



CAROLINE COUNTY

Program Open Space Annual Program Plan FY2025

Submitted on July 11, 2024

Prepared and submitted in accordance with state mandates and guidelines as documented in the Program Open Space Grants Manual. This Annual Program conforms to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan and the 2022 Caroline County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.

Jamie Beechey

Caroline County Recreation & Parks Director

Nick Liles

Caroline County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board President

The 2024-25 Annual Program presents a detailed plan for Caroline County’s investment of Program Open Space to expand and rehabilitate existing and public park facility within the exclusive jurisdiction of the county and/or in partnership with incorporated municipalities. The Program is consistent with the 2022 Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), which was adopted in September of 2022. Both the LPPRP and this Annual Program are presented in partnership with the Caroline County Recreation and Parks Citizen Advisory Board.

The projects incorporated herein are also based on the following factors:

1. While in the past baseball/softball reflected a lull and often decreases in participation, 2023-2024 has seen a significant uptick in participation with increased demands for field use particularly in the central part of the county In fact, baseball/softball participation surpassed soccer participation in this past year.
2. Caroline County’s has no available lighted Baseball or Softball fields to serve the increased demands.
3. Caroline County Government will see an increase in its footprint of recreation acres due to an acquisition of a portion of Sharp Road Park for redevelopment
4. The Sharp Road project is connected to Goal 2: Provide public access to attractive, well-maintained, safe and secure parks and facilities.

The projects in the FY2025 Program Plan do not exceed the grant funding resources available to the county, the completion date projected for each project is noted in within each project title. Each of these projects are specifically referenced in the 2022 LPPRP in Chapter II in section 7. *Capital Improvement and Acquisition Priorities* (pp.74-77) and in Tables II-8, 11-9, 11-10 and II-11.

Project Summary Table: FY2025

LPPRP Inventory Reference	Region	Project Location & Name	Project Acreage	Funding Sources				Development Share
				Local POS	Local Match	Other	TOTAL	
68	C	Sharp Rd Park	8	694950.30	95063		790013.30	
FY2025 Development Total				694950.30	95063		790013.30	
LPPR Plan				25,000			25,000	
FY2025 Acquisition Total			1	25000			25000	

Project Descriptions

83 Sharp Road Park (Actual Future name TBD)

Restoration of a 8-acre parcel located in the town of Denton includes construction of 1 baseball and 1 softball field with lighting, multi-purpose field, access road, and parking



LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The 2022 Caroline County Plan was amended to the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan in September of 2022. To continue the implementation of the park and preservation planning systems that will inform the development of the 2027 Plan, the county proposes the encumbrance of \$25K from its land acquisition allocation account.

ACQUISITION:

At present the county does not have imminent acquisition acres, however is always eyes open for acquisition opportunities to add to its inventory of park space when it makes sense to do so. We will be acquiring 8 acres without need for POS funds due to a transition from the Town of Denton slated for redevelopment. In the future, however this space will need additional access and parking that will need use of acquisition funds.