

County Commissioners of Kent County, MD

Department of Parks and Recreation

11041 Worton Road • P.O. Box 67 • Worton, MD 21678 • Phone 410-778-1948 • Fax 410-778-4602

July 7, 2017

Carrie Lhotsky, Regional Administrator
Program Open Space Grants
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Bldg.
580 Taylor Ave., E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Lhotsky,

I am pleased to submit Kent County's Fiscal Year 2018 Program Open Space Annual Program.

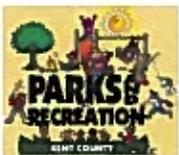
The projects proposed in the Program have been prioritized to meet the needs of Kent County, as well as the State requirements for use of Program Open Space dollars. In addition, the Program is consistent with the goals of the Kent County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan.

Thank you for your continued support of and assistance in carrying out Kent County's recreation goals. Should you have questions or concerns related to the Annual Program, I can be reached at 410-778-1986 or mbutler@kentgov.org.

Sincerely,



Myra S. Butler
Director



Creating balanced opportunities for our patrons to play, learn, and grow through our programs and parks.



**FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
KENT COUNTY ANNUAL PROGRAM**

INTRODUCTION:

Development and implementation of the Annual Program is completed by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, resulting from a collaborative effort between the administrative staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, Kent County Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Kent County Board of Education, Kent County Planning Office and Planning Commission, local town municipalities, State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space state and regional offices, with final approval by the County Commissioners of Kent County.

The Annual Program is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the County's Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan and the County Comprehensive Plan. All project requests and recommendations (both county and municipal) are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. It is the responsibility of the Board to prioritize and submit recommendations to the Kent County Commissioners who make the final approval for implementation of projects into the County's fiscal budget. The projects in the 2018 Annual Program, outlined below, have received approval in this fiscal year's budget.

Millington Park and Pool Security Surveillance

Millington Park and Pool sees a high volume of use on an annual basis. With the high volume of facility users, comes an unfortunate and significant amount of vandalism and other unwanted behaviors. All too often, incidents occur outside of the view of attending staff, and often times after the facility is closed. Without video surveillance, the County is burdened with repairing costly damages, as well as investigating incidents that often come with conflicting accounts from parties involved (if we are fortunate enough to identify parties). Installation of high definition surveillance cameras will not only add a sense of security to park and facility users who fear they must always be guarded against strangers or unwelcomed behaviors, but also will serve as a large deterrent for vandalism.

These improvements will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

Toal Park Ball Field

Toal Park currently has one ball field with a dirt infield. With the increasing number of youth participating in baseball and softball, and a growing number of adults in the northern part of the County who have a renewed interest in the sports, there is a need for an additional dirt field. The existing ball field with a grass infield will be converted to a dirt infield. This will increase the number of youth that can be accommodated, along with other age groups, including adults.

Worton Park/Community Center Enhancement IV

Five of six of Worton Park's ball diamond backstops are in need of replacement, as well as, outfield homerun fencing. Two fields will receive new backstops, as well as home fun fencing which is not currently the case on the fields. Backstops need replacing to ensure the safety of players and spectators. The addition of outfield fencing will allow for more play on the fields for Co-ed softball games and tournaments. We are currently unable to attract tournament play due to the lack of outfield fencing on some of the fields. The

improvements to the ball fields will have a significant impact to the number of tournaments we will be able to offer, hence, increasing the number of park users.

Kent County Community Center sees a high volume of use on an annual basis. With the high volume of facility users, comes an unfortunate and significant amount of vandalism and other unwanted behaviors. All too often, incidents occur outside of the view of staff. With the limited number of cameras that are currently in place, all too often we are unable to capture incidents that have occurred. The County is burdened with repairing costly damages, as well as investigating incidents that often come with conflicting accounts from parties involved (if we are fortunate enough to identify parties). Installation of high definition surveillance cameras will not only add a sense of security to park and facility users who fear they must always be guarded against strangers or unwelcomed behaviors, but also will serve as a large deterrent for vandalism.

These collective improvements to the park and community center will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

Bayside Park and Pool Security Surveillance

Bayside Park and Pool sees a high volume of use on an annual basis. With the high volume of facility users, comes an unfortunate and significant amount of vandalism and other unwanted behaviors. All too often, incidents occur outside of the view of attending staff, and often times after the facility is closed. Without video surveillance, the County is burdened with repairing costly damages, as well as investigating incidents that often come with conflicting accounts from parties involved (if we are fortunate enough to identify parties). Installation of high definition surveillance cameras will not only add a sense of security to park and facility users who fear they must always be guarded against strangers or unwelcomed behaviors, but also will serve as a large deterrent for vandalism.

These improvements will be welcome changes by park and facility users that aid in keeping patrons safe, protect County resources, and in turn, increase the number of visitors.

The projects outlined above will contribute to an increased volume of use of County parks and facilities by the public, both current and new users, as well as, protect the open spaces owned by the County to ensure properties and park users are safe.

The County has reached its open space acreage goal and continuously explores opportunities of new open space to assure maintaining its goal should the population change.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2018 – KENT COUNTY, MD**

	<u>Project Name / Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>				
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Protect</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>	
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Bayside Park and Pool Surveillance</i> Install security surveillance system.	2.69	2.69	N/A	4,300	430	3,870	N/A	
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Millington Park and Pool Surveillance</i> Install security surveillance system.	3.80	3.80	N/A	5,300	530	4,770	N/A	
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Toal Park Ball Field</i> Convert grass field to dirt infield.	37.58	37.58	N/A	12,000	1,200	10,800	N/A	
KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC	<i>Worton Park Enhancement IV</i> Replace existing backstops and outfield fencing at two ball fields; Install security surveillance system.	97	97	N/A	87,000	8,700	78,300	N/A	

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM

