Chapel Point State Park

Strategic Management Partnership Plan

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Superintendent  Deputy Superintendent

November 2017  Date Prepared

Updates
About the Plan

This document is the result of a cooperative conceptual planning process to facilitate a management partnership between the State and Charles County for a 50-acre tract of Chapel Point State Park. The purpose of developing the plan is to provide supporting documentation to accompany a long-term lease agreement between the County and the State. The plan establishes a path toward a sustainable future by laying the groundwork for a more detailed master site development plan to be prepared by the County. This preliminary planning document used a collaborative process to identify and evaluate the following essential elements of the park: 1) natural resources; 2) cultural and historic resources; 3) recreational resources; 4) human resources, and; 5) infrastructure. Using this background data and input from a public meeting, big-picture goals and targeted objectives were identified and will be used to develop a more formal implementation plan. This plan documents the process and is divided into four parts.

Part 1: Core Values
This section includes the Maryland Park Service mission and goals, brand promise, and a summary of the features that make the park a significant component of Maryland’s state park system.

Part 2: Park Resources:
This section identifies and describes park-specific resources including natural resources, cultural and historic resources, recreational resources, human resources and infrastructure.

Part 3: Developing Big-Picture Goals:
This section identifies “big-picture” goals that are focused on promoting strengths, overcoming weaknesses, maximizing opportunities and eliminating threats. The goals are directly connected to reinforcing the significance of the state park and the core values of the Maryland Park Service.

Part 4: Establishing a Work Plan and Concept Plan:
This section serves as a road map that identifies specific actions and projects to effectively achieve the stated goals. It includes a timeline for completion, so that appropriate resources can be dedicated to accomplishment, and employees are empowered to move forward with tasks that support the park’s goals and mission.
Maryland Park Service Mission and 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 and 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. Providing a place where visitors can bring their children that nourishes their well-being in ways that only nature can provide.
2. Connecting visitors with each other and their surroundings, through the beauty and serenity of nature, in a safe and welcoming place that belongs to them.
3. Preserving and providing opportunities for visitors to discover important historical sites and relics that tell inspiring stories of people and events.
4. Creating an environment for relaxation with the reassuring presence of a friendly and dedicated Park Ranger who inspires and supports the desire to be a good steward of the Earth.
5. Imparting visitors with a sense of well-being an improved quality of life, so when they leave they are feeling stress-free and revitalized.
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 site development 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.
## Park Resources

### PARK STATS (FISCAL YEAR 2011 – 2015)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PARK ACREAGE</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE ANNUAL VISITATION</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE ANNUAL REVENUE (excluding concession revenue)</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET* (excluding classified employee payroll)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES** (including filled and vacant PINs)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*OPERATING BUDGET IS SHARED BY THE FOLLOWING STATE PARKS:

**EMPLOYEES ARE SHARED BY THE FOLLOWING STATE PARKS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SCHEDULED CAPITAL PROJECTS</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No planned Capital Improvement Projects.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SCHEDULED CRITICAL MAINTENANCE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No identified Critical Maintenance Projects.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
KEY FEATURES

► Tidal and non-tidal wetlands that support a rich variety of aquatic flora and fauna.
► Diverse terrestrial habitats and ecosystems that support a wide array of flora and fauna.
► Port Tobacco River and associated aquatic resources.
► A significant stream and wetland network north of Deep Point.
► Three significant tributary streams, south and east of Chapel Point.
► Approximately 680 acres of Forest Interior Dwelling Species (birds) habitat.
► Sandy beach areas north of Chapel Point and near Deep Point.

DESCRIPTION

Chapel Point State Park is comprised of various ecosystems, including the Port Tobacco River, sandy beaches, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, riparian buffers, shrub-scrub areas, mixed hardwood forest, and agricultural fields. The park’s variety of ecosystems creates a high level of biodiversity, to include a wide array of wildlife, including various amphibian species, an array of reptiles, white-tailed deer, turkey, bald eagle, osprey, Canada geese, woodcock, fox and raccoon.
### KEY FEATURES

- Several prehistoric sites (sites 18CH112, 18CH113, and 18CH343) that include shell middens and a variety of prehistoric stone tools dating to the late Archaic period (ca. 4,000 -1,000 B.C.).
- Site 18CH79 is identified as a multi-component site containing a prehistoric shell midden and short-term base camp dating to the Woodland period (ca. 1,000 B.C. – A.D. 1720).
- An historic cemetery utilized throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries (four historic graves were found to be eroding from the bank in 1987).
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties site, CH-16 (Chapel Point), first established before 1640 as a Jesuit mission by Father Andrew White.

