



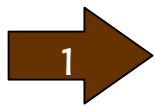
Chapel Point State Park



Strategic Management Partnership Plan

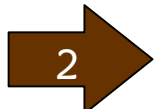
About the Plan

This five-year strategic plan follows a standard template designed to guide a planning team through a four-step creative process, which includes the following:



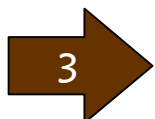
Understanding Core Values:

Core values are comprised of the Maryland Park Service Mission, Goals, and Brand Promise, which provide a foundation for brand-conscious planning.



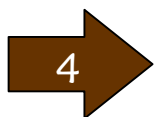
Identifying Park Resources:

Identifying resources consists of a description of park-specific resources, including natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources, as well as employee resources and infrastructure.



Developing Big-Picture Goals:

Big-picture goals are based on an overall assessment of the property and the stated interests of the County and the State in working together to utilize strengths, overcome weaknesses, take advantage of opportunities, and minimize threats.



Establishing a Work Plan and Concept Plan:

The work plan serves as the road map that empowers employees to effectively achieve the desired goals by developing specific projects and actions, and establishing a timeline for completion.

Maryland Park Service Mission & Goals

The mission of the Maryland Park Service is to manage the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources to provide for wise stewardship and enjoyment by people.

The goals of the Maryland Park Service are as follows:

To promote, cultivate, and expand public knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and support for the resources and services managed by the Maryland Park Service.

To operate the Maryland Park Service in a manner that generates the atmosphere of teamwork, shared information, cooperation, and trust at all levels of employment.

To manage the Maryland Park Service in a manner that ensures the maximum benefit from each dollar and hour of labor expended.

To promote the management of natural and cultural resources to ensure the continuing benefits for present and future generations.

To provide diverse recreational services with an emphasis upon public safety and the provision of neat, clean, well-maintained resources.

Maryland Park Service Brand Promise

In 2010, Maryland Park Service employees and volunteers participated in an internal survey to define the Brand Promise of state parks to its visitors. Survey respondents were asked to define their views and attitudes regarding the most important elements that comprise the ideal state park and services, as well as the emotional rewards visitors should derive from their visit. The survey results produced the following key messages that define the Brand Promise of Maryland State Parks to visitors:

1. Bring your children to a place that nourishes their well-being in ways that only nature can provide.
2. Connect, through the beauty and serenity of nature, in a safe and welcoming place that belongs to you.
3. Discover important historical sites and relics that tell inspiring stories of people and events that give context and meaning to our lives today.
4. Relax in the reassuring presence of a friendly and dedicated Park Ranger who inspires and supports your desire to be a good steward of the Earth.
5. Leave feeling stress-free, even revitalized, with happy memories to sustain you.

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Core Values



Chapel Point State Park

Purpose Statement

The purpose of Chapel Point State Park is to provide a natural and undeveloped area consisting of a variety of habitat types and ecosystems to provide opportunities for passive natural resources-based recreation, hunting, wildlife observation, and water quality protection.

Park Description

Chapel Point State Park is located on the beautiful and tranquil Port Tobacco River, a tributary of the Potomac River. This 821-acre park is located five miles south of LaPlata in Charles County, and the property is easily accessible from Route 301 South by heading west on Chapel Point Road. The park consists of a mix of forests and fields and includes several streams, wetlands, and sandy beaches.

State – County Partnership

The purpose of this document is to identify a preliminary strategy for the Maryland Park Service to work cooperatively with Charles County to develop a master plan for a specific leased area of Chapel Point State Park. The primary objective of the proposed lease arrangement is to facilitate maintenance and enhanced use of access roads, parking areas, and waterfront recreation areas. The proposed County leased area is approximately 50 acres and includes the park access roads, a 15-foot maintenance strip on both sides of the road, and approximately 3,000 linear feet of shoreline. The leased area includes the existing boat launch and related infrastructure at the northern end of the property and extends southward to include Chapel Point. The leased area includes “Midway Beach,” which is currently used for beach access and picnicking, and could provide additional parking and a kayak launch for paddlers who prefer to launch in calm water away from anglers and motorized boats.

