunity for revenue through the sale of tasteful and appropriate advertising on items such as program guides, scoreboards, dasher boards, and other visible products or services. This could be a viable strategy in the future if appropriate opportunities present themselves, such as the acquisition of scoreboards, etc. Current sign codes should be reviewed for conflicts or appropriate revisions.

### **Corporate Sponsorships (In Use)**

An agency can solicit this revenue-funding source itself or work with agencies that pursue and use this type of funding. Sponsorships are often used for programs and events where there are greater opportunities for sponsor recognition (greater value to the sponsor).

*A Sample Sponsorship Policy can be provided to Calvert County.*

### **Fundraising (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Many park and recreation agencies have special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects. This can include selling bricks, benches, pavers, tiles, and commemorative tree plantings, etc.

### **Crowdfunding (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Park and Recreation agencies are beginning to incorporate crowdfunding efforts alongside traditional fundraising strategies.

---



NRPA has implemented a Fund Your Park crowdfunding platform. It's free to members, donations are tax deductible and you have all the support you need from NRPA staff. *Source: Kara Kish, MPA, CPRE, CPSI, article in Parks and Recreation Magazine, December 2015. www.NRPA.org*

#### **Grants (In Use)**

Grants often supplement or match funds that have already been received. For example, grants can be used for program purposes, information technology infrastructure, planning, design, seed money, and construction. Due to their infrequent nature, grants are often used to fund a specific venture and should not be viewed as a continuous source of funding.

#### **Facilities and Equipment Grants (In Use)**

These grants help buy long-lasting physical assets, such as a building. The applicant organization must make the case that the new acquisition will help better serve its Calvert County Government Department of Parks & Recreation. Fund providers considering these requests will not only be interested in the applicant's current activities and financial health, but they will also inquire as to the financial and program plans for the next several years. Fund providers do not want allocate resources to an organization or program only to see it shut down in a few years because of poor management.

#### **General Purpose or Operating Grants (Definitely Something to Consider)**

When a grant maker gives an operating grant, it can be used to support the general expenses of operating. An operating grant means the fund provider supports the overall mission and trusts that the money will be put to good use. Operating grants are generally much harder to procure than program or support grants.

#### **Management or Technical Assistance Grants (In Use)**

Unlike most project grants, a technical assistance grant does not directly support the mission-related activities of an agency. Instead, they support management or administration and the associated fundraising, marketing, and financial management needs.

Program-Related Investments (PRIs) (Definitely Something to Consider) - In addition to grants, the Internal Revenue Service allows foundations to make loans—called Program-Related Investments (PRIs)—to nonprofits. PRIs must be for projects that would be eligible for grant support. They are usually made at low or zero interest. PRIs must be paid back to the grant maker. PRIs are often made to organizations involved in building projects.

#### **Matching Grants (In Use)**

Many grant makers will provide funding only on the condition that an amount equal to the size of the grant can be raised from other sources. This type of grant is another means by which foundations can determine the viability of an organization or program.

#### **Planning Grants (In Use)**

When planning a major new program, an agency may need to spend a good deal of time and money conducting research. A planning grant supports this initial project development work, which may include investigating the needs of constituents, consulting with experts in the field, or conducting research and planning activities.

#### **Private Grant and Philanthropic Agencies (In Use)**

---

Many resources are available which provide information on private grant and philanthropic agency opportunities. A thorough investigation and research on available grants is necessary to ensure mutually compatible interests and to confirm the current status of available funding. Examples of publicly accessible resources are summarized below.

- Information on current and archived Federal Register Grant Announcements can be accessed from The Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) on the Internet at: <http://www.tgci.com>.
- Another resource is the Foundation Center's RFP Bulletin Grants Page on Health at: <http://foundationcenter.org>.
- Research [www.ecivis.com](http://www.ecivis.com) for a contract provider of a web-based Grants Locator system for government and foundation grants specifically designed for local government.

#### **Program or Support Grants (In Use)**

A program or support grant is given to support a specific or connected set of activities that typically have a beginning and an end, specific objectives, and predetermined costs. Listed below are some of the most common types of program or support grants:

#### **Seed Money or Start-up Grants (In Use)**

These grants help a new organization or program in its first few years. The idea is to give the new effort a strong push forward, so it can devote its energy early on to setting up programs without worrying constantly about raising money. Such grants are often for more than one year, and frequently decrease in amount each year.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (In Use)**

This fund was reauthorized by Congress in December 2015 for 3 years. Generally during this short period the level of funding allocated to states (through the State and Local Assistance Program) for outdoor recreation land acquisition and facility development is anticipated to rise. Every state runs their State and Local Assistance Program in a slightly unique manner, so we encourage any municipal or county parks personnel interested in LWCF to contact their LWCF State Liaison Officer (typically someone at a state's department of fish and game, environmental protection, or conservation and recreation) for more information.

#### **Naming Rights (Something to Possibly Consider)**

Many agencies throughout the country have successfully sold the naming rights for newly constructed facilities or when renovating existing buildings. Additionally, newly developed and renovated parks have been successfully funded through the sale of naming rights. Generally, the cost for naming rights offsets the development costs associated with the improvement. People incorrectly assume that selling the naming rights for facilities is reserved for professional stadiums and other high profile team sport venues. This trend has expanded in recent years to include public recreation centers and facilities as viable naming rights sales opportunities.

Naming rights can be a one-time payment or amortized with a fixed payment schedule over a defined period of time. During this time, the sponsor retains the "rights" to have the park, facility, or amenity named for them. Also during this time, all publications, advertisements, events, and activities could have the sponsoring group's name as the venue. Naming rights negotiations need to be developed by legal professionals to ensure that the contractual obligation is equitable to all agents and provides remedies to change or cancel the arrangements at any time during the agreement period.

---

**Philanthropic (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Philanthropy can be defined as the concept of voluntary giving by an individual or group to promote the common good and to improve the quality of life. Philanthropy generally takes the form of donor programs, capital campaigns, and volunteers/in-kind services.

The time commitment to initiate a philanthropic campaign can be significant. If an agency decides to implement a capital fundraising campaign and current resources that could be dedicated to such a venture are limited, it may be recommended that the agency outsource some or most of this task to a non-profit or private agency experienced in managing community-based capital fundraising campaigns. Capital campaigns should be limited to large-scale capital projects that are desired by the community but for which dedicated funding is not readily available.

**Foundation/Gifts (Definitely Something to Consider)**

These dollars are received from tax-exempt, non-profit organization. The funds are private donations in promotion of specific causes, activities, or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, etc.

**Friends Associations (In Use)**

These groups are typically formed to raise money for a single purpose that could include a park facility or program that will benefit a particular special interest population or the community as a whole.

**Gift Catalogs (Something to Possibly Consider)**

Gift catalogs provide organizations the opportunity to let the community know what their needs are on a yearly basis. The community purchases items from the gift catalog and donates them to an agency.

**Volunteer Programs/In-Kind Services (In Use)**

This revenue source is an indirect source in that persons donate time to assist an agency in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces cost in providing the service, plus it builds advocacy for the system. To manage a volunteer program, an agency typically dedicates a staff member to oversee the program for the entire agency.

**Adopt-a-Park/Adopt-a-Trail (In Use)**

Programs such as adopt-a-park may be created with and supported by the residents, businesses, and/or organizations located in the park's vicinity. These programs allow volunteers to actively assist in improving and maintaining parks, related facilities, and the community in which they live.