### DESCRIPTION

Precise limits of the archaeological sites have not been verified, and few of the sites have been evaluated with regard to their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The presence of these sites and the overall archaeological sensitivity of the Chapel Point property, are a good indication that the property has a high potential of containing significant archaeological resources not identified yet. Proposed development and landscape alteration has a moderate to high potential of impacting known resources. Archaeological survey work may be needed prior to site development or ground disturbing activities, requiring close coordination for the Master Site Development Plan.

Chapel Point was operated by the Jesuits as a working farm from approximately 1640 until the second quarter of the 20th century. The property included a warehouse, wharf, grist mill, tavern, and store and the community included both African slaves and Irish servants. During the Civil War, the site was occupied by Federal troops. The property was also used as a resort and recreation area known as the Hotel Belleview, which was established on the property in the late nineteenth century. An amusement park was constructed on the site in 1926 and was similar to several other developed waterfront parks that provided a way for urban dwellers to escape the cities and enjoy the outdoors.
## KEY FEATURES

- Natural sand boat launch and kayak launch with portable restroom.
- Car and boat trailer parking (10 spaces).
- Waterfront picnic area and beach.
- Nearly five miles of hiking trails.
- Approximately 550 acres of hunting land.
- An area designated for disabled hunters.
- A fishing beach.

## DESCRIPTION

Chapel Point State Park’s 821 acres function as a multi-use recreational facility with activities ranging from bird watching and hiking to hunting and fishing. Located on the Port Tobacco River, the property provides a perfect setting for a variety of water-oriented activities, and its shoreline areas are used by anglers, kayakers, and picnickers. Fishermen can launch a boat for easy access to the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers, as well as Nanjemoy Creek. Recreational fishermen can catch species including striped bass, catfish, croaker, white perch and yellow perch.

The park includes several miles of lightly traveled gravel farm roads and approximately five miles of trails through hardwood forest and along field edges. The mostly flat to gently rolling topography on the west side of Chapel Point Road provide opportunities for additional trail development. On the east side of Chapel Point Road, the terrain is steeper and more rugged and this part of the property lends itself more readily to upland hunting opportunities.
KEY RESOURCES

- Five full-time classified employees of the Southern Maryland Recreational Complex patrol and maintain Chapel Point from Smallwood State Park, but there is no staff assigned full-time to Chapel Point.
- Four of the seasonal / contractual employees who work at Smallwood State Park also assist at Chapel Point.

DESCRIPTION

Chapel Point is part of the Southern Maryland Recreational Complex, which has some of its staff based out of Smallwood State Park. There are five full-time classified employees assigned to Smallwood, including one park services supervisor, two park services associates (park rangers), one park maintenance program supervisor, and one park technician. In addition to Smallwood State Park and Chapel Point State Park, these employees are also responsible for Calvert Cliffs State Park, Chapel Point State Park, Chapman State Park, Mattawoman Natural Environment Area and Zekiah Swamp Natural Environment Area.

There are no MPS seasonal staff dedicated to Chapel Point, so there is no full time presence there. Seasonal staff are shared with Smallwood, which typically has a seasonal labor force of 14 people, including one visitor services attendant, three seasonal rangers, one park naturalist, three contact station attendants, one or two maintenance workers, one concession manager, and three concession attendants. Some of these employees, the seasonal rangers and maintenance workers, assist in visiting Chapel Point several times a week during the summer months, but there is not a significant staff presence at Chapel Point.
Park Resources

KEY RESOURCES

- Parking area (approximately 15 cars), portable restrooms, natural sand power boat launch and kayak launch just north of Deep Point.
- Access road and unimproved (mowed grass) parking areas near Midway Beach and Chapel Point
- Paddle-in campsite, beach access, and picnic area at Midway Beach
- Overlook and grassy picnic area at Chapel Point.
- Disabled hunter access road and three parking pads to allow for hunting from a vehicle.

DESCRIPTION

As an undeveloped park, Chapel Point lacks significant infrastructure. In fact, many park patrons prefer this type of remote, rustic and natural experience to one that includes amenities like buildings, paved parking lots and playgrounds. Currently, the park accommodates approximately 15 vehicles in its gravel and grass parking areas. Most of these visitors utilize the park’s beach for fishing and picnicking. Portable toilets accommodate visitors’ needs as there is no electricity or running water in the park at this time. Boaters are able to launch shallow draft vessels at the park’s boat launch, while canoe and kayak enthusiasts are able to overnight in the park’s paddle-in campsite. The park also includes special road access and improved hunting pads to meet the needs of disable hunters that hunt from their vehicles.
### 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 the Port Tobacco River Park.
6. As resources permit, perform archaeological and historical survey work to ensure that cultural and historical resources are protected and explore ways to interpret the site’s rich history for visitors.

