



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

WICOMICO RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM

WICOMICO YOUTH & CIVIC CENTER

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

Steven E. Miller, Director

June 30, 2025

Mr. Michael McQuarrie
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Program of Open Space
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4
Annapolis, MD 21801

Dear Michael:

Enclosed is the Program Open Space Annual Plan for Wicomico County for fiscal year 2026. Maps delineating the location of each proposed project are attached for your reference.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Miller
Director
Recreation, Parks & Tourism

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE									
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT-FISCAL YEAR 2026									
			Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only ('000s)			
SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME, PROJECT DESCRIPTION		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS)	Federal
1	Wicomico County	WinterPlace Park & Equestrian Center- Field lighting installation for softball and soccer fields, at Winterplace Park.	381.55	381.55	0.1	\$725,000	\$400,000	\$325,000	
2	Wicomico County	East Wicomico Little League Park- Fence Replacement throughout. Landscaping improvements. POS Signage updates/replacement.	19.82	19.82	0.1	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$90,000	
TOTALS:						\$825,000	\$410,000	\$415,000	

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION-FISCAL YEAR 2026

SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME, PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only ('000s)			
		Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State (POS)	Federal
Wicomico County	LPPRP 2027- Update of the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan				\$50,000		\$50,000	
Total					\$50,000		\$50,000	

FY26 Wicomico County Annual Program Open Space Plan

I. INTRODUCTION:

The 2022 Wicomico County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) serves as a guide in maintaining the County's quality of life in the face of increasing population. The plan, like its predecessors, lays out measures to use natural resources wisely and provide suitable areas to meet recreational needs for present and future residents of the County. Projects outlined in the LPPRP are designed to stimulate new development, revitalize existing neighborhoods affecting their ability to attract new businesses and residents, generate tourist dollars, increase property values and provide additional tax revenue.

Over the past 50 plus years, Program Open Space funding has enabled Wicomico County to develop an outstanding system of parks making it a very desirable place to live. The FY26 POS Annual Plan will focus on maintaining safety and functionality through rehabilitation of existing park facilities. Project requests exceed Wicomico's unencumbered POS balance and will be paired down accordingly.

II. PLAN OBJECTIVES:

The projects under consideration will fulfill the following policy and program recommendations outlined in the 2022 LPPRP:

RP-6: Continue to enhance the comprehensive parks maintenance management program to ensure safe and attractive parks and to replace older equipment and vehicles.

Maintenance is the most important practice in prolonging the life of parks and recreation facilities. Wicomico County has adopted a comprehensive maintenance management program that is a major reason the County system has become a showcase for small counties nationwide. The Department should continue to enhance maintenance management practices, incorporating past experience and adapting practices to the needs of individual parks and facilities.

Replacement of vehicles and equipment based on life-cycle is a crucial element of the program. Deferred replacement and maintenance practices inevitably lead to increased cost and unreliability. The Department should work closely with Federal, State, and local governments to identify potential funding sources for capital programming expenses, including, but not limited to, replacement of vehicles and equipment.

RP-8: Continue to bring visitors and dollars into the County by leveraging the County's outstanding recreation and parks system, Board of Education facilities, and facilities operated by private entities.

Projects under consideration for FY26 include: Winterplace Park Lighting and East Wicomico Little League fencing improvements which will serve local residents and enhance the County's profile to attract visitors.

The Winterplace Park and East Wicomico Little League projects are a hub for regional sports play and new equipment will enhance this County asset.

RP-12: In conjunction with local partners, consider developing recreation programs that address the leisure needs of the County's continually diversifying population.

Wicomico County has a relatively diverse population. Minorities and seniors represent growing segments of the population with unique leisure service needs. The Department should consider creative ways to meet the leisure service needs of various population segments with minimal increases in department costs.