**Neighborhood Park Watch (Something to Possibly Consider)**

As a way to reduce costs associated with vandalism and other crimes against property, an agency may consider a neighborhood park watch program. This program develops community ownership of an agency's facilities.

**Gifts in Perpetuity (Definitely Something to Consider)**

---

### **Irrevocable Remainder Trusts (Definitely Something to Consider)**

These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than a million dollars in wealth. They will leave a portion of their wealth to an agency in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over a period of time and then is available to use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

### **Life Estates (Definitely Something to Consider)**

This revenue source is available when someone wants to leave their property to an agency in exchange for their continued residence on the property until their death. An agency can usually use a portion of the property for park and recreational purposes, and then use all of it after the person's death. This revenue source is very popular for individuals who have a lot of wealth and their estate will be highly taxed at their death. Their benefactors will have to sell their property because of probate costs. Life Estates allow individuals to receive a good yearly tax deduction on their property while leaving property for the community. Agencies benefit because they do not have to pay for the land.

### **Maintenance Endowments (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Maintenance Endowments are set up for organizations and individuals to invest in ongoing maintenance improvements, and infrastructure needs of specific/targeted facilities. Endowments retain money from user fees, individual gifts, impact fees, development rights, partnerships, conservation easements, and for wetland mitigations.

## **Community Service Fees and Assessments**

### **Capital Improvement Fees (Something to Possibly Consider)**

These fees are on top of the set user rate for accessing facilities such as sport and tournament venues and are used to support capital improvements that benefit the user of the facility.

### **Development Surcharge/Fee (Something to Possibly Consider)**

Some agencies have added a surcharge on every transaction, admission, or registration to generate an improvement or development fund.

### **Equipment Rental (In Use)**

This revenue source is generated from the rental of equipment such as tables and chairs tents, stages, bicycles, roller blades, boogie boards, etc. that are used for recreation purposes.

### **Flexible Fee Strategies (In Use)**

This pricing strategy would allow an agency to maximize revenues during peak times and premium sites/areas with higher fees and to fill in excess capacity during low use times with lower fees to maximize play.

### **Lighting Fees (Could Easily Be Used)**

Some agencies charge additional fees for lighting as it applies to leagues, special use sites, and special facilities that allow play after daylight hours. This fee may include utility demand charges.

### **Percent-for-Art Legislation (Something to Possibly Consider)**

---

Percent-for-art legislation dedicates a percentage (usually .5 to 2) of publicly funded capital improvement projects (CIP) for art in public places, usually in, on, or adjacent to the project, building, or park being constructed or improved. This guarantees funding for public art projects and that public art projects will be planned with each new improvement. This can also be conceived as an Art-in-the-Park program.

**Processing/Convenience Fees (In Use)**

This is a surcharge or premium placed on electronic transfers of funds, automatic payments, or other conveniences.

**Recreation Service Fee (Something to Possibly Consider)**

The Recreation Service Fee is a dedicated user fee that can be established by a local ordinance or other government procedure for the purpose of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. The fee can apply to all organized activities that require a reservation of some type, or other purposes as defined by an agency. Examples of such generally accepted activities that are assigned a service fee include adult basketball, volleyball, and softball leagues; youth baseball, soccer, and softball leagues; and special interest classes. The fee, above and beyond the user fee, allows participants to contribute toward the construction and/or maintenance of the facilities being used.

**Recreation Surcharge Fees on Sports and Entertainment Tickets, Classes, MasterCard, Visa (Something to Possibly Consider)**

This fee is a surcharge on top of the regular sports revenue fee or convenience fee for use of MasterCard and Visa. The fee usually is no more than \$5.00 and is usually \$3.00 on all exchanges. The money earned would be used to help pay off the costs of improvements or for operational purposes.

**Residency Cards (In Use)**

Non-residents may purchase "residency" on an annual basis for the privilege of receiving the resident discounts on fees, charges, tours, shows, reservations, and other benefits typically afforded to residents only. The resident cards can range in price, but are often at least equivalent to what a resident pays in taxes annually to support operations, maintenance, and debt service.

**Real Estate Transfer – Tax/Assessment/Fee (Something to Possibly Consider)**

As agencies expand, the need for infrastructure improvements continues to grow. Since parks and recreation facilities add value to neighborhoods and communities, some agencies have turned to real estate transfer tax/assessment/fee to help pay for acquisition and needed renovations. Usually transfer tax/assessment/fee amount is a percentage on the total sale of the property and is assessed each time the property transfers to a new owner. Some states have laws prohibiting or restricting the institution, increase, or application of this tax/assessment/fee.

**Room Overrides on Hotels for Sports Tournaments and Special Events (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Agencies have begun to keep a percentage of hotel rooms reservation fees that are booked when the agency hosts a major sports tournament or special event. The overrides are usually \$5.00 to \$10.00 depending on the type of room. Monies collected would help offset operational costs for hosting the events.

---

**Security and Clean-Up Fees (In Use)**

An agency may charge groups and individuals security and clean-up fees for special events other type of events held at facilities.

**Self-Insurance Surcharge (Could Easily Be Used)**

Some agencies have added a surcharge on every transaction, admission, or registration to generate a self-insured liability fund.

**Signage Fees (Definitely Something to Consider)**

This revenue source charges people and businesses with signage fees at key locations with high visibility for short-term events. Signage fees may range in price from \$25-\$100 per sign based on the size of the sign and location.

**Utility Roundup Programs (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Some park and recreation agencies have worked with local utilities on a round up program whereby a consumer can pay the difference between their bill and the next highest even dollar amount as a donation to the agency. Ideally, these monies would be used to support utility improvements such as sports lighting, irrigation cost, and HVAC costs.

**Contractual Services****Cell Towers and Wi-Fi (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Cell towers sited in strategic park locations are another potential source of revenue that an agency may consider. Typically, agencies engage in this service as a means of enhancing overall operational cost recovery.

Another type of revenue for a facility or complex can come from providing sites for supporting Wi-Fi technology. In California, the State Park System is providing wireless internet access and is charging \$7.95 for 24 hours of connectivity (approximately \$.33 per hour) within its service area. They have connected 85 state parks with SBC Communications. For more information, contact California State Parks at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). [2015/16 update: It is unclear whether CA is still charging for this service; this is being further researched]

**Concession Management (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Concession management is the retail sale or rental of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. Through contracting, the agency either receives a percentage of the gross sales or the net revenue dollars from the revenue above direct expenses. Net proceeds are generally more difficult to monitor.

**Merchandising Sales or Services (In Use)**

This revenue source comes from the public or private sector on resale items from gift shops, pro-shops, restaurants, concessions, and coffee shops for either all of the sales or a defined percentage of the gross sales. Typically, agencies engage in this type of service as a convenience to their patrons and as a means of enhancing overall operational cost recovery.

**Private Concessionaires (Definitely Something to Consider)**

---

Contracts with private sector concessionaires provide resources to operate desirable recreational activities. These services are typically financed, constructed, and operated by a private business or a non-profit organization with additional compensation paid to an agency.

## **Permits, Licensing Rights and Use of Collateral Assets**

### **Agricultural Leases (Definitely Something to Consider)**

In some agency parks, low land property along rivers, or excess land may be leased to farmers for crops.

