



Talbot County Department of Parks & Recreation

10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601 – 410-770-8050

July 11, 2025

Mr. Michael McQuarrie
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Program Open Space
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. McQuarrie:

Please find the Talbot County Program Open Space Annual Plan for fiscal year 2026. Maps are included for each project for your reference.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Gilmer".

Emily Gilmer
Talbot County Parks and Recreation Director

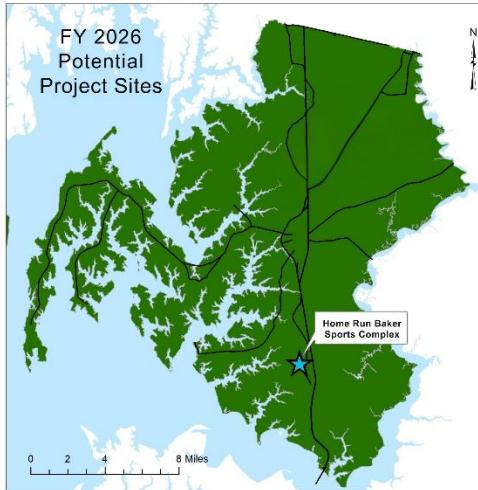
Program Open Space Annual Program FY 2026

The Talbot County Parks and Recreation Department has spent significant time developing a strategy for improving access to public lands as part of the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan (TCCP) and the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). Talbot County currently provides its residents with many opportunities to pursue recreational and leisure activities. Some of these opportunities are available through a variety of recreation programs offered by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation. Other opportunities exist in a variety of parks ranging from large County-wide park facilities to small neighborhood play areas.

The Annual Program is consistent with the goals established in Talbot County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. All projects are submitted to the Talbot County Parks Advisory Board for approval before being presented to the Talbot County Council for final approval.

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2026

<u>Sponsor</u>	<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>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
	Playground Replacement and ballfield improvements at Home Run Baker Sports Complex	13.1	13.1	13.1	300,000	30,000	270,000	



Development Project – New Playground at Home Run Baker Sports Complex and field upgrades

The 20+ year-old playground at the Home Run Baker Sports Complex is in need of replacement to meet modern safety standards and provide inclusive, accessible play opportunities for children of all abilities. As a heavily used recreational site for youth sports and community events, the Complex plays a vital role in serving local families.

A new playground will offer updated safety surfacing, modern equipment, and accessible features that support physical activity, social interaction, and inclusive play. This upgrade will enhance the overall experience at the Complex and ensure it remains a welcoming space for all. We are also evaluating the need for repairs to the ball fields at the site. While plans are not yet finalized, maintaining safe and functional playing surfaces is an important part of our long-term vision for the facility.

This project supports Talbot County's 2022 LPPRP Goals 1 and 2: maintaining and enhancing recreation facilities based on residents' needs and expanding public access to active and passive recreation opportunities.

The estimated cost of the playground replacement and ball field repairs is \$300,000, with funding requested through Program Open Space and supplemented by local funds.

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE **ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION** **FISCAL YEAR 2026**

<u>Sponsor</u>	<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>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>

There are no planned land acquisitions for FY26. Talbot County has met its land acquisition goals that are determined by the state of Maryland.