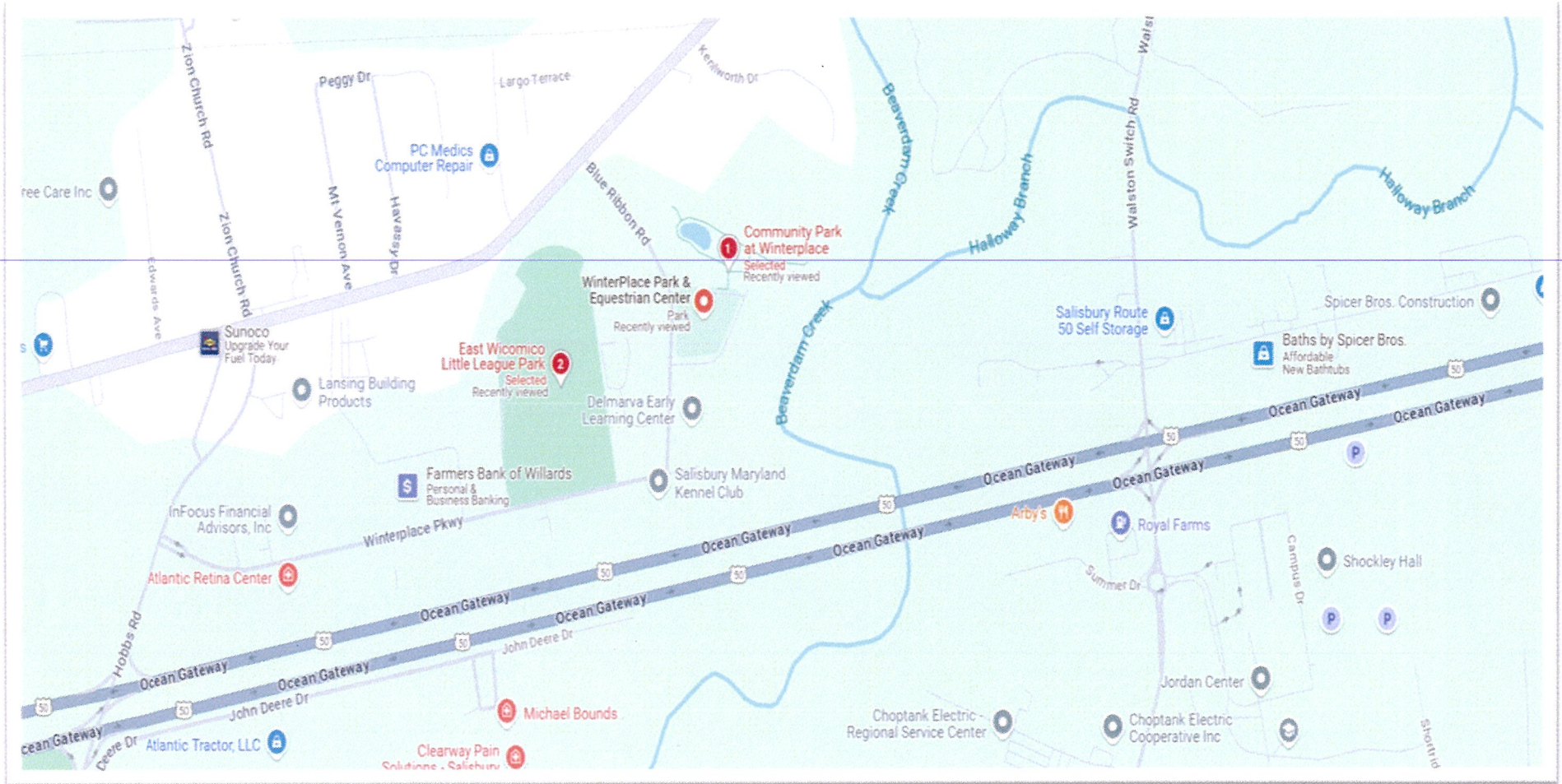
III. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS:

Each year municipalities and their respective local recreation councils are asked to submit a list of projects to be considered in the County's Annual POS plan. Selection of projects is recommended by the Wicomico County Recreation Commission, a 14-member citizen board representing each of the County's planning districts. Recommendations of the Commission are given to the Wicomico County Executive's office for final approval and are included in budget submissions to the Wicomico County Council (for match funding) before being submitted to the State.

The following criteria are employed to evaluate each of the proposed projects:

- Consistency with the County's Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan;
- Available funding including cost/benefit analysis; and
- Evidence of the required local funding match.

The enclosed Annual Plan includes projects as recommended by the Recreation & Parks Commission and County Administration.



KEY TO SITES

1. Winterplace Community Park
2. East Wicomico Little League Park



Blue Ribbon Rd

Blue Ribbon Rd

Blue Ribbon Rd

Community Park
at Winterplace

WinterPlace
Park &
Equestrian
Center
Recently viewed



East Wicomico
Little League Park



Wicomico
Equestrian C