### **Booth Lease Space (In Use)**

Some agencies sell booth space to sidewalk vendors in parks or at special events for a flat rate or based on volume of product sold. The booth space can also be used for sporting events and tournaments.

### **Catering Permits and Services (Definitely Something to Consider)**

This is a license to allow caterers to work in the system on a permit basis with a set fee or percentage of food sales returning to the agency. Also, many agencies have their own catering service or an authorized provider list and receive a percentage of dollars from the sale of food.

### **Filming Rights (Definitely Something to Consider)**

Many agencies issue permits so that park sites may be used for commercial film and photography activities. The production company pays a daily fee for the site plus the loss of revenue the agency would incur during use of the community space.

### **Land Swaps (Something to Possibly Consider)**

An agency may trade property to improve access or protection of resources. This could include a property gain by the agency for non-payment of taxes or a situation where a developer needs a larger or smaller space to improve its profitability. The agency would typically gain more property for more recreation opportunities in exchange for the land swap.

### **Licensing Rights (Definitely Something to Consider)**

This revenue source allows an agency to license its name on all resale items that private or public vendors use when they sell clothing or other items with its agency's name on it. The normal licensing fee is 6 to 10 percent of the cost of the resale item.

### **Manufacturing Product Testing and Display or Research (Definitely Something to Consider)**

An agency may work with specific manufacturers to test their products in a park, recreation facility, or in a program or service. The agency may test the product under normal conditions and report the results back to the manufacturer. Examples include lighting, playground equipment, tires on vehicles, mowers, irrigation systems, seed & fertilizers, etc. The agency may receive the product for free but must pay for the costs of installation and for tracking results. Research Fees may be charged to allow research to occur on park lands or related to equipment used at Parks. Companies may pay to have their equipment installed and tested to prove durability and user satisfaction. Product Placement fees may also be an option – having a company not only donate their equipment but also pay a fee to have their equipment used at a public facility.

---

**Special Use Permits (In Use)**

Special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The agency receives either a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service provided.

**Subordinate Easements – Recreation/Natural Area Easements (In Use)**

This revenue source is available when an agency allows utility companies, businesses, or individuals to develop some type of an improvement above ground or below ground on its property. Subordinate easements are typically arranged over a set period of time, with a set dollar amount that is allocated to the agency on an annual basis.

**Surplus Sale of Equipment by Auction (In Use)**

Agencies often have annual surplus auctions to get rid of old and used equipment, generating additional income on a yearly basis.

**Enterprise Funds (In Use)**

These funds establish business units that are self-sustaining through fees and charges. Debt service and all indirect costs should be allocated or attributed to enterprise funds. Any excess revenue generated is maintained by the fund for future needs and cannot be used by another fund or department. Examples include premier sports tournament complexes.

**Land Trusts (In Use)**

Many agencies have developed land trusts to help secure and fund the cost of acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for greenway purposes. This may also be a good source for the acquisition of future lands.

**Positive Cash Flow (In Use)**

Depending on how aggressively an agency incorporates marketing and management strategies, there may be a positive fund balance at the end of each year. While current facilities, projections, and fee policies do not anticipate a positive cash flow, the climate can change. The ending positive balance could be used, for example, to establish a maintenance endowment for agency recreation facilities, to set aside funds for capital replacement and/or repair, or to generate a fund balance for contingency or new programming opportunities.

**Cost Saving Measures**

In addition to aligning cost recovery with goals, charging appropriate fees, and using traditional and alternative funding mechanisms, several cost saving measures can improve the overall cost recovery picture for an agency.

**Change Maintenance Standards/Practices (In Use)**

- Add one extra day onto the mowing interval; thus reducing the amount of mowing in a season.
  - Evaluate and determine actual maintenance needs and schedules for upkeep of different facilities and landscape features/types. Based on needs, evaluate resource needs (equipment, staff, etc.) and production rates of staff/equipment for the system's
-



regularly occurring maintenance work and prioritize maintenance program needs, schedules and relevant resource allocations.

- Consider turf management strategies by turf use/wear – high intensity use and maintenance needs (such as sports fields) versus low intensity use areas such as lawns along the edge of a woodlot or roadway – there are usually areas of turf that are regularly maintained because “they have always been mowed”; by changing the maintenance strategy to not mowing or not regularly mowing such areas, less time/resources need to be dedicated to mowing overall.
  - Naturalizing areas of lawn where you don’t need lawn is a “going green” type of practice that also reduces maintenance needs/costs.
  - Buildings/Facilities
    - Evaluate needs and consider in-house versus contracted maintenance workers for different needed services/trades.
    - Standardize equipment, fixtures, and relevant materials.
    - Are some facilities in such disrepair that continuing to throw limited funding on “band-aids” no longer practical?
    - In designing new facilities, are simple sustainability factors being vetted (such as orienting the building to maximize solar gain to reduce lighting and heating costs)?
  - Add energy efficient fixtures, low flow water fixtures, eliminate throw away products like paper towels and replace with energy efficient hand dryers.
  - Strategically locate trash and recyclable containers to reduce cost of having staff empty these and spend time picking up trash/recyclables that are not properly placed by patrons.
  - Reduce cleaning frequency of office spaces and centralize trash and recyclables into one location in employee work areas to save on costs of related to housekeeping.
  - Consider having staff complete multiple tasks at the same time – emptying recyclables and trash at the same time as doing rounds or inspections.
  - Educate users to better utilize existing facilities and resources to cut down costs – clean up after themselves.
  - Equipment and Supplies
    - Purchase better equipment that last longer and requires less maintenance – saving money on the front end does not always result in cost savings overall.
    - Standardize equipment (such as vehicles, grounds equipment and tools, etc.) as a way to increase efficiency in training staff to use it, and as a means to simplify and reduce costs associated with parts inventory and maintenance/repair programs (ex. Mechanic places one order for 10 air filters for 1 type of lawnmower and gets bulk price from one vendor, versus ordering 10 different filters for 10 different mowers, from multiple vendors and keeping track of it all)
    - Consider leasing vehicles or other heavily used equipment - it can be more cost effective for an organization to lease vehicles or equipment and rotate their fleet regularly versus allocating resources to maintain and repair aging fleets of old, well used vehicles/equipment that have higher likelihood of breakdowns and associated loss of production time.
  - Use volunteers to assist with housekeeping and maintenance.
  - Solicit in-kind donation of time and services in exchange for maintenance assistance
-

### Contract Re-negotiate or Re-bid (Definitely Something to Consider)

At every opportunity, review contracts to assure you are not paying more than you have to, or are receiving the maximum amount of revenue possible.

### Cost Avoidance (In Use)

An agency must maintain a position of not being everything for everyone. It must be driven by the market and stay with its core businesses. By shifting roles away from being a direct provider of facilities, programs, or services, an agency may experience additional savings. This process is referred to as *cost avoidance*. The estimated savings could be realized through partnering, outsourcing, or deferring to another provider in the provision of a service and/or facility. One example is purchasing in bulk.

## Greening Trends

### Rooftop Gardens and Park Structures (Definitely Something to Consider)

Rooftop gardens create respites in a densely built environment and help reduce the urban heat island effects. In addition, the lack of availability and affordability of urban real estate has continued the trend of parks built over structures such as parking garages and other structures.