#### RECREATIONAL RESOURCE GOALS

7. Maintain and promote passive recreation activities such as hiking, beach-combing, kayaking, and bird watching and provide appropriate accommodations to limit user conflicts.
8. 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.
9. Improve roads, parking, restrooms, and park signage at the boat launch, Midway Beach, and Chapel Point so that visitors are accommodated and adverse impacts to resources and facilities are avoided.
10. Improve and stabilize boat launch and fishing area and road access to these areas, so that these activities are safe and sustainable and user conflicts are minimized.

#### EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GOALS

11. Establish a cooperative working relationship between Charles County and Maryland Park Service staff to improve a staff presence at the park and discourage unauthorized use and activities.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS

12. Restrict and limit new development and roads, locate and design facilities to minimize natural resource impacts, and utilize existing infrastructure to the extent possible.
13. 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.
MAP 5: CHARLES COUNTY LEASE AREA - CHAPEL POINT STATE PARK

Chapel Point State Park:
Project# 2016DNR248

Legend:
- Farm Lanes/Roads
- Proposed Trails
- Existing Trails
- New Farm Lane for Access to Hunting Area
- ADA Hunter Parking Areas
- Potential Parking Areas
- Potential County Lease Area
- County Lease Area Boundary
- Chapel Point State Park Boundary
- Buildings/Outbuildings
- Main Roads
- Tidal Waters
Chapel Point State Park: Project# 2016DNR248

MAP 6: CONCEPT PLAN (MAP KEY) - CHAPEL POINT STATE PARK

Legend:
- Proposed Sign/Bulletin Board (Information)
- Proposed Disabled Horse Parking Area
- Habitat Management Area (MHA)
- Waterfowl Hunting (Offshore)
- Proposed Restrooms (approximate)
- Proposed Fishing (approximate)
- Soft Launch (approximate)
- Soft Launch
- Proposed Kayak Launch
- Possible Historic Structure (Corn Crib)
- Historic Sites (Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties)
- Farm Lanes/Roads
- New Farm Lane for Access to Hunting Area
- Proposed Gate Locations
- Streams and Drainage
- Topography 5' Contours
- Critical Area Boundary (1,000')
- Critical Area Buffer (100' and Expansion)
- Accessible Trails
- Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS)
- Trout Streams
- Maple Level Hunting Area
- Accessible Hunting Area

Chapel Point State Park Accessible Hunting Area
55.71 AC.

Charles County Lease Area
49.37 AC.

Midway Beach
Chapel Point
Deep Point

PORT TOBACCO RIVER

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November 28, 2017
Improve and Secure Entrance:

1) Design and Engineering Required:
   - Modify location and size of entrance for safety
   - Install new auto gate
   - Pave entrance from Chapel Point Road to proposed gate
   - Provide for turn-around area (outside gate)
   - Provide small parking area (outside gate)
   - Grade, crown and resurface gravel road
   - Requires land be removed from agricultural lease
   - Requires stormwater management and erosion/sediment control design
   - Install fencing and landscaping on both sides of entrance road
   - Install MPS branded sign/improve trailhead bulletin board

2) Review Required:
   - Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
   - Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
   - MD Historical Trust (entire lease area within MHT Archeological Grid)
   - MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
Improve Launch Area Access Road and Parking:

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown and resurface gravel road
- Address drainage issue at stream/wetland, may require design and permitting
- Develop small gravel parking area
- Requires land to be removed from agricultural lease
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design, wetland delineation
- May require wetland delineation/culvert design

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire lease area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control, wetland delineation/permitting)
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission
**Map C: Improve Launch and Fishermen’s Parking**

**Improve Launch:**

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade and pave turnaround area (ramp area improvements)
- Install landscape timbers/retaining wall as necessary to provide adequate turning area
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design, wetland delineation
- Install new bulletin board
- Install trash-free signage and bag dispenser

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire lease area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission (expanded buffer delineation)

**Improve Fisherman’s Parking Area:**

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown and resurface gravel road
- Improve gravel parking areas to provide for 15 cars and 5 cars or several trucks with trailers
- Install composting toilets or improve appearance of portable toilets (screening)
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire lease area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission (expanded buffer delineation)
MAP D: IMPROVE ROAD, PARKING AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING

Improve Road, Parking, and Maintenance Building:

