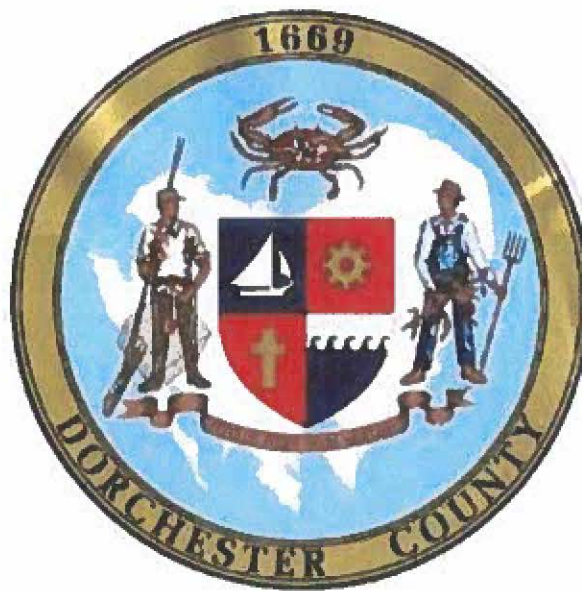


DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
RECREATION AND PARKS
FY2026 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM



The FY 2026 Annual Program for Dorchester County is developed in accordance with the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), which provides the guiding ordinance for identifying and prioritizing projects that support the enhancement and development of the County's natural and physical resources.

This program reflects the comprehensive data collected from Dorchester County residents, along with recommendations from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. Consistent with the priorities established in the 2022 LPPRP, the FY 2026 Annual Program reaffirms these goals as the foundation for project selection and implementation.

The FY 2026 Annual Plan was developed in alignment with the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, the Maryland Planning Act of 1992, and community input gathered through public workshops, as summarized by AECOM to support Dorchester County's Comprehensive Plan.

Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Planning

In accordance with Maryland state law, participation in the Program Open Space (POS) funding program requires local governments to develop and regularly update long-range plans. Dorchester County intends to utilize this funding to support the planning and preparation of the next Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), scheduled for completion in 2027.

School Street Athletic Complex (Construction of Pole Building to Serve as a Storage Facility and Restrooms)

The School Street Athletic Fields, located in Cambridge, Maryland, encompass approximately 22 acres of land fronting School Street, northwest of Somerset Avenue. The site contains two baseball fields and three multi-purpose fields designed to accommodate soccer, lacrosse, and various recreational activities. The adjoining property includes two additional baseball fields, which are regularly utilized for youth tee-ball programs. The Glasgow Tennis Courts are also situated adjacent to the athletic fields.

The addition of a pole building for storage and a dedicated men's and women's restroom facility will significantly enhance the functionality and overall experience of the School Street Athletic Complex. A centralized storage building will provide secure, weather-protected space for athletic equipment, field maintenance supplies, and program materials, allowing staff and volunteers to operate more efficiently and maintain a high standard of field readiness. The inclusion of permanent restroom facilities will greatly improve comfort and convenience for athletes, families, and spectators, particularly during large-scale athletic tournaments and community events. Together, these improvements will strengthen the complex's ability to host recreational programs, attract regional tournaments, and support the growing demand for quality athletic facilities in Cambridge.

This project supports the goals of Dorchester County's 2022–2027 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) by prioritizing the development of recreational facilities near population centers. Aligned with the County's Land Use Policies, it ensures community accessibility while promoting sustainable land use practices. The initiative demonstrates a commitment to enhancing quality of life and advancing wellness for residents through strategic, responsible planning.

Glasgow Street (Construction of New Pickleball Courts)

The Glasgow Street parcel in Cambridge consists of approximately one-quarter acre designated for recreational use. The site is improved with two youth tee-ball fields, supporting active recreation opportunities for local residents. Its adjacency to the Glasgow Tennis Courts establishes a cluster of community-serving recreational facilities, consistent with municipal planning objectives to concentrate amenities in accessible locations. The parcel contributes to the overall recreational network by providing specialized facilities that complement nearby athletic fields and open space resources.

The construction of pickleball courts in Cambridge will provide the community with a versatile and rapidly growing recreational amenity. As a sport that appeals to a wide range of ages and skill levels, pickleball encourages active lifestyles, fosters social interaction, and promotes community engagement. The addition of these courts will diversify the County's recreational offerings, complement existing athletic facilities, and support both casual play and organized programming. By expanding access to inclusive and accessible recreation, this project enhances the overall quality of life for residents and strengthens Cambridge's capacity to serve evolving community needs.

This project advances the goals of Dorchester County's 2022–2027 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) by developing recreational facilities near population centers. Consistent with the County's Land Use Policies, it promotes accessibility, sustainable land use, and improved quality of life, while supporting community health and wellness through responsible planning.