### Green Practices

- Use light, water, and motion sensors (In Use)
- Conduct energy audits (In Use)
- Update to energy efficient ballasts, motors, appliances (In Use)
- Use electric and hybrid vehicles (Definitely Something to Consider)
- Use greywater (Something to Possibly Consider)
- Use solar and wind energy (Definitely Something to Consider)
- Implement green operating practices (In Use)

Many agencies miss the easiest green practices in their everyday operating procedures and policies. These include administrative procedures, best operating standards, and sustainable stewardship performance measures. Many of the industry best practices outlined below (**Table 1**) may be currently and successfully employed by your agency.

**Table 1: Green Practices Focus Area and Action Step**

Focus Area	Action Step
Administrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycle Office Trash (consolidate trash and recyclables to one common location – reduce cost to empty containers in each office) (In Use)</li><li>• Clean offices weekly instead of daily (In Use)</li><li>• Go Paperless (In Use)</li><li>• Conserve Resources (In Use)</li><li>• Flex Scheduling (In Use)</li><li>• Virtual Meetings (In Use)</li></ul>
Operating Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventative Maintenance (In Use)</li><li>• Reduce Driving (In Use)</li><li>• Eliminate Environmentally Negative Chemicals and Materials (Definitely Something to Consider)</li><li>• Green Purchasing Policies (Definitely Something to Consider)</li><li>• LEED® Design (Definitely Something to Consider)</li><li>• Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (Definitely Something to Consider)</li></ul>

- Purchase better equipment and supplies that require less maintenance and are more durable (In Use)

**Sustainable Stewardship**

- Re-analyze and Revised Practices and Standards (In Use)
- Monitor and Report Results (In Use)
- Lead by Example (In Use)
- Public Education - agencies should lead by example teaching the public a little bit about what green practices actually are and how they might be able to incorporate some of the same features (maybe raingardens or LED lighting) in their own home to help conserve our shared natural resources. (In Use)
- Incorporate Stewardship Principles in all Park and Recreation Services (In Use)
- Seek Available Grant Funding and Initiative Awards (In Use)

DRAFT

## E. Calvert County-FY2022 POS Program

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Robert S. McCord, Secretary  
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

### Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

July 23, 2021

Ms. Hilary Bell  
Deputy Director, Land Acquisition & Planning Unit  
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Bell:

We have reviewed Calvert County's Fiscal Year 2022 Program Open Space Annual Program. The Annual Program contains the following land acquisition and park development/rehabilitation projects.

Land Acquisition		
Sponsor	Location	Acres
County	A-1 Canoe and Kayak Launch Sites	2
County	A-2 Flag Ponds Nature Park, Addition	70
County	A-3 Patuxent Waterfront Park	60
County	A-4 War of 1812 Star-Spangled Banner Trail	32
County	A-5 Parkers Creek Watershed	TBD
County	A-6 Huntingtown Center Park	6
County	A-7 Hallowing Point Park	40
County	A-8 Huntingtown District Park	100
County	A-9 Northeast Sector Park	100
County	A-10 St. Leonard District Park	100
County	A-11 Dunkirk Community Center	1
County	A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition	1.1
County	A-17 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	6.2
County	A-18 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail	209+
County	A-19 Parks with Water Access	TBD
County	A-21 Shared Use Trails	TBD
County	A-22 Natural Resources Expanded Protection	200+
County	A-28 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed	200+
County	A-12 Chesapeake Railroad Right-of-way – requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-13 North Beach 2nd & Greenwood Pocket Park—requested by municipality	0.125
County	A-14 North Beach Town Park—requested by municipality	.30
County	A-15 North Beach Nature Trail (A & B) System—requested by municipality	19.71

Maryland Department of Planning • 301 West Preston Street, Suite 1101 • Baltimore • Maryland • 21201

Tel: 410.767.4500 • Toll Free: 1.877.767.6272 • TTY users: Maryland Relay • Planning.Maryland.gov

Ms. Hilary Bell  
 July 23, 2021  
 Page 2

County	A-20 North Beach Community Garden—requested by municipality	1
County	A-23 Old Bayside Road Trail—requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-25 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch—requested by municipality	TBD
County	A-29 Bayside Walkway and Overlook	TBD
County	A-30 Public Outlooks	TBD

Park Development/ Rehabilitation		
Sponsor	Location	Project
County	D-3 Dunkirk District Park	Design of tennis pickleball complex, replacement playground and splash pad
County	D-4 Cove Point District Park	Upgrades to Cove Point Pool – replace decking
County	D-6 Dominion Energy Regional Park	Phased construction of Park based on master plan recommendations
County	D-7 Harriet E. Brown Community Center	Design
County	D-9 Breezy Point Beach Park and Campground	Protective breakwaters and beach restoration, drainage improvements, construction of new office, replacement/extension of fishing pier, replacement of seawall in campground
County	D-11 Chesapeake Hills Golf Course	Design of new clubhouse
County	D-15 Kings Landing Park	Provide parking, new management and/or strategic plan
County	D-16 Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center	Existing interior and exterior exhibits to be renovated, new exhibits to be developed including design, fabrication and installation, stormwater management for drive and parking area, exterior signage and trail improvements, boardwalk repairs, development of an ADA compliant trail.
County	D-23 Flag Ponds Nature Park	Exhibit design plan for construction of interpretive resources of the park
County	D-30 Gatewood Preserve	Upgrades to existing pier, improve ADA access, floating dock, convert residence into nature center
County	D-2 Hallowing Point District Park	Construction of restroom (replacement)
County	D-8 Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	Improvements to the natural surface trails, development of the Battle Creek boardwalk, and construction of barns and other farm buildings
County	D-10b Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail - Calvert	Continuation of rail trail development
County	D-12 Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Trail (Prince Frederick portion)	Develop pedestrian/bicycle trail
County	D-18 Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park	Phase I construction
County	D-22 Shared Use, Natural Surface Trails County-wide	Trail plans at existing facilities and new locations
County	D-27 Water Access-Boating, Fishing, and Crabbing	Repair, renovate existing facilities and construct new structures
County	D-29 Main Street Green Space	Develop sidewalk, recreational amenities, and connections to shopping center
County	D-31 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed	Develop nature trail system and associated facilities
County	D-32 King Calvert Rural Legacy	Develop natural surface trails and elevated boardwalks, create a nature play space and outdoor classroom
County	D-32 Paved Shared Use Trails County Wide	Feasibility studies, planning studies
County	D-10a Fishing Creek Park and Chesapeake	Master connectivity plan completed in 2021

	Beach Railway Trail – requested by municipality	incorporates expansion of trails and neighborhood greenways that connect to the railway trail by boardwalk, sidewalk, and foot paths
County	D-19 Wetlands Wildlife Overlook Park – requested by municipality	Town and ACE restoring wetlands for recreation, wildlife observation, photograph, flood control, etc.
County	D-20 North Beach 2nd and Greenwood Pocket Park – requested by municipality	Playground equipment, water fountain, park benches
County	D-21 Sunrise Garden – requested by municipality	Maintenance, enhancement, and improvements to park
County	D-24 Old Bayside Road Trail Phase I and II – requested by municipality	Phase I - creation of first 1,500 feet of trail; Phase II – creation of additional 3,500’ of trail
County	D-26 North Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch	Create canoe and kayak launch
County	D-34 Chesapeake Beach Senior Playgrounds – requested by municipality	Newly renamed “Miller-Loveless Park at Kellam’s Field” to include green space, stormwater buffer gardens, shade structures, revitalized play area for children and designated low impact work out area for adults
County	D-37 B Street Overlook – requested by municipality	Create outlook