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown and resurface gravel road
- Raze barn on west side in lease area and install gravel parking area
- Improve gate and signage
- Construct 800 square feet maintenance building (e.g. Morton Equestrian Pole Barn)
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire lease area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown and resurface gravel road
- Install gravel parking areas
- Assess structural stability of Corn Crib/stabilize structure, perform Determination of Eligibility, develop design and interpretation
- Install composting toilets or portable restrooms with screening (to be located near north parking area)
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design
- Install farm road and two parking pads on field edge to provide disabled hunter access

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire Lease Area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
- Charles County Soil Conservation District (farm road)
Create Waterfront Picnic Area/Overlook:

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown, and resurface road
- Install gravel parking area
- Install soft kayak launch with signage/life-ring etc., provide kayak unloading area with fencing and signage for temporary parking only
- Install gate past kayak launch area (entrance to picnic area)
- Requires stormwater management/erosion sediment control design

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire Lease Area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission

Improve Beach Access:

1) Design and Engineering Required:
- Grade, crown, and resurface gravel road
- Install gravel parking area
- Install soft kayak launch with signage/life-ring etc., provide kayak unloading area with fencing and signage for temporary parking only
- Install gate past kayak launch area (entrance to picnic area)
- Implement Critical Area Buffer Management Plan
- Install trash-free signage and bag dispenser

2) Review Required:
- Department of Natural Resources MD Park Service
- Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction
- MD Historical Trust (entire Lease Area within MHT Archeological Grid)
- MD Department of the Environment (stormwater and sediment/erosion control)
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission

Legend:
- Waterfowl Hunting (Offshore)
- Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS)
- Proposed Kayak Launch (Approximate)
- Proposed Parking (Approximate)
- Farm Lanes/Roads
- Proposed Gate Location
- Proposed Fencing
- Streams and Drainage
- Topography 5’ Contours
- Critical Area Boundary (1,000’)
- Critical Area Buffer (100’ and Expansion)
- Estuarine Wetlands
- Palustrine Wetlands
- Accessible Hunting Area
- Potential Parking Areas
- Buildings/Outbuildings
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve the park entrance by installing a branded sign, gate, fencing and landscaping, and providing a small parking and turnaround area.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair and maintain existing roads to the boat launch, beach access, and Chapel Point, and restrict access to leased agricultural lands.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 the Department of Natural Resources.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT
## Work Plan

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify areas where natural resources are being adversely affected by human activity, particularly unauthorized vehicle access, and restrict access to these areas using fencing, gates, signs, plantings, etc.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society and other partners to perform a habitat evaluation of the area to see if it is suitable for kestrel box installation.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with a licensed forester (State, county, or private) to develop a forest management plan for the property to improve the quality of existing forest habitat.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate water quality in the wetland area near the boat launch and identify sources of pollutants and address them.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess shoreline conditions and identify eroding areas that may require protection. Explore opportunities for grant funding for shoreline restoration, marsh creation, and beach nourishment.</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## PROJECTS AND ACTIONS | TIMELINE
---|---
Work with a licensed forester to prepare and implement a forest management plan for riparian buffer areas to improve structural diversity and FIDS habitat. | 2019-20
Assess forest resources, identify areas of invasive species, and develop a plan for eradication of the latter. | 2019-20
Develop a Critical Area Buffer Management Plan for the areas near the boat launch, Midway Beach, and Chapel Point to remove vines and invasive plants and plant hardwood tree species to improve forest health. | 2020-21
Work with county staff on seasonal “restoration days” to work on forest improvement and planting projects using volunteers, interns, and local residents. | 2019-20
## 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.

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<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work cooperatively with the Piscataway tribe to build on their interest in and connection to, Chapel Point.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to work with the Piscataway tribe and other partners to explore opportunities for a potential site for tribe activities.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work cooperatively with County staff to develop and implement programs and activities at Chapel Point.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update the Department of Natural Resources website for Chapel Point to highlight improvements and focus on opportunities for passive recreation.</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a trail guide for Chapel Point, using the Park Service Trail Guide format, which highlights all amenities / opportunities at the park.</td>
<td>2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrate recreational and tourism opportunities and connect to other sites, particularly within the larger “Port Tobacco Corridor.”</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT**