Thendara Center (Renovations to Buildings and Structures)

The Thendara Center, located in Hurlock, consists of 24.57 acres recently acquired by Dorchester County from the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Program. Existing site improvements include a meeting hall with a commercial kitchen, dormitory facilities, a walking trail, a paddock area, and a shooting range. The property represents a significant asset within the County's recreational inventory, offering both established amenities and substantial capacity for future development. Its scale and versatility position the site to support a wide range of recreational programming, community uses, and long-term planning objectives consistent with the County's Parks and Recreation priorities.

Planned renovations to the Thendara Center will significantly improve both the functionality and safety of the facility. Upgrades include enhancements to the shooting range, modernization of the kitchen and bathrooms, replacement of the roof, installation of designated parking spaces, and landscaping improvements to create a more welcoming environment. In addition, the installation of proper exit signage and the upgrading of security and alarm systems will bring the site into alignment with current safety standards. Collectively, these improvements will extend the useful life of the facility, enhance visitor experience, and position the Thendara Center as a more accessible, secure, and attractive venue for recreational programming and community events.

This project directly supports the priorities outlined in Dorchester County's 2022–2027 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) by expanding recreational opportunities in close proximity to population centers, where community demand is greatest. By investing in facilities that are both accessible and sustainable, the project aligns with the County's Land Use Policies, which emphasize efficient land use and equitable distribution of recreational resources. The improvements not only enhance the physical infrastructure of parks and facilities but also advance broader community goals, including increased public engagement, healthier lifestyles, and long-term stewardship of recreational assets. Through these efforts, the project reinforces the LPPRP's vision of creating high-quality, well-planned recreational spaces that contribute to the overall quality of life and wellness of Dorchester County residents.

Christ Rock Park (Replacement and Adjustment of Fencing for Fields and Renovations of Dugouts)

Christ Rock Park, located at the corner of Maryland Route 16 and Dailsville Road in Dorchester County, encompasses approximately 10.5 acres of public recreation space. The park features two baseball/softball fields, a basketball court, ample open space for informal activities, and on-site parking for visitors.

The proposed upgrades to the baseball/softball facilities at Christ Rock Park will directly strengthen recreational programming and expand community use. Replacing the fence on the second field will enhance safety and improve the overall appearance of the complex, creating a more welcoming environment for players and spectators. Adjusting the fence dimensions on the first field will bring it into regulation compliance, enabling the park to host adult and high school baseball and softball games in addition to youth leagues. Upgrades to the dugouts will provide safer, more functional spaces for participants while improving the aesthetic quality of the fields. These investments will not only elevate the standard of play but also increase program opportunities, attract broader participation, and ensure the long-term value of Christ Rock Park as a community recreation asset.

This project advances Dorchester County's 2022–2027 LPPRP by expanding recreational facilities near population centers, increasing access to active programs for residents of all ages. It promotes sustainable land use while supporting measurable outcomes such as higher participation in sports and wellness activities, improved public health, and greater community engagement. By enhancing the County's recreational infrastructure, the project contributes to long-term quality of life and provides tangible benefits to the local population.

Program Open Space
Annual Program for Acquisition and Development Fiscal Year 2026

Project Name/Description	Acreage	Source of Funds for Annual Program Only		
		Total	Local	State (POS Local Funds)
Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Planning/LPPRP 2027 Planning		\$25,000	\$0.00	\$25,000
School Street/Construct a commercial pole building to serve as a designated storage facility and include fully equipped restroom facilities.	22 Acres	\$150,000	\$15,000	\$135,000
Glasgow Street/Construction of new Pickleball courts, including site preparation, court surfacing and striping, fencing, net system installation, and stormwater management.	1 Acre	\$200,000	\$20,000	\$180,000

Thendara 4-H Center/Construct new outdoor range area for shooting range, renovation of kitchen and bathrooms, roof replacement, installation of parking spaces, landscaping improvements, and installation of security fencing.	24.57 Acres	\$200,000	\$20,000	\$180,000
Christ Rock Park/Replacement and Adjustment of Fencing of Baseball/Softball Fields and Renovation of Dugouts	10.5 Acres	80,000	\$8,000	\$72,000
Total		\$655,000	63,000	\$592,000



School Street Athletic Complex Pole Building

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Current Time: 9/16/2025 2:56 PM

2025

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Maryland FIPS 1000 Feet





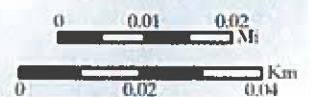
**1405 Glasgow St.
Cambridge, MD 21613**

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Thendara 4-H Club
6275 Lords Crossing Rd,
Hurlock, MD 21643

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Maryland FIPS 1900 Feet








Christ Rock Park
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Dorchester County

Date Exported:

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2025


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