Most of the acquisition and development projects have appeared in previous Annual Programs and appeared in the “Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation” table of Calvert County’s 2013 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) or Appendix G “Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program” of the 2017 LPPRP. The following acquisition and development projects are not included:

- A-21 Shared Use Trails, A-23 Old Bayside Road Trail, and A-29 Bayside Walkway and Overlook. These projects are consistent with Goal 2 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*Develop an interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the County to link together places people live, work, play, and visit in Calvert County and Southern Maryland.*”
- A-22 Natural Resources Protection – Acquisition of lands to support the conservation and stewardship of the County’s natural heritage and provide increased capacity to offer compatible outdoor recreation opportunities at existing county owned and managed facilities. This is consistent with the 2017 LPPRP strategies to “*target areas that need to be protected...increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection...*”.
- A-28 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed and D-31 Upper Hellen Creek Watershed – The acquisition of the undeveloped forests of the Upper Hellen Creek Watershed were identified as a priority to develop a natural trail system and associated facilities. This is consistent with Goal 2 (noted above) and the strategy to “*target areas that need to be protected...*”.
- A-30 Public Outlooks (overlooks) and D-37 B Street Overlook (Town of Chesapeake Beach) – This is consistent with Goal 3 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay...*”.
- D-6 Dominion Energy Regional Park – In FY2018 the County acquired through donation, 100 acres in Lusby. Combined with 79 acres already owned by the County, this location will be a future regional park. The regional master plan project was initiated in FY2019 and was adopted in August 2020. In FY2021, a multi-phase plan was developed for a shared use natural surface trail system. Development of this park is consistent with Goal 1 in the 2017 LPPRP to “*continue to maintain and develop parks, recreation*

Ms. Hilary Bell  
July 23, 2021  
Page 4

*facilities, and programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing population..." and to "target the development of any new indoor and outdoor sports fields or courts, and/or other active recreation components in or near town centers."*

In accordance with Natural Resources Article 5-905(b)(3), Calvert County has requested \$25,000 of its acquisition funds to be used for LPPRP update planning purposes.

While prior LPPRP's have included acquisition and municipal projects, the 2017 LPPRP did not include either in Appendix G "Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program". Planning recommends that both be included in the next update of the LPPRP.

By enhancing parks and recreation facilities for its population, Calvert County's 2022 POS Annual Program supports Maryland's twelve Planning Visions, state and county goals for parks and recreation, and local comprehensive plans.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Deborah Herr Cornwell, PLA, ASLA, CC-P©  
Resource Conservation Planner, Planning

cc: Chuck Boyd, Jason Dubow, and Sarah Lipkin Sularz: Planning  
Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE, Director Calvert County Parks & Recreation



---

## F. Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program

### CAPITAL PROJECTS BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	PROJECT NUMBER	PRIORITY	RECURRING/ NON-RECURRING	PRIOR FUNDING	FY 2022
<b>New Projects</b>					
<b>Capital Projects Division</b>					
Courthouse Renovations and Upgrades	TBD	1	NON-REC		
Security Upgrades	421900	1	REC		\$ 388,000
Sheriff's Plaza	TBD	1	NON-REC		
Southern Fuel Station	TBD	3	NON-REC		
<b>Calvert Marine Museum</b>					
Exterior Columns	TBD	3	NON-REC		\$ 45,000
Lore Oyster House	4401	2	NON-REC		
Land Acquisition	4405	2	NON-REC		
Paleontology Center	440501	2	NON-REC	\$ 250,000	
Tennis/Hull Replacement	TBD	3	NON-REC		
Museum HVAC	4400	1	NON-REC		\$ 55,500
Otter Exhibit	TBD	3	NON-REC		
<b>Libraries</b>					
Prince Frederick - Lighting Upgrades	461003	1	REC	\$ 85,000	\$ 25,000
Prince Frederick - Carpet Replacement	461002	1	NON-REC	\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000
Twin Beaches Branch - New Building	4612	1	NON-REC	\$ 788,240	\$ 4,386,328
Fairview Library	4611	3	NON-REC		
Libraries Technology Hardware	4614	1	REC	\$ 355,616	\$ 54,800
<b>Community &amp; Senior Centers</b>					
Calvert Pines Senior Center - Expansion	4601	1	NON-REC	\$ 201,293	
Calvert Pines Washout Phase II	470201	1	NON-REC		\$ 130,000
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES</b>				\$ 14,281,873	\$ 11,640,387
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS</b>					
REC	402700	1	REC	\$ 180,000	\$ 170,000
<b>TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>					
Enterprise System Implementation	406200	1	NON-REC		\$ 400,000
Geographic Information System	4035	1	REC		\$ 120,000
Network Infrastructure	4021	1	REC	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,400,000
Phone System Upgrade	4024	1	NON-REC		\$ 90,000
Public Safety System	4040	2	NON-REC	\$ 500,000	\$ 660,000
<b>TOTAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>				\$ 2,100,000	\$ 2,670,000
<b>TOWN CENTERS</b>					
Town Centers Master Plan w/Bike Trails	429100	1	REC	\$ 300,000	\$ 260,000
<b>TOTAL TOWN CENTERS</b>				\$ 300,000	\$ 260,000
<b>RECREATION RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Parks, Pools &amp; Community Centers</b>					
Baseball/Softball Fields Renovations	TBD	3	REC		
BCE Recreation Area	4340	3	NON-REC		
Broomes Island Recreation Area					
Playground Equipment Replacement	4342	2	NON-REC		
Breezy Point					
Parking and Drainage	432203	2	NON-REC		
Seawall Replacement	TBD	1	NON-REC		
Building Additions & Upgrades	TBD	2	NON-REC		
Fencing	TBD	3	NON-REC		
Pier Extension	TBD	3	REC		
Camping Pump Out Station	TBD	3	NON-REC		
Field Lighting Program	431301	1	REC	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 500,000
Fencing & Backstops	431300	1	NON-REC	\$ 100,000	
Cove Point Pool					
Pool Improvements	4310	1	NON-REC	\$ 400,000	\$ 250,000
Stormwater	4310	1	NON-REC		
Dominion Energy Regional Park	431400	1	NON-REC	\$ 4,100,000	\$ 5,500,000
Dunkirk District Park					
Restroom	TBD	2	NON-REC		
SplashPad	431602	3	NON-REC	\$ 675,000	\$ 685,000
Stormwater Conveyance Repair	TBD	1	NON-REC		
Harrtlet E. Brown Comm Center (Watson)	4338	1	NON-REC	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 300,000
Hall Aquatic Center	4750	2	NON-REC	\$ 65,000	