2 **Park Resources**

PARK STATS (FISCAL YEAR 2011 – 2015)

TOTAL PARK ACREAGE	821
AVERAGE ANNUAL VISITATION	8,000
AVERAGE ANNUAL REVENUE (excluding concession revenue)	0
AVERAGE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET* (excluding classified employee payroll)	0
TOTAL CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES** (including filled and vacant PINs)	0
*OPERATING BUDGET IS SHARED BY THE FOLLOWING STATE PARKS:	
**EMPLOYEES ARE SHARED BY THE FOLLOWING STATE PARKS:	

YEAR	SCHEDULED CAPITAL PROJECTS	AMOUNT
	No planned Capital Improvement Projects.	

YEAR	SCHEDULED CRITICAL MAINTENANCE	AMOUNT
	No identified Critical Maintenance Projects.	



Park Resources

AREA MAP



3 Big-Picture Goals

NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS

- 1 Conserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the park while improving basic infrastructure and providing natural-resource oriented recreational access and well-maintained facilities.
- 2 Enhance the quality and ecosystem functions of existing forested areas, wetlands, streams, fields, and shoreline and stream buffers.
- 3 Enhance existing Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat and forest resources, particularly along the shoreline.

CULTURAL/ HISTORICAL RESOURCE GOALS

- 4 Protect, promote, and interpret the Piscataway connection to the property and the region by establishing a potential site for facilities and activities.
- 5 Integrate recreational and tourism opportunities at the park with major County investments and improvements at the historic Port Tobacco Village and at Port Tobacco River Park.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCE GOALS

- 6 Maintain and promote passive recreation activities such as hiking, beach-combing, kayaking, and bird watching and provide appropriate accommodations to limit user conflicts.
- 7 Acknowledge the historic use of the property for hunting and identify and maintain 55 acres of land for hunters with disabilities in accordance with the Pittman-Robertson agreement for the site.

EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GOALS

- 8 Establish a cooperative working relationship between Charles County and MPS staff to improve a staff presence at the park and discourage unauthorized use and activities.

INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS

- 9 Restrict and limit new development and roads, locate and design facilities to minimize natural resource impacts, and utilize existing infrastructure to the extent possible.
- 10 Maintain the rustic and “back-country feel” of the property by ensuring all improvements are consistent with the rural and agricultural vernacular of the area.