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Nov. 28, 2017
GOAL #6
As resources permit, perform archaeological and historical survey work to ensure that cultural and historical resources are protected, and explore ways to interpret the site’s rich history for visitors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate closely with the Maryland Historical Trust on the Master Site Development Plan and all proposed development projects.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
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COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT
## GOAL #7
Maintain and promote passive recreation activities such as hiking, beach-combing, kayaking, bird watching and provide appropriate accommodations to limit user conflicts.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 feet or less. Install necessary stormwater management practices.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redesign existing parking area to provide parking for 15 cars and 5 cars with trailers.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit vehicle access at the Midway Beach Area using a gate, fencing, and permeable pavers to allow for unloading. Restore the flat, grass area adjacent to the beach for use as a picnic area.</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide three gravel parking areas for five to ten cars in existing cleared areas along the main access road. Use timber wheel stops and signage to designate spaces and keep vehicles from parking in unauthorized areas.</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand hiking trails to create a stacked loop system and install appropriate trail signage and marking.</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocate existing paddle-in campsite to better utilize the beach area and provide a more secluded location for paddle-in camping.</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### GOAL #8
Acknowledging 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reconfigure the area currently used by hunters with disabilities to direct hunting</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toward the field areas rather than the shoreline.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocate the disabled hunter access road and create a farm road at the edge of the</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agricultural field for disabled hunter access.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally delineate the acreage and area of land identified for use by hunters with</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disabilities in accordance with the Pittman-Robertson agreement and provide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appropriate signage for the park information board.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarify that the entire property is open to hunting (except for the county leased</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>area, which will be limited to waterfowl hunting) and implement a hunter permit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and reservation system to more formally control and monitor hunting activity on the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the current lock system to better manage disabled hunter access.</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL #9 Improve roads, parking, restrooms, and park signage at the boat launch, Midway Beach, and Chapel Point so that visitors are accommodated and adverse impacts to resources and facilities are avoided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with a consultant to design improvements for these areas that are modest in scale, minimize clearing and lot coverage, and maintain the area's natural feel.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit concept designs to the Department of Natural Resources Maryland Park Service for internal review.</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with a consultant to develop construction documents and obtain permits.</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct improvements.</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT


**GOAL #10** Improve and stabilize boat launch and fishing area and road access to these areas, so that these activities are safe and sustainable and user conflicts are minimized

**PROJECTS AND ACTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with a consultant to design improvements to the boat launch and fishing area that provide safe access and address drainage and erosion issues.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit concept designs to the Department of Natural Resources Maryland Park Service for internal review.</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with a consultant to develop construction documents and obtain permits.</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct improvements.</td>
<td>2020 - 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT**
### Work Plan

**GOAL #11** Establish a cooperative working relationship between Charles County and Park Service staff to improve staff presence at the park and discourage unauthorized use and activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 site development plan for the leased area.</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with Charles County staff to develop a master site development plan for a 50-acre leased area within two years.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT
### GOAL #12
Restrict and limit new development and roads, locate and design facilities to minimize natural resource impacts, and utilize existing infrastructure to the extent possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve existing roads and use gates, bollards, fencing, and landscaping to restrict vehicle access in areas where it is not authorized / desirable.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use signs and wheel stops to identify parking areas and discourage parking in unauthorized areas.</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMENTS/ PROGRESS REPORT
GOAL #13
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working cooperatively with a consultant, prepare a master site development plan that provides well-maintained visitor amenities that support the use of the property as a passive, nature-based recreation area.</td>
<td>2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that all site improvements, including fencing, landscaping, benches, picnic tables, road surfaces, and signs, are appropriate for a “natural” park setting.</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct a new maintenance building that is compatible with the rural vernacular of the area (west of the “No Hunting Area” near the sharp left turn).</td>
<td>2020-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install benches, picnic tables, trailheads and restroom facilities that are appropriate for the level of use, location, and “natural feel” of the property.</td>
<td>2019-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address issues with trash and illegal dumping to ensure that the area is clean and well-maintained.</td>
<td>2018-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add bilingual signs to ensure better understanding of regulations by all visitors.</td>
<td>2018-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Acknowledgements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLABORATOR</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Hall</td>
<td>Deputy County Administrator</td>
<td>Charles County Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Minnick</td>
<td>Director, Dept. of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism</td>
<td>Charles County Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Snow</td>
<td>Park Services Administrator</td>
<td>Charles County Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Owens</td>
<td>Director of Planning and Conservation Programs</td>
<td>Maryland Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Bright</td>
<td>Manager, Southern Maryland Recreation Complex</td>
<td>Maryland Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeeAnne Chandler</td>
<td>Chief of Planning</td>
<td>Maryland Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Cantin</td>
<td>Assistant Manager, Southern Maryland Recreation Complex</td>
<td>Maryland Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Johnston</td>
<td>Natural Resources Planner</td>
<td>Maryland Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixie Henry</td>
<td>Preservation Officer</td>
<td>Maryland Historical Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hall</td>
<td>Chief Archeologist</td>
<td>Maryland Historical Trust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>