Projects highlighted in GREEN  
are new projects

REC = Recurring  
NON-REC = Non-recurring



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
EXPENDITURES

						CAPITAL PROJECT FUND
FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	TOTAL FY 2022 - 2027	New Projects Capital Projects Division
			\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000	Courthouse Renovations and Upgrades
					\$ 388,000	Security Upgrades
			\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000	Sheriff's Plaza
				\$ 474,500	\$ 474,500	Southern Fuel Station
					\$ 45,000	Calvert Marine Museum
					\$ 265,000	Exterior Columns
\$ 265,000					\$ 265,000	Lore Oyster House
	\$ 750,000				\$ 750,000	Land Acquisition
			\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000	Paleontology Center
			\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000	Tension Hull Replacement
\$ 276,500					\$ 332,000	Museum HVAC
				\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	Otter Exhibit
						Libraries
\$ 25,000	\$ 150,000				\$ 200,000	Prince Frederick - Lighting Upgrades
					\$ 150,000	Prince Frederick - Carpet Replacement
\$ 5,095,249					\$ 9,481,577	Twin Beaches Branch - New Building
				\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	Fairview Library
\$ 25,500	\$ 16,300	\$ 22,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 148,600	Libraries Technology Hardware
						Community & Senior Centers
\$ 1,258,000					\$ 2,258,000	Calvert Pines Senior Center - Expansion
					\$ 130,000	Calvert Pines Washout Phase II
\$ 22,555,149	\$ 15,016,300	\$ 4,414,500	\$ 5,079,000	\$ 1,895,000	\$ 60,600,336	TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES
						COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS
\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 1,020,000	PEG
						TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,700,000	Enterprise System Implementation
\$ 300,000	\$ 120,000		\$ 130,000		\$ 670,000	Geographic Information System
\$ 950,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,260,000	\$ 6,460,000	Network Infrastructure
\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000				\$ 590,000	Phone System Upgrade
\$ 500,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 550,000		\$ 300,000	\$ 2,210,000	Public Safety System
\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,430,000	\$ 2,060,000	\$ 12,630,000	TOTAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
						TOWN CENTERS
					\$ 260,000	Town Centers Master Plan w/Bike Trails
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 260,000	TOWN CENTERS
						RECREATION RESOURCES
			\$ 504,000	\$ 491,000	\$ 995,000	Parks, Pools & Community Centers
				\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	Baseball/Softball Fields Renovations
					\$ 85,000	BGE Recreation Area
\$ 85,000					\$ 85,000	Broomes Island Recreation Area
						Playground Equipment Replacement
						Breezy Point
	\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000	Parking and Drainage
\$ 2,100,000					\$ 2,100,000	Seawall Replacement
			\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000	Building Additions & Upgrades
	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			\$ 150,000	Fencing
			\$ 210,000		\$ 210,000	Pier Extension
				\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	Camping Pump Out Station
\$ 500,000					\$ 1,000,000	Field Lighting Program
	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 400,000	Fencing & Backstops
						Cove Point Pool
					\$ 250,000	Pool Improvements
				\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	Stormwater
					\$ 5,500,000	Domlnion Energy Regional Park
						Dunkirk District Park
\$ 793,100					\$ 793,100	Restroom
					\$ 685,000	SplashPad
				\$ 235,000	\$ 235,000	Stormwater Conveyance Repair
\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000				\$ 1,800,000	Harriet E. Brown Comm Center (Watson)
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Hall Aquatic Center

Only project totals (bolded) are included  
in the organization total.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	PROJECT NUMBER	PRIORITY	RECURRING/ NON-RECURRING	PRIOR FUNDING	FY 2022
<b>New Projects</b>					
<b>Capital Projects Division</b>					
<b>Hallowing Point Park</b>					
Basketball Courts	432002	2	NON-REC	\$ 92,700	
Drainage Fields 11-15	4320	2	NON-REC		
Paved Pathways and Lights	TBD	2	NON-REC		
Stormwater Conveyance Repair	432004	1	NON-REC	\$ 70,000	
<b>Kings Landing (Pool Improvements)</b>	TBD	2	NON-REC		
Marley Run Parking Lot Erosion Control	4346	3	NON-REC		
Southern Community Center (Playground)	4337	3	NON-REC		
Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park	4318	1	NON-REC	\$ 13,729,710	\$ 2,044,000
<b>Subtotal Parks, Pools &amp; Community Centers</b>				\$ 13,892,410	\$ 2,044,000
<b>Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</b>					
Course and Drainage Improvements	4312	1	NON-REC	\$ 924,100	\$ 350,000
<b>Subtotal Chesapeake Hills Golf Course</b>				\$ 924,100	\$ 350,000
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
<b>Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center</b>					
Exhibit Renovation	4451	2	NON-REC	\$ 38,200	
Building Renovation	4451	1	NON-REC	\$ 249,600	
Stormwater Management	4451	1	NON-REC	\$ 75,000	
Stormwater Replacement	4451	3	NON-REC		
<b>Bliscoe Gray Heritage Farm</b>					
Master Plan Implementation	4455	3	NON-REC	\$ 250,000	
George Rice House	4455	3	NON-REC	\$ 100,000	
Stormwater Management	4455	3	NON-REC		
Natural Trails	4461	3	NON-REC	\$ 421,332	
<b>Flag Ponds Nature Park</b>					
Boardwalks	4453	1	NON-REC	\$ 100,000	
Exhibits	4453	3	NON-REC	\$ 25,000	
Aging Infrastructure	4453	3	NON-REC		
Roadway & Stormwater	4453	3	NON-REC	\$ 60,233	
Hughes Tree Farm Infrastructure Improvements	4450	3	NON-REC	\$ 97,243	
<b>Kings Landing Park</b>					
Cabins and Campgrounds	4452	2	NON-REC	\$ 80,000	
Trails and Boardwalk	4452	2	NON-REC	\$ 77,300	
Visitor Services & Event Improvements	TBD	2	NON-REC		
Aging Infrastructure	TBD	3	NON-REC		
Stormwater Systems	TBD	3	NON-REC		
<b>Gatewood Preserve</b>					
Develop basic Infrastructure for public use	4458	1	NON-REC	\$ 1,345,000	
Stormwater Replacement	TBD	3	NON-REC		
<b>Subtotal Natural Resources</b>				\$ 3,039,808	\$ -
<b>TOTAL RECREATION RESOURCES</b>				\$ 26,136,318	\$ 9,629,000
<b>PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Appeal Salt Barn	458000	1	NON-REC	\$ 260,000	\$ 850,000
Ball Road Elliptical Culvert Rehabilitation	TBD	1	NON-REC		\$ 1,000,000
Barstow Salt Barn	4562	1	NON-REC		\$ 300,000
Barstow/Leitch Wharf Road	4511	2	NON-REC		
Battery Lane Dry Pond	TBD	1	NON-REC		
Boyd's Turn road - Improvements - Phase 2B	45101	2	NON-REC	\$ 150,000	
Grays Road Culvert	TBD	1	NON-REC		\$ 100,000
Little Cove Point Road Curve	457700	2	NON-REC	\$ 500,000	
Lusby Parkway Extension	4550	1	NON-REC		
Mt. Harmony Road Safety Improvements	4572	1	NON-REC		
<b>Prince Frederick Loop Road</b>					
NE Seg. Chesapeake BLVD./Fox Run Blvd	4541	1	NON-REC		
West Dares Beach Road Improvements	4527	1	NON-REC	\$ 600,000	
Stafford Road Intersection Improvements	45401	1	NON-REC	\$ 500,000	
St. Leonard Road Widening	457500	1	NON-REC		
<b>Wetland Mitigation Banks Development &amp; Maintenance</b>	4569	1	REC	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000
<b>Non-Specific Transportation Projects:</b>					
Bridge and Dam Maintenance Repairs	4544	1	REC	\$ 120,000	\$ 250,000
Roadway Safety Improvements	4570	1	REC	\$ 110,000	\$ 100,000
SHA Signal Matching Funds	4522	2	REC	\$ 60,000	
Sidewalk Program	4509	1	REC	\$ 375,000	\$ 40,000
Storm Drainage Projects	4543	1	REC	\$ 800,000	\$ 890,000