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #1 Conserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the park while improving basic infrastructure and providing natural-resource oriented recreational access and well-maintained facilities.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Repair and maintain existing roads to boat launch, beach access, and Chapel Point, and restrict access to leased agricultural lands.		
Improve the park entrance by installing a branded sign, gate, fencing and landscaping, and providing a small parking area.		
Encourage and support the historic use of the park’s waters and shoreline by Maryland waterfowl hunters and watermen through the retention and management of the property’s riparian rights by DNR.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #2 Enhance the quality and ecosystem functions of existing forested areas, wetlands, streams, fields, and shoreline and stream buffers.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Identify areas where natural resources are being adversely affected by human activity and restrict access to these areas.		
Work with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society and other partners to perform habitat evaluation of the area to see if it is suitable for Kestrel box installation.		
Work with a licensed forester (DNR, County, or private) to develop a forest management plan for the property to improve the quality of existing forest habitat.		
Evaluate water quality in the wetland area near the boat launch and identify sources of pollutants and address them.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #3 Enhance existing Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat and forest resources, particularly along the shoreline.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Work with a licensed forester to prepare and implement a forest management plan for riparian buffer areas to improve structural diversity and FIDS habitat.		
Assess forest resources, identify areas of invasive species, and develop a plan for eradication of the latter.		
Assess shoreline conditions and identify eroding areas that may require protection. Explore opportunities for grant funding for shoreline restoration, marsh creation, and beach nourishment.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #4 Protect, promote, and interpret the Piscataway connection to the property and the region by establishing a potential site for facilities and activities.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Work cooperatively with the Piscataway tribe to build on their interest in, and connection to, Chapel Point.		
Continue to work with the Piscataway tribe and other partners to explore opportunities for a potential site for tribe activities.		
Obtain additional information and perform historical research to determine if the property includes American Indian burial grounds, and if so, the location and extent of the burial grounds.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #5 Integrate recreational and tourism opportunities at the park with major County investments and improvements at the historic Port Tobacco Village and at Port Tobacco River Park.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Work cooperatively with County staff to develop and implement programs and activities at Chapel Point.		
Update DNR’s website for Chapel Point to highlight improvements and focus on opportunities for passive recreation.		
Develop a trail guide for Chapel Point using MPS Trail Guide format that highlights all amenities/opportunities at the park.		
Explore opportunities for funding to perform archaeological survey work on the property to facilitate a better understanding of the property’s role in American Indian, colonial American, and Jesuit history.		
Integrate recreational and tourism opportunities and connect to other sites, particularly within the larger “Port Tobacco Corridor.”		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #6 Maintain and promote passive recreation activities such as hiking, beach-combing, kayaking, bird watching and provide appropriate accommodations to limit user conflicts.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Develop a design for improvements at the Deep Point Launch to stabilize the road and provide a turnaround and parking. Limit the size of boats that can be launched to 14’ or less. Install necessary stormwater management practices.		
Restrict vehicle access at the Midway Beach Area, using a gate or bollards, and replace the gravel road with a five-foot-wide trail. Restore the flat, grass area adjacent to the beach for use as a picnic area.		
Demolish the “corncrib” and construct a gravel parking area for four to six cars. Use timber wheel stops to designate spaces and keep vehicles from parking in unauthorized areas.		
Construct several small gravel parking areas for three to five cars where there are existing cleared areas along the roadway.		
Expand hiking trails to create a stacked loop system and install appropriate trail signage and marking.		
Relocate existing paddle-in campsite to better utilize the beach area and provide a more secluded location for paddle-in camping.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #7 Acknowledge the historic use of the property for hunting and identify and maintain 55 acres of hunting land for hunters with disabilities in accordance with the Pittman-Robertson agreement for the site.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Reconfigure the area currently used by hunters with disabilities to direct hunting toward the field areas rather than the shoreline.		
Relocate the disabled hunter access road and create a farm road at the edge of the agricultural field for disabled hunter access.		
Formally delineate the acreage and area of land identified for use by hunters with disabilities in accordance with the Pittman-Robertson agreement and provide appropriate signage for the park information board.		
Clarify that the entire property is open to hunting (except for the County leased area, which will be limited to waterfowl hunting) and implement a hunter permit and reservation system to more formally control and monitor hunting activity on the site.		
Use current lock system to better manage disabled hunter access.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #8 Establish a cooperative working relationship between Charles County and MPS staff to improve a staff presence at the park and discourage unauthorized use and activities.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Develop and execute a lease agreement with Charles County to manage and maintain a 50-acre portion of Chapel Point State Park in accordance with a cooperatively developed master plan for the leased area.		
Work with Charles County staff to develop a master plan for a 50-acre leased area within two years.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #9 Restrict and limit new development and roads, locate and design facilities to minimize natural resource impacts, and utilize existing infrastructure to the extent possible.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Improve existing roads and use gates, bollards, fencing, and landscaping to restrict vehicle access in areas where it is not authorized / desirable.		
Use signs and wheel stops to identify parking areas and discourage parking in unauthorized areas.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

4 **Work Plan**

GOAL #10 Maintain the rustic and “back-country feel” of the property by ensuring all improvements are consistent with the rural and agricultural vernacular of the area.

PROJECTS & ACTIONS	TIMELINE	STATUS
Ensure that all site improvements, including fencing, landscaping, benches, picnic tables, road surfaces, and signs, are appropriate for a “natural” park setting.		
Work with MPS staff on the design of the Midway Beach Picnic Area to protect resources.		
Install benches, picnic tables, trailheads and restroom facilities that are appropriate for the level of use, location, and “natural feel” of the property.		
Address issues with trash and illegal dumping to ensure that the area is clean and well-maintained.		
Add bilingual signs to ensure better understanding of regulations by all visitors.		

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT

Concept Plan of Park



Concept Plan of Leased Area



