July 16, 2021

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,

Enclosed you will find Kent County’s Fiscal Year 2022 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 mb Butler@kentgov.org.

Sincerely,

Myra S. Butler
Myra S. Butler, CPRP, CPO
Director
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 are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review. 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 2022 Annual Program, outlined below, have received approval in Kent County Government’s fiscal year’s budget.

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance - $25,000
Professional assistance in planning and executing the development of the LPPRP is necessary for Kent County to ensure the Plan meets the established Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Guidelines, contains all or the required elements, and to ensure the Plan is submitted on time every five years. Kent County will continue its planning of the LPPRP in preparation for the 2022 Plan as well as the 2027 Plan. The process will be facilitated by an experienced Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning consultant who will provide guidance and oversight in the development of the Plan and ongoing updates to land inventory, mapping, surveys and public input. The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest and Parks.

Betterton Beach Pavilion Steps Replacement and Boardwalk Rehabilitation - $175,000
Betterton Beach & Park is a 4.79-acre park located off of the Sassafras River. The beach is one of two public beaches within Kent County’s public park system that consistently sees a high volume of use on a seasonal and annual basis. The beach is open to the general public with no admission fees. The beach attracts users not only from Kent County but also regionally from neighboring counties and states. The wooden steps leading from the pavilion located atop a hill down to the grass area before the beach needs repair. As boards have rotted and been damaged from weather over the years, boards have been replaced as needed, however the steps are more than 35 years old and need full replacing. Additionally, several boards on the boardwalk are also in a poor state which present a safety hazard for beach users.

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 project was approved by the Board of Public Works in July 2022, therefore it will commence during the current fiscal year.
Still Pond Station Park Site Plan Development - $30,000
Still Pond Station Park is an 11-acre passive recreation park that was acquired in 2003 under the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Federal Lands to Parks Program. The property’s previous structures were authorized to be demolished in 2015 due to their state of disrepair. Since the demolition, the park has remained an undeveloped open space. Community members have anxiously waited for funding to be approved to move forward in developing the property for public use as an addition to the County’s existing public park system.

The development of a site plan is necessary to ensure appropriate site improvements and desired amenities are feasible for the location and topography of the property. Adding to the County’s public parks will increase public use of County recreation facilities and offer a new venue for park users. The newly developed park will ultimately result in an increase in the number of visitors and users of County parks and recreation facilities and add another safe open space for residents. An amount of development at least equal in cost to the preliminary site plan will be undertaken in the second stage and it will be submitted for funding within 2 years of the date of approval.

The project was approved by the Board of Public Works in July 2022, therefore it will commence during the current fiscal year. Additionally, a park entry sign that is consistent with all other County parks’ entry signage will be installed.

Worton Park-Kent County Community Center Enhancement V - $210,000
Worton Park is Kent County’s largest and regions park and consists of 97.7 acres. Worton Regional Park/Community Center Campus is the center of recreational activities in Kent County and the largest active recreation park in the County. It is an essential component in recreation programing in Kent County. The campus boasts six baseball/softball fields, with the only lighted ball diamond in the County, .6 miles walking path, 10 athletic fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, playground, picnic pavilion, swimming pool, concession stand, and restroom facilities. This project consists of replacing the existing backstops on four of six ballfields, installing fencing for team benches, and replacing sideline fencing on one ballfield. Park benches will be installed around the existing walking path and at the playground area. Additionally, a digital messaging board to display notices, advise of field assignments and pavilion reservations will be installed. The combined installation of fencing will enable the offering of increased tournament opportunities. As there are currently no park benches in most County parks, the added seating at the playground area and around the walking path with allow for more seating in general and rest areas along the walking path for individuals unable to withstand continuous movement around the path without sitting and resting before continuing their walk, run or exercise routine. The digital messaging board will allow for simplified notification of what amenities are reserved for exclusive use or are open for general use, more professional field assignment postings and a more efficient method to provide general information notices and announcements to park users. All of the 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 Lower Ballfield Fencing & Park Benches - $38,000
Toal park consists of 37.5 acres. Located in Galena, the northern most area of the County, this project consists of replacing the existing backstop on the ballfield, installing fencing for team benches, and replacing sideline fencing. Park benches will also be installed at the playground area. With the improvements, the volume of use of the facility by youth and adult sports leagues will increase.
These collective 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 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>Project Name / Project Description</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KENT COUNTY PARKS &amp; REC</td>
<td>2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Planning Grant Assistance / Consultant Services to Facilitate Development of LPPRP</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSOR</td>
<td>Project Name / Project Description</td>
<td>Acreage</td>
<td>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>Ultimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County Parks &amp; Rec</td>
<td>Betterton Beach Steps Replacement &amp; Boardwalk Rehabilitation / Replace steps from pavilion to the beach; Rehab sections of boardwalk needing replacement</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>4.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County Parks &amp; Rec</td>
<td>Still Pond Station Park Site Plan Development / Develop site plan for undeveloped County park</td>
<td>11.16</td>
<td>11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County Parks &amp; Rec</td>
<td>Worton Park-Kent County Community Center Campus / Replace ballfield fencing; Install park benches at playground area</td>
<td>97.716</td>
<td>97.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County Parks &amp; Rec</td>
<td>Toal Park / Replace ballfield fencing; Install park benches at playground area</td>
<td>37.58</td>
<td>37.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation

BETTERTON BEACH & PARK

Source: Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing and Zoning. Map prepared August 2013.
1 inch = 300 feet
County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation

STILL POND STATION PARK
County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation

WORTON PARK

1 inch = 500 feet
County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland
Department of Parks & Recreation

WORTON PARK