Projects highlighted in GREEN  
are new projects

REC = Recurring  
NON-REC = Non-recurring

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
EXPENDITURES

						CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	TOTAL FY 2022 - 2027	New Projects
	\$ 857,000				\$ 857,000	Capital Projects Division
			\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000	Hallowing Point Park
			\$ 921,000		\$ 921,000	Basketball Courts
				\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	Drainage Fields 11-12
	\$ 60,000				\$ 60,000	Paved Pathways and Lights
			\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000	Stormwater Conveyance Repair
				\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	Kings Landing (Pool Improvements)
\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 9,044,000	Marley Run Parking Lot Erosion Control
\$ 5,478,100	\$ 3,667,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 4,010,000	\$ 2,901,000	\$ 26,985,100	Southern Community Center (Playground)
						Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
						Subtotal Parks, Pools & Community Centers
\$ 300,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 1,900,000	Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
\$ 300,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 1,900,000	Course and Drainage Improvements
						Subtotal Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
						Natural Resources
	\$ 60,000				\$ 60,000	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 400,000	Exhibit Renovation
				\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	Building Renovation
				\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	Stormwater Management
						Stormwater Replacement
	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			\$ 100,000	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
\$ 100,000					\$ 100,000	Master Plan Implementation
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	George Rice House
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Stormwater Management
						Natural Trails
	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	Flag Ponds Nature Park
	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000	Boardwalks
				\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	Exhibits
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Aging Infrastructure
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Roadway & Stormwater
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Hughes Tree Farm Infrastructure Improvements
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Kings Landing Park
	\$ 60,000			\$ 100,000	\$ 160,000	Cabins and Campgrounds
			\$ 725,000		\$ 725,000	Trails and Boardwalk
				\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	Visitor Services & Event Improvements
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Aging Infrastructure
				\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Stormwater Systems
						Gatewood Preserve
				\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	Develop basic Infrastructure for public use
				\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	Stormwater Replacement
\$ 200,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 825,000	\$ 1,470,000	\$ 3,065,000	Subtotal Natural Resources
\$ 5,978,100	\$ 4,376,000	\$ 2,120,000	\$ 5,135,000	\$ 4,721,000	\$ 31,959,100	TOTAL RECREATION RESOURCES
						PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSPORTATION
					\$ 80,000	Appeal Salt Barn
					\$ 1,000,000	Ball Road Elliptical Culvert Rehabilitation
					\$ 500,000	Barstow Salt Barn
			\$ 300,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 850,000	Barstow/Letches Wharf Road
\$ 600,000					\$ 600,000	Battery Lane Dry Pond
\$ 700,000					\$ 700,000	Boyd's Turn road - Improvements - Phase 2B
\$ 775,000					\$ 875,000	Grays Road Culvert
\$ 1,200,000					\$ 1,200,000	Little Cove Point Road Curve
\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,075,000	Lusby Parkway Extension
	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000		\$ 2,500,000	Mt. Harmony Road Safety Improvements
						Prince Frederick Loop Road
\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,400,000			\$ 2,800,000	NE Seg. Chesapeake BLVD/Fox Run Blvd
\$ 1,500,000					\$ 1,500,000	West Dares Beach Road Improvements
\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000				\$ 2,500,000	Stafford Road Intersection Improvements
	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000		\$ 2,340,000	St. Leonard Road Widening
\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 400,000	Wetland Mitigation Banks Development & Maintenance
						Non Specific Transportation Projects:
\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,500,000	Bridge and Dam Maintenance Repairs
\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 660,000	Roadway Safety Improvements
\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000	\$ 180,000	SHA Signal Matching Funds
\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 665,000	Sidewalk Program
\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 5,640,000	Storm Drainage Projects

Only project totals (bolded) are included  
in the organization total.

## G. FY21 Parks and Recreation Accomplishments

- Completed internal process to become an accredited Parks & Recreation Agency.
  - Launched CCPR Instagram page
  - Launched Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Facebook page
  - Adopted Master Plan for Dominion Energy Regional Park and updated Master Plan for Cove Point Park.
  - Transitioned the playing surface on some fields at Solomons Town Center Park, Cove Point Park, and Dunkirk Park from Bermuda to a mixed stand of Bermuda and Kentucky Bluegrass called “Bluemuda” and we were the first to pioneer this system in our region.
  - Established walking trail with water view access at Solomons Town Center Park.
  - Hired Department’s first Park Planner.
  - Created Aquatic Maintenance Mechanic position.
  - Added 4 Pickleball courts to tennis courts at Hallowing Point Park.
  - Hosted County’s first Pickleball Tournament hosting 184 matches over a two day period.
  - Hosted Drive-Through Halloween event at Hallowing Point Park (first public event since start of pandemic).
  - Staff acted creatively to offer as many experiences as possible to the community through the bulk of the pandemic for properly distanced in person activities such as golf course and pool use to outdoor summer camp to a Virtual Activity Center.
  - New park signs installed at back entrance of Hallowing Point Park and Marley Run.
  - Retaining walls installed at Marley Run and Cove Park playground to reduce erosion.
  - Projects scheduled for completion summer 2021 (significant completion): Dunkirk Playground; Irrigation at Hallowing Point fields 7,8,9; Drainage improvements at Hallowing Point Park field 12; Lighting upgrades to Hallowing Point fields 11 & 12 and Cove Point field 1.
  - Design complete for Hallowing Point bathroom replacement.
  - Installed split rail fencing at Cove Point Park entrance.
  - Breezy Point Blast Off had over 600 registrants for 2021 event.
  - Special Events Policy adopted by BOCC.
  - Volunteer Policy adopted by BOCC.
  - Hosted 29th annual Chesapeake Hills Golf Classic in October 2020. This event was also one of the first golf tournaments hosted locally following COVID-19 protocols.
  - Worked collaboratively with the Calvert County Health Department to safely allow sports participants to return to play during the COVID-19 pandemic. We provided guidance to all local youth sports organizations for safe return to play guidelines. We also developed a COVID Affidavit for all of our users to sign in order to utilize our facilities.
  - Successfully offered a modified fall youth soccer season in 2020. Calvert County was one of the first recreational leagues in the state of Maryland to successfully offer youth soccer to our patrons.
  - Sponsored a Pickleball Skills Clinic featuring the #1 Pickleball player in the world and US Pickleball Open winner, Ben Johns. All three sessions of the clinic sold out within weeks of opening registration. The event shined a spotlight on Calvert County and the growing popularity of Pickleball.
-

- With removal of North Beach Recreation Center from CCPR inventory, successfully transitioned Pickleball to Mt. Hope Community Center.
  - Collaborated with the Calvert Marine Museum to provide a “Night at the Museum” event that provided individuals with special needs and their families with exclusive access to the museum as well as free rides on the Tension boat in October and May.
  - Collaborated with Ann Marie Gardens to provide a “Special Needs Night” event that provided individuals with special needs and their families with exclusive access to view the Garden in Lights, as well as provided various holiday activities.
  - Collaborated with Calvert County Public Schools Special Education Department a variety of Calvert County Early Intervention Service Agencies to provide a webinar entitled “Effective Collaboration: How Do the Pieces Fit Together?”
  - Implemented online reservation system for pool lanes, therapy pool, and basketball reservations at Northeast Community Center.
  - Conducted public input process for new Harriet E. Brown Community Center project.
  - Completed construction of 40x80 pole barn at the golf maintenance building.
  - Completed construction of restroom on #13 tee box.
  - Finished Phase 2 of golf course fencing.
  - At Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, increased revenue over the last year by \$300,000.00 and increased rounds over last year by 8,000.
  - Added 7 additional golf outings this year and hosted first CCPR FootGolf Tournament at Chesapeake Hills.
  - Continuing to pass all inspections for concessions, pools, campgrounds, and child care facilities.
  - Increased amount of staff as certified pool operators, offered multiple lifeguarding certification courses and increased offerings for water fitness and swim lessons due to demand.
  - 343 volunteers recorded 5,076 hours, valued at \$135,986.
  - Naturalists led 172 programs attended by 1,260 children and adults.
  - Brought on six interns in who helped with education programs—both in person and virtual, research projects and independent projects.
  - In coordination with Economic Development, developed Calvert County Birding Trail.
  - Education partnerships with University of Maryland and George Mason University.
  - Joined as official partners of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.
  - Invasive species management plans created and implemented for Flag Ponds Nature Park and Kings Landing Park.
  - Expanded meadow management program with controlled burns and focusing on "Meadow Maze" at Kings Landing Park.
  - GPS trail routes were created for Hughes Tree Farm and Gatewood Preserve.
  - Repaved Solomons Boat Ramp.
  - Natural Resources participates in many research projects including for American Kestrels, Saw Whet Owls, Dragonflies and Monarch Butterflies are recognized statewide and regionally for their efforts.
  - Natural Resources volunteers responded to 83 calls to capture and transport 20 different species of birds (including a Bald Eagle), as well as 3 turtles and a beaver.
  - Completed several trail projects at Flag Ponds Nature Park.
  - Replaced decking and railing on Kings Landing Pier.
-

## H. Statewide Goals

### Priorities & Goals for the Next Five Years

#### A-1: State Goals for Parks and Recreation

- 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.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.
- Use state investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

#### A-2: State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
    - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
    - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
    - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
    - Incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands;
    - Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
    - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource.
  - Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint (which is not to be confused with the former easement program also called GreenPrint).
-

- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist state and local implementation programs.
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
  - Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure;
  - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations;
  - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
  - Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production; and
  - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.

#### **A-3: State Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation**

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production;
  - Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland;
  - To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries;
  - Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries;
  - Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs;
  - Work with local governments to achieve the following:
    - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals;
    - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials;
    - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
    - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
    - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and the practice of stewardship, so that **farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.**
-

## I. Calvert County FY2022 - Program Open Space Annual Program

CALVERT COUNTY RECREATION PLANNING OBJECTIVES The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Calvert 2040, adopted in 2019, sets forth an overall goal and four broad objectives in the Parks and Recreation section. A few key actions in the 2019 plan are noted below as sub-bullets. These actions were in the prior Calvert County Comprehensive Plan as objectives. They have been updated and included in the 2019 plan as actions.

- Increase the amount of land area dedicated to recreation and natural resources.
- Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
  - o Enhance the network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the county.
  - o Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.
  - o Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.
    - Increase the variety of uses of community facilities.
    - Expand community involvement in recreational programming.

Calvert County's most recent Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan was adopted in May 2018. The purpose of the plan is to maintain the county's eligibility to participate in Maryland's Program Open Space and to guide the county's management and enhancement of its public parks, open spaces, and preserved land for the next five years.

The Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces chapter of the plan sets forth three goals and 14 recommendations.

Goal 1: Continue to maintain and develop parks, recreation facilities, and programs to meet the diverse needs of the growing population in Calvert County.

Goal 2: Develop an interconnected system of pedestrian trails and bike paths throughout the County to link together places people live, work, play, and visit in Calvert County and Southern Maryland.

Goal 3: Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.

The Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan is available online <http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/LPPRP>.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan or identified as potential acquisition or development projects by the Board of County Commissioners. They have not necessarily obtained final approval from the Board. Projects specifically requested by municipalities are also listed.

For projects other than those already listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks 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 Capital Projects Analyst and representatives from the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Department of General Services, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Planning & Zoning. The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether or not the project is consistent with criteria listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The committee presents its findings to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Listing a project in the Annual Program is a first step toward implementing a project and is a requirement for using Program Open Space funding. Title 3, §3-205 of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code specifies that certain types of projects may not be constructed or authorized in the local jurisdiction until approved by the planning commission as consistent with the plan (comprehensive plan) or geographic sections of the local jurisdiction. Types of public projects that must be reviewed include squares, parks, and open spaces. Each year, the Calvert County Planning Commission reviews such projects in the six-year Calvert County Capital Improvement Plan for consistency with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan.

APPROVED BUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT							
SPONSOR	NAME OF RECREATION AREA TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	ACREAGE	SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY)				
		PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	D-3 DUNKIRK DISTRICT PARK	81	1,360,000	1,135,000			
CALVERT	D-4 COVE POINT DISTRICT PARK	267	150,000	100,000	150,000		
CALVERT	D-6 DOMINION ENERGY REGIONAL PARK	179	9,600,000	9,600,000			
CALVERT	D-7 HARRIET E. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER (permanent location)	27	7,800,000	6,000,000	300,000		1,500,000
CALVERT	D-9 BREEZY POINT BEACH & CAMPGROUND	13	1,909,443	1,809,443	100,000		
CALVERT	D-11 CHESAPEAKE HILLS GOLF COURSE	149	3,696,189	3,286,189			
CALVERT	D-15 KINGS LANDING PARK	260	30,000	30,000			
CALVERT	D-16 BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP NATURE CENTER	100	95,000				95,000
CALVERT	D-23 FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK	1.5	65,000	40,000			25,000
CALVERT	D-30 GATEWOOD PRESERVE	48.35	200,000	100,000			

## References

Calvert County Board of Commissioners. 2021. Adopted Operations and Capital Budget FY 2021. Available online:  
<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31923/FY-2021-Adopted-Budget>

Calvert County Parks and Recreation. 2013. Calvert County Deer Workgroup Report. Natural Resources Division. Prince Frederick, MD.

Calvert County Parks and Recreation. 2019. Invasive Plant Management Plans. Natural Resources Division. Prince Frederick, MD.

Calvert County Parks and Recreation. 2020. Natural Resources FY2021 Annual Report Memorandum. Available online:  
[www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35613/FY2021CCPRNaturalResourcesAnnualReport?bidId=](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35613/FY2021CCPRNaturalResourcesAnnualReport?bidId=)

Calvert County Parks and Recreation. 2020. Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2020 Goals and Objectives Progress Update. Available online:  
<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31961/2020---Progress-Update-Report-Strategic-Plan---FINAL?bidId=>

Calvert County, Maryland. 2019. Comprehensive Plan. Available online:  
[https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28975/Comprehensive-Plan\\_Adopted-2019](https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28975/Comprehensive-Plan_Adopted-2019)

Calvert County, Maryland. Calvert County Ordinance, Chapter 82: Parks and Recreation. Available online: <https://ecode360.com/36